

THE CONSTITUTION OF
Princeton Collegiate Moot Court



RATIFIED THIS TENTH OF DECEMBER,
MMXXIII

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PREAMBLES

Princeton Collegiate Moot Court proclaims that it is founded on the fundamental belief of promoting and encouraging among its members:

1. an inclusive and nurturing community for Princeton students to learn and cultivate their oral advocacy and analytical writing skills;
2. a safe space for personal growth through team-building, thereby forming life-long connections that would continue after their time on the team and at Princeton henceforth;
3. a place of healthy competition for students of all backgrounds in the activity of moot court both internally among the student body and externally in competitions on the local, regional, and national levels;
4. a community open for all Princeton students to learn about moot court and have an open discourse on legal issues on all levels, including but not limited to university, local, municipal, state, and federal;

ARTICLE I — Name *Princeton Collegiate Moot Court*

SECTION I.

The name of this student organization shall be “Princeton Collegiate Moot Court,” or can be referred to by the shortened name of “PCMC.”

SECTION II.

The words "*Princeton Collegiate Moot Court*" OR "PCMC" shall not be used by any individual or group of individuals without the consent of the Executive Board members or the organization as a whole.

ARTICLE II — Membership

SECTION I.

Application for membership in this organization will be extended to all undergraduate students at Princeton University who demonstrate an interest in membership.

SECTION II. No person who has expressed interest in membership shall be denied the opportunity to apply for membership.

ARTICLE III — Leadership *The Executive Board and Division Captains*

SECTION I.

There shall be an Executive Board, which shall consist of the following: President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

SECTION II.

The Executive Board shall be empowered to:

1. Conduct the business and affairs of the organization during periods between meetings of the members;

2. Act as arbiters in cases of disagreement among members, when appropriate (every form of arbitration must be in accordance with Princeton University's *Rights, Rules, Responsibilities*):
 - a. Issues of disagreements must be speedily resolved with members' privacy prioritized throughout the whole process; concerns must be brought forward with the permission of the member(s) who raised the concern;
 - b. The concern may be brought directly to the Executive Board's attention or other members of the organization; if it is unclear whether the Board has jurisdiction over an issue or not, the Board or a Board member may consult ODUS;
3. Represent the organization in cases of liability, responsibility, and honors;
4. Agree among themselves during decision-making processes; once disagreements are not resolved, the Board may consult former Board members or records of operating procedures;
5. Agree among themselves about each board member's duties and responsibilities before the beginning of each term; these responsibilities may be subject to change throughout the Board's serving term.

SECTION III.

Meetings of the Executive Board, captains, or the entire organization shall be held whenever necessary, upon the call of the President or at the request of the majority of board members or captains.

SECTION IV.

There shall be two groups of captains per division per semester

1. The number of captains within each division shall be determined by the Executive Board depending on the number of members within the organization;
2. There shall be two divisions, in accordance with the guidelines of the American Moot Court Association:
 - a. Brief Writing;
 - b. Oral Advocacy.

SECTION V.

Captains shall be empowered to:

1. Approve and assign teams, at their discretion;
2. Conduct group practices and arrange events in the respective divisions;
3. Act as liaison between members and the Executive Board whenever necessary;
4. Devise and Agree among themselves prior to the start of a competitive season on what duties should be delegated to each person.

ARTICLE IV — Voting Procedure

Elections and Appointments

SECTION I.

Election of the Executive Board:

