



HOUSE RULES "Hats off to Dreams" Carnival 2025

Article 1

General

1. 'Hats off to Dreams' is a foundation consisting of 6 board members, hereby further referred to as 'HOTD'.
2. HOTD has a bank account at the Maduro & Curiel's Bank (MCB) and all transactions will be conducted through this account.

Article 2

Meetings

1. Once a year the board of HOTD will host a general member's meeting during which the plans for the upcoming carnival period will be presented and discussed.
2. It is not allowed to make offensive or insulting remarks or gestures during meetings.

Article 3

Membership

1. To participate a member must be 18 years or older of age.
2. A member is a person who registers through the registration form on the webpage www.hotd.info and who is approved as a member through an official written confirmation from the HOTD board.
3. The board will review all applications and make the final decision on each membership.
4. All members must pay their contribution directly to HOTD.
5. As a member you apply to actively participate in the upcoming carnival parade and your participation cannot be transferred to the following year without written approval of HOTD.
6. A current member who relinquishes his/her membership during a carnival period will get preference on the waiting list whenever he/she decides to apply to become a member again and there is available space.
7. Membership is revoked under the following circumstances:
 - a. Illness of a member
 - b. Death of a member
 - c. Death of a direct family member (first- or second-degree relative)
 - d. Member does not comply with payment rules
 - e. Member displays unwanted behavior and or has previously received a written/verbal warning
 - f. Member does not abide by HOTD's rules of conduct and has previously received a written/verbal warning
 - g. Member makes amendments to the costume without prior approval of the HOTD board.
8. It is not allowed to make offensive or insulting remarks or gestures during the carnival parades, HOTD activities or HOTD's social media platforms.

9. It is not allowed to use illegal substances, for example, narcotics during carnival parades or any HOTD activities.
10. The board maintains the right to revoke membership if a member's conduct or behavior (also in their private life) can cause harm to the group, based on moral conduct or verbal expressions.
11. A member whose membership is suspended can not re-apply and is not eligible for restitution according to article 4.
12. In the case of disputes between the board and participants, the board holds the right to have a final say.
13. As a HOTD member you are expected to work on some elements of you costume in the spirit of co-creation and community-building

Article 4

Contribution fees

1. The contribution for participation in the 2025 carnival parades is:
 - a. for the general section (local members); 1.600 guilders. If full payment is received by **December 31st, 2024**, the member will receive an additional discount of 150 guilders resulting in a participation fee of 1.450 guilders.
 - b. for the limited-edition costume: 2.200 guilders. If full payment is received by **December 31st, 2024**, the member will receive an additional discount of 150 guilders resulting in a participation fee of 2.050 guilders.
 - c. International members must add 150 guilders to the original contribution fee, based on the section/costume of their choosing
 - d. The VIP individual section starts at 4500 guilders (with the exception of international members)
2. An additional fee of 75 guilders (to reserve your spot) is charged the moment a member is accepted in the group. The fee of 75 guilders must be paid within 1 week or in the indicated time frame stipulated by the board of HOTD. The reservation fee is non-refundable under any circumstance.
3. A member has to pay the contribution within the timeframe as stipulated by the board of HOTD, which is as follows: **a minimum of 450 guilders prior to September 30th, 2024 and full payment by January 31st, 2025.**
4. Once the 75 guilders is deposited the member will be invited to take his/her measurements at the tailor and once the amount of 450 guilders is deposited the tailor will start sewing his/her costume.
5. In the case of negligence to complete the first payment by September 30th, 2024, a member will be automatically expelled from the group.
6. In case the full payment is not received by **December 31st, 2024** the member automatically will lose the 150 guilders discount as stipulated in article 4.1
7. in case of negligence of completing the full payment by **January 31st, 2025** a member will have to pay a penalty fee of an additional 150 guilders on top of his/her contribution fee.
8. The contribution payment will be deposited in the bank account of HOTD at the Maduro & Curiel's Bank as mentioned on the HOTD website.
9. A member will be reimbursed for her/his contribution under the following circumstances:
 - a. Illness of a member
 - b. Pregnancy of a member
 - c. Death of a member
 - d. Death of a direct family member (first- or second-degree relative)

10. If after the costume show, a member disapproves of the costume, said member has 1 week to communicate this to the board in writing and will be eligible for reimbursement of 100% of the paid contribution, with exception of 75 guilders (to reserve your spot in the group). After 1 week, the member is eligible for a reimbursement of 50% of the paid contribution with the exception of 75 guilders (to reserve your spot). After 2 weeks, the member is eligible for a reimbursement of 25% of the paid contribution with the exception of 75 guilders (to reserve your spot) and after 30 days, the member is not eligible for any reimbursement of the paid contribution or the 75 guilders (to reserve your spot).
11. Members who convey to the board that they no longer wish to participate after their costume sewing process has been initiated are not eligible for reimbursement. Only if their costume fits another person on the waiting list than the member can receive 75% of the contribution reimbursed, with the exception of 75 guilders (to reserve your spot)

