

MIDDLEBURY FENCING CLUB

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Middlebury Fencing Club.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the Middlebury Fencing Club is as follows:

1. To provide Middlebury College students with an opportunity to engage in the sport of fencing.
2. To allow those Middlebury College students who have fencing experience an opportunity to maintain or improve upon their proficiency with regular meetings and competitions.
3. To permit those Middlebury College students with little or no experience, but who are nonetheless interested, to learn to fence.
4. To organize and train enough fencers that it becomes possible to engage in intercollegiate competition.

Article III: Membership

Membership is open to all Middlebury College Students. No previous experience is necessary, and anybody who is interested may join by contacting the Middlebury Fencing Club.

Membership is defined as anybody who has contacted the leadership and has been put on the Club Roster.

Article IV: Officers

Club Officers and their Duties shall be as designated below

1. Captain (President)
 - a. The President of the Club shall be known as the Captain for all intents and purposes.
 - b. The duty of the Captain is to chair the Fencing Committee (described later), to oversee management of the club, to represent the Middlebury Fencing Club, to delegate authority as deemed necessary, and to designate weapon heads and an armourer, and generally to administer the club.
 - c. The Captain shall be elected as outline in Article V.
 - d. Should the Captain be for any reason unable for any reason [sic] to fulfill his or her duties for the foreseeable future, the Assistant Captain shall take his or her place? [sic]
2. Assistant Captain (Vice President)
 - a. The duty of the Assistant Captain is to aid the Captain in his/her duties, in addition to organizing club meetings and events. This includes (but is not limited to) planning practices, managing transportation to and from tournaments, and other general meetings.
 - b. In addition, should be Captain be unavailable, the Assistant Captain will act in his/her stead.
 - c. The Assistant Captain shall be elected as outlined in Article V.
 - d. Should the Assistant Captain be for any reason unable for any reason [sic] to fulfill his or her duties for the foreseeable future, a new Assistant Captain shall be selected by a vote of the Fencing Committee? [sic]
3. Secretary

- a. The duty of the Secretary is to maintain the Club Roster, to organize elections, to keep track of club affairs and to keep the membership informed of the doings of the club.
 - b. The Secretary shall be elected as outlined in Article V.
 - c. Should the Secretary be unable for any reason to fulfill his or her duties for the foreseeable future, a new Secretary shall be selected by a vote of the Fencing Committee.
4. Treasurer
- a. The duty of the Treasurer is to manage club finances such as in ordering new equipment or gathering money for USFA memberships, as well as to act as a formal liaison between the Middlebury Fencing Club and the SGA Finance Committee.
 - b. The Treasurer shall be elected as outlined in Article V.
 - c. Should the Treasurer be unable for any reason to fulfill his or her duties for the foreseeable future, a new Treasurer shall be selected by a vote of the Fencing Committee.
5. Weapon-Heads
- a. There shall be a weapon head for each weapon (Foil, Epee and Saber). Their duty is to organize the fencers in each weapon; such as leading weapon specific drills or organizing attendance of competitions.
 - b. This position may be borne in addition to any other position; it does not necessitate three new officers.
 - c. The weapon heads are to be designated by the Captain, with the consent of the Fencing committee.
 - d. If deemed necessary, the Captain may assign separate male and female weapon heads for any or all weapons.
6. Armourer
- a. To maintain, catalog and repair the fencing equipment, and to work closely with the Treasurer to keep him or her informed of any equipment needs.
 - b. This position may be borne along with any other position.
 - c. To be designated by the Captain, with the consent of the Fencing Committee.

