Article 1: Name and Purpose

*Section One: Name*

The name of the club will be The Special Olympics Association.

*Section Two: Purpose/Mission*

The purpose of The Special Olympics Association is to raise awareness for people with disabilities, promote the social inclusion of people with disabilities, and to educate students and faculty on the CSBSJU campus about better ways to treat, interact, and build relationships with people with disabilities (pertaining specifically to those with physical and intellectual disabilities).

*Section Three: Affiliation*

We are affiliated with Special Olympics Minnesota.

Article 2: Membership

*Section One: Eligibility for Membership*

All CSBSJU students, faculty, and staff are welcome to join the club. Any participating member has the full voting rights of any other member.

*Section Two: Voting Member Criteria*

Any student who expresses interest to join the club, informs the president or vice-president of his/her interest to join, attends two-thirds of club meetings, volunteers on any Special Olympics sports team, and attends/assists in the planning, set-up, or execution of two-thirds of club events.

*Section Three: Removal of Members*

If any member is not considered in good standing with the club, whether it be a lack of meeting attendance, event attendance, or deviant behavior, that club member will receive one written warning. If the problem persists, a special vote will be held in regards to the removal of the member. The member in question will be able to plead his/her case before a gathering of at least two-thirds of club members, hereby after the club members will vote whether to removal the member in question, with a two-thirds majority vote necessary for removal. All removed members will not have the option to appeal removal. Removal from the club will be permanent.

Article Three: Officers

*Section One: Officer Qualifications*

All existing club members are eligible to be an officer provided that he/she has been in good standing as a member of a club for at least the past two consecutive semesters. (If no eligible member has been participating for two consecutive semesters, then the requirement will be reduced to one semester).

*Section Two: Elected Officers*

President (1) – The president will preside over all meetings, call special meetings, represent the club at all Co-funding, Senate, and any other hearings related to the club. The president, along with the VP and Treasurer/secretary, will appoint the Publics Relations Officer. All tasks related to planning or organizing club activities will be delegated by the president.

Vice-President (1) – The vice-president will perform all duties of the president in the president’s absence. The vice-president will be the primary contact with the JCB. The vice-president will be delegated tasks by the president, but also has the power to delegate tasks to other members, provided that he/she receives the presidents permission.

Treasurer/Secretary (1) – The Treasurer/secretary will keep all financial records, submit monthly audit statements to the CFB contact, notify organization on any financial issues, prepare budget allocation requests, keep accurate records of participating club members, and record minutes and notes for all club meetings. The Treasurer/secretary will also be responsible for notifying all members of club meetings.

Public Relations Officer (1) – The Public Relations Officer will be responsible for being the primary contact for all organizations outside of CSBSJU that may wish to contact the club for any event planning purposes, etc. The Public Relations Officer will be responsible for documenting all important information received from outside organizations and reporting to the other officers. The Public Relations Officer will be responsible for contacting outside organizations, if delegated by the President or Vice-President to do so. The Public Relations Officer will be appointed by the President, Vice-president, and the Treasurer in conglomeration.

*Section 3: Vacancy in Office*

If a position is vacated due to resignation or removal, “chain of command” will be observed, with the vice-president filling a vacated president’s role and a treasurer filling the vacated vice-president’s role. A special election will be called by the new or existing president to elect a new treasurer/secretary. The Public Relations Officer will not be eligible for chain of command, but will remain the Public Relations Officer, unless he/she runs for the vacated treasurer position, in which case the new president/vice-president/treasurer will appoint a new public relations officer.

*Section 4: Removal of Officers*

If an officer is deemed out of good standing with the club because of continued absence, deviant behavior, inadequate performance, as noted by the officers, club advisor, or club members, then the other officers will agree to issue two successive written warnings. If the behavior persists, a special election will be called by the officers, the officer in question will be allowed to plead his/her case to the voting members (minimum two-thirds of members necessary for vote), and then an election will be held. A two-thirds majority is necessary for removing an officer. If an officer is removed, he/she will still be a voting member of the club, but only one additional offense will be necessary for removal from the club. If one additional offense is committed after an officer is removed from his/post, the procedure for removal will follow the procedure for removal of members in article 2, with the necessity for one written warning being voided.

*Section 5: Appeal of Removed Officers*

Removed officers will not be granted an opportunity to appeal removal.

Article Four: Elections

*Section 1: Nomination*

Potential officers will be self-nominated. All elections for the following year’s officers will occur one week before the JCB’s mandatory officer announcement date, and all interested officers must state their interest to run a month previous to the election.

*Section 2: Election*

Elections require two-thirds of club members to be present. Secret ballot will be handed out and totaled by the existing officers. There is no limit to how many terms an officer can run, and elections will be held by April 1st.

*Section 3: Special Elections*

If an officer were to vacate his/her position, the officers would observe the “Chain of Command” procedure as outlined in Article 3 Section 3. The special election for the new Treasurer would then be held within 2 weeks of the official vacancy, with nominations being accepted for that entire 2 week period, and the special election following all procedures of a normal scheduled election.

Article Five: Advisor:

*Section 1: Selection*

The officers will choose the club’s advisor, based on credentials and experience with people with disabilities, provided that she/he is a member of the CSBSJU faculty.

*Section 2: Duties*

The advisor will be required to assist in guidance, advice, and contacting organizations when necessary.

Article Six: Meetings

*Section 1: Regular Meeting/Club Activities*

Regular meetings will occur every two weeks. Members will be notified of meetings by the treasurer. Regular club activities would include discussing/planning future events, sharing ideas and stories related to people with disabilities on our campus. Meetings will run as informal discussions.

*Section 2: Special Meetings*

Special meetings would be called if any club business must be discussed/voted on before the next scheduled meeting. These meetings will be called by the officers, and the treasurer will notify the members of the special meeting.

*Section 3: Parliamentary Authority*

Meetings will be run as informal discussions, with the president and vice-president stating the matters that must be discussed. Once all orders of business are taken care of, the floor will be opened up for any other thoughts or comments from any of the members.

*Section 4: Quorum*

Two-thirds of club members must be present in order to for official club business to be voted on/declared.

Article Seven: Committees

There will be no committees in the club.

Article Eight: Finances

*Section One: Co-Funding Board*

The Special Olympics Association will apply for CFB monies, and if allocated, will follow all CFB and institutional regulations.

*Section Two: Honorariums*

No officers or club members will receive any honorariums or stipends.

Article Nine: Amendments

*Section One: Ratification*

Any proposed amendments will be announced at scheduled club meetings, unless they must be added before the next meeting, in which case a special meeting will be called. Two-thirds of club members must be present to vote on an amendment, and the voting will occur with a secret ballot totaled by the officers, with a two-thirds majority being necessary for amending.

*Section Two: Submittal to the Department of Student Activities and Joint Club Board*

All changes to the constitution will be submitted to the Department of Student Activities and the JCB.

Article Ten:

The Special Olympics Association admits students without regard to their race, religion, color, sex, age, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and other activities, generally accorded or made available to members of the organization.

Article Eleven:

The Special Olympics Association considers hazing to be a degrading and destructive activity which is inconsistent with the standards of this student organization. The Special Olympics Association recognizes the dignity of every person and opposes all forms of hazing.