Article 5

VIP Members

1. HOTD has a VIP section with a limited amount of members.
2. Members who select a VIP costume will receive a uniquely designed and elaborate tailor-made costume. The costume design will be created in consultation with the members.
3. The registration for a VIP costume will be done on a first-come-first-serve basis.
4. The contribution for the VIP costume starts at 4500 guilders for local members and 4500 for international members.
5. A VIP member has to pay the contribution within the timeframe as stipulated by the board of HOTD, which is as follows: **a minimum of 1250 guilders prior to September 30th, 2024 and full payment by the 31st of December 2024.**
6. A VIP member will be invited to take his/her measurements at the tailor when the registration is approved and once the amount of 1250 guilders is deposited the tailor will start sewing his/her costume.
7. In the case of negligence to complete the first payment by September 30th, 2024, the member will be automatically expelled from the group.
8. In the case of negligence of completing the full payment by **December 31st, 2024** a member will have to pay a penalty fee of an additional 250 guilders on top of his/her contribution fee.
9. All other rules stipulated in articles 1 to 4 also apply to limited edition members.

Article 6

"Limited Edition" Members

1. HOTD will design a limited edition costume for a limited amount of members, both female and male.
2. The members who choose a limited edition costume will receive a different and more elaborate costume than the general costume. All limited edition costumes will be the same design, distinguished by a female and a male design. As shown during the costume reveal.
3. The limited-edition costumes will be assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis.
4. The contribution for the limited edition costume is Nafl. 2050.

5. A limited-edition member has to pay the contribution within the timeframe stipulated as follows: **a minimum of 750 guilders prior to September 30th, 2024 and full payment by the 31st of December 2024.**
6. Once the 75 guilders are deposited the member will be invited to take his/her measurements at the tailor and once the amount of 750 guilders is deposited the tailor will start sewing his/her costume.
7. In the case of negligence to complete the first payment by the **30th of September 2024**, a limited edition member will lose the first right to a limited edition costume and will be automatically expelled from the group.
8. In case the full payment is not received by **December 31st, 2024** the member automatically will lose the 150 guilders discount as stipulated in article 4.1
9. In case of negligence of completing the full payment by **January 31st, 2025** a member will have to pay a penalty fee of an additional 150 guilders on top of his/her contribution fee.
10. All other rules stipulated in articles 1 to 4 also apply to limited edition members.

Article 7

International Members

1. HOTD will accept a limited amount of international members in the general section.
2. International members must add 150 guilders to the original contribution fee, based on the section/costume of their choosing
3. HOTD encourages international members to choose the price option which includes fundraising, to avoid that a member is not able to comply with the fundraising conditions as a result of distance.
4. HOTD will provide international members with a measurement form to complete. International members are required to email HOTD their measurements on the form prior to **September 30th 2024**. We recommend you to have a professional seamstress in your country of residence to assist you in taking your measurements.
5. Contribution
 - a. 1600 for the general section
 - b. 2200 for the limited edition section
6. International members **need to be in Curaçao at a minimum of 10 days prior to the grand parade** in order to be able to make the necessary final adjustments to the costume. If the member chooses to arrive after this date, the HOTD board is not held accountable for the delayed completion of the costume prior to the carnival parade.
7. In the case of negligence to complete the first payment by the **30th of September 2024**, an international member will automatically be expelled from the group.
8. In the case of negligence of completing the full payment by **December 31st, 2024** a member will have to pay a penalty fee of an additional 150 guilders on top of his/her contribution fee.
9. All other rules stipulated in articles 1 to 4 also apply to limited edition members.

Article 8

Fundraising (if applicable)

11. HOTD will organize fundraising events to raise funds for the HOTD carnival group (not for the members). These activities don't include mandatory member participation.
12. HOTD will offer its members the option to participate in 3rd party fundraising activities, and members can partake at their sole discretion. The 3rd party fundraising activities can be used for members to raise personal funds. The member can then use these funds towards their membership contribution or keep the funds for themselves.
13. If the member chooses to participate in a fundraising event or activity, the board will communicate by which date the funds raised should be administered to the group. **We will not accept any settlements after the date and time of the fundraising event/activity.**
14. The member is responsible for any and all losses or negligence due to not settling the funds in due time.
15. Funds raised by members should be deposited on the HOTD bank account at the Maduro & Curiel's Bank.

Article 9

Force Majeure

The effects of a calamity and/or national crisis can have severe consequences on our country. Calamity and/or national crisis can present itself in various forms; coronavirus, pandemic, hurricane, floods, twisters, tsunami, structure collapse, water or electricity crisis, outage, large fire, terrorist attack, toxic substance, zika, firework and more. In the event of a calamity and/or national crisis the Curaçao Government has a Department of Crisis Control and Calamity Management who will advise the government on the steps to be taken. One of these steps may entail the cancellation or postponement of the carnival celebration. In this event the following points will be in effect:

1. In the event that carnival is postponed due to a calamity, national crisis or an unforeseen situation, outside of HOTD's reach (for example a COVID-19 spread), HOTD will not reimburse the amounts paid to its members. The reason is that expenses have already been made in preparation for the carnival parades. Any amount paid to HOTD will be held and attributed to the member once carnival continues.
2. When a member registers to participate in carnival 2025 with HOTD, the member agrees to participate according to the rules and regulations as set forth by the Curaçao Government in relation to the 2025 carnival celebration. The HOTD board will comply with any and all instructions to guarantee that the events and activities relating to carnival can be conducted in a safe manner.

