**THE 2023 AMENDED CONSTITUTION OF IFECHUKWU AGE GRADE.**

**OBIOFU AMORJI NENWE**

**ANINRI L.GA**

**ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA**

IFECHUKWU…

A GROUP THAT IS BUILT IN GOD’S OWN LIGHT

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**IFECHUKWU AGE GRADE OF OBIOFU**

**AMORJI NENWE.**

**PREAMBLE**

For the purpose of promoting unity and value,

Strengthening of cordial relationship, progress and corporate existence, and the identification of peer, to ensure peace and tranquility amongst members and the rest of OBIOFU COMMUNITY, we, the members of IFECHUKWU AGE GRADE of OBIOFU AMORJI NENWE have organized and hereby adopt the following constitution:

**SECTION ONE: SUB SECTION ONE**

**NAME AND MOTTO:**

For the purpose of its objectives, this age grade shall be known and called IFECHUKWU AGE GRADE OBIOFU AMORJI NENWE, and motto shall be “GOD’S OWN LIGHT”.

**SECTION ONE: SUB SECTION TWO**

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. To promote peace and tranquility through unity amongst members and the community in general.
2. To support and promote developmental projects, culture and social interactions of its members within and outside the community.
3. To activate a sense of responsibility amongst members of the age grade
4. To protect the dignity and right of members.
5. To showcase character worthy of emulation within the community and the world at large.
6. To ensure maximum co-operation of its members and Obiofu Central Committee thereby enhancing the overall development of Obiofu Community.

**SECTION ONE: SUB SECTION THREE**

**MEMBERSHIP:**

1. Membership is only reserved for those who are within the stipulated age range of 1985 through 1987 and others born in 1988 may be considered by consensus or simple majority of the members of the age grade.
2. Member shall be of Obiofu indigenous by birth or association.
3. Woman married to Obiofu community may be considered if members of the age grade considers it necessary and appropriate.

**SECTION ONE: SUB SECTION FOUR**

**REGISTRATION:**

1. Registration fee of Five hundred naira only (N500.00) shall be paid by a person wishing to be a member of the age grade
2. Monthly dues of one hundred naira (N100.00) shall be paid by every member before that member shall be regarded as being financial.
3. For complete registration and admission, the person is required to pay all the dues and levies starting from the past one year before his indication to be a member and his intentions to be a member must be made known to through a registered financially up to date member who automatically serves as his surety.
4. Others are:

Kola nut, garden eggs,

2 packets of biscuit,

4 gallons of palm wine

Beer and malt.

**SECTION ONE: SUB SECTION FIVE**

**DATE OF MEETING AND VENUE:**

1. The meeting shall hold every last Sunday of June every year.
2. The meeting shall also hold on 29th and 30th of December every year by 10:00am and the venue shall be at the age grade current chairman’s compound or any venue agreed by the age grade members’.

**SECTION TWO: SUB SECTION ONE**

**OFFICERS OF THE AGE GRADE”**

1. The Chairman
2. The Vice Chairman
3. The Secretary
4. The Assistant Secretary
5. The Financial Secretary
6. The Treasurer
7. The Provost
8. The Publicity Secretary/PRO
9. The Assistant Publicity Secretary
10. The Director Of Socials/DOS

**THE CHAIRMAN**

I. Shall be responsible for the control and supervision of the age grade.

1. Shall preside over all general meetings and executive meetings
2. Shall be the age grade torch bearer and represent her in any instance.
3. Shall report to the general house in case of any complexities.

**THE VICE CHAIRMAN**

1. Shall perform all the functions of the Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.

**THE SECRETARTY**

1. Shall be responsible to the Chairman
2. Shall be responsible for taking record of such minutes, when it shall be open to members at all times.
3. Shall prepare the agenda of the meetings and submit them to the Chairman.
4. Shall prepare annual report.
5. Shall keep record of all correspondence due for the age grade,

**ASSISTANT SECRETART**

1. Shall assist the secretary and also act for him in his absence.
2. Shall carry out any other responsibilities as may be assigned to him by the age grade.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

1. Shall be responsible for the adequate do documentation of the age grade’s financial matters.
2. Shall collect all the monies and pay same to the treasurer immediately after collection or shall in the absence of the treasurer within 24 hours/1day, pay the money into the age grade’s account.
3. Shall keep the book of account ready at all time.
4. Shall prepare annual financial report of the age grade.
5. Shall remind all members of their financial obligations three months before the last general meeting of each year.
6. Shall be one of the signatories of the Age grade Bank Account.

