

# Aggie Blades at Texas A&M University

## **Article I. Name**

The name of this student organization shall be known as Aggie Blades and/or Blades at Texas A&M University College Station.

## **Article II. Purpose and Goals**

### **Section I. Purpose**

The purpose shall be to spread knowledge about and develop skills in the sports of axe and knife throwing.

### **Section II. Goals**

The major goals shall be:

1. To expand the axe and knife throwing community into the collegiate setting
2. To learn, understand, and teach safe practices for axe and knife throwing
3. To develop necessary skills for the sport of axe and knife throwing in its members
  - a. This can be accomplished and recorded by an improvement of scores in official matches throughout their membership period
4. To have a student organization where students interested in axe and/or knife throwing can connect and grow with each other.

### **Section III. Mission**

Aggie Blades aims to train students in the sport(s) of axe and/or knife throwing to expand the current throwing community into Texas A&M University. Our goal is to engage more people in this rising sport while creating a new outlet for students.

### **Section IV. Vision**

Aggie Blades' vision is to incorporate our core values of respect, community, engagement, and wisdom into the sports of axe and knife throwing. We strive to create a community of axe and knife throwers for students in the Bryan-College Station area.

## **Article III. Organization activities and operations**

### **Section I. Activities**

The main activities of the organization are to organize axe and knife throwing leagues for members of the organization to compete in as well as other events for the greater student body such as

- A. A tournament open to any student at Texas A&M or Blinn regardless of membership in the organization
- B. Other leagues or tournaments that are deemed in the interest of the organization

### **Section II. Operations**

The organization shall operate out of The Cut Axe Throwing for leagues and tournaments it hosts. It shall be the responsibility of the officers to maintain a safe and effective environment for the goals, mission, and vision of the organization to be achieved.

## **Article IV. Members**

### **Section I. Eligibility**

Any member of the student body may apply for membership. No student shall be excluded because of sex, disability, race, creed, or national origin.

A. Only currently enrolled students at Texas A&M or Blinn TEAM are eligible to be members with full voting and office holding abilities.

B. Non-students, faculty, staff, alumni, or other members of the community may be considered honorary members but may not hold office, vote, or pay dues.

### **Section II. Selection Process**

- A. Application for membership will be open before the start of each new semester as well as partway through each semester and will not be dependent on the current number of members.
- B. To be chosen as a member of Aggie Blades one must fill out the application. There will be no interviews held to determine membership.
- C. There are no skills required to be a part of our organization, anyone with or without knowledge about axe and/or knife throwing is more than welcome to join.
- D. Safety measures will be gone over before each event to ensure that all members feel safe and comfortable throwing.
  - a. This includes but is not limited to, signing a waiver for The Cut Axe Throwing, signing a waiver for Aggie Blades, wearing appropriate closed toe shoes, instruction on handling blades correctly, no trick throws without in-depth instruction, as well as strict instruction and monitoring of other safety practices.

### **Section III. Attendance**

Attendance at all meetings, general or league, is optional (whether in person or on zoom). However, members must attend 50% or more of the organization's special events (such as fundraisers and social events) to remain in good standing without special permission. Attendance at safety demonstrations will be required, if a member has to miss one of these demonstrations, they must let the President know in order to schedule a make-up to receive the instruction.

- A. Attendance will be taken by the Secretary at every event. This will be done by either the check-in feature on Flare OR having everyone check-in by some other means.
- B. Optional tournaments will occur multiple times a semester. For members attending, keep in mind that tournaments are normally long events. At times, hotels and transportation may have to be arranged (if it is an "outside" tournament, meaning Aggie Blades is not hosting it). If Aggie Blades is hosting the tournament, we will try to keep it to one day and allow members to sign up to "work" the tournament (meaning they will help to score and judge matches).
- C. Members and officers can be considered for removal/discipline if they miss mandatory events (tournaments) without prior permission.

#### **Section IV. Disciplinary Procedures**

Any member who is not acting in the best interests of the club (meaning they go against our mission, vision, core values, violate safety protocol or engage in harassment, assault, or hazing in any form) shall be considered for removal from the organization. The member will be given a notice and a meeting with said member, the President, and the Advisor will be set to give the member a chance to give his or her perspective on the matter. The President will take notes during said meeting and its contents will be considered when making removal/disciplinary decisions. A committee consisting of all officers shall meet and a 2/3 vote must be obtained in order to remove the individual.

