



SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO *RISK REDUCTION POLICY*

At its spring 2019 in-person meeting, the High Council, in consultation with the Fraternity's legal counsel, adopted numerous changes to the Fraternity's [*Risk Reduction Policy*](#) to align with the new [NIC Alcohol and Drug Guidelines](#). The adopted changes can be broken into the following distinct categories:

1. Substantive changes
2. Minor edits to reflect current nomenclature and practice
3. Minor edits to mirror language used in the NIC Alcohol and Drug Guidelines

All changes detailed below are **effective as of August 1, 2019**.

Deletions are marked with ~~strikethrough~~. Additions are marked **bold**. All section and item references and clause language refer to the former [*Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines*](#), which expires on August 1, 2019 when the updated *Risk Reduction Policy* goes into effect.

Substantive Changes

Below are amendments to the *Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines* that are substantive in nature. When necessary, rationale has been provided for the specific amendment.

- New addition to Section III
 - **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.**
 - **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.**
 - *Rationale: This language aligns with the NIC resolution requiring all members organizations pass a policy by September 1, 2019 prohibiting alcohol above 15% at chapter premises and events, except when served by a licensed and insured third-party vendor.*
- Fourth paragraph of Preamble section:
 - "The following policy ~~and guidelines are~~ **is** applicable to each chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. **Section III, A-D and G-T 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).**
 - *Rationale: All undergraduate and alumni entities officially recognized by Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. are covered under the Fraternity's general liability insurance policy. The general liability policy includes an endorsement that provides coverage to only events and activities that comply with Fraternity policy. Recognizing certain portions of the Risk Reduction Policy should only be applicable to collegiate chapters (e.g.*



current Section III, Item F requiring one “dry” function for every alcohol function), this proposed amendment specifies which portion of the Risk Reduction Policy applies to events organized by recognized Sigma Nu entities.

- Corresponding change:
 - Section III, Item H: No ~~chapter~~ members provide alcoholic beverages to members or guests by selling tickets [...]

Minor Edits to Reflect Current Nomenclature and Practice

Below are amendments to the *Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines* to reflect current Sigma Nu nomenclature, practices, and programs. When necessary, rationale has been provided for the specific amendment.

- All references to “General Fraternity” or “General Fraternity Headquarters” changed to **“Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.”**
- All references to “Activities” and “Functions” changed to **“Events”**
- Delete “Section I” and “Section II – Education of Initiates and Candidates”
 - *Rationale: These portions of the Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines provides guidelines for risk reduction education. These guidelines are now provided, with accompanying enforcement, through the Fraternity’s myriad of educational programs and services, including the Pursuit of Excellence Program.*
- Delete “Section IV – Premises of the Chapter”
 - *Rationale: The owner of the chapter premises, not the chapter or Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc., is responsible for ensuring legally required inspections are conducted and notices posted within the facility.*
- Delete current Section VI, VII, and VIII and amend Third paragraph of Preamble section as follows:
 - In addition, Sigma Nu has adopted certain laws and rules of governance by which its members are also expected to abide (see The Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc., Constitution and Statutes), and policies, ~~and guidelines~~ to assist its collegiate members in conducting daily affairs of a collegiate chapter. Such laws, rules, **and** policies ~~and guidelines~~ are subject to the laws of the land and the rules, regulations, **and** policies, ~~and guidelines~~ of the host institution. Failure of any member to abide by said laws, rules, **and** policy, ~~and guidelines~~ may be sufficient cause **for Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. to conduct an investigation. A confirmed violation of said laws, rules, or policy may be sufficient cause** for suspension or expulsion from membership **of the individual(s) involved, denial of membership of the candidate members involved,** removal from elected or appointed office within the Fraternity **of those officers involved,** or the suspension or revocation of a chapter's charter, the only extent to which Sigma Nu possesses or maintains authority over its chapters and members.
 - *Rationale: Current Section VI, VII and VIII use statement or guideline language, rather than policy language as is used in the other Sections. This change embeds the authority*



created through Section VI, VII, and VIII into the Preamble section and removes references to “guidelines.”

- Change title of document to “Risk Reduction Policy ~~and Guidelines~~”
 - *Rationale: Change of document title aligns with the above elimination of Sections within the document that contained “guidelines.” With those sections removed and removal of the use of “guidelines” in the Preamble, the document now only contains Sections and language considered to be “policy.”*
- Amendment to Section III title:
 - **Activities Events** of the Chapter **and Activities on Chapter Premises** Meet the Following Criteria:
- Amendment to current Section III, Item I:
 - The chapter does not serve, or permit the use, possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages at chapter recruitment functions. ~~In addition, the chapter is an active proponent of “dry recruitment” among all fraternities on campus.~~
 - *Rationale: All fraternities now have policies prohibiting the use of alcoholic beverages in recruitment. Chapters being an active proponent of “dry recruitment” is a carryover from years ago when many organizations had not yet adopted policies prohibiting the involvement of alcoholic beverages in fraternity recruitment.*
- Amendment to current Section III, Item K:
 - ~~Valid identification of those claiming to be entitled legally to consume alcohol at chapter functions (where legal consumption is permitted) is checked for the correct age.~~ **Valid identification is checked for the correct age of anyone claiming to be legally permitted to consume alcoholic beverages at a chapter event.** The possession, distribution, or consumption of alcoholic beverages at said functions does not violate federal, state, and local laws and ordinances as well as the rules and regulations of the host institution or the policy and guidelines of the General Fraternity.
- Amendment to current Section III, Item P:
 - ~~Any and all~~ **No** alcoholic beverages are ~~not~~ served to, provided for, or purchased for any candidate or initiated member in connection with any aspects of the candidate education ~~(pledge education)~~ program.
- Amendment to current Section III, Item Q:
 - Intoxication by any member or candidate at any chapter function or at any other time is deemed “conduct unbecoming a Knight and a gentleman.” The chapter's ~~Executive Committee~~ **Executive Committee** invokes full provisions of The Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. when such circumstances occur, including fines and/or suspension or expulsion for a continual pattern of drunken behavior. Habitual violators are advised to seek qualified counseling.