**TREASURER**

1. Shall be responsible for the money of the Age Grade
2. Shall keep books of Account and Financial records of the Age Grade.
3. Shall update the Account of the Age Grade at any time.

**PROVOST(S)**

1. Shall see that law and order are maintained during Age Grade’s meetings and social gatherings.
2. Shall ensure fair play and discharge of their duties without fear or favor.
3. Shall eject any disorderly behavior out of the meeting with the consent of the house/Chairman
4. Shall account for the fines collection to the financial secretary at the end of every meeting/gathering.

**PUBLICITY SECRETARY**

1. Shall protect the integrity as the image maker.
2. Shall ensure that information are adequately and effectively spread widely to members for meetings and like.

**ASSISTANT PUBLICITY SECRETARY (PRO)**

1. Shall organize all social functions.
2. Shall organize and arrange the venue of meetings/gathering.
3. Shall plan and draw up budget for the Age Grade’s functions and other activities.

**SECTION TWO: SUBSECTION TWO**

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELECTION**

1. Shall be financially up to date (i.e.) shall have paid-up all his dues, levies
2. Shall be a member within a period not less than two (2) years.
3. Shall be nominated by a member and support by another member(s)
4. Shall be certified by house if the candidate is capable of handling such a position before going to poll.
5. Election hall be determined by simple majority.

**SECTION TWO: SUBSECTION THREE**

1. The terms for election offices shall run for three years(3years)
2. Officers can be re-elected for a second term.
3. The tenure of office of any officers elected in by-election to fill up vacant post(s) shall end along with the tenure of office of others serving at that time.

**SECTION TWO: SUBSECTION FOUR**

**RESIGNATION**

1. Any officer who wishes to resign from his office should write a letter of resignation to the secretary and state his reasons for the resignation for at least a month before the meeting.
2. Such resignation must be approved by simple majorities at the end of year meeting.
3. Before then the officer(s) is allowed to submit all documents in his possessions to the secretary.

**SECTION TWO: SUBSECTION FIVE**

**REMOVAL**

1. Shall be removed when a vote of no confidence is passed on him.
2. Simple majority votes for the resignation.

**SECTION TWO: SUBSECTION SIX**

**ELECTION**

1. Office must be dissolved and the electoral committee be appointed which shall consist of non-contestants.
2. Before election two third (2/3) of the members of Age Grade at home must be present.
3. Election is by open secret ballot system
4. For a member to be eligible to vote during election of officers, such a member must have been a member of the Ade Grade for at least a period of seven weeks (49 days).
5. Not more than three (3) persons should be allowed to contest for any position.

**SECTION TWO: SUBSECTION SEVEN**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

1. Auditors shall be elected at the end of each tenure by the entire house and it shall consist of seven (7) members.
2. The committee shall audit the account of the Age Grade at the end of every tenure.
3. Shall invite members concerned for interrogation concerning the financial matters after which it makes recommendation.

**SECTION TWO: SUBSECTION EIGHT**

**BANK AND TRUSTEE**

1. The Age Grade’s Banker shall be Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB), Ogui road Enugu.
2. The Age Grade shall operate a savings account.
3. Three (3) signatories, the Chairman, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer, shall stand for the Age Grade’s Bank Account. However, two (2) or three (3) of these signatories shall sign a withdrawal slip at a time of which the treasurer must be the principal signatory.