1. “Board members shall be elected by the organization at the end of the Spring semester by individual, secret ballot of the majority of all eligible voting members, for a term of one year or until the successor for each respective position has been duly elected and has qualified for the said position. Any eligible candidate, including the incumbent officeholder, may run for reelection. In the absence of a challenger, the incumbent office holder, provided they are not graduating, may continue holding office until the next election without needing a formal voting process. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, a run-off will be held between the two candidates who received the highest number of votes. The first elections shall not occur until Spring 2025;
2. Former Board members shall continue to serve as advisors to the new Board members for one more semester;
3. Elections shall be held for the following officer positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary;
4. A vote is rendered valid if votes are submitted by a majority of all eligible voting members;
5. A non-participant in the election will preside over all election proceedings and will moderate the discussions. The Secretary will tally all votes; if the Secretary is participating in a specific election, the subsequent officer of the Board will tally all votes;
6. Each candidate will have two minutes to present a speech while the other candidates leave the room; after the speeches have been given, all candidates will exit the room, and the moderator will call for a vote by secret ballot;
7. A member may cast an absentee ballot with a valid reason subject to the approval of the Executive Board. A deadline must be set by the Executive Board by which votes can be submitted, and it is only after this deadline that votes can be tallied and positions can be announced;
8. Candidates for each position can either nominate themselves or be nominated by another member:
 - a. A deadline must be set by the Executive Board by which people can choose to run, to nominate candidates, and to announce final candidacies;
 - b. Members can submit unlimited nominations anonymously;
 - c. Candidates may release written statements prior to elections;
 - d. Members should only be able to nominate themselves or be nominated for one position, but during elections, they may "drop down" to subsequent positions and run for those;
 - e. It is the responsibility of the President to ensure that each position has candidates by the deadline;
9. Members are eligible to vote if they meet any of the following requirements:
 - a. are an active competitor;
 - b. completed their active competitor’s responsibilities in the last academic year in which they were enrolled;
 - c. hold an officer position;

10. Members are eligible to run for an Executive Board position if they satisfy each of the following requirements:
 - a. have been a member of Princeton Collegiate Moot Court for at least one year or, if they wish to run for President, two years
 - b. completed their active competitor's responsibilities for at least one semester in the past academic year or currently holding an officer position;
 - c. will not be graduating at the end of the academic year.

SECTION II.

Appointment of captains:

1. Spring Captains shall be nominated by members and appointed by the Executive Board at the end of the Fall semester;
2. Fall captains shall be nominated by members and appointed by the Executive Board at the end of the Spring Semester;
3. The appointments of captain positions shall be revisited by the Executive Board every semester, but there shall be no term limit for this position for any member;
4. Unless the total number of competing members exceeds 10 people, Executive Board members may also be nominated by members;
5. Outgoing captains must nominate at least two people other than themselves, with whom they have competed, for the following semester;
6. Members should be able to submit anonymously names of those whom they would have concerns about if that person/those people were to serve as captains;

SECTION III.

Appointment of other officers and creation of Non-Executive Officer positions:

1. Before each semester, the Executive Board should evaluate the program and determine if additional officer positions are necessary;
2. The Executive Board may establish new Non-Executive Officer positions that they determine to be necessary for the efficient and proper functioning of the organization;
3. At the end of each academic year, the Executive Board may remove existing Non-Executive Officer positions if it determines them to be surplusage or unnecessary (these changes are to take effect at the start of the next academic year);
4. Either applications or nominations (whichever the Executive Board shall decide) for these Non-Executive Officer positions shall be accepted at the start of each academic year;
5. The appointment of Non-Executive Officers is subject to a simple majority vote of the Executive Board.

SECTION IV.

When an officer position becomes vacant, elections can be held outside of the typical election period, and all established procedures must be followed, including nominations, speeches, and absentee ballots. The vacant role should be speedily refilled within a maximum of two months.

SECTION V.

Recall elections:

1. Members may call for a recall election where an Executive Board position is challenged and a new election is held, following the processes outlined in Section 1 of this Article; the incumbent officer is able to participate in the new election;
2. Members must put forth a petition with signatures of at least 40% of the active competing membership, for a recall election to occur; the petition must outline the reasons for calling for the recall election.

ARTICLE V — Reporting Mechanisms *Accountability and Safety*

SECTION I.

Reporting mechanisms:

1. Before each semester, the Executive Board must make it known to the program of existing reporting mechanisms, that are not in conflict with University policies, including but not limited to:
 - a. an anonymous reporting route to the Board (officers are not mandatory reporters but this would not be confidential);
 - b. an anonymous reporting route to captains (officers are not mandatory reporters but this would not be confidential);
 - c. the SHARE office (staff and peers are not mandatory reporters and information is confidential within the office);
 - d. Other Princeton University resources and agents (may be mandatory reporters).

