

Constitution of Longhorn Riichi
at The University of Texas at Austin

PREAMBLE

Longhorn Riichi (“LR”, “we”, “the club”) is an organization for people who are interested in the tabletop game “*Riichi*” (Japanese Mahjong). LR will host *Riichi*-related events, including teaching sessions, game sessions, and tournaments. LR’s three primary missions are as follows:

1. Help popularize *Riichi* in the West, by recruiting new players and connecting with other *Riichi* communities.
2. Help set up game sessions among *Riichi* players (both in-person and online).
3. Help club members improve at *Riichi*, by providing guides and learning opportunities.

ARTICLE I – UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE

This organization is a recognized student organization at The University of Texas at Austin and shall comply with all campus policies as set forth in the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities.

More specifically, LR explicitly prohibits any form of gambling within the club.

ARTICLE II – PROHIBITION OF HAZING

State law and Sec. 14-103(3) of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities define hazing as 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, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in or maintaining membership in any organization whose members are or include students at an educational institution.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership Restriction

In accordance with Sec. 6-202(a)(2) and Sec. 6-302 of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities, this organization restricts membership to students, faculty members, and staff members of the University.

B. Eligibility of Membership

In accordance with Sec. 6-202(a)(3) of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities, this organization may not deny membership on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, except that a registered student organization created primarily for religious purposes may restrict the right to vote or hold office to persons who subscribe to the registered student organization's statement of faith; and a registered student organization may restrict membership based on the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

However, a person who was once a member in LR but had their membership removed in the past can only be granted membership again if the entire current Executive Board agrees with the decision.

C. Tiers of Membership

LR provides two tiers of membership: "free" and "paid". Free membership is obtained by participating in any of the game sessions hosted by LR, without any other prerequisites or obligations. Free members can request to upgrade their membership to "paid" for the current semester by paying the due for that semester at any point in the same semester (the amount of the due for a particular semester is determined before the first day of class for that semester).

Both free members and paid members can request to participate in all events of LR, but seating priority is granted to paid members by default, although exceptions may be made (e.g., when recruiting new members).

Further, to incentivize obtaining paid membership, some LR events may offer rewards for paid members only. By default, rewards are not granted retroactively to members who paid after the rewards have been handed out for the respective event.

D. Membership Removal

A member at LR (both free and paid) may be removed due to serious misconduct, as determined by the LR officers. A majority vote by the Executive Board is required to remove a member. "Serious misconduct" includes but is not limited to the actions that violate the University's guidelines and actions that harm LR (such as harassing other members). The member will not be refunded their membership due in the case of a paid membership.

More specifically, we follow the procedure below for member removal:

- a. When a member (called “accused member”) is suspected of serious misconduct, any member in the organization may propose the removal of the accused member to an officer.
- b. If the officer deems the case serious enough and substantiated by evidence, they should propose the removal to the Executive Board.
- c. The Executive Board will notify the accused member within 1 business day of the proposal. For this constitution, “notifications” are carried out over a secure online platform by default.
- d. The Executive Board must ensure that at least 2 business days have passed since the notification of the proposal has been sent out before they can initiate the vote on the proposal. This is to give the accused member enough time to react and present any defense before the vote starts. The accused member may choose to voluntarily give up their membership as long as the vote has not been initiated.
- e. The vote shall be conducted on a secure online platform. All officers (except the accused member, if they are also an officer) will vote on the proposal.
- f. Based on the vote, if a majority agrees with the removal proposal, then the accused member becomes officially removed from the club. To clarify, any officer position the removed member was holding is also voided, since they will no longer be a member.
- g. When a member is removed this way, they and the club’s other members will be notified of the removal within 1 business day.

Article IV – OFFICERS

A. General Information

There will be four types of officers – President, Treasurer, Secretary, and General Officers – described in detail later in this section.

- Election: when vacancy and/or need presents itself, new officers (including the President) are proposed and elected by the Executive Board with a majority vote, and the current President will break ties (more details later in this section).
- Term: Officers are expected to serve for at least 1 semester, but are allowed to remain in the same position indefinitely provided that they:
 1. Will remain students/employees of the University when they would hold office,
 2. Have been consistently and effectively carrying out their duties,
 3. Agree to serve until the end of a semester barring extenuating circumstances
- Number of officers: there shall be exactly one President, one Treasurer, and one Secretary for a particular semester. There should be at least one and at most three General Officers for a semester.