#### **Article V. Honorary Members**

##### **Section I. Meaning**

Anyone who is not a current, enrolled student (a member of the community, faculty, staff, or alumni) is more than welcome to be an honorary member. Honorary members are a part of the organization and can come to events/practices/leagues/tournaments but cannot hold office, vote, or pay dues. If an honorary member wants to participate in a “closed event” they must gain the approval from the Executive Board and/or the Advisor.

##### **Section II. Requirements**

An honorary member cannot be a current student at Texas A&M University or part of the Blinn College TEAM program. This is because they are able to hold full membership with Aggie Blades. To become an honorary member, the officer board must approve them with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote. Members of Aggie Blades that graduate or otherwise leave the university are automatically added as honorary members. To apply to become an honorary member without being a full member first, the applicant needs to email the organization’s email with the request of why they want to be an honorary member. If honorary membership is granted it will last for one year and after the year is finished, they will have to re-apply.

##### **Section III. Expectations**

Honorary members are expected to respect all members of the organization and follow all requirements that members are expected to follow. This is not limited to but includes following our mission, vision, core values, and treating everyone respectfully no matter the situation. If a problem arises with an honorary member the officers will discuss if removal is necessary and if it is, the honorary member will be asked to step away from the organization and not come to anymore events.

## **Article VI. Officers**

### **Section I. Academic Standing Requirements for Officers**

In order to become eligible / maintain eligibility, the officers of this organization must meet the following requirements:

- A.** Have a minimum cumulative and semester grade point average (GPA) as stated below and meet that minimum cumulative and semester GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office.
  - a. For undergraduate students, the minimum cumulative/semester GPA is 2.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point average prior to election/appointment, at least six credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s).
  - b. For graduate level students the minimum cumulative and semester GPA is a 3.00 and for first professional students the minimum cumulative and semester GPA is 2.50. In order for this provision to be met, at least four hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point average prior to election/appointment, at least four credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s) unless fewer credits are required as they complete the final stages of their degree.
- B.** Be in good standing (see 27.1.4) with the university and enrolled:
  - a. At least half time (six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office. Students enrolled in the Blinn TEAM program are also eligible to hold an office, as long as the student is meeting all applicable Blinn TEAM requirements and is in good standing with the program.
  - b. at least half time (four or more credits), if a graduate level student (unless fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during their term of office.
- C.** Students enrolled in the Blinn TEAM program are also eligible to hold an office, as long as the student is meeting all applicable Blinn TEAM requirements and is in good standing with the program.

All information above is pulled from [Student Rule 42](#), if you have any questions, please refer to the link.

## **Section II. Additional Requirements for Officers**

Selection for officer positions shall commence at the end of the fall/spring semester and be completed before the last final exam is administered. All potential and current officers must meet the following requirements to be considered:

**A.** All students applying for an officer position must have been a member for one full academic year or two full academic semesters (Spring and Fall). Special circumstances may be applied to a member seeking an officer position if the member meets all other requirements stated and has shown his or her commitment throughout the semester leading up to transition.

**B.** Applicants must have attended 75% of their required meetings over the past academic year for general officer positions and 85% of meetings for Executive Board positions. Absences excused by the President and with prior notice will not be counted against an applicant for an officer position as we understand that conflicts may arise. However, a pattern of absences may disqualify an applicant at the discretion of the President.

**C.** All applicants and current officers are required to participate and assist in planning/running of both leagues and special events. Attendance when running tournaments/leagues will be taken by the Secretary. If an applicant/current officer misses more than attendance requirements listed above, removal will be considered. If they cannot attend for an excused reason (family emergency, test during the time a meeting is occurring, illness, religious event/reasons, or other extenuating circumstances) the absence(s) will not count against them.

**D.** All applicants that want to serve on the Executive Board (President, Treasurer, and Secretary) must have held a general officer position for at least one semester or been a member for three full semesters and receive permission from the acting President. Lest there be no incumbent running for reelection, and no current member meets this criterion, at such a time the current Executive Board may accept applications to interview candidates to run for the open position.