SECTION II.

Accountability:

1. Team members should submit feedback forms evaluating their captains or co-captains at the end of each competitive semester, to keep captains accountable;
2. Captains should submit feedback forms evaluating the commitment and participation of their team members at the end of each competitive semester, to keep members accountable for the time and community commitment they pledged to at the beginning of the semester;
3. A member's pledge must be signed or confirmed in written form up until *two days* after the first meeting of every competitive semester, in which competing members commit the required time and community commitment barring exigent circumstances;
4. A member is subject to removal from competing responsibilities on a case-by-case basis—where there is no quantifiable requirement but what is considered are only the enumerated responsibilities in the pledge—and only if proposed by a member.

SECTION III.

This constitution shall be readily available to all members.

ARTICLE VI — Amendments and Review

SECTION III.

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire voting membership.

1. Members are able to raise a motion for an amendment at any time, including the meeting to elect new officers;
2. At the beginning of each semester, the Executive Board shall set pre-established checkpoints where all submitted amendments are reviewed;
3. Amendment motions must have obtained signatures from at least 40% of the competing membership;
4. The higher the number of signatures a motion has, the earlier it is discussed and voted on;
5. Amendment motions can be raised with the option of anonymity.

SECTION II.

This constitution shall be reviewed every two years through open discussions held among all members of the program. If there are no new amendments raised, the Constitution would need a simple majority vote by the entire voting membership for reconfirmation. The first vote of this type will take place before the end of the Spring 2026 academic term and then every two years after that.

ARTICLE VII — Specific Moot Court Articles *Extra Articles Specific to the Activity of Moot Court*

SECTION I.

Division Compositions:

1. Though encouraged to just be part of one division, members are eligible to be a part of both divisions as long as they can fulfill the time commitment required by each division;
2. Divisions may host joint sessions to cover the same legal issue of similar court cases;
3. Division Captains are encouraged to host open sessions on legal issues to promote legal discourse and PCMC activities among students on campus; Division Captains may also delegate these open sessions to non-competing members;
4. The privacy of the members involved must be prioritized.

SECTION II.

Tryouts:

1. The general structure of tryouts will be as follows:
 - a. There shall be one initial tryout, open to the entirety of the Princeton University undergraduate student body;
 - b. Following the initial tryout, Captains and the Executive Board will together determine a single list of individuals to participate in a second tryout, a callback;
 - c. Final discussions and captains' decisions shall commence soon after the callback and shall become final after candidates have been notified of their acceptance into the program;
2. The Executive Board is responsible for the format of tryouts every year;

3. Princeton Collegiate Moot Court shall not, on the basis of personal beliefs or characteristics—such as political views, religion, national or ethnic origin, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability—unrelated to program requirements, deny persons the benefit of admittance to PCMC or in any other way subject persons to discrimination during the tryout process:
 - a. Formal discussions of candidates shall not include any information on the candidate from outside of their tryout and/or formal recruitment process, nor shall they include comments on any of the above characteristics;
 - b. The Executive Board must formally remind all captains of this clause before the tryout process begins;
 - c. To deter discriminatory practices, the Executive Board will be required to report any violation of this clause to ODUS;
4. While the Executive Board must do their due diligence to ensure that all members of the team compete at a regional level – in cases of financial or registration constraints – teams will be “stacked” to determine which one gets to compete, at the discretion of the Board; the Executive Board must take into consideration the number of eligible spots the team can send to competitions per semester before tryout begins.

ARTICLE VIII — Pledge of Inclusivity

SECTION III.

The Princeton Collegiate Moot Court shall not, on the basis of personal beliefs or characteristics—such as political views, religion, national or ethnic origin, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, veteran status, or disability—unrelated to program requirements discriminate against any members or persons.

Updated and ratified on December 10, 2023,

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