B. Specific Duties of each type of officers

1. The President will:

- Oversee all club operations and assigns tasks to officers where appropriate
- Draft plans for events (including game sessions, fundraisers, etc.)
- Hold officer meetings when necessary (to discuss event planning, officer election, constitution review/revision, etc.)
- Make reservations for events
- Seek out sources of funding for the club
- Break ties of any majority vote that the president participates in (the president may not participate in votes on proposals such as the removal of their own position and the removal of their own membership). For this constitution, “majority” is defined as “having received more votes than any other single option” – e.g., if A received 2 votes, B received 2 votes, and C received 3 votes, then C wins the vote as the majority, despite constituting only 3/7 of the total votes. If there is an unbroken tie (i.e., there is a tie in a vote that the president does not participate in), then the vote is considered inconclusive. If a proposal receives an inconclusive vote, it is rejected.
- Act as the club’s official representative
- Help other officers perform their duties, and substitute for the officers when they become unavailable

2. The Treasurer will:

- Perform rigorous accounting on the club’s properties, including cash and equipment (e.g., when requested, the Treasurer should be able to provide proof of purchase)
- Make purchases (of equipment, refreshments, etc.) and ensure that the purchases are successful (e.g., dealing with the sellers in case of any purchase-related issue)
- Keep in contact with the sources of funding (e.g., the respective organizations/departments at the University)
- Facilitate due payment from paid members

3. The Secretary will:

- Keep a record of the events when necessary (list of participants, a summary of the highlights from the event, etc.)
- Keep a summary of each officer meeting
- Maintain and update the club’s documents, including the game results and player scores
- Manage and moderate the club’s social media (e.g., the club’s Discord server)
- Draft and post announcements about events (including creating Discord events)

4. The General Officers will:

- Help plan and organize events (e.g., check to ensure that event specifications like time and location are valid; help set up before, and clean up after, events)
- Help answer questions from regular members, including questions about Riichi, the standard ruleset, and about the club’s logistics (i.e., General Officers must be familiar with both how the game works and how the club operates)

- Participate in Officer-only decision-making (e.g., new officer election)

C. Officer Removal

If an officer fails to consistently carry out their respective duties as specified above, they may be removed from their position. The President is responsible for monitoring the officers' performance; however, **all** officers have the right to propose the removal of another officer from their position with reasonable cause. An officer is removed if the removal proposal passed a majority vote by the Executive Board; the officer proposed for removal shall not participate in the voting process. After the removal process, a new officer election may be held for the respective position. Note that if an officer has been accused of serious misconduct, they should be directly proposed for membership removal, since they will lose their officer position automatically if they are no longer a member (for more details, see the section "Membership Removal").

More specifically, we follow the procedure below for officer removal:

- When an officer deems another officer (called "accused officer") due for removal, they may propose the accused officer's removal to the Executive Board. The criteria is specified earlier in this section.
- The Executive Board will notify the accused officer and the voting officers (all officers except the accused officer will vote on the proposal) within 1 business day of the proposal.
- The Executive Board must ensure that at least 2 business days have passed since the notification of the proposal has been sent out before they can initiate the vote on the proposal. This is to give the accused officer enough time to react and present any defense before the vote starts. The accused officer may choose to resign as long as the vote has not been initiated.
- The vote shall be conducted on a secure online platform.
- Based on the vote, if a majority agrees with the removal proposal, then the accused officer becomes officially removed from the Executive Board. The officer removal process does not remove the accused officer's membership (to remove their membership, they should be proposed for Membership Removal).
- When an officer is removed this way, they and the club's other members will be notified of the removal within 1 business day.

D. Officer Election

Elections are conducted only when needed (when officer positions open up) – we do not hold regular elections. When a position opens up, the President will set a reasonable deadline for applications for that position. Before the deadline, the members (free or paid) may apply for that position. Applicants will then be interviewed by the existing officers (e.g., the current President shall partake in the election of a new President) before the deadline. After the deadline passes, a

majority vote is carried out by the Executive Board, for each vacancy of the position, over all applicants for the position, to determine who among the applicants will fill that vacancy.