- Amendment to current Section VIII:
 - Failure to make every reasonable attempt to ~~meet the Fraternity's expectations and guidelines~~ **comply with all federal, state, and local laws as well as the rules and regulations of the host institution, the policies of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc., and The Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.** may be sufficient cause for the General Fraternity to conduct an investigation.
 - Corresponding change:
~~VI. — All chapters cooperate fully with local IFC/Panhellenic Risk Reduction policies and programs and encourage their university to sponsor Risk Reduction seminars annually.~~

Minor Edits to Mirror Language Used in NIC Alcohol and Drug Guidelines

Below are amendments to the *Risk Reduction Policy and Guidelines* to align Sigma Nu policy language with the language used in the new [NIC Alcohol and Drug Guidelines](#).

- Amendment to current Section III, Item A:
 - ~~No ILLEGAL use, possession, sale or distribution of any legally controlled substance, including alcohol, at chapter functions is permitted. No person may possess, use, provide, distribute, sell, and/or manufacture illegal drugs or other controlled substances at any chapter event or while on chapter premises.~~
- New addition to Section III
 - **Alcoholic beverages are:**
 1. **Provided and sold on a per-drink basis by a licensed and insured third party vendor; or**
 2. **Brought by individual members and guests through a bring your own beverage ("BYOB") system.**
- Amendment to current Section III, Item D:
 - ~~No tap system and/or a keg is present in the chapter house, on chapter property, or at a chapter function (unless the tap system and/or keg is part of a cash bar operated by a licensed and insured third party vendor). No common sources of alcoholic beverages, including kegs and other bulk quantities, unless provided and sold on a per-drink basis by a licensed and insured third party vendor.~~
- Amendment to current Section III, Item E:
 - ~~The chapter does not co-sponsor a function with an alcohol distributor or tavern (tavern defined as an establishment generating more than half of annual gross sales from alcohol) where alcohol is given away, sold or otherwise provided to those present. The chapter may rent a venue to host a chapter event; however, the chapter does not co-host or co-sponsor an event with a bar, event promoter, or alcoholic beverage distributor.~~



- Amendment to current Section III, Item J, Paragraph One:
 - ~~The chapter hosts no “open” parties (social functions). Individual non-members attending a chapter function do so only by specific written (or approved verbal) invitation of chapter members who assume responsibility for the welfare of said guests and any damage to chapter premises caused by those guests.~~ **Attendance by non-members at any chapter event where alcoholic beverages are present is by invitation only.** The safety and welfare of each guest is an assumed responsibility of the individual member who invited said guest. A list of ~~individual guests' names~~ **the name of each member and invited guest** is maintained and monitored at the ~~door or~~ entry to the function. ~~Guest and host a~~ Attendance lists are maintained on file after the function **for a minimum of two years.**
- Amendment to current Section III, Item J, Paragraph Two:
 - At all functions where alcoholic **beverages is are legally** present, the ~~non-Sigma Nu male guest-to-member ratio does not exceed 1:1 (one guest per one chapter member) while the overall~~ maximum guest-to-member ratio does not exceed 2:1 (two guests per one chapter member). The maximum number of allowable guests does not exceed **local fire or building code regulations at any event capacity of the chapter premises or venue.** Any change in the guest-to-member ratio is first pre-approved by the host institution and, subsequently, discussed with the General Fraternity staff prior to the function.
- Amendment to current Section III, Item O:
 - ~~No chapter member permits, tolerates, encourages or participates in “drinking games” in the chapter house, on chapter property, or at any chapter function. Any activity involving drinking games or the rapid consumption of alcoholic beverages at any chapter event or on chapter premises is prohibited.~~
- New Section III, Item A:
 - **The chapter, members, and guests comply with all federal, state, and local laws as well as the rules and regulations of the host institution, the policies of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc., and The Law of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. No person under the legal drinking age may possess, consume, provide, or be provided alcoholic beverages.**
 - Corresponding change to Section III, Item K:
 - Valid identification of those claiming to be entitled legally to consume alcoholic **beverages** at chapter functions (where legal consumption is permitted) is checked for the correct age. ~~The possession, distribution, or consumption of alcoholic beverages at said functions does not violate federal, state, and local laws and ordinances as well as the rules and regulations of the host institution or the policy and guidelines of the General Fraternity.~~