

## **Social Event Policy**

### **Purpose of Policy:**

The purpose of the *Social Event Policy* is to allow the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life (OSFL) the ability to guide, advise, and facilitate conversations with organizations and student leaders to better understand their regional or inter/national organizations' policies and establish a backstop for the expectations that Sorority & Fraternity Life has for organizations when they host social events.

With the current state of health and safety initiatives at a national level, OSFL will ensure that this policy is reviewed to reinforce industry best practices. However, OSFL reserves the right to not make changes to this policy that it believes are not in line with its philosophy concerning health and safety. It should also be noted that University and inter/national or state governing policy may exist independently of each other and organizations are responsible for complying with University policies even if they conflict with or are more restrictive than inter/national or state governing policies.

### **The Policy:**

The *Social Event Policy* shall apply to all student organizations listed in the category of Social Fraternity & Sorority by the Center for Student Engagement and all levels of fraternity/sorority membership.

### **ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**

1. The possession, sale, use or consumption of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, while on organization premises or during a fraternity/sorority event, in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the organization, or at any event an observer would associate with the fraternity/sorority, must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws of the state, province, county, city and institution of higher education, as well as through individual organization state, regional, and inter/national policy.
2. All recruitment, intake, and rush activities associated with any fraternity/sorority must be non-alcoholic. No recruitment, intake or rush activities associated with any chapter may be held at or in conjunction with a tavern or alcohol distributor as defined in this policy.
3. No alcoholic beverages may be purchased through or with fraternity/sorority funds nor may the purchase of same for members or guests be undertaken or coordinated by any member in the name of or on behalf of the organization. The purchase or use of a bulk quantity or common source(s) of alcoholic beverage, for example, kegs or cases, is prohibited.
4. OPEN PARTIES, meaning those with unrestricted access by non-members of

the fraternity/sorority, without specific invitation, where alcohol is present, are prohibited.

5. No members, collectively or individually, shall purchase for, serve to, or sell alcoholic beverages to any minor (i.e., those under legal drinking age).
6. The possession, sale or use of any ILLEGAL DRUGS or CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES while on organization premises or during a fraternity/sorority event or at any event that an observer would associate with the fraternity/sorority is strictly prohibited.
7. No fraternity/sorority may co-sponsor an event with an alcohol distributor or tavern (tavern defined as an establishment generating more than half of annual gross sales from alcohol) at which alcohol is given away, sold or otherwise provided to those present. This includes any event held in, at or on the property of a tavern as defined above for purposes of fundraising. However, a chapter may rent or use a room or area in a tavern as defined above for a closed event held within the provisions of this policy. An event at which alcohol is present may be conducted or co-sponsored with a charitable organization if the event is held within the provisions of this policy.
8. No organization may co-sponsor, co-finance or attend or participate in a function at which alcohol is purchased or provided by any of the host chapters, groups or organizations.
9. No member or pledge, associate/new member, potential new member, or novice shall permit, tolerate, encourage or participate in mass consumption of substances such as alcohol, water, or types of food.
10. No alcohol shall be present at any potential new member/pledge/associate member/new member/novice program, activity or ritual of the chapter. This includes but is not limited to activities associated with “bid night,” “big brother – little brother” events or activities, / “big sister - little sister” events or activities, “family” events or activities and initiation.

**The Procedures:**

This policy applies to all social events, on or off campus, planned by social fraternities and sororities registered with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**The Education:**

OSFL staff will educate organization leadership and advisors on this policy annually.

**The Enforcement:**

OSFL reserves the right to notify organization advisors and headquarters staff in office accountability processes.

Failure to meet the expectations of any part of this policy will be a violation of the Standards of Conduct, *Section 27. Violating a University policy or rule, including but not limited to University policies or rules relating to facilities use, smoking, the acceptable use of information technology resources, research or service misconduct, finder's fees relating to clinical investigations involving human subjects or access to University data or materials, University libraries, dining services, parking or transportation, University identification card use, sexual harassment, residence halls, and registered student organizations.*

At the discretion of OSFL, alleged violations of this policy may be addressed by referring the allegation to the appropriate governing council judicial board, conducting a Mediation Meeting, and/or referring the allegation to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards for handling pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct (referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards may occur only if the policy violation also constitutes a violation of the Student Code of Conduct).

Some Social Event Policy violations are also violations of the *Student Code of Conduct*. If an organization is alleged to have violated a part of the Code or this policy, the organization may go through the Student Organization Conduct Process with the Office of Student Conduct and the Mediation Meeting process with Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life. The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards does not reserve the right to adjudicate on this policy, or any council policy, outside of the already established standards of conduct regarding alcohol.