



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

At its spring 2019 in-person meeting, the High Council, in consultation with legal counsel, adopted numerous changes to the Fraternity's [*Risk Reduction Policy*](#) to align with the new [NIC Alcohol and Drug Guidelines](#). Below are answers to commonly asked questions regarding these changes.

WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE?

Changes were made only to the Fraternity's *Risk Reduction Policy*, formerly called the *Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines*. Please review [a summary of the adopted changes](#) to learn more.

WHY WERE CHANGES MADE?

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, adopted numerous changes to the Fraternity's [*Risk Reduction Policy*](#), **to be effective as of August 1, 2019**, to align with the NIC Alcohol and Drug Guidelines.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT MY CHAPTER?

Numerous changes have been adopted to the *Risk Reduction Policy* but most of those changes were simple language adjustments to align with the language used in the NIC Alcohol and Drug Guidelines. Only one change substantively impacts current chapter practice – the prohibition of alcoholic beverages above 15% alcohol by volume on chapter premises and at chapter events, except when served by a licensed and insured third party vendor.

Regarding the prohibition of alcohol above 15% ABV, the 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. Given 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 above 15% ABV can still be present if part of a third party vendor setup.

WHEN DO THE CHANGES GO INTO EFFECT?

All changes to the *Risk Reduction Policy* will become effective as of August 1, 2019.



WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW TO PREPARE MY CHAPTER?

Share this document and [the summary of adopted changes](#) with all collegiate chapter members, Alumni Advisory Board members, and, if applicable, House Corporation officers. Meet with the Social Committee and Risk Reduction Committee to review the changes and identify needed adjustments to the chapter's event and chapter house management protocol and risk reduction implementation plan.

Specifically, all chapter house residents should be made aware of the new prohibition of alcohol above 15% alcohol by volume at the chapter house, unless part of a chapter event with a license and insured third party vendor. The chapter should review its existing risk reduction implementation plan to make any necessary revisions, in accordance with the changes made to the Fraternity's *Risk Reduction Policy*. Consult the [Governance and Accountability section](#) of the Fraternity's Best Practices Library for additional ideas.

WHAT IF THE NEW POLICY CONFLICTS WITH UNIVERSITY AND/OR INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL POLICY?

Whenever a policy conflict exists, apply the stricter of the two policies. Doing so will ensure compliance with both. For example, University policy may include a maximum 3:1 guest-to-member ratio for chapter functions with alcoholic beverages present. The Fraternity's *Risk Reduction Policy* includes a maximum 2:1 guest-to-member ratio for chapter functions with alcoholic beverages present. Complying with the Fraternity's stricter 2:1 ratio will ensure compliance with both Fraternity and University policy.

WHAT ABOUT THE FIPG POLICY?

For several decades, the Fraternal Information and Programming Group (FIPG) Policy was the industry standard policy used by many, if not most, host institutions and national organizations to govern chapter activities. Over time host institutions and national organizations adopted their own policies, thus decreasing the need for a standalone FIPG Policy. In 2016, the FIPG organization and its policies were officially disbanded. All appropriate components of the FIPG Policy have been incorporated into the Fraternity's *Risk Reduction Policy*.

DOES THIS IMPACT EVENTS ORGANIZED BY ALUMNI?

Yes, the Fraternity's *Risk Reduction Policy* applies to all entities covered by the Fraternity's general liability insurance policy including, but not limited to, alumni advisory boards, alumni chapters, alumni clubs, house corporations, chapter educational foundations and parent clubs. Non-collegiate chapter entities are exempted from Section I, Items I and J. All other components of the *Risk Reduction Policy* apply to non-collegiate chapter entities recognized by Sigma Nu Fraternity.