**E.** Any applicants that wish to serve as the President, having the most responsibility, must have previously served on the Executive Board for 1 full academic semester, been a general officer for 2 full academic semesters, or been a member for 4 full academic semesters and receive approval from the current Executive Board by a 2/3rds vote. Lest there be no incumbent running for reelection, and no current member meets this criterion, at such a time the current President and/or Advisor may accept applications to interview candidates to run for the open position.

**F.** The Executive Board (President, Treasurer, and Secretary) carries a higher level of duty compared to the general officers. This means that any potential problems within the organization that need to be addressed or more sensitive information (finances, etc.) will be delegated to the Executive Board.

### **Section III. Officers and Duties**

Officers must meet all minimum position requirements each semester in order to be able to run for reelection. If the current President feels an officer has failed to meet these requirements, they will be able to run for an officer position after 1 full academic semester has passed. An officer that has been found to not have fulfilled their minimum requirements may request to be heard by the executive board to plead their case for why they should be allowed to run for reelection to the executive board. A 2/3rds vote from the executive board may allow them to run for reelection. If the officer in question is on the executive board, the Advisor will act as the 3<sup>rd</sup> voting party.

- A. **President** - The President shall preside over regular and executive meetings, coordinate group activities and communicate with the officers and Advisor on all matters. He/she shall appoint another Executive Board member to preside over meetings in his/her absence. The minimum requirements for the President are as follows:
- a. Maintain and update the Aggie Blades website (aggieblades.com)
  - b. Respond to all member sign-ups and event requests from the Aggie Blades website
  - c. Coordinate with The Cut for scheduling, payment, and league creation/management
  - d. Manage and update the Aggie Blades Google calendar and Flare Calendars
  - e. Handle any reports/concerns with the necessary parties as outlined in the Constitution
  - f. Coordinate with the Advisor
  - g. Manage the Aggie Blades member roster and league rosters
  - h. Order/make member shirts each semester
  - i. Approve/reject event requests and budget requests
  - j. Coordinate with the Treasurer to collect dues and deposit all cash into SOFC account
  - k. Coordinate with the Treasurer to create/update a semesterly budget
  - l. Coordinate with the Treasurer to maintain updated financial account records
  - m. Respond to emails sent to the organization email (aggieblades@gmail.com)
  - n. Maintain proper SOFC training and monitor SOFC Recognition Status
  - o. Organize the Semi-Formal and Awards Banquet each semester
  - p. Organize/run all major Aggie Blades events
  - q. Assist other offices as needed

Any duties not listed under another officer falls to the President and can be delegated at the President's discretion.

- B. **Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall collect dues, pay bills, and oversee other monetary transactions including fundraising and social activities, as well as prepare and maintain a semesterly budget. The minimum requirements for the Treasurer are as follows:
- Maintain SOFC Training
  - Review budget requests before sending them to the President
  - Coordinate with the President to collect dues and deposit all cash into SOFC account
  - Coordinate with the President to create/update a semesterly budget
  - Coordinate with the President to maintain updated financial account records
  - Assist with organizing/running all major Aggie Blades events
- C. **Secretary** - The Secretary shall be responsible for managing and updating records in the Aggie Blades google drive, managing waiver records, and monitoring safety at events. The minimum requirements for the Secretary are as follows:
- Update score tracking sheet weekly
  - Have all members sign a safety waiver each semester and store them in the Aggie Blades google drive
  - Update membership records each semester from their current safety waiver
  - Review event requests before sending them to the President
  - Monitor safety and mitigate risks at events
  - Take notes during officer meetings and executive board meetings
  - Assist with organizing/running all major Aggie Blades events
- D. **Fundraising** – The Fundraising officer shall be responsible for all fundraising activities and coordinating with other officers/members to ensure successful fundraising. The minimum requirements for the Fundraising officer are as follows:
- Brainstorm potential fundraising opportunities
  - Organize at least 2 fundraising events each semester
  - Coordinate with the Social Officer to organize fundraising events
  - Coordinate with members to reach out to people/businesses for donations
  - Assist with organizing/running all major Aggie Blades events
- E. **Media** - The Media officer shall be responsible for taking pictures/videos at all events and managing the Aggie Blades social media accounts. The minimum requirements for the Media officer are as follows:
- Post to Aggie Blades social media accounts at least once per week during the semester
  - Take photos/videos and/or have members take photos/videos at all leagues and events
  - Respond to DMs on all social media
  - Create birthday posts for members' birthdays
  - Create graphics/artwork for Aggie Blades' events
  - Assist with organizing/running all major Aggie Blades events

