



## SIGMA NU FRATERNITY, INC.

9 Lewis Street ♦ P. O. Box 1869 ♦ Lexington, Virginia 24450

Phone: (540) 463-1869 ♦ Fax: (540) 463-1669 ♦ Email: [headquarters@sigmanu.org](mailto:headquarters@sigmanu.org) ♦ Website: [www.sigmanu.org](http://www.sigmanu.org)

**TO:** All Collegiate Members and Alumni Volunteers  
**CC:** Fraternity and Sorority Life Advisors  
**FROM:** Fred Dobry, Director of Health and Safety  
**DATE:** June 10, 2019

**SUBJECT:** ANNOUNCEMENT | Changes to *Risk Reduction Policy*, effective August 1, 2019

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In keeping with its Mission to develop ethical leaders, Sigma Nu is committed to helping collegiate chapters create safe and healthy experiences for members and guests at all events. In fact, the entire fraternity and sorority community shares that commitment.

In August and November 2018, representatives of Sigma Nu participated in legislative meetings of the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), a trade association for 66 men's fraternities including Sigma Nu. A primary purpose of the NIC is to strengthen the fraternity community as a means of ensuring its continued viability and success for current and future generations.

With that focus, the 66 NIC member fraternities, including Sigma Nu, felt it was imperative to act with one voice to implement [industry-wide alcohol and drug guidelines](#) to be enacted by all NIC member organizations by September 1, 2019.

The High Council, Sigma Nu's board of directors elected last summer by the 68<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter, adopted numerous changes, in consultation with legal counsel, to the Fraternity's [Risk Reduction Policy](#), to be effective as of August 1, 2019, to align with the NIC Alcohol and Drug Guidelines.

### So, what does this mean for you and your chapter?

- Right now, it only means that you need to take the time to know and understand the changes that have been made; they will not go into effect until August 1, 2019.
- While many minor changes were made to the policy, only a couple of changes will substantively impact chapter and alumni entity operations:
  - The first substantive change provides clarification on an already existing expectation. The end of the preamble now includes, **"Section I, A-H and K-Y apply to any event organized by persons, entities, and organizations covered by the general liability insurance policy of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. (including, but not limited to, alumni advisory boards, alumni chapters, alumni clubs, house corporations, chapter educational foundations, and parent clubs)."** This change explicitly makes clear that the *Risk Reduction Policy* applies to events organized by recognized Sigma Nu alumni entities.
  - The second substantive change has already been adopted by numerous local Interfraternity Councils and/or host institutions – a prohibition on alcoholic beverages above 15% alcohol

by volume (ABV) on chapter premises and at chapter events, except when served by a licensed and insured third party vendor. The specific policy (Section I, Items G and H) is as follows:

**G. “The presence of alcoholic beverages above 15% alcohol by volume (“ABV”) is prohibited on chapter premises, except when served by a licensed and insured third party vendor.**

**H. The presence of alcoholic beverages above 15% alcohol by volume (“ABV”) is prohibited at any chapter event, except when served by a licensed and insured third party vendor.”**

Regarding the prohibition of alcohol above 15% ABV, the only difference with current policy of Sigma Nu is that the new policy prohibits alcohol products above 15% ABV in private rooms of of-age members in the chapter house. Since most chapter house residents are below the legal drinking age for the state in which the chapter is located, the actual impact on members and the chapter’s operations will be minimal. Keep in mind, alcohol products above 15% ABV can still be present if part of a licensed and insured third party vendor setup.

For additional information and guidance on how to effectively prepare your chapter and its members to comply with the new policy expectations, check out our [FAQ Document](#). Please also review a [summary of the changes](#) made to the *Risk Reduction Policy*.

Beginning with the commitment of Founders Hopkins, Quarles, and Riley to create a safer environment for VMI cadets by founding an organization in direct opposition to hazing, a commitment to creating a safe, principles-based Fraternity experience has, and will remain, a cornerstone of the Legion of Honor. Thank you for all that you do in support of the Mission of Sigma Nu Fraternity.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [fred.dobry@sigmanu.org](mailto:fred.dobry@sigmanu.org) or (540) 463-1869 extension 550. Also, for resources on properly planning and executing chapter social functions, check out the Fraternity’s [Social Planning Webpage](#).