Cornell University Sorority and Fraternity Life Social Event Policy

Purpose

- To promote a safe environment for all Cornell students participating in sorority and fraternity sponsored or endorsed events.
- To assist chapter officers, chapter members, alumni advisors and volunteers with reducing the risk associated with the consumption of alcohol by members and guests through the promotion of safe and responsible behavior.
- To affirm the sorority and fraternity community's tradition of and commitment to responsible self-governance.

Educational Requirements

- The sorority or fraternity President, Social Chair(s), and Risk Management Chair (or applicable positions) each must complete Event Management Training at the beginning of each semester. Training will take place prior to the activation of the event notification form. As leaders, these officers are responsible for conveying relevant information regarding event management to their chapter.
- Event monitors must complete the required event monitor training annually prior to serving as an event monitor. The form is available via Campus Groups.
- Each semester, chapters will host a Sorority & Fraternity Life (SFL) approved independent bystander intervention training, like Cayuga's Watchers, and 50% of each chapter must attend. Trainings must be approved by the assigned chapter coach before executed.

Requirements to Host Events

1. Each sorority and fraternity must first register their organization in Campus Groups at the beginning of each semester.
2. The chapter President must sign and submit the Recognition Policy Acknowledgement Form at the beginning of each semester. The form is available via Campus Groups.
3. The chapter must have adequate insurance coverage in place ($1,000,000 of primary liability coverage for each occurrence; general aggregate coverage of at least $2,000,000; and Cornell shall be listed as additional named insured). An approved certificate of insurance must be on file with SFL.
4. A valid copy of the Ithaca Fire Department Operating Permit, Maximum Occupancy Permit for Assembly Space, and Certificate of Compliance (as applicable) must be on file with SFL. For university-owned properties, a New York State Fire Permit is also required.
5. The sorority or fraternity must be recognized and in good standing at the time the event is scheduled to take place.

6. No chapter will be eligible to host an event until Event Management Training is conducted. Events are not permitted after the final day of instruction each semester, with discretion given to events for Slope Day.
7. If your organization's National/International risk management/social event policy sets stricter and/or additional requirements, it is expected that you follow that policy/expectation. Each sorority and fraternity is, and remains, an independent legal entity responsible for its own actions and for meeting its own legal duties and obligations. Therefore, all sororities and fraternities are responsible for knowledge of and compliance with both this policy and the policies of their National/International.

Event Notification Process

All social events with outside guests (with or without alcohol) must be submitted via Campus Groups. A detailed schedule will be provided with notification deadlines at Event Management Training each semester.

Deadlines to Notify:

- For social events without alcohol, BYOB events, and third-party vender events (hosted at a bar, hotel, restaurant, etc.) the deadline is **Tuesdays at noon ET**.
- For events hosted at a chapter facility using a third-party vendor to sell/distribute alcohol, the deadline is **15 business days prior to the event**.

Events held on campus but not in a fraternity or sorority house must follow the University's Academic and Event Scheduling guidelines.

Social Event Policy

The following is required of any activity or event sponsored or endorsed by the chapter/organization, including those that occur on or off organizational/chapter premises:

1. The organization, members, and guests must comply with all federal, state, provincial, and local laws. No person under the legal drinking age may possess, consume, provide, sell or be provided alcoholic beverages.
2. Organizations, members, and guests must follow the federal law regarding illegal drugs and controlled substances. No person may possess, use, provide, distribute, sell, and/or manufacture illegal drugs or other controlled substances while on organizational/chapter premises or at any activity or event sponsored or endorsed by the organization. In addition, cannabis remains an illegal drug under federal law and university policy 4.8 prohibits the possession, use or distribution of cannabis on university-owned property or as part of any university sponsored event or activity.
3. Alcoholic beverages must either be: (1) provided and sold on a per-drink basis by a licensed and insured third-party vendor (e.g., restaurant, bar, caterer, etc.); or (2) brought by individual members and guests through a bring your own beverage ("BYOB") system.
4. The presence of alcohol products above 15% alcohol by volume ("ABV") is prohibited on any organizational premises, and at any event and cannot be served by third-party vendors to event attendees.