**SECTION THREE: SUBSECTION ONE**

**DEFAULTERS AND PENALTIES**

1. **LATENESS**
2. Any member who comes to the meeting after the opening prayers have been said shall pay a fine of two hundred naira (N200.00).
3. **ABSENTEETISM**
4. Any member who is at home during any general meeting and failed to attend without a cogent reason acceptable by the entire house, shall pay a fine of two thousand naira (N2000.00).
5. Emergency meeting shall be convened as and when necessary.
6. **MISCONDUCT**
7. Undue movement, failing , smoking, snuffing, eating, sleeping etc. during meeting shall attract a fine of one hundred naira (N100.00)
8. Fighting or any form of violence or verbal assault during meetings or any gathering shall attract a fine of one thousand naira (N1000.00) from each of party, after which the guilty party shall pay an additional two thousand naira (N2000­­­.00). However, if the fighting occurred outside the meeting or gathering of the Age Grade, the guilty party shall pay a fine of three thousand naira (N3000.00) after judgment.
9. In the event of stealing by a member; e.g. hunger induced or outright criminal minded stealing, is determined before punishment.
10. If the thief was hunger induced act, the culprit is cautioned but if the thief was a criminal minded act, the culprit is suspended for thirty (30) months after which he must write a letter of apology accompanied by dues and levies for the period of suspension.
11. The punishment for any member who leaves the meeting without permission or due to disagreement shall be determined by the house.
12. Any member(s) who wishes to discontinue due to religion or for any reason that is best known to the member(s) shall pay debts and arrears and also pay an additional 60% percent of the total yearly dues.
13. Excessive drinking to the point of stupor and constituting a nuisance to the community shall attract a fine of two thousand naira (N2000.00).
14. Malicious gossip which dents or tarnishes a person’s image shall attract a fine of two thousand naira (N2000.00).
15. Parent(s) battery from any member(s) shall attract a fine of two thousand (N2000.00) naira in addition to one (1) year suspension and he will be required to apologize to the parent (s) with five thousand naira (N5000.00)
16. In case of rape, the member(s) shall cease to be a member of the Age Grade.
17. **EMBEZZLEMENT OF FUNDS**

Any member, group of member(s), none member or such, found culpable of any offense related to embezzlement of funds of the Age Grade , after due investigation, shall be penalized as follows:

1. Such member(s) should be give grace of one (1) year to pay up the embezzled amount at interest rate of fifty percent (50%).
2. Such member(s) should be allowed to pay back the embezzled amount on installment, not more than twice (2) and not exceeding a year (1 year).
3. Should the defaulter fail to pay back the said embezzled amount, the Age Grade shall confiscate and sell any of his property/properties or such of his family.
4. Such member shall present a letter of apology to the Age Grade signed by a guarantor.
5. Such member shall not be allowed to contest or be appointed to any position within the Age Grade for a period of ten years (10 years).

**SECTION THREE: SUBSECTION TWO**

**CONDUCT OF MEETING**

1. **FREEDOM OF SPEECH**
2. Every member has the right to put up suggestion during meetings,
3. The right to seek redress where the issue (s) discussed is not clear/favorable.
4. The right to point of order.
5. No speaker is expected to speak two times in any one motion except he is the mover of the motion
6. **UNSUAL PERMISSION**
7. Unconvincing excuses during meetings shall not be entertained.
8. No other engagement/duties takes precedent over the Age Grade’s meetings/activities.

**(c) OFFICER REQUIREMENTS**

To maintain standards/equity and fairness of the Age Grade, the Age Grade shall therefore, require certain minimum qualities of any elected officers, thus;

1. The Chairman and Vice Chairman require person with leadership skill and the spirit of ownership, with creditable educational background.
2. The Secretary and his Assistant requires members who are sound in English language.
3. All executive positions require men of integrity.
4. The executive committee (exco) shall comprise all officers of the Age Grade.

**NB**: The recommendation of the executive committee shall sometimes be subject to approval by the entire house.

**SECTION THREE: SUBSECTION THREE**

**SOURCES OF FUND.**

1. Dues and levies.
2. Free will donation/launching
3. Fines.
4. Loans.

**SECTION FOUR: SUBSECTION ONE WELFARE**

1. **MARRIAGE/WEDDING.**
2. The Age Grade shall attend the traditional marriage ceremony and present Sixty thousand naira (N60,000.00) cash to the member.

**NB:**  This said amount shall be realized by levies; and ensuring that every member contribute the sum of one thousand five hundred naira (N1500.00) each.