- F. **Recruitment** - The Recruitment officer shall be responsible for planning and coordinating recruitment events/efforts. The minimum requirements for the Recruitment officer are as follows:
  - a. Organize recruitment events
  - b. Plan bannering and on-campus advertising
  - c. Apply for and organize a table at the MSC Open House
  - d. Coordinate with members to recruit new members
  - e. Assist with organizing/running all major events Aggie Blades hosts or is a part of
- G. **Social** - The Social officer shall be responsible for organizing events and outreach to other student organizations/students for events. The minimum requirements for the Social officer are as follows:
  - a. Coordinate with other officers to organize/run events
  - b. Contact other student organizations for partnered events
  - c. Reach out to other student organizations for events at The Cut
  - d. Assist with organizing/running all major events Aggie Blades hosts or is a part of
- H. More positions may be created on an as-needed basis. Positions are not required to be filled each semester. Positions can also become a co-op containing two officers instead of one as needed. Duties are not limited to what is listed and may be subject to change.

#### **Section IV. Election Process**

- A. Elections shall be held before the last week of leagues in both the fall and spring semester. There will be two elections held per year and all office positions will become open to those who qualify. A quorum must be present, and the election will be held as a ranked choice vote via a google form; newly elected officers shall assume responsibility at the following executive meeting conducted during summer/winter break or at the beginning of the fall/spring semester.
- B. All applicants and current officers will be required to submit an officer application and may be required to go through an interview process with the current Executive Board and/or Advisor. This process can be subject to change and may not stay the same each semester.
- C. Newly elected officers and outgoing officers will be required to meet with the current officers to ensure that the newly elected officers are aware of their duties and responsibilities. This also gives the newly elected officers an opportunity to ask any questions about their new role.
- D. If an applicant believes that there was an issue with the voting process the President and Advisor will check back over the voting to ensure that an error did not occur. The applicant must bring it to the attention of the President or Advisor within 24 hours of the close of the vote.
- E. There is no limit to the number of times an officer can serve or run for office.



## **Section V. Vacancies**

- A. A special election will be called to fill the vacancy using the normal voting process. The new officer shall immediately assume those responsibilities. In special circumstances when an election is not feasible, the Advisor, in consultation with the President (or Executive Board if the President is under vacancy), may appoint an officer until the next regular election.
- B. If an officer is unable to serve their elected term, they must notify the Executive Board and Advisor as soon as possible.

## **Section VI. Officer Meetings**

- A. Officer meetings will be held as needed. The time of the meeting will be determined by vote of all officers to ensure each officer will be able to attend. If an officer is unable to attend a meeting, they must let the President know in a timely manner and find a time to meet (in person or on zoom) with the President and/or Secretary to go over what the meeting covered.
- B. If an emergency meeting needs to be called all officers will be notified 24 hours beforehand via text message or phone call. If an officer cannot attend it will not count negatively toward their attendance or standing within the organization.
- C. Officers must attend 85% or more of the organizational meetings to remain in good standing in their respective roles.

## **Section VII. Disciplinary Process**

Any officer having three unexcused absences a semester or who is not acting in the best interests of the club (meaning they go against our mission, vision, core values, safety protocols or engage in harassment, assault, or hazing in any form) shall be considered for removal from their position and/or the organization. The officer will be given a notice and a meeting with said officer, the President, and the Advisor will be set to give the officer a chance to give his or her perspective on the matter. The President will take notes during said meeting and its contents will be considered when making removal/disciplinary decisions. A committee consisting of all officers except the one in question shall meet and a 2/3 vote must be obtained in order to remove the individual from their leadership position.

## **Article VI. Advisor**

**Section I.** The Advisor or Co-Advisors shall be appointed by the organization at the beginning of their term. This person must be a current faculty or staff member of Texas A&M University.

**Section II.** The faculty or staff Advisor shall advise the organization as needed. The Advisor shall not, however, speak for or represent in any way the voice of the organization without prior notice.

