The Interfraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and Panhellenic Association are registered student organizations at College of Charleston. Registration shall not be construed as approval, endorsement or sponsorship by College of Charleston of the student organization’s publications, activities, purposes and actions.
INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life is to promote student development by providing opportunities for scholarship, community service, campus involvement and fraternal friendship by ensuring all members a high-quality and safe undergraduate experience. At the College of Charleston, it is our goal to be a nationally recognized Fraternity/Sorority Community. To fulfill this goal, we strive for continuous improvement in all aspects of scholarship, programs, services and operations.

The following policy has been created to assist chapters in the areas of fraternity/sorority policy awareness, event management, responsible member behavior and decision-making, reducing legal liability, and providing a healthy and safe environment for members and guests.

Throughout this policy, the term “off-campus” refers to any location not in or on the property of College of Charleston. The term “fraternity” refers inclusively to both men’s fraternities and women’s sororities, unless otherwise stated. The terms “IFC,” “NPHC”, and “CPA” refer to the Inter-Fraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and the College Panhellenic Association respectively.

SECTION 1: EXPECTATIONS

Expectations for Fraternity and Sorority Chapters

- Adhere to the principles and ideals contained in your Ritual.
- Comply with all federal, state and local laws as well as all of your national policies (hazing, risk management, meeting attendance at national conventions and leadership schools, new member education, etc.)
- Attend all training sessions, retreats, meetings and workshops hosted by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.
- Achieve a chapter GPA, that is equal to or exceeds the College of Charleston’s all women’s or all men’s average. Any chapter GPA that is less than a semester average of 2.2 GPA will have a limited social calendar for the upcoming semester and be required to work with the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life on an academic plan for the chapter.
- Update your chapter roster by the required deadline each semester. This will ensure that you have an accurate roster for scholarship compliance, payment of dues to your respective councils, and verification of membership figures with the (inter)national headquarters.
- Comply with the Fraternity & Sorority Life Risk Management Policy, the New Member Education Guidelines, the NPHC Intake Guidelines, The College of Charleston Student Handbook, & The Compass: A Guide for Student Organizations.
- Submit a signed grade-release form with new members to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life within a week of recruitment/intake to have the most accurate roster for posting of recruitment results and for new member seminar attendance figures.
- NPHC groups must inform the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life via the Membership Intake Guidelines and Registration Form prior to intake the dates for intake activities.
- IFC groups and CPA groups hosting recruitment events must submit their chapter’s recruitment event calendar to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life two weeks prior to any type of recruitment program or event.
- IFC groups and CPA groups must provide all pledges/associate members/new members/novices a calendar that includes all mandatory events; including, but not limited to meetings, ritual, and initiation; at the first pledge/associate member/new member/novice meeting. This calendar must also be submitted to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life prior to the start of any pledge/associate member/new member/novice activities.
- In order to be a registered student group at the College of Charleston, groups must be recognized by the appropriate fraternity or sorority council, have an active alumnus/alumna advisor as well as an active on-campus advisor.

Expectations for the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life

- Maintain the highest standard of personal conduct.
- Actively promote and encourage the highest level of education within the profession and institution.
- Maintain loyalty to the College of Charleston and pursue its objectives in ways that are consistent with public interest.
- Be an advocate for the fraternity/sorority community to move towards positive change to benefit the goals and aspirations of the students.
- Strive for excellence in all aspects of management and leadership of the institution/organization.

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• Serve all students impartially.
• Be a liaison between the students and institution’s administration.
• Show continuous support for the fraternity/sorority community and policies of the College.
• Cooperate with both the (inter)national headquarters of the Greek lettered organizations, as well as the local chapter advisors.
• Use every opportunity to improve public understanding of the role of fraternity and sorority life.

SECTION 2: ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

1. The possession, sale, use or consumption of ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, while on chapter premises or during a fraternity event, in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, or at any event an observer would associate with the fraternity, must be in compliance with any and all applicable laws of the state, province, county, city, (inter)national organization and institution of higher education, and must comply with either the BYOB or Third Party Vendor Guidelines.

2. No alcoholic beverages may be purchased through or with chapter 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 chapter. The purchase or use of a bulk quantity or common source(s) of alcoholic beverage, for example, kegs or cases, is prohibited.

3. OPEN PARTIES, meaning those with unrestricted access by non-members of the fraternity, without specific invitation, where alcohol is present, are prohibited.

4. No members, collectively or individually, shall purchase for, serve to, or sell alcoholic beverages to any minor (those under legal drinking age).

5. The possession, sale or use of any ILLEGAL DRUGS or CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES while on chapter premises or during a fraternity event or at any event that an observer would associate with the fraternity is strictly prohibited.

6. No chapter 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, including the use of a third party vendor and guest list. 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.

7. No chapter may co-sponsor, co-finance or attend or participate in a function at which alcohol is purchased by any of the host chapters, groups or organizations.

8. All recruitment or rush activities associated with any chapter will be non-alcoholic. No recruitment 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.

