



# The Constitution of The Interfraternity Council

*(Revised February 12, 2020)*



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## **Preamble**

We, the representative members of the fraternity community at The Ohio State University, in order to promote the betterment of our member organizations and to adhere to the fundamental founding principles of all fraternities, including scholarship, civic engagement, leadership and personal development, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution. Accordingly, we grant and delegate to this organization such powers and responsibilities as necessary to uphold this Constitution.

## **Article I: Name**

The name of this organization shall be The Interfraternity Council at The Ohio State University, hereinafter referred to as The Interfraternity Council, IFC, or The Council.

## **Article 2: Mission and Purpose**

### **Section 1: Mission**

It shall be the mission of the Ohio State IFC to promote, educate, and govern its member organizations. The IFC will promote and embody leadership in action, academic excellence, strong bonds of brotherhood, service to the community, and networking for its member organizations. The Interfraternity Council's scope of authority will include executive, judicial, and legislative policies. The Council will have the authority to decide policy that is deemed necessary pertaining to the member organizations represented by The Council. The Interfraternity Council has the authority to administer these policies, adjudicate these policies (except those that are of university policy) by means of the Office of Student Conduct and administer the appropriate action of these policies. The Interfraternity Council shall abide by all University rules and regulations, and state and federal laws. Authority of the Interfraternity Council is derived through recognition by the Office of Student Life, which is responsible to the Vice President for Student Life.

### **Section 2: Purpose**

It shall be the purpose of the Interfraternity Council to:

- Act as the initial legislative and executive body in organization/council matters pertaining to Sorority & Fraternity Life.
- Act as a forum for the exchange of ideas and the initiation of action between individual Greek organizations, the IFC community, other Greek councils, and the University administration, and the University community at large.
- Support its individual member organizations through the creation of an atmosphere

- conducive to individual member organizations supporting one another.
- Hold member organizations accountable for their actions and to the highest interpretation of the ideals on which their organizations were founded.
- Work with University officials and University recognized organizations on such matters as is relevant to the Council and its member organizations.
- Be responsible for granting and revoking recognition of membership within the Council.
- Oversee other activities as they may pertain to the IFC or its member chapters

## **Article 3: Government**

### **Section 1.**

The Council shall be governed by a body of delegates consisting of the chapter president of each member fraternity, or a representative appointed by each member fraternity.

### **Section 2.**

Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. Members of the Interfraternity Council do not have a vote. The IFC president shall only vote in the case of a tie.

### **Section 3.**

A quorum, consisting of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the member fraternities shall be required to carry on the business of the council.

### **Section 4.**

All member chapters that are considered a registered student organization with The Ohio State University and have met all requirements and expectations set by Sorority & Fraternity Life shall be considered to be “in good standing” with the Interfraternity Council unless otherwise stated as a result of Interfraternity Council governing documents.

### **Section 5.**

A chapter “in good standing” with the Interfraternity Council may take part in all Interfraternity Council community events, votes, and any other benefits awarded to an Interfraternity Council member chapter.

## **Article 4: Officers**

### **Section 1.**

The members of the Interfraternity Council in order of succession shall be: President, Executive Vice President, Chief Justice, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Recruitment, Vice President of Community Development, Vice President of Scholarship, Vice President of Marketing. Their duties shall be as follows:

#### President

- Call and preside over meetings of the Council, appoint committees, and assume all other duties associated with the office.
- Serve on or represent the IFC on any university or student committee as necessary.
- Serve as the primary liaison between fraternity members and the university.
- Serve as the primary spokesperson and representative for the IFC
- Vote to break a tie of the Interfraternity Council Executive Board.

#### Executive Vice President

- Assume the duties of the President in the event of his absence or inability to serve
- Responsible for scheduling rooms for IFC meetings and events.
- Work closely with the President to ensure the efficiency of the Council's internal operation.
- Actively support and participate in the initiatives of all other Interfraternity Council Vice Presidents.
- Oversee the Director of Marketing

#### Chief Justice

- Review and maintain the IFC Bylaws and Constitution on a semesterly basis.
- Works closely with the Office of Student Conduct and ensures all chapters follow the Constitution, Bylaws, and all University policies.
- Enforce the completion of all sanctions and ensure that all fraternities do not engage in intentional interference that impedes or disrupts the business of The Council.
- Create and distribute agendas for meetings of the IFC General Body.
- Record and distribute minutes regarding topics discussed during IFC Executive Board and General Body meetings.
- Coordinate IFC Executive Board elections.
- Select individuals to serve on the IFC Judicial Board.
- Remain impartial toward any one member of the IFC.

#### Vice President of Finance

- Create, present, and maintain the Council's budget that can be easily accessed by Council members.
- In charge of the collection and disbursement of all funds, dues, fines, and late charges of the Interfraternity Council.
- Enforce and uphold all financial obligations and policies.
- Establish and maintain a requisition and reimbursement procedure and authorize IFC purchases.
- Responsible for filing an annual IRS Form 990.

#### Vice President of Recruitment

- Serve as a resource to the Interfraternity Council General Body and community in recruitment endeavors.
- Compile all member fraternity recruitment events and distribute the information to potential new members.
- Coordinate with the Vice President of Community Development to organize community recruitment events.
- Oversee the Director of Recruitment.

#### Vice President of Community Development

- Support and assist in the creation of community service and philanthropic initiatives.
- Provide information, opportunities, and resources to the Interfraternity community related to external relations.
- Plan programming events on the behalf of the Interfraternity Council and community.
- Oversee the Director of Logistics.

