

Bhangra Elite Constitution

Article I: Name and Purpose

The name of this organization will be Bhangra Elite and its purpose will be to educate and increase awareness to members and the campus community of Punjabi culture through traditional folk dance.

Article II: Membership

1. Membership is selective and will be decided through tryouts held at the beginning of each semester.
2. Once a member, as long as dues are paid and **at least 1 dance** per year is performed, membership will continue for the school year.
3. Membership is restricted to affiliates of the University of North Carolina.
 - o Membership is not restricted in regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, gender, or sexual orientation.
4. Members can declare themselves active or inactive at any given time in the semester due to excess workload or other circumstances. (Declaring one's status is not necessary but will help facilitate assignment of dances and consideration for the competition team which will go to Bhangra Blowout)

Article III: Structure of the Organization

1. A president or president(s) will be elected at the end of each year for service of the next year.
 - a. Elections will be held where at least two-thirds (66%) of the team's active members are present.
 - b. In order to be elected a majority (i.e. 50%) of votes must be won.
 - c. The president(s) will oversee practices, performances, and any other team affiliated events. They will manage all business affairs and contacts within the university and the community.
2. Role of the Advisor
 - a. The role of our advisor is to maintain a liaison between the university and the team members. Their job is to be present in times of need and support.
3. Treasurer
 - a. Treasurer will be selected at the end of each year for the service of the upcoming year.
 - b. The treasurer will be responsible for managing and handling the allocation of all funds.
4. Choreography
 - a. Choreographers for Bhangra Elite will not be specifically selected, but rather will be ascertained voluntarily.
 - b. Anyone is allowed to/able to come to choreography practices and help out.
 - c. From the onset choreographers will be placed on the Choreography Committee (if they choose to accept this responsibility) which will be

responsible not only for choreographing dances, but also will assist the president(s) of the organization in conducting practices, and enforcing policy.

- d. The Choreography committee is subject to limitation by the president(s), in an effort to keep order.
 - e. Music selection is the responsibility of the choreography committee.
5. Members are expected to come to practices, learn dances, and provide input as much as possible. Bhangra Elite is not a dance class, it is a team, meaning that decisions are democratic and the relationship between members is consensual.

Article IV: Policies

1. Selection of the Team

- a. It is the co-president's discretion to hold re-tryouts for the entire team at the beginning of semesters of their term of presidency.
 - i. The president(s) will select judges for tryouts of the entire team.
 - ii. The judges will consist of a total of two choreographers in addition to the president(s).
- b. Selection will be decided by the committee in its entirety, and will be subject to their discretion.
- c. Anyone having questions concerning the logistics of the selection process may ask the president(s). Information about other dancers will not be given, but specific information about the person in question can be answered.
- d. To limit the number of members of the organization is at the discretion of the president(s).

2. Bhangra Moves and Sequences

- a. Because Bhangra is an increasingly popular dance form and more people and groups are using Bhangra steps it is necessary to make policy about the use of moves.
- b. The use of sequences that have been used in Bhangra Elite dances cannot be taken and used in any other dances done outside of the organization by its members. This means that if a Bhangra Elite member is choreographing or helping choreograph another dance, they should respect the time and effort put into creating sequences used by Bhangra Elite and not duplicate these sequences exactly and for use in dances done outside of the organization.
 - i. A **sequence** is defined as eight or more beats of a step or combination steps.
 - ii. The penalty for the use of sequences will include but not be limited to exclusion from dances or removal from the team.
 - iii. Penalties will be assessed by the team as a whole and be put to a vote as to the appropriate action.

- c. Individual moves can be used by individuals in other dances they participate in, but moves that have been used in Bhangra Elite dances which are used in a specific context should not be used in the same context if used in a dance outside of the organization
 - i. This means, for example, if there is a move that is done to move around circle in a Bhangra Elite dance should not be used in another dance for the same purpose.
 - ii. This policy is in effect to maintain the identity of Bhangra Elite and its dances in tact.
 - iii. The penalties and assessment thereof for this infraction are the same described in section (b).
- d. If Bhangra Elite members are in a position where either (b) or (c) may apply, then they should come to the president(s) and request that someone watch their dance to make sure that they are not in violation of the policy.
 - i. Approval must be assessed by 2 males and 2 females from the choreography committee.
 - ii. If a conflict is to arrive, the choreographers will also assist in suggesting moves which can be done in place of the questionable ones.

****Note: This policy was created in order to regulate the use of moves done in an effort to preserve team identity without unjustly restricting members from using moves in dances performed outside of Bhangra Elite. Bhangra Elite is a team, and as a team everyone is encouraged to help create new moves and add to the pool of moves which are used in dances. The only way for the organization to improve is to increase our knowledge of moves through collection from outside sources, but in the process there should be respect given to the choreographers and their time and effort which was used to combine moves in an effective manner.*

3. Amendments

- a. Amendments made to the Constitution and/or policy are subject to a vote by the team and must be agreed upon by an absolute majority.

4. Ratification

- a. The ratification of this Constitution will be upon its disclosure, following which a meeting will be held to address any criticisms or amendments.
- b. Upon ratification any previous policies will be deemed null and void.

Last Amended (December 2002)