

RAAS RUCKUS DANCE TEAM AT UC San Diego

CONSTITUTION

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

Article I. Name of Student Organization

The organization shall be called Raas Ruckus Dance Team at UC San Diego.

Article II. Statement of Purpose

The competitive garba & raas team at UC San Diego is a non-profit, recreational club with a cultural twist. This group promotes Garba & Raas, two interrelated West-Indian dance forms that originated from the state of Gujarat. In this day and age, Garba & Raas have been transformed from the deeply traditional precursors to the more energetic, contemporary form that is practiced by this team. In addition, simply developing and performing modern Garba/Raas choreography on campus, this team intends to partake in national, collegiate Garba/Raas competitions, thereby representing the University of California San Diego and promoting school pride. At the local level, this team also seeks to promote cultural and social awareness of this dance form and the related cultural connotations by performing on campus, and at nearby universities, as well as by eliciting participation from the student body. An implicit goal of this organization is to build a community at UC San Diego for all students who dance for the team and wish to be involved.

Article III. Nonprofit Statement

Raas Ruckus Dance Team at UC San Diego is a non-profit student organization.

Article IV. Requirements for Membership

The Raas Ruckus Dance Team at UC San Diego is open to all UC San Diego undergraduates. The maximum membership is 30 members, many of which will be extras or substitutes. At the competition level, most equivalent teams have about 16 performing members, so that is our predicted active/dancing member count.

To select dancers, there will be annual tryouts held by the captains/officers. Those who tryout will be taught a routine by captains/officers and will be evaluated based on a final performance of that dance. There is no priority given to returning members, simply on the basis of past membership; each year requires a new routine and those who

perform the routine best and show the most potential will be selected. Much of the selection is at the discretion of the board members, but the higher goal of team success will be kept in mind.

Once members are selected, they are required to attend all meetings and practices. Any conflicts must be brought to the captains/officers attention prior to the meeting/practice in question. Essentially, commitment is integral to the success of the team and will be expected of all members. Members that do not give notice of missed practices or chronically miss practices will be warned and can be replaced/removed upon the evaluation of the board.

The Raas Ruckus Dance Team at UC San Diego does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, national origin, ancestry, citizenship, age, marital status, medical condition, physical or mental disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

This organization abides by the UC San Diego Non-Discrimination Policy and promotes an inclusive and respectful environment for all members.

Article IV. Section 1. Hazing Prevention

The Raas Ruckus Dance Team at UC San Diego is committed to maintaining a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all its members and does not condone hazing. Hazing, in any form, is strictly prohibited within the organization in compliance with state and federal law, Regents' policies and University regulations. Participation in hazing or any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, activity, or method committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons, including current, former, or prospective students, regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate, that is committed in the course of a preinitiation, an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the maintenance of membership in, an official or unofficial student organization or other student group that i. causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization (such as the physical preparation necessary for participation in an athletic team), of physical or psychological injury, including personal degradation or disgrace, and/or ii. the person knew or should have known was likely to cause serious bodily injury. As an organization, we understand that failure to abide by hazing policies and laws will result in referral to the Center for Student Accountability, Growth, and

Education (SAGE) for an organizational violation and/or individual violation(s).

Article V. Frequency of Organization Meetings

Official general body meeting will be held twice during the year: once in the beginning of the year for team selection purposes and once at the end of the year for board selection purposes. There will be minor meetings held throughout the year for discussion on competitions and administrative components. Also, there will be mandatory weekly practices that will be coordinated based on member availability.

Article VI. Qualifications for Holding Office and Methods of Selecting and Replacing Officers

The Raas Ruckus Dance Team at UC San Diego will be led by a board. This board will be capped at a maximum of 5 members that will work as a team and share the responsibilities of leading the team and completing the below duties.

- o Setting up tryouts
- o Judging and selecting dancers at the initial tryouts
- o Organizing and supervising practices
- o Developing and teaching choreography
- o Applying to competitions

- o Organizing the competition experience (travel, accommodations)
- o Promoting fundraising and sponsorship to minimize member cost
- o Preserving order within the group

If an individual steps up to be captain of the team, he or she will take charge of the board, and help to delegate responsibilities to those who wish to take them on. Inevitably, unforeseen tasks will arise, and it is an implicit responsibility of this board to handle these tasks cooperatively and appropriately.

The board members (officers) are to be re-elected every year with the consensus of the team. Only registered UC San Diego students may hold office in the organization. Only registered UC San Diego students may vote in elections for the selection of the organization's officers. There shall be no limits on an officer's term, only the requirement of maintained excellence. Under certain circumstances, an officer may be dropped or replaced; this is based on the perception that the officer in mind is unfit to carry on his or her responsibilities. Though this can be influenced by the opinions of the whole team, this will be a decision for the remaining board to make.

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Article VI. Section 1. Removal Process

Any member may be removed from Raas Ruckus for behavior that violates the organization's constitution, UC San Diego policies, or the community standards expected of members. Grounds for removal may include, but are not limited to:

- Harassment or discrimination
- Disruptive behavior
- Misuse of organizational resources
- Actions that harm the reputation or function of the organization

Removal Procedure:

1. A written complaint must be submitted to the executive board, outlining the reason for removal.
2. The member will be notified and given an opportunity to respond to the allegations at a scheduled meeting.

3. After hearing both sides, the executive board will vote. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of officers is required for removal.
4. The member will be notified of the decision in writing.

Article VII. Risk Management

Raas Ruckus Dance Team at UC San Diego is a registered student organization at University of California, San Diego, but not part of the University itself.

Raas Ruckus Dance Team at UC San Diego understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization.

Possible risks associated with Raas Ruckus Dance Team activities include injuries caused by the dance which include (but are not limited to): sprains, fractures, tendonitis, etc. These risks are easily alleviated with rest and proper care.

Article VIII. Financial Management

There will be some minimal costs for this team, mostly associated with competition application and travel, costumes and jewelry, and props. The garba & raas team will fundraise on the UC San Diego campus as well as solicit donations from other established on-campus organizations. Depending on the outcome of such soliciting/fundraising, members may be asked to pay dues. The monetary amount of the dues will be determined when necessary. Because costs will be relatively punitive, a budget will not be necessary. All financial transactions/activity will strictly adhere to UC San Diego guidelines.

Article IX. Affiliations

This group is affiliated only with UC San Diego. There is no immediate need for sponsorship, and any off-campus fiscal interaction will be taken as donations.

Article X. Amending the Constitution

The constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the captains/board members when necessary.