9. No member or pledge, associate/new member or novice shall permit, tolerate, encourage or participate in "drinking games.” The definition of drinking games includes but is not limited to the consumption of shots of alcohol, liquor or alcoholic beverages, the practice of consuming shots equating to one’s age, “beer pong,” “century club,” “dares” or any other activity involving the consumption of alcohol which involves duress or encouragement related to the consumption of alcohol.

10. No alcohol shall be present at any 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”/“big sister - little sister” events or activities, “family” events or activities and initiation.

All organizations, members, and guests are also responsible for following all Alcohol and Drug Policies as well as the Procedures for Events with Alcohol On and Off Campus Hosted by Student Organizations as outlined in the College of Charleston Student Handbook.
SECTION 2: HAZING

No chapter, colony, student or alumnus shall conduct nor condone hazing activities. Permission or approval by a person being hazed is not a defense.

Hazing activities are defined by the College of Charleston Student Handbook as:
“Hazing, defined as an act which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, which subjects a student to harassment, ridicule, intimidation, physical exhaustion, abuse, or mental distress, or which destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization. The express or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense. Apathy and/or acquiescence in the presence of hazing are not neutral acts; they are violations of this rule.”

South Carolina State Law on Hazing

SECTION 16-3-510. Hazing unlawful; definitions. [SC ST SEC 16-3-510]

It is unlawful for a person to intentionally or recklessly engage in acts which have a foreseeable potential for causing physical harm to a person for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with a chartered or nonchartered student, fraternal, or sororal organization. Fraternity, sorority, or other organization for purposes of this section means those chartered and nonchartered fraternities, sororities, or other organizations operating in connection with a school, college, or university. This section does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions, or military training whether state, federal, or educational.

SECTION 16-3-520. Unlawful to assist in or fail to report hazing. [SC ST SEC 16-3-520]

It is unlawful for any person to knowingly permit or assist any person in committing acts made unlawful by § 16-3-510 or to fail to report promptly any information within his knowledge of acts made unlawful by § 16-3-510 to the chief executive officer of the appropriate school, college, or university.

SECTION 16-3-530. Penalties. [SC ST SEC 16-3-530]

Any person who violates the provisions of §§ 16-3-510 or 16-3-520 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars or by imprisonment for a term not to exceed twelve months, or both.

SECTION 16-3-540. Consent not a defense. [SC ST SEC 16-3-540]

The implied or express consent of a person to acts which violate § 16-3-510 does not constitute a defense to violations of §§ 16-3-510 or 16-3-520


(A) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Student" means a person enrolled in a state university, college, or other public institution of higher learning.

(2) "Superior student" means a student who has attended a state university, college, or other public institution of higher learning longer than another student or who has an official position giving authority over another student.

(3) "Subordinate student" means a person who attends a state university, college, or other public institution of higher learning who is not defined as a "superior student" in sub item (2).

(4) "Hazing" means the wrongful striking, laying open hand upon, threatening with violence, or offering to do bodily harm by a superior student to a subordinate student with intent to punish or injure the subordinate student, or other unauthorized treatment by the superior student of a subordinate student of a tyrannical, abusive, shameful, insulting, or humiliating nature.

(B) Hazing at all state supported universities, colleges, and public institutions of higher learning is prohibited. When an investigation has disclosed substantial evidence that a student has committed an act or acts of hazing, the student may be
dismissed, expelled, suspended, or punished as the president considers appropriate.

(C) The provisions of this section are in addition to the provisions of Article 6, Chapter 3 of Title 16.

(D) The provisions of Section 30-4-40(a)(2) and 30-4-70(a)(1) continue to apply to hazing incidents.

The following is a NON-INCLUSIVE list of fraternity activities considered to be hazing.

1. Required consumption of alcohol.
2. Physical Abuse (i.e. calisthenics, paddle swats, pushing and tackling associate members pledges/associate members/new members/novices, etc.).
3. Verbal Abuse.
4. Morally degrading or humiliating games and activities
5. Quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside of the confines of the chapter house
6. Engaging in public stunts and buffoonery
7. Wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and/or not normally in good taste
8. Total or partial nudity at any time in which the new member is told, encouraged, or some form of the above to expose parts of themselves in public.
9. Extremely loud music or many repetitions of the same music played during pre-initiation week and/or between portions of the ritual.
10. Required consumption of foods not normally in the pledge's/associate member's/new member's/novice's diet (i.e. eating of raw onion, spoiled food, etc.).
11. Not permitting adequate time for studies during pre-initiation or initiation periods.
12. Expecting associate members pledges/associate members/new members/novices to do anything of an unreasonable nature that the active members say.
13. Exposure to extreme climate changes.
14. Any activity not consistent with the policies of your (Inter)National Organization, the College and/or the Law.

SECTION 3: NON-DISCRIMINATION, SEXUAL ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

College of Charleston Non-Discrimination Policy
The College of Charleston is committed to providing leadership of equal employment and equal educational opportunities for all qualified persons regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or other legally-protected classifications. This effort is in compliance with all federal and state laws, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and all other laws and regulations as they pertain to equal opportunity. For further information, contact the Office of Human Relations and Minority Affairs at 953-5580.