**Section III.** The organization shall invite a faculty or staff member to serve on a yearly basis, subject to the organization's renewed invitation. There shall be no limit on the number of times that a faculty or staff Advisor may be re-appointed to serve the organization. The faculty or staff Advisor may at any time ask to be replaced by another faculty or staff member. In this case, the new faculty or staff Advisor is still subject to an invitation by the incoming organization's members

**Section IV.** The organization may change its Advisor at any time with a simple majority vote of the current membership. If the members request a change in Advisor, the Executive Board will notify the Advisor and give them a chance to have a meeting with the Executive Board to speak on the issues occurring. If/when the organization votes on the matter, the Advisor will be notified of the results in a timely manner by the President.

**Article VII. General Meetings**

**Section I.** General meetings shall be held as needed at a time that is convenient for the membership.

**Section II.** A quorum shall consist of fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of the membership and must be present to conduct official business.

**Section III.** General meetings shall be held in the Memorial Student Center (MSC), The Cut Axe Throwing, or another location approved by the Executive Board and if a member is not able to attend, they must notify the President or Secretary beforehand. In addition to this they must also find a time to meet (in person or on zoom) with the President to be brought up to date on what the meeting covered.

**Section IV.** If an emergency meeting needs to be called all members will be notified 24 hours beforehand. If a member cannot attend it will not count negatively towards their attendance or standing within the organization.

**Section V.** General members must attend 75% or more of the organizational meetings to apply to become a general officer.

**Article VII. Finances**

**Section I.** Dues shall be determined per academic semester and will be collected from all members of this organization. Dues can be paid to either the current President or Treasurer. Dues are required to be paid before participation in any Aggie Blades leagues or other events.

**Section II.** All cash monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this organization at the Student Organization Finance Center and/or the Fiscal Office. All funds must be deposited within 24 hours after collection. The Advisor to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

**Section III.** If the organization dissolves, disposed monies will be donated to the Student Emergency Fund at TAMU. The current Advisor must report to Student Activities the results of the disposition of funds.

**Article IX. Sexual Assault, Harassment, and Hazing**

**Section I. Sexual Assault**

Any form of sexual assault is not condoned by Aggie Blades. All members will always have a mode available to them to report any issues they are experiencing; any submissions will be viewed by the President and Advisor. If an event occurs in which a member is accused of sexual assault an immediate investigation will take place. The President and Advisor will meet with all members involved in the event separately and will decide if removal is necessary. If removal is not deemed necessary at the time and a second event occurs with the same offender(s) then removal will be immediate. The member(s) that are removed will be notified in a timely manner.

**Section II. Harassment**

Any form of harassment is not condoned by Aggie Blades. All members will always have a mode available to them to report any issues they are experiencing; any submissions will be viewed by the President and Advisor. If an event occurs in which a member makes another member uncomfortable in any way an immediate investigation will take place. The President and Advisor will meet with all members involved in the event separately and will decide if removal is necessary. If removal is not deemed necessary at the time and a second event occurs with the same offender(s) then removal will be immediate. The member(s) that are removed will be notified in a timely manner.

**Section III. Hazing**

Any form of hazing is not condoned by Aggie Blades. All members will always have a mode available to them to report any issues they are experiencing; any submissions will be viewed by the President and Advisor. If an event occurs in which a member hazes another member an immediate investigation will take place. The President and Advisor will meet with all members involved in the event separately and will decide if removal is necessary. If removal is not deemed necessary at the time and a second event occurs with the same offender(s) then removal will be immediate. The member(s) that are removed will be notified in a timely manner.

According to Appendix VI in the Texas A&M University Student Rule Six an event is considered hazing if, “(6) “Hazing” means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization if the act: (A) is any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity; (B) involves sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other similar activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student; (C) involves consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance, other than as described by Paragraph (E), that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student; (D) is any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code; or (E) involves coercing, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code, the student to consume:

(i) a drug; or

(ii) an alcoholic beverage or liquor in an amount that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student is intoxicated, as defined by Section 49.01, Penal Code.”

**Section IV. TAMU Tell Somebody Report**

If anyone is uncomfortable addressing sensitive topics or situations with officers, we encourage them to utilize the [TAMU Tell Somebody](#) Report Form linked here.

**Article X. Amendments and Revision**

**Section I.**

This constitution may be amended and/or revised at any time by a two-thirds vote of the active membership, subject to the approval of the Director of Student Activities or designee.

**Section II.**

The organization will annually submit a copy of its constitution to the Department of Student Activities for review. This copy will be made available to organization members, upon request.