5. Common sources of alcohol, including bulk quantities, which are not being served by a licensed and insured third party vendor, are prohibited (i.e., amounts of alcohol greater than what a reasonable person should consume over the duration of an event).
6. Alcoholic beverages must not be purchased with organizational/chapter funds or funds pooled by members or guests (e.g., admission fees, cover fees, collecting funds through digital apps, etc.).
7. An organization must not co-host or cosponsor, or in any way participate in, an activity or event with another group or entity that purchases or provides alcohol, illegal drugs or controlled substances.
8. An organization must not co-host or cosponsor an event with a bar, event promoter, or alcohol distributor; however, an organization may rent a bar, restaurant, or other licensed and insured third-party vendor to host a chapter event.
9. Attendance by non-members at any event where alcohol is present must be by invitation only, and the organization must utilize a system to track attendance to capture Cornell students and a guest list system for non-Cornell students.
10. Attendance at events with alcohol must not exceed local fire or building code capacity of the organizational premises or host venue.
11. Any event or activity related to the new member joining process (e.g., recruitment, intake, rush, etc.) must be substance free. No alcohol or drugs may be present if the event or activity is related to new member activities, meetings, or initiation into an organization, including but not limited to “bid night,” “Big/Little” events or activities, “family” events or activities, and any ritual or ceremony.
12. Organizations, members, or guests must not permit, encourage, coerce, glorify or participate in any activities involving the rapid consumption of alcohol, such as drinking games.
13. Each chapter hosting or co-hosting an event must have event monitors who are substance free for the duration of the event. The ratio of 1 event monitor to 25 attendees which includes at least one chapter officer.
14. All events must meet all fire code regulations, including the construction of temporary structures of decorations.
15. All event themes must not be motivated by bias in whole or in part including but not limited to bias against age, ancestry or ethnicity, color, creed, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, height, immigration or citizenship status, marital status, national origin, race, religion, religious practice, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or weight.
16. No more than four chapters may sponsor or co-sponsor any one event with alcohol and event must be within fire code capacity.
17. All events with alcohol must conclude by 1 a.m.
18. Chapters are only permitted to co-host events with alcohol with sororities and fraternities who are recognized by the university as defined in the Recognition Policy for Fraternities and Sororities.

19. Licensed and insured third-party security is required for events utilizing third party vendors (can be provided by the host venue) or at social events that exceed 150 members and guests, regardless of location.
20. All events must comply with all campus health and safety requirements, including but not limited to those enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Enforcement

1. Any chapter who hosts an event which was not submitted to SFL via the notification form or an event that is otherwise not in compliance with this policy will be referred immediately to the appropriate conduct process. Local and University partners such as, Cornell University Police, Cayuga Heights Police, Ithaca Police Department, Ithaca Fire Department, City of Ithaca, Cornell Environmental Health and Safety, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council and Multicultural Greek and Fraternal Council, etc. are asked to refer all chapters who appear to be holding events in violation of this policy.
2. Should any violations, at events or other activities, pose health and safety risks (including but not limited to facilitating, allowing, or requiring underage alcohol consumption, insufficient event monitoring/controls, or failure to complete the event notification form for an on- or off-campus event where alcohol is present), the chapter may be immediately placed on interim suspension, with all chapter activities ceased pending the outcome of an organizational conduct proceeding.
3. Student leaders from the sorority and fraternity community and university roving security teams will check on- and off-campus properties to make sure organizations are in compliance with this policy. Chapter leadership and event monitors must allow entry.
4. Chapters understand that selling or giving alcohol to an individual less than 21 years of age (by a person other than parent or guardian) is a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to three months and/or a fine, in addition to a violation of the Social Event Policy. Individuals may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for individual violations.

Appendix A
2026-27 Social Policy Enhancements

For the remainder of the 2026-2027 academic year, all parties and social events in IFC Fraternity Houses are suspended, per the Presidential Statement issued on October 13, 2026.

IFC fraternities may continue normal chapter operations and host social events at third-party venues subject to the Interfraternity Council Social Event Suspension Quick Guide, this Social Event Policy and the following enhanced safety measures:

A. All events that meet one or more of the following criteria must be submitted via CampusGroups, the Event Notification/Attending form.

   a. Any activity or event sponsored or endorsed by the organization, including but not limited to philanthropy and alumni events, including those that occur on or off organizational/university premises. (Please note: all parties and social events in IFC Fraternity Houses are suspended per above)
   b. Alcohol is present at the event.
   c. Event involves guests/non-members (e.g., step show, philanthropy, Family Weekends, alumni events, tournaments).
   d. Contracts are secured for the event.

B. The Event Notification/Attending Form must be submitted to SFL by Tuesday at noon ET the week of the event.

C. Each chapter hosting, co-hosting, or participating in an event must have event monitors who are **substance free for the duration** of the event. The ratio of **1 event monitor to 15** attendees which includes at least **two chapter** officers.

D. Event **transportation plans**, to and from the venue, are required for events at third-party venues.

E. Depending on the type of event, additional city permits and approvals may be required.