

Student Activities Policy for Registered Student Organization Activities: Activities with Alcohol

The Department of Student Activities at the University of Connecticut believes that all members of our community who attend an activity in association with a student organization have the right to do so in a safe, inclusive, and responsible manner. This document serves as a guide to both required university policies and recommended good practices for our students and volunteers who organize and provide activities in which alcohol may be present.

Definitions

Third Party Vendor – Any venue, facility, or legal alcohol provider that services activities.

Bring Your Own Beverage (BYOB) – Any activity where participants are invited to procure their own alcohol for their own personal consumption.

Activity at which the Organization (or someone) Provides the Alcohol – Any activity at which someone brings alcohol that will be shared with others; the organization or a person(s) pay for the alcohol.

Open Bar – Any activity where a third party vendor is providing alcohol with no direct cost to consumer.

Cash Bar – Any activity where a third party vendor is providing alcohol that costs the consumer per beverage.

Sober Host – Any organizational affiliate who does not consume any alcohol within a reasonable amount of time before the pre-activity, so that s/he is sober pre-activity, during the activity, or during any post-activity socialization.

Policies and Good Practices

UConn student organization sponsored activities that include alcohol, or for activities sponsored by other organizations in which UConn student organizations participate/attend that include alcohol, UConn students should adhere to the university policies (from the UConn Student Code of Conduct) and recommended good practices outlined below.

All participants and Third Party Vendors must follow all state and federal laws and regulations, this includes any university or state guidance provided during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Student Code of Conduct applies both on and off campus for UConn students.

Third Party Vendor Policies

- All participants/attendees are subject to state and federal laws and regulations.
- Drinking games of any kind are prohibited.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol on campus or off campus is prohibited.
- Alcohol may not be purchased with University funds, student organization fees or dues.
- Allowing a person under the age of 21 to consume alcohol is prohibited.
- Providing alcohol to a person who is visibly intoxicated and/or pressuring others to use alcohol violates the Student Code of Conduct.

Third Party Vendor Good Practices

- The Third Party Vendor should be responsible for, and should explicitly agree (e.g. in writing) that they will be responsible for checking identification of all participants/attendees (not the organization).
- Alternative food and beverages should be available for all participants/attendees.
- Assess security needs (e.g. crowd size, participant age, physical location, transportation, etc.).
- Have copies of all agreements, insurance certificates, licenses, etc. at the activity.
- Provide participants with a safe method of transportation – do not let anyone who has been drinking any amount operate a vehicle, or walk any significant distance.
- Understand a third party vendor's rules and regulations that will pertain to your activity. Ask the vendor for a copy of their rules and regulations.
- Let all participants/attendees know in advance of beverage limits.
- Work with bartender to ensure no participants are over-served.
- There should at least 1 sober host per every 10-15 guests.
- Student Activities discourages student organizations from having an "open bar" at any activities.

Bring Your Own Beverage (BYOB) or Activity at which the Organization (or Someone) Provides the Alcohol Policies

- All participants/attendees are subject to state and federal laws and regulations.
- Communal drinking sources are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: kegs, beer balls, wine fountains, alcoholic punch, ice luges, etc.
- Drinking games of any kind are prohibited.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol on campus or off campus is prohibited.
- Alcohol may not be purchased with University funds, student organization fees or dues.
- Allowing a person under the age of 21 to consume alcohol is prohibited.
- Providing alcohol to a person who is visibly intoxicated and/or pressuring others to use alcohol violates the Student Code of Conduct.
- Monitor all guests under the age of 21. It is your responsibility to make sure they are not drinking alcohol.

Bring Your Own Beverage (BYOB) or Activity at which the Organization (or Someone) Provides the Alcohol Good Practices

- The organization hosting the activity must have a method of checking for and visibly indicating participants who are of the legal drinking age. This can be done by having a member check IDs and then provide bracelets to folks who are 21 or over.
 - Wristbands are available through the Center of Fraternity & Sorority Development for Greek Affiliated Orgs and Student Activities for all other Registered Student Orgs. You can e-mail offcampusevents@uconn.edu to reserve them for your event.
- All members should have ID that indicates their age on their persons at all times during the activity.
- Alternative food and beverages must be available for all participants/attendees.
- Assess security needs. (e.g. crowd size, participant age, physical location, transportation, etc.).
- Provide participants with a safe method of transportation – do not let anyone who has been drinking any amount operate a vehicle, or walk any significant distance.
- Discourage use of glass bottles as they are an additional risk.

- Devise a method for tracking participant consumption (e.g. only allowing participants to bring in a specific number of beverages, or having a punch card system).
- There should at least 1 sober host per every 10-15 guests.
- Communicate all policies and procedures to all participants/attendees in advance.

Sources:

[Holmes Murphy Event Planning Guide](#)

[Designated Driver Program](#)

[Holmes Murphy Event Resources](#)

[UConn COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

[COVID-19 Considerations for Events](#)

Social Event Planning: Making the Process Work for Your Chapter

Hosting Safe Social Events: A BYOB Checklist – North American Interfraternity Conference

UConn Student Code of Conduct: Appendix C: Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs

This document supplements and does not supersede any other legal requirements.