

MOTION REGARDING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR ATHLETIC TEAMS 2026-10-08

Submitted for: 2026-10-08

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2026-10-08-003 (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Acadia Knickebrocker <i>VP Clubs & Services</i>	Current Status:	☐ FOR APPROVAL ☒ APPROVED ☐ POSTPONED ☐ COMMITTED ☐ NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Éloïse Lefebvre <i>Athletics Rep</i>		

Issue

Currently, Athletic Teams are operating as Interim Clubs. Similarly, simply obtaining Club status cannot support the needs of the Athletic Teams, which conduct very different activities. Currently, no Student Group exists for Athletic Teams. An update to the Constitution is needed to add “Athletics Teams” as a category of Student Groups under the purview of the VP Clubs & Services and to add a representative of the Athletics Teams Student Group to the Legislative Council. Once the change is made to the Constitution, relevant changes to our Governing Documents can be put in place that will allow the Athletics Teams to be properly and fully integrated into the Society and out of their current temporary status.

Background and Rationale

On [November](#) 27, 2025 and [January](#) 15, 2026, the Legislative Council motioned to provide temporary club status to 11 groups consisting of the varsity teams cut by McGill. This status would last until the groups were “Reinstated by McGill Athletics and Recreation, or; There is the formation of

an Athletics category for groups within the SSMU, in which case the team will be granted status under the new category”

The 11 teams currently holding interim club status under this provision are:

1. Baseball (Men)
2. Fencing (Men + Women)
3. Figure Skating (Men + Women)
4. Lacrosse (Women)
5. SSMU Nordic Ski (Men + Women)
6. Sailing (Men + Women)
7. Squash (Men + Women)
8. Volleyball (Men)
9. Rugby (Women)
10. Field Hockey (Women)
11. Tennis (Men + Women)

On November 27, 2025, the Legislative Council further tasked the Student Groups Committee with the planning of an athletics category under the SSMU. A working group was formed, and the general plans for such a category were discussed.

In line with the intention of the Legislative Council to create a Student Group category for these teams, several updates to the SSMU Governing Documents of the Society must be made including:

- Updating the Constitution to assign management of the category to the VP Clubs and Services and to provide representation to Legislative Council;
- Updates to the Student Groups Committee Terms of Reference and the creation of a new sub-committee called the Athletic Teams Sub-Committee;
- Updates to the Internal Regulations to reflect the structure and incorporation of the new category.

Because the Constitution supersedes the Internal Regulations, to ensure cohesion and prevent conflicts, this amendment must be done before the other Governance Documents can be updated. Should this pass, the Legislative Council could then update the Internal Regulations of Student Groups to reflect this new category of Athletic Teams. This motion only serves to create the Student Group type “Athletic Team” and to update the Legislative Council composition to provide teams representation.

Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM
SSMU Office of the Speaker

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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The proposed changes to the Constitution are as follows:

8.2: update to add “one (1) Councillor appointed by the Society’s Athletic Teams in accordance with the Internal Regulations”

- This is so the Athletics Student Group can be represented in the political arm of the Society
- The current Athletics Representative to the Legislative Council is appointed by the Students’ Athletics Council and represents varsity teams. As the SSMU Athletic Teams are now entirely separate from varsity, they must have their own representation to reflect their unique circumstances.

10.12: update to read “to manage relations between the Society and its clubs, ~~and~~ services, and athletic teams”

- So the management of the teams is officially assigned to the VP Clubs and Services.

Alignment with Mission

This motion allows the SSMU to provide the opportunity to compete in collegiate athletic competitions to student athletes, and to appropriately represent Student Groups in the SSMU Legislative Council.

Consultations Completed

- President
- Internal Counsel
- Governance Affairs Coordinator
- Chief Returning Officer

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should this fail to pass, the Varsity teams cut by McGill University will face significant struggles continuing their operations under the SSMU, as their current status can not support their distinct needs.

Creating this Student Group could pose minor, sustained cost increases for the SSMU and its membership.

**Impact of
Decision
and Next Steps**

If approved by the Legislative Council, the Referendum question as described below will be put forth to the membership.

If approved by the membership, the new iteration of the SSMU Constitution would take effect immediately.

**Motion or
Resolution for
Approval**

Be it resolved that the following questions be placed on the Fall 2026 Referendum Ballot:

“On November 27, 2025 and January 15, 2026, the Legislative Council motioned to provide temporary club status to 11 groups consisting of the varsity teams cut by McGill. This status would last until the groups were “Reinstated by McGill Athletics and Recreation, or; There is the formation of an Athletics category for groups within the SSMU, in which case the team will be granted status under the new category.

On November 27, 2025, the Legislative Council further tasked the Student Groups Committee with the planning of an athletics category under the SSMU. A working group was formed, and the general plans for such a category were discussed.

WHEREAS, the SSMU Constitution is the Society’s primary governing by-law and can only be amended by referendum, meaning that any substantial restructuring such as the creation of a Student Group category must be brought directly to the student body for approval;

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments serve only to create a Student Group category called Athletic Teams and to assign its management to the VP Clubs and Services;

THEREFORE, do you approve of the proposed amendments to the SSMU Constitution, as [hyperlinked](#), to take effect immediately upon passing, to create the Athletic Team Student Group category, managed by the Vice-President Clubs and Services, and to include a representative of this Student Group category in the composition of the Legislative Council, with the understanding that a majority “no” vote will result in no amendments to

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the Constitution and significantly hinder the cut varsity teams from continuing their operations under SSMU?"

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of this question and that any grammatical or legal changes necessary do not need the re-approval of the Legislative Council.

Results of the
Vote

☐ In favour ()
☐ Opposed ()
☐ Abstain ()

Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

 Amendments to the Constitution of the Students' Society of McGill University 09-29-2026