Article V – MEETINGS

The club normally meets in person weekly on Sunday afternoon for “Sunday Afternoon Riichi” (“SAR”). SAR is meant as a game session, where members gather to play *Riichi* with each other. Attendance in SAR is not required.

Officers are allowed to start sporadic meetings if either the President will be present, or at least two officers will be present. Attendance in sporadic meetings is not required.

The President may schedule officer meetings and specify the meeting’s attendance requirement (among the officers).

ARTICLE VI - UNIVERSITY ADVISOR

A. Advisor Eligibility

In accordance with Sec. 6-101 (14) and Sec. 6-101(15) of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities and Information on Students' Rights and Responsibilities, this organization may have a University Advisor who is at least twenty-one years of age, is not enrolled as a student at the University, and serves as either:

- I. A part-time or full-time employee of the University,
- II. a representative of a national organization that is associated with the registered student organization (registered student organizations only).

B. Number of Advisors

LR expects at most one advisor at any given time.

C. Advisor Responsibilities

The advisor shall serve as the mediator between LR and the University (including the sponsoring department/unit when applicable), facilitating any communication between the two and ensuring that the demands from each side are properly conveyed and considered by the other side.

D. Advisor Responsibilities

Although it is not required, the advisor is encouraged to participate in LR's events (such as the game sessions) and provide their expertise on the game as well as related topics when applicable.

E. Selection Process for Advisors

In the case of multiple advisor candidates, a majority vote among the officers shall be conducted to elect one of them as the advisor.

ARTICLE VII - STANDARD GAME AND MEMBER RANKING

Before **each** semester starts, the officers must decide on a ruleset for the 4-player *Riichi* game at LR. The ruleset must stay true to a well-known professional tournament's ruleset (e.g., M-League's ruleset) with only minor modifications. Previous rulesets may be reused. Once decided, the ruleset will be considered "standard" for that semester and remain unchanged throughout the semester. During the semester, members may choose to play games under that ruleset. If so, the members' performance of those games will affect their "Standard Score" for the particular semester. The ruleset shall also specify other related elements like the number of standard games a player has to have played to be considered for the semester-end ranking. Right before the beginning of a new semester, all members (both free and paid members) will be ranked according to their Standard Score. Paid members are also ranked among themselves by their Standard Score and rewards shall be granted to them based on the paid-member-only ranking.

Every member's standard score for **each** semester begins at "0"; new members join with a standard score of "0" for the semester they joined in.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCES

The price of the paid membership for a particular semester is subject to change and shall be determined before that semester starts (before the first day of class).

The club's funds shall be strictly used to pay for club-related activities, including but not limited to the purchase of mahjong equipment, the purchase of refreshments for events, the cost of advertisement/promotion, the rewards for events, and the ranking-based rewards.

The Treasurer shall be in charge of the budget.

Purchase requests may be initiated by any officer of the club and will be realized (by the Treasurer) if the request passes a majority vote by the Executive Board.

A bank account shall be created for LR to help manage the club's funds, and the account shall be maintained by the Treasurer of the club.

ARTICLE IX – ELECTIONS

As specified before, only officers may participate in the club's administrative decision-making, including the elections. More details are specified in the respective articles for when elections are needed. The elections will be held on a secure online platform, and their results conveyed to the members via online announcements.

ARTICLE X – BEFORE EACH SEMESTER BEGINS

Here is a list of items that must be addressed by the officers before each new semester begins (via an officer meeting conducted by the new semester's President):

1. Determine the costs and rewards of a paid membership for that semester
2. Draft the semester's standard ruleset (reusing previous standard rulesets is allowed)
3. Discuss the semester's budget and plan for funding applications
4. Set up new documents to keep track of the upcoming semester's leaderboard
5. Review the constitution; propose and consider amendments if applicable
6. Submit Hornslink events for approval

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

All amendments or changes to this constitution must be reflected in an updated constitution that must be submitted to Student Activities in the Office of the Dean of Students at 2609 University Ave., Suite 2.112 within 14 days of its approval.

Only officers may propose amendments (non-officer members can provide suggestions to officers in terms of amendments). An amendment passes if **all** officers agree on the content of the amendment. If an amendment passes, it takes effect immediately.