

Towson University Fraternity & Sorority Life Social Event Requirements

Purpose

These requirements establish expectations for managing risk at fraternity and sorority social events, including events involving alcohol. Chapters must comply with applicable laws and policies of their inter/national organizations.

I. Definition of General Terms Associated with Social Events

- A. Chapter Member:** Undergraduate active member or person in the new member education process.
- B. Drinking Games:** Activities in which consuming alcohol is a primary component, including beer pong, flip cup, quarters, power hour, and similar games.
- C. Guest:** A person who is not a member of a host chapter. Unless an event type below prohibits guests, a chapter-hosted event with alcohol may admit no more than two guests per host-chapter member.
- D. Host Chapter:** A chapter that plans, sponsors, funds, promotes, facilitates, or exercises control over an event. A member's individual attendance does not, by itself, make the chapter a host chapter.
- E. Planned:** Arranged or organized before the event occurs.
- F. Promoted:** Publicized by or on behalf of a chapter, including through invitations, messages, social media, or other advertising.
- G. Slush Funds:** Money collected or pooled by chapter members to purchase alcohol for a chapter event, including through 'passing the hat.' Chapters and members acting on their behalf may not collect or use such funds.

- H. Social Event:** Any gathering planned, funded, sponsored, promoted, and/or facilitated for the purposes of individual/group interaction and connection.
- I. Sponsored:** Paid for in whole or in part by one or more chapters.

II. Types of Social Events

- A. Alcohol-Free Social Events:** Events at which alcohol is neither present nor consumed.
- B. Alumni Social Events:** Events planned and conducted by alumni or former members who are no longer Towson University students. Active undergraduate members may attend by invitation. If an undergraduate chapter plans, sponsors, funds, promotes, facilitates, or controls the event, it becomes a host chapter and must comply with these requirements.
- C. Away Weekends:** Alcohol-free chapter events lasting more than one day at a predetermined destination in or outside Maryland. Attendance is by direct invitation only. Before departure, the chapter must submit the required event materials, an attendee list, and emergency contact information.
- D. Brotherhood/Sisterhood Events:** Social events limited to a chapter's active members.
- E. Cookouts or Similar Events:** Alcohol-free chapter events at a predetermined location on campus or in Baltimore City or Baltimore County. Attendance is by direct invitation only, and the chapter must maintain an attendee list. For an off-campus cookout, the chapter must submit a Social Event Notification Form with any required permits and documentation of inter/national headquarters approval. Approved chapter recruitment events are exempt from social notification form submission.

- F. Formals and Parties:** Social events hosted by one chapter and limited to its members and invited guests, subject to the guest limit in Section I. Members inviting guests must explain the event rules to them and report or address known violations with event monitors or venue staff.
- G. House Parties and Pre-Games:** Chapters may not host social events in residence halls, row homes, apartments, or other private residences. Chapters also may not plan, sponsor, fund, promote, or facilitate gatherings where alcohol is consumed before another event.
- H. Mixers (aka “Socials”):** Social events co-hosted by two to four Greek-letter chapters. Attendance is limited to members of the host chapters; guests are not permitted. The host chapters must submit their required event materials together.
- I. Theme Parties:** Chapters may not host events with themes or activities that are sexually explicit, racially or ethnically derogatory, or designed to encourage excessive drinking.

III. Requirements for Fraternity and Sorority Events with Alcohol

- A. Alcohol Sales:** Chapters must agree in writing with the vendor to maintain a single-serve alcohol sales policy, prohibiting tabs and limiting alcohol purchases to one drink per person, per transaction, collected by the vendor, during the event. Alcohol may not be purchased through the chapter treasury or on behalf of the chapter. This includes “passing the hat,” pooling funds, slush funds, etc.
- B. Alcohol Purchased by a Co-Host:** No chapter may co-host, co-finance, or participate as a chapter in an event where a host chapter, group, or organization purchases alcohol for attendees.
- C. Attendance List:** An attendee list is mandatory for all social events with alcohol. This list will be used to facilitate sign-in at the entrance of the event. Anyone not on the list must be turned away.