1. The bridegroom shall inform the Age Grade with one (1) crate of beer of any brand and one (1) none alcoholic wine, at least one (1) month before the date.
2. The bridegroom shall present the following to the Age Grade on the of celebration
3. One (1) cooler of Rice and a cooler of any other food.
4. Two (2) crates of beer.
5. One (1) crate of malt drink.
6. Two (2) galloons of palm wine.

1. Convening with the bride and bridegroom on the night of the traditional marriage/wedding; “*Marriage Night Party*” shall henceforth be optional**.**
2. For a member who wishes to host night party, such member shall present the following.
3. One (1) cooler of Rice and any other food.
4. Three (3) creates of beer of any brand
5. One (1) create of malt drink of any brand.
6. And two (2) gallons of palm wine.

**NB:** Any member that receives his/her entitlement benefits, from the Age Grade during traditional marriage/wedding is not qualified for any other benefits; if any, two third (2/3) of majority shall decide. For a member to be entitled to his benefit he shall be financially up-to-date with his dues and contribution.

* The bride/bridegroom who wishes to use the Age Grades property without charges shall meet the following requirements:

1. Member shall be the actual celebrant.
2. Member shall be financially up-to-date.
3. Member shall guarantee for damages and pay for repairs when such occurs.
4. **DEATH OF MEMBER:**

On the death of member, the Age Grade shall present the following:

1. Fifty thousand naira (N50,000.00) cash shall be given to member’s family.

**NB:**  The stated amount shall be realized by levy; by ensuring that every member of the age grade contributes the sum of one thousand five hundred naira (N1500.00).

1. Ten thousand naira (N10,000.00) for casket .
2. Two (2) crates of beer for condolence.
3. One (1) crate f bee for those digging grave.
4. During wake-keep, the Age Grade shall take care of his refreshments which includes food and drinks.

1. **DEATH OF A MEMBER PARENT:**

On the death of Deceased member(s) parent, the age grade shall present the following:

1. The sum of Twenty Thousand naira (N20,000.00) shall be given to bereaved member.
2. Two (2) create of beer.
3. **LOAN**
4. The Age Grade shall loan money to any financial up-to-date member on request. Loan shall not exceed Thirty thousand naira (#30,000) for each member.
5. The loan shall be given without collateral but on interest rate.
6. The duration of the loan is eleven (11) months.
7. An agreement note shall be duly signed between the Age Grade and its member(s).

**SECTION FOUR: SUBSECTION TWO CELEBRATION OF A MEMBER**

1. In the event of any celebration of life of a member, the members around shall attend the ceremony and decide on what to honor the “MEMBER”.

**NB:** Any member(s) who is around and fails to attend shall pay a fine agreed by the member (s) present.

**MEMBER ENTITLEMENT AND BENEFITS**

1. Member(s) who are already married before joining the Age Grade shall be allowed to secure entitlement by inviting the Age Grade to such member(s) child dedication , birthday celebration etc.

**SECTION FOUR: SUBSECTION THREE END OF YEAR**

1. Every December 30th shall be the end of year party of the Age Grade.
2. Every member is expected to pay his annual/outstanding dues/levies on or before this date
3. The Age Grade is required to go for fund drive yearly in order to get the debtors to book.
4. The Age Grade shall determine what to eat during end of the year party.
5. Any member(s) of the age grade who indicates interest or such, to host the age grade general meeting, shall be allowed to do so only if such member(s) attained the following.

* Member(s) shall indicate interest within a period not less than two (2) months before the day of the general meeting.
* Member(s) shall obtain approval from the age grade EXCO.
* Member(s) shall obtain additional requirements from EXCO on but not restricted to foods, drinks etc.

**NB.** Agenda proposed at the general meeting shall be decided by consensus or simple majority.

**THE CONSTITUTION DRAFTING**

**COMMITTEE IS MADE UP OF:**

UDE AUSTINE AZUBIKE

CHINKA UCHENNA

OKEKE FELIX CHIGOZIE

UGWUOKE CHIZOBA

EZE CHINEDU

NWARU NDUBISI