



University of
St Andrews

Saints Sport alcohol and initiation

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Purpose	This document outlines the expectations of those involved in running social activities for Athletic Union sports clubs at the University of St Andrews.

Version number	Purpose / changes	Document status	Author of changes, role and school / unit	Date
2.1	Update	Active	Athletic Union President, Saints Sport	20/06/2022

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The University of St Andrews Athletic Union (hereafter the AU) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment within its affiliated Clubs.
- 1.2. The AU does not condone the irresponsible consumption of alcohol.
- 1.3. The AU recognises that affiliated Sports Clubs organise social activities that complement their sporting activities, and that for many students this is a part of the 'student experience'.
- 1.4. The AU also recognises that these social activities may involve consumption of alcohol and encourages all clubs to be inclusive in all sporting and social activities.
- 1.5. The close-knit community that Sports Clubs create may cause individuals to feel that they must follow unspoken rules about alcohol consumption and/or other behaviours. The AU and its affiliated clubs are committed to ensuring students do not feel this way, but instead feel part of an inclusive community in which everyone is welcome.
- 1.6. Affiliating to the AU constitutes acceptance of the terms of this policy.

2. The Athletic Union Alcohol Policy

The AU is committed to creating a social culture where all club events are safe, sensible, and welcoming environments for every club member, irrespective of whether individuals choose to drink.

- 2.1. Club Social activities must be organised in a safe manner without fear of harassment or bullying.
- 2.2. They must be welcoming of all members, irrespective of their cultural and personal beliefs.
- 2.3. Participation in any club social activity is completely optional for all members. Members must be able to opt-out without fear of undue pressure, reprisal, non-selection for teams, or any other form of discrimination.
- 2.4. Wherever appropriate, the AU will take disciplinary action in response to unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse of alcohol where related to an affiliated Sports Club. This disciplinary action may also require the involvement of the University Discipline Officer.
- 2.5. It should be remembered that individuals and Clubs of the University are responsible for upholding Saints Sport and University values, wherever they may be.
- 2.6. At any Club event where alcohol is involved there should be *at least* one responsible individual who will not be consuming alcohol. At large social events (more than 15 people) there should be multiple responsible individuals.
- 2.7. A student who is already intoxicated must not be encouraged to drink more alcohol.

- 2.8. If a student is under the influence and is not in control of themselves, a responsible person should ensure their safety by escorting them back to their residence. If an individual is considered to need medical attention due to their level of intoxication, a responsible person should accompany them.
- 2.9. Clubs must not highlight alcohol as the main reason for attending an event, and publicity should indicate that at any event non-alcoholic drinks are welcome and encouraged.
- 2.10. If an event involves games, challenges, or any other activities which may involve alcohol consumption, it must be made clear that individuals are not required to drink alcohol to take part and activities can always be amended to include individuals who choose not to drink.

3. Athletic Union Initiations Policy

- 3.1. Clubs are permitted, and encouraged, to host events to welcome and include new and returning members in the Club. These events can never be compulsory and must not involve any aspect which could be considered initiating behaviour.
- 3.2. Initiations or initiating behaviour concerns any events at which members (often new members) of a Sports Club are expected to perform any activity as a means of gaining credibility, status, or entry to a Club. Initiation events could occur at any time of the year (including on Club tours) and are at no point permitted or appropriate.
- 3.3. These events often involve peer pressure (though not necessarily explicitly) exerted on members. Activities which could constitute initiating behaviour may include (but are not limited to): drinking alcohol, eating concoctions of food stuffs, nudity, or any other behaviour which could be considered 'humiliating'.
- 3.4. The Athletic Union does not condone initiations and Affiliated Clubs are not permitted to conduct any form of initiation event.
- 3.5. Members of AU Clubs are not permitted to apply what could be considered 'peer pressure' on any individual in any social or non-social setting.
- 3.6. Committees (specifically Wellbeing Officers) of each Club are responsible for the welfare of Club members in any Club organised social situation and must ensure that appropriate safety measures are always adhered to.

4. Breaches of Policy

- 4.1. If any individual feels any action has been taken in breach of any of the above, they should report it to the AU President.

- 4.2. Any Club which has held a social event which could be considered to be in breach of any of the above will face disciplinary action directed by the AU President.
- 4.3. Any committee member/ordinary member responsible for the organisation of an event based on the above will face disciplinary action directed by the AU President.
- 4.4. Any Club member who is considered to have exerted 'peer pressure' on another Club member with regards to actions at a social event will face disciplinary action directed by the AU President.
- 4.5. Disciplinary measure may result in any of the following:
- 4.5.1. Suspension or disaffiliation of the Club in question.
 - 4.5.2. Suspension of Club facilities which could include budget, training times, competition entry, and more.
 - 4.5.3. Club fine of up to £100
 - 4.5.4. Removal of Club and/ or Sports Centre membership from individuals felt to have breached the policy
 - 4.5.5. Removal of committee members from office.

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