- D. Attendees Under 21:** No members or guests, collectively or individually, shall purchase, serve, distribute, or sell alcoholic beverages to anyone under the age of 21. No one under the age of 21 may consume or possess alcohol.
- E. Celebrations:** Alcohol is prohibited at events celebrating initiation, induction, big/little assignments, or new member revelations.
- F. Compliance:** The possession, distribution, sale, and consumption of alcohol at a chapter event must comply with laws applicable at the event location, university requirements, the chapter's inter/national organization policies, and applicable insurance terms.
- G. Duration:** Events with alcohol must end no later than 2 a.m. and may not exceed four hours in length.
- H. Fire and Explosives:** No fireworks, explosives, or open flames may be at an event.
- I. Food and Water Provided:** Reasonable amounts of food (unsalted snacks) and non-alcoholic beverages (bottled water and other drinks in closed containers, not tap water) must be provided for guests free of charge.
- J. License:** For an event at a third-party venue, the host chapter must provide proof of the venue's applicable liquor license unless current proof is already on file with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- K. Location:** Events involving alcohol may be held only in an approved on-campus location or at a licensed third-party venue.
- L. Performers:** No exotic dancers or any performers of a sexual or derogatory nature may be hired for any event.
- M. Private Space:** Events involving alcohol must be private and held in a defined space with controlled entrances and exits. Third-party establishments must be either closed to the public or provide a separate room with controlled access.

- N. Insurance:** For an event at a third-party venue, the host chapter must provide proof that the venue carries \$1 million general liability and liquor liability insurance meeting the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life's minimum coverage requirement.
- O. Transportation:** It is mandatory that transportation be arranged by the chapter to transport members and their guests to and from any third-party venue. Chapters may use rideshare services, safe rides, personal vehicles, or rented buses.
- a.** If the chapter plans to rent a bus, the organizing officer will receive an email to notify them that their bus passes are ready for pickup. Organizing officers must pick up the physical passes from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life front desk in University Union 251. Passes must be picked up prior to the event starting to avoid any issues with Parking and Transportation or TU Campus Police. The only approved bus pickup and drop-off location is Tiger Plaza.
- P. Sober Monitors:** Each social event involving alcohol must have at least one sober chapter monitor for every 10 attendees. At an event hosted by multiple chapters, each host chapter must designate at least one monitor, and the combined number of monitors must meet the required ratio. Chapters expecting fewer than 10 attendees must consult with the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life or designee before the event. New members may not serve as monitors. Sober monitors must remain sober throughout the event. They are responsible for checking attendees against the chapter's attendance list at the entrance; turning away anyone not on the list; observing the event for safety concerns or violations of chapter rules; communicating concerns to venue personnel; and helping attendees access the chapter's transportation plan when leaving.
- Q. Venue Personnel:** Venue management is responsible for verifying identification and age, issuing wristbands or other age markers to differentiate those 21 years of age or

older from those under 21. Venue personnel must sell and serve alcohol, refuse service when appropriate, control alcohol brought into or removed from the event space, and provide any required venue security. Sober monitors must promptly report concerns about these matters to venue personnel; they do not check legal drinking age, serve alcohol, or direct the venue's employees.

IV. Requirements for Away Weekends and Cookouts

- A. Away Weekend Lodging:** For away weekends, organizing officers must provide the name of the venue and confirmation of the lodging reservation.
- B. Away Weekend Schedule:** The organizing officer must provide an agenda or schedule for the weekend or retreat.
- C. Cookout Permits:** For a cookout or similar event, the organizing officers must submit any required location permits and documentation of approval from their inter/national headquarters.

V. Social Event Responsibility, Notification and Scope

- A.** Each host chapter is responsible for fulfilling these event requirements, including notification, admission controls, monitoring, and responding to known violations. Each chapter must also comply with its inter/national organization's requirements.
- B.** Social Event Notification Forms must be submitted through the online portal one (1) week (7 days) in advance of social events with alcohol. Away weekends and off-campus cookouts also require a social event notification submission.
- C.** Only chapter members who pass the social event policy exam during the semester of the proposed event are approved to submit social event notifications on behalf of the chapter.
- D.** Social events with alcohol, away weekends, and cookouts will only take place during the fall or spring semester.

VI. Violations and Enforcement

Chapters that violate this policy are subject to sanctions set forth by the Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

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