

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION
OF THE
DANCE STUDIES STUDENT COMMITTEE



ESTABLISHED UNDER
ICTMD SRI LANKA NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR TRADITIONS OF MUSIC
AND DANCE
(ICTMD)

Preamble

The Sri Lanka National Committee of the International Council for Traditions of Music and Dance (ICTMD), recognizing the importance of nurturing future scholars, practitioners, and cultural workers in the field of dance studies, hereby establishes the Dance Studies Student Committee.

This Constitution affirms ICTMD's commitment to ethical research, inclusivity, accessibility, and the recognition of diverse knowledge systems, including academic research, practice-as-research, and community-rooted traditions. The Student Committee is envisioned as a structured platform through which students may engage critically and responsibly with dance as scholarship, embodied practice, and cultural heritage, while aligning with ICTMD's international mission and standards.

Scope and Authority

1. The ICTMD Sri Lanka Dance Studies Student Committee shall function within the scope defined by this Constitution, under the oversight of:
 - The ICTMD Sri Lanka National Committee, and
 - The ICTMD Sri Lanka Dance Sub-Committee.
2. The authority of the Student Committee shall be advisory, educational, and representative, and shall include:
 - a. Organizing student-focused academic and practice-based activities related to dance studies;
 - b. Facilitating ethical research, documentation, and dialogue among student members;
 - c. Representing student perspectives within ICTMD Sri Lanka through duly elected representatives;
 - d. Supporting the objectives and initiatives of the Dance Sub-Committee when requested.
3. The Student Committee shall not:
 - a. Act as an independent legal or financial entity;
 - b. Issue public statements, policy positions, or representations on behalf of ICTMD

independently;

c. Engage in political advocacy or external contractual obligations.

4. All official actions, programs, and communications of the Student Committee shall be conducted through or with the knowledge of the Dance Sub-Committee or the National Committee.

Approval and Adoption

This Constitution is subject to approval by the ICTMD Sri Lanka National Committee and shall come into force upon such approval.

Approved by:

ICTMD Sri Lanka National Committee

Date of Approval:

Article 1: Name

This body shall be known as the Dance Studies Student Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Student Committee”).

Article 2: Affiliation, Legal Status, and Oversight

1. The Student Committee shall function under the authority of the ICTMD Sri Lanka National Committee.
2. It shall operate in parallel with, and in coordination with, the Dance Studies Sub-Committee established under the ICTMD Sri Lanka National Committee.
3. The Student Committee shall not constitute an independent legal entity.
4. The Student Committee shall be accountable to:
 - The ICTMD Sri Lanka National Committee, and
 - The Dance Studies Sub-Committee, particularly on matters of coordination, representation, and ethics.

Article 3: Vision and Orientation

1. The Student Committee is established to encourage and support student engagement in dance studies, including research, practice, documentation, and critical discourse.
2. It adopts a student-led, academic, practice-based, and community-oriented approach, valuing embodied knowledge and ethical scholarship.
3. The Student Committee functions as an entry platform into ICTMD scholarly, artistic, and professional networks.

Article 4: Objectives and Functions

The Student Committee shall:

1. Promote student interest in dance studies across traditional, contemporary, and community-based practices.
2. Organize student-led academic and practice-based activities, including:
 - Workshops
 - Reading groups
 - Lecture-demonstrations

- Student symposia or conferences
- 3. Encourage ethical research, documentation, and dissemination of dance knowledge.
- 4. Foster collaboration among students across regions, disciplines, and institutions.
- 5. Nominate and elect three (3) representatives to the Dance Studies Sub-Committee.
- 6. Act as a consultative body on student-related matters when requested by senior committees.

Article 5: Membership Eligibility

1. Membership shall be open to:
 - Registered undergraduate or postgraduate students
 - Enrolled in Sri Lankan or overseas higher education institutions
 - With an academic, practice-based, or community-oriented interest in dance studies
2. Members do not represent their institutions, but participate as individuals.
3. Membership shall be inclusive of all genders, abilities, ethnicities, religions, languages, and regions.

Article 6: Composition of the Student Committee

1. The Student Committee shall consist of twenty (20) members in total.
2. Membership shall be constituted as follows:
 - Fifteen (15) members elected through a public nomination and election process
 - Five (5) members appointed by the Chairperson of the ICTMD Sri Lanka Dance Sub-Committee
3. Chair-appointed members:
 - Shall be appointed to ensure inclusivity, accessibility, disciplinary balance, and continuity
 - Shall have equal voting rights
 - Shall not be counted toward the minimum requirement of newly elected members per cycle
4. Every reasonable effort shall be made to maintain gender balance and diverse representation.

Article 7: Term of Office

1. The term of office shall be two (2) years.
2. Members may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.
3. Membership shall normally cease upon loss of student status; however, members shall be permitted to complete their current term.