No fraternity will tolerate or condone any form of sexist or sexually abusive behavior on the part of its members, whether physical, mental or emotional. This is to include any actions, activities or events, whether on chapter premises or an off-site
location which are demeaning to women or men, including but not limited to verbal harassment, sexual assault by individuals or members acting together. The employment or use of strippers, exotic dancers or similar, whether professional or amateur, at a fraternity event as defined in this policy is prohibited.

All organizations, members, and guests are also responsible for following all policies regarding the Sexual Misconduct Policy as outlined in the College of Charleston Student Handbook and the College of Charleston’s Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment, Including Sexual Harassment and Abuse Policy.

SECTION 4: FIRE, HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR COLLEGE-OWNED HOUSES

1. All chapter houses should meet all local fire and health codes and standards.

2. All chapters should post by common phones and in other locations emergency numbers for fire, police and ambulance and should have posted evacuation routes on the back of the door of each sleeping room.

3. All chapters should comply with engineering recommendations as reported by the insurance company or municipal authorities.

4. The possession and/or use of firearms or explosive or incendiary devices of any kind within the confines and premises of the chapter house is prohibited.

Use of Open Flame Devices

1. All devices requiring an open flame and/or flame ignition (i.e.: candles, outdoor grill – propane/charcoal) shall require a Hot Work Permit issued from Fire & EMS.

2. Permit requests need to be submitted (5) days prior to the date of event.

3. Person(s) signing for permit shall understand all required safety precautions associated with device(s).

4. All personnel associated with the organization to whom the permit is issued, assume responsibility for all damages / injuries caused by disregard of any safety precautions.

5. Failure to adhere to any requirement or precaution will result in the immediate revocation of said permit and future requests.

SECTION 5: EDUCATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Each fraternity shall annually instruct its students and alumni/alumnae in the Fraternity & Sorority Life Risk Management Policy with includes the FIPG, Inc. Risk Management Policy. Additionally, all students and key volunteers shall annually receive a copy of the Risk Management Policy and a copy of the policy shall be available on the fraternity website.

FRATERNITY OFFICERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EDUCATION OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, INCLUDING NEW MEMBERS AND ALUMNI/AE ABOUT THESE POLICIES. The Fraternity President and Risk Management/Social Chair are responsible for educating all Active, New/Associate, and Alumni/ae members about responsible event management and these policies. Ignorance is not tolerated, and chapters may be held responsible for the actions of members and guests. It is recommended that these policies be reviewed regularly at fraternity and new member meetings, and prior to coordinating any event.

Shared Responsibility: Any student, who knowingly acts in concert to violate college regulations, may be held jointly responsible for such violations. Students are responsible for the conduct of their guests on or in College of Charleston property and at functions sponsored by the College or any student organization.

Organization’s Shared Responsibility: Any student organization will be held responsible for the behavior of their members, whether they are current students, alumni or guests, when their actions evolve from or are in any way related to their association with or activities of the organization. Student organizations which condone or encourage behavior which violates school or state regulations may be given joint responsibility for such violations.
SECTION 6: VIOLATIONS OF POLICY

Any member of the College community may notify the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life of a violation of the Policy. Disciplinary charges may be filed against the individual, officers, and/or the chapter as a whole. Violations will be handled administratively through the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life or by the Dean of Students Office or may be passed on to an appointed College of Charleston Honor Board. Organizational National Headquarters, as well as local chapter advisors may be contacted of any violation of the Policy.

In any given situation, the following will be considered when determining the criteria for enforcement of the violation:

- The details and specifics of the event (Who, What, Where, When, How and Why questions will be determined).
- Richter Scale test: Status and severity of situation (damages, injuries, etc.)
- Level of response (who needs to be contacted?)
- Next Action (where to go from here)
Overview

The aforementioned policy has been created to assist chapters in the areas of fraternity/sorority policy awareness, event management, responsible member behavior and decision-making, reducing legal liability, and providing a healthy and safe environment for members and guests.

Any student, who knowingly violates College regulations, will be held responsible for such violations. Students are responsible for the conduct of their guests on or in College of Charleston property and at functions sponsored by the College or any student organization.

Furthermore, any Greek lettered organization will be held responsible for the behavior of their members, whether they are current students, alumni or guests, when their actions evolve from or are in any way related to their association with or activities of the organization. Greek lettered organizations which condone or encourage behavior which violates school or state regulations may be given joint responsibility for such violations.

Statement of Understanding

By signing below, I have the full understanding that I am responsible for educating all Active, New/Associate, and Alumni/ae members about responsible event management and these policies. Ignorance is not tolerated, and chapters may be held responsible for the actions of members and guests. It is recommended that these policies be reviewed regularly at chapter and new member meetings, and prior to coordinating any event.

Signatures

Fraternity/Sorority Name

President Signature  Printed Name  Date

Risk Management/Judicial Chair Signature  Printed Name  Date

Advisor Signature  Printed Name  Date