



**UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE  
SPORTS UNION**

**ALCOHOL & INITIATIONS POLICY**

**Updated by:** University of Strathclyde Sports Union  
**Date:** February 2024

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1.** University of Strathclyde Sports Union (USSU) is committed to providing a safe and healthy study, work and leisure environment and does not condone the irresponsible consumption of alcohol.
- 1.2.** USSU recognises that the consumption of alcohol is for many student's part of the 'student experience' and University life, but that this consumption need not be irresponsible and to an excessive degree. USSU recognises the need to encourage safer drinking habits amongst the student population.

## **2. USSU Policy**

- 2.1.** USSU will liaise with the University of Strathclyde Students' Association (USSA) to ensure USSA is committed to developing a social culture that promotes the sensible use of alcohol and offers suitable alternatives to those who prefer alcohol-free activities.
- 2.2.** USSU does not condone the misuse or abuse of alcohol and is committed to reducing the risks associated with alcohol use within its community. Whenever it is appropriate USSU will take disciplinary action in response to unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse or abuse of alcohol.
- 2.3.** Where a student has engaged in aggressive, abusive or other anti-social behaviour in part as a result of the use of alcohol, this will in no way excuse the behaviour or mitigate the penalties imposed in so far as the application of the USSU Disciplinary Committee.
- 2.4.** USSU will liaise with USSA to ensure that bars located on the campus will be managed under licence and conform to legal requirements.
- 2.5.** USSU will liaise with USSA to ensure it will always encourage our members to drink responsibly.
- 2.6.** USSU will liaise with USSA to ensure that where alcohol is being served free water and soft drinks must be available to all customers in all bars.
- 2.7.** USSU will liaise with USSA to ensure that venues will provide plastic glasses to be used at any event and time where glass is considered a risk.

## **3. Club Policy**

- 3.1.** It should be remembered that member clubs of USSU must at all times act to uphold the reputation of USSU whether on campus or an alternative venue.
- 3.2.** Students who are already intoxicated must not be encouraged to drink more alcohol.
- 3.3.** Where a student needs to go to hospital due to alcohol consumption, they must be accompanied by a responsible person. Any hospital visits of this nature must be reported to USSU Office.
- 3.4.** Clubs must not highlight alcohol as the main reason for attending an event. Publicity should indicate that there will be non-alcoholic drinks available at the event.
- 3.5.** All promotional activity will ensure that we market and promote events containing alcohol responsibly and that there will be no active promotion of drinking games.

## **4. Transport**

- 4.1.** Any student who is a driving member of a USSU Club as part of an event must not consume any alcohol prior to driving. Blood alcohol levels should be zero during all driving activities.
- 4.2.** When travelling on transport provided by USSU (i.e. Minibuses, coaches or cars), no alcohol is permitted to be carried onto/consumed on board at any time. Failure to comply with this rule invalidates our insurance and is against the law above all.
- 4.3.** The designated driver of the vehicle has the authority to refuse entry onto the vehicle or refuse to drive, if any member's behaviour is deemed unacceptable. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who is reported by the designated driver.

## **5. Initiations**

An initiation or other associated terminology reflecting 'initiations' is an event in which members (often new members) of the club are expected to perform any activity as a means of gaining credibility, status or entry into that club. The peer pressure is normally (though not explicitly) exerted on first year members or members new to that particular club and may involve the consumption of alcohol, eating concoctions of various food stuffs, nudity and any behaviour that may be deemed humiliating. The following guidelines are in place to protect the students:

- 5.1.** Initiations are not permitted by any USSU Club.
- 5.2.** Members of USSU Clubs will not apply what may be perceived as peer pressure upon individuals in any social situation - this extends to any 'tradition' within the Club.
- 5.3.** The committee of each club is responsible for the welfare of all club members and must take the necessary measures to ensure that an adequate level of safety is maintained at all times.

## **6. Breaches of Code of Conduct**

Breaches in this policy may result in a disciplinary hearing, carried out by the USSU Disciplinary Committee.

Details of the Disciplinary Committee can be found in the USSU Constitution. In less severe cases the USSU President & Sport Manager will determine the disciplinary action to be taken. Any breach of the procedure will result in one or more sanctions as detailed within the USSU Code of Conduct.