Article 8: Nomination and Election Process

1. Nominations shall be:
 - Publicly announced
 - Conducted through an official online system
2. The nomination period shall remain open for Five (05) days.
3. Elections shall be conducted by:
 - Secret ballot, or
 - Secure electronic voting
4. At least three (3) new members shall be elected in each election cycle.
5. Election results shall be formally communicated to:
 - The ICTMD Sri Lanka Dance Sub-Committee
 - The ICTMD Sri Lanka National Committee

Article 9: Office Bearers

1. The Student Committee shall elect the following office bearers from among its members:
 - Chairperson
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
2. Additional roles may be created as required.
3. Office bearers shall be elected by simple majority vote.
4. Rotation of roles may be decided at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Article 10: Meetings

1. The Student Committee shall meet at least twice per year.
2. Meetings may be conducted physically, virtually, or in hybrid form.
3. A simple majority of members shall constitute a quorum.

Article 11: Decision-Making

1. Decisions shall be made by consensus where possible.
2. Where consensus is not possible, decisions shall be made by simple majority vote.
3. All members, including appointed members, shall have equal voting rights.

Article 12: Code of Conduct and Ethics

1. Members shall:
 - Uphold ICTMD ethical guidelines
 - Respect cultural diversity and embodied knowledge
 - Avoid discrimination, harassment, or abuse of position
2. Alleged breaches shall be addressed through:
 - Initial review by the Student Committee
 - Escalation to the Dance Sub-Committee, where necessary
 - Final oversight by the National Committee in serious cases
3. Sanctions may include warning, suspension, or removal by simple majority vote.

Article 13: Accessibility and Language

1. Official working languages shall be **Sinhala/Tamil/ English**.
2. Accessibility measures shall be ensured in meetings and activities.
3. Sign language interpretation shall be provided:
 - Upon request
 - Where practicable
 - Where required for the participation of any member

Article 14: Financial Matters

1. The Student Committee shall not handle funds independently.
2. All financial activities shall operate through the ICTMD Sri Lanka Dance Sub-Committee or the National Committee.
3. The Treasurer shall maintain basic financial records and reports as required.

Article 15: Representation to the Dance Sub-Committee

1. The Student Committee shall elect three (3) representatives to the ICTMD Sri Lanka Dance Sub-Committee.
2. These representatives shall:
 - Have equal voting rights within the Dance Studies Sub-Committee
 - Serve as communication links between student members and senior committees
3. Representatives shall report regularly to the Student Committee.

Article 16: Amendments

1. Minor procedural amendments may be approved by:
 - A simple majority vote of the Student Committee
 - Subject to ratification by the National Committee
2. Major constitutional amendments shall require:
 - Approval of the National Committee
 - A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Student Committee

Article 17: Dissolution

The Student Committee may be dissolved by the ICTMD Sri Lanka National Committee if it becomes non-functional or acts contrary to ICTMD principles.

Article 18: Adoption

This Constitution shall come into force upon approval by the ICTMD Sri Lanka National Committee.

Appendix A: Annual General Meeting (AGM) Rules and Election Procedures

A1. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

1. The Student Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting (AGM) once every calendar year.
2. The AGM may be held physically, virtually, or in hybrid form.
3. A minimum of fourteen (14) days' written notice shall be given to all members prior to the AGM.
4. The quorum for the AGM shall be a simple majority of current members.

A2. Functions of the AGM

The AGM shall:

1. Receive and approve:
 - The Chairperson's Annual Report
 - The Secretary's Activity Report
 - The Treasurer's Financial Statement (where applicable)
2. Elect office bearers and committee members as required.
3. Review committee activities and strategic directions.
4. Consider proposed constitutional amendments.
5. Address any other matters duly submitted in advance.

A3. Nomination Procedures

1. A public call for nominations shall be issued through an official online system.
2. Nominations shall remain open for fourteen (05) days from the date of public announcement.
3. Eligibility criteria shall be clearly stated in the call for nominations.
4. Self-nominations and peer nominations shall be permitted, subject to consent of the nominee.

A4. Election Procedures

1. Elections shall be conducted:

- By secret ballot, or
 - Through a secure and verifiable electronic voting system.
- 2. All eligible members shall have equal voting rights.
- 3. At least three (3) new members shall be elected in each election cycle, excluding Chair-appointed members.
- 4. Election results shall be:
 - Recorded formally
 - Communicated to the Dance Sub-Committee and the National Committee

A5. Appointment of Members by the Chair

1. The Chairperson of the ICTMD Sri Lanka Dance Sub-Committee may appoint up to five (5) members to the Student Committee.
2. Such appointments shall aim to ensure:
 - Inclusivity and accessibility
 - Disciplinary and regional balance
 - Continuity and mentorship
3. Appointed members shall enjoy equal rights and responsibilities as elected members.

A6. Election of Office Bearers

1. Office bearers shall be elected from among committee members during the AGM or the first meeting following elections.
2. Elections shall be conducted by simple majority vote.
3. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson shall exercise a casting vote.

A7. Mid-Term Vacancies

1. In the event of a mid-term vacancy:
 - a. The Chairperson may propose a replacement member;
 - b. The appointment shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the Committee.
2. Replacement members shall serve the remainder of the term.

A8. Records and Reporting

1. The Secretary shall ensure that:

- Minutes of the AGM and elections are accurately recorded
 - All records are securely archived
2. AGM outcomes and election results shall be formally reported to:
- Dance Studies Sub-Committee
 - The ICTMD Sri Lanka National Committee