Article V: Elections

General elections shall be conducted by March 15th of each year as follows

1. Nominations
 - a. All nominations must be done through the Secretary (if one is currently serving).
 - b. Any member who has fenced for at least one season (at Middlebury or elsewhere) is eligible for nomination to the Captaincy. No qualifications are necessary for other elected positions.
 - c. A simple self-nomination or accepted nomination by another to the position of Captain, Secretary or Treasurer is all that is necessary.
 - d. A member can run for one, two, or all three positions.
2. Voting
 - a. The election shall be conducted by written ballot or by email and handled by the secretary.
 - b. Each member of the Middlebury Fencing Club is granted one vote.
 - c. Each member may vote for a Captain, a Secretary and a Treasurer.
 - d. Members may only vote for a nominee for one specific position (ex: if "John Doe" runs for all 3 positions, a member must chose only one (1) position that they will vote "John Doe" into office for)

- e. Members are not compelled to vote in all elections, or even any election, but it is strongly encouraged.
 - f. At least $\frac{1}{4}$ of all members must vote for the election to be valid.
3. Election
- a. Whichever eligible candidate wins a plurality of the votes for a position is elected to serve in that position for the following year.
 - b. Whoever has the second most votes in the Captaincy election will be elected the Co-Captain.
 - c. In the case that a member is elected to multiple positions, they must choose which position to hold and withdraw from the other candidacies.
 - d. In the case of a tie, there shall be a runoff between the tied candidates to determine the winner.
 - e. Any person may turn down election to one or more positions.
4. Terms
- a. Terms are to last until the end of the next academic year. Between the election and the end of the academic year the outgoing and incoming members are expected to work together to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

In the event that a member must be replaced unexpectedly, there shall be a Special Election.

1. A special election shall be conducted in the same way as a general election, but will be limited to the relevant positions and will be held when necessary rather than at the end of the season.

In the event of a Referendum

1. Each member shall have a vote on the subject at hand. A simple majority of votes cast is all that is necessary.
2. At least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the membership must vote for the referendum to be valid.

Article VI: Meetings

Meetings shall be arranged on a schedule decided by the Secretary to provide the best opportunity for the largest part of the membership. If possible, multiple meetings will be held so that everyone may attend. A coach must be present at every practice.

Fencing Committee meetings will be arranged by the Secretary in such a way that as many Committee members as possible can attend. Proxy representatives and voters will be allowed for those Committee members who are unable to attend.

Article VII: Committees

The Fencing Committee shall be organized as follows

1. The Fencing Committee shall make all decisions regarding the regular management of the club. All actions shall be made public to the Middlebury Fencing Club.
2. The voting members of the Fencing committee shall be the Captain, the Assistant Captain, the Secretary and the Treasurer. Each shall be granted one vote. Should there be a tie in voting, the Captain casts the tiebreaker vote. Members of the committee may assign a proxy to vote for them in the case that they are unavailable.
3. The non-voting members of the Fencing Committee shall be the Weapon-Heads and the Armourer. They shall be allowed to be part of all decision making discussions but have no formal say on the matter.

4. If in any case a member believes the Fencing Committee to be making a decision unbecoming of their responsibilities, they may present a petition with fifteen signatories or 25% of the club, whichever is less, to the secretary. The issue shall be brought before the entire membership as a referendum, to be conducted by email and in which a simple majority is needed to determine the club's actions.
5. The Fencing Committee may put any action before the entire membership for referendum whenever they deem necessary by a majority vote of the Committee.
6. The Fencing Committee may create new committees and delegate authority if the need arises.

Article VII: Faculty/Staff Adviser

The membership agrees to maintain an adviser from the faculty or staff, as required.

Article IX: Affiliations

The Middlebury Fencing Club is affiliated with the United States Fencing Association, specifically the Green Mountain division of the USFA.

Article X: Discrimination Policy

This student organization operates in full accordance with Chapter Four, Section II, A of the Middlebury College Handbook concerning Student Organization Policies of Discrimination, Freedom of Association, Anti-Hazing, Freedom of Inquiry and Expression, Student Publication, Funding, Advertising, and Scheduling. Any and all changes made to the Student Organization Policies section of the Middlebury College Handbook will immediately become policies adopted by the Middlebury Fencing Club.

Article XI: Ratification

- A. The constitution must be ratified by a two-third majority of the membership.
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Article XII: Amendment

- A. The constitution must be amended by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
- B. The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Approved as to form: April 28, 1988

Edited and approved: October 18, 2007