

# SOCIAL EVENT PLANNING

FIPG

## [1] DON'T BREAK THE LAW

It's pretty simple: the drinking age is 21 in all states, and anyone (a member, new member, or a guest) who consumes alcoholic beverages underage runs the risk of trouble. In addition, chapter functions (which can be any event an observer would associate with the organization) with alcohol present must abide by either the "Bring Your Own (Alcoholic) Beverage" policy (if allowed by your national organization) or must use a third party vendor. Simply put, chapters do not have liquor licenses and therefore cannot provide alcohol.

## [2] NO CHAPTER PURCHASE OR BULK QUANTITIES

No funds collected by the chapter in any form, including dues, "passing the hat", slush fund, pledge funding, party budget, outside bank accounts or alumni donations can be used for the purchase of alcohol. THE ORGANIZATION IS NOT A TAVERN, so you shouldn't be in the business of providing alcohol. When you do, you take on a huge risk. Also, in today's college culture, bulk quantity of alcohol translates to most observers as an opportunity to binge drink, which creates the risk for things like alcohol poisoning, falls, deaths, and other injuries. This means that kegs, cases, pre-mixed drinks (punch) and other mass quantities of alcohol are a HUGE risk and liability. The organization may not open a bar tab at any point.

## [3] NO OPEN PARTIES

In order to further decrease risk, events with alcohol MUST HAVE A GUEST LIST and non-members of the organization must have specific invitations. Know who your guests are! It is the organization's responsibility to account for everyone's safety. Chapter rosters or a list of Facebook Friends does not constitute a guest list.

## [4] DON'T SERVE TO MINORS

It should go without saying that it is against the law to purchase for or serve to someone who is under 21 years of age. AGAINST THE LAW = RISK

## [5] NO ILLEGAL DRUGS IN THE FRATERNITY

This one is cut and dry. There is ZERO TOLERANCE for chapters who have illegal drugs or controlled substances on chapter premises or at organization events. All state and federal laws are used to determine what is considered an illegal drug or controlled substance. Regardless of the various state laws, the federal law still classifies marijuana as an illegal drug. Therefore, chapter members may not possess, sell, or use marijuana on chapter premises or during an organization event.

## [6] NO CO-SPONSORSHIP WITH DISTRIBUTORS

The chapter is equally liable if they co-sponsor an event with a vendor/tavern where alcohol is present, given away, or sold to those present, even if the event doesn't take place at a bar. No drink specials. Don't do bad business.

## [7] ALL OR NOTHING RULE

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. If you are there your national policies have to be observed, or you are breaking a rule. STEP UP hold people accountable. If two groups co-sponsoring, the strictest policy must be observed.

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## [8] DRY RUSH & RECRUITMENT

Any individual expected to make a life-changing choice (accepting a bid) cannot be counted upon to make an educated decision when under the influence of alcohol. Additionally, if alcohol is the only selling point the chapter has to a prospective member, then it is time for the chapter to rethink why it exists. Finally, most men or women seeking to join an organization are under the legal drinking age, which makes it illegal for them to drink alcohol. ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOL can be present at any recruitment event or activity, including summer event and after formal recruitment events, including bid day.

## [9] NO DRINKING GAMES

Just like bulk quantity in #2, "DRINKING GAMES" ENCOURAGE HIGH RISK DRINKING, which increases the risk of an accident. Chapters that don't permit, tolerate, encourage, or participate in such antics significantly reduce their risk.

## [10] DRY NEW MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Like "dry" rush/recruitment in #8, THERE CANNOT BE ANY ALCOHOL INVOLVED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MEMBERS, even if a new member is of legal drinking age. Most new members are under the legal drinking age anyway, which means it's not only illegal, but it makes the risk and liability especially high

## NATIONAL ORGANIZATION POLICIES

FIPG serves as the standard policy and practice for most organizations on our campus. Organizations who are not member groups of the Fraternal Information & Programming Group each outline policies equal to or greater than those listed within FIPG. Should an organization have a policy that goes behind that of the standard FIPG policy, the organization should observe the strictest outlined practice. FIPG also outlines standard policies as it relates to hazing, sexual abuse and harassment, fire, health and safety and the education of policies with member groups.

## HOW TO DETERMINE IF IT IS AN EVENT?

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- Is the event being hosted or planned by one or more members and supported by the Executive Council? Y / N
  - Is the event financed by the chapter and/or being hosted on chapter property? Y / N
  - Does the Executive Council have prior knowledge of the event? Y / N
  - Is the event listed or advertised on the chapter website or social media accounts? Y / N
  - Do online invitations refer to the chapter? Y / N
  - Is the event listed on a chapter calendar [public or private]? Y / N
  - Will the event be announced at a chapter meeting? Y / N
  - Will members of the Executive Council be in attendance? Y / N
  - Are members attempting to give the appearance that the party isn't associated with the chapter? Y / N
  - If guests were stopped on their way to the event, would they say they were going to a XYZ event? Y / N
  - Is the event actively or passively endorsed by a majority of the active chapter? Y / N
  - Have members of the chapter lied about the event? Y / N
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This document is a resource to help interpret policy. Always observe federal, state, local law in addition to national organization policies.

Source: Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity Ladder of Risk & Social Event Planning Guide [<http://www.pikapp.org/>]