#### Vice President of Risk Management

- Coordinate with the Joint Council Event Observation Committee to operate the event registration process, including leading the committee in event compliance observation.
- Meet with new member educators of member chapters as a group to outline policies of new member education and make recommendations to the Interfraternity Council General Body.
- Oversee the Director of Event Compliance

#### Vice President of Scholarship

- Assist chapters in creating scholarship plans to improve chapter grade point average.
- Monitoring chapter grade point averages to ensure compliance with IFC Academic Bylaws.
- Coordinate IFC scholarships and the regular recognition of scholarship recipients.
- Offer academic opportunities that may be of interest to the IFC community.

#### Vice President of Marketing

- Manage the social media accounts and online presence of the Interfraternity Council.
- Share Interfraternity Council news and events with stakeholders and local media sources.
- Assist the President in matters regarding public relations.
- Regularly recognize members of the community through marketing campaigns.

#### Section 2.

To be a representative on the Executive Board, the individual:

1. Must be an initiated member of good standing in a member organization
2. Must have completed twenty-four (24) credit hours at the Ohio State University
3. Be enrolled full time as defined by the university
4. Must have a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative grade point average at the time of election/selection.

#### Section 3.

Candidates for any IFC Executive office must complete a statement signifying whether or not they intend to uphold the policies, procedures, and rules of The Interfraternity Council at The Ohio State University.

#### Section 4.

Election of officers shall follow this procedure:

1. Nominations will be opened the fourth regular general body meeting of the Autumn semester
2. Interested candidates may also sign for the office for which they wish to run through a readily accessible form provided by the Interfraternity Council.
3. Candidates will interview with a panel made up of the currently serving Interfraternity Council Executive Board and member chapter presidents. Interviews must be conducted at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled date of elections. The interviews shall be no shorter than ten (10) minutes during which the candidate will be asked to:
  - a. Present a plan for the office for which they are running.

- b. Outline what they intend to accomplish during their time in office.
  - c. Answer any questions that the committee may have.
- 4. At the conclusion of the interview, the panel will slate the candidate for no more than three (3) possible positions. A majority vote of the panel members voting on a candidate is required to approve a candidate for a position.
  - a. A committee member can:
    - i. Vote to approve an applicant's candidacy.
    - ii. Vote to deny an applicant's candidacy.
    - iii. Abstain from voting.
  - b. In the case of a tied vote, the Interfraternity Council Advisor shall cast the tie breaking vote.
- 5. Elections shall occur no later than the second-to-last regularly scheduled general body meeting of the semester.
  - a. The Chief Justice shall oversee all election processes and facilitate the meeting as he sees fit.
  - b. The order of elections shall be consistent with the order of succession, outlined in Article 4, Section 1 of the Interfraternity Council Constitution
    - i. The order of the candidates for each office shall go in alphabetical order of candidates last names.
    - ii. Changes in the order may be made at the discretion of the Chief Justice.
  - c. If no approved candidates run for a given office, nominations may be made on the floor of the general body meeting and require two-thirds (2/3) to approve.
  - d. Each candidate shall be given a maximum of five (5) to present their qualifications and goals for the office that they wish to fill.
  - e. The general body shall have at least three (3) minutes to question the candidate.
  - f. After the candidate leaves the room, the general body shall have at least five (5) minutes if necessary to discuss the candidate.
  - g. Voting shall be conducted by written ballot with a simple majority needed to elect a candidate.
    - i. If no candidate receives a simple majority after the first round of voting, the candidate receiving the fewest number of votes shall be dropped from consideration and a revote may take place among the remaining candidates after a two (2) minute discussion.
  - h. A candidate that is slated for multiple positions is eligible to continue running for subsequent positions in the order of succession in the event they do not win the first position they are nominated for.
- 6. New officers will take office immediately following the transition ceremony at the start of the Spring semester.

#### Section 5.

No officer may hold an Executive Board position on the Interfraternity Council while serving as President of their own chapter. No officer may hold the title of Vice President of Risk Management or Director of Event Compliance while serving as the Risk Manager or Social Chairman of their own fraternity.

#### Section 6.

Impeachment of an Interfraternity Council Executive shall only occur by the following procedure:

1. Formal charges must be made by the Executive Council against the elected Executive. If any informal complaints come from another source, the IFC Executive Council must meet, in a closed meeting without the presence of the accused, and review the complaint. This meeting will either result in formal charges or exoneration. If formal charges are made, the Interfraternity Council President must inform the Interfraternity Council, leaving out all names and circumstances surrounding the charges, to preserve anonymity and to protect the rights of the accused.
2. A motion from the floor of the General Body, passed by simple majority with a quorum present, can also initiate the impeachment process.
3. The Interfraternity Council General Body will convene during the next scheduled general body meeting to hear the case.
4. The IFC Chief Justice will read the accusations and findings to the general body. The accused will have five (5) minutes to speak on his behalf, he may respond to questions that are deemed appropriate by the Interfraternity Council.
5. Secret ballots will be cast by the representatives present. Electors will vote to “retain” or “remove” the accused. A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the general body or a unanimous decision of the Interfraternity Council Executive Board shall be required for removal.
6. If any appointed positions, i.e. directors, are created within the IFC, those can be declared vacant at any time by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board.

#### Section 7.

1. Any resigning officer shall officially inform the Interfraternity Council Executive Board in writing.
2. All chapter presidents and the IFC Advisor shall be notified of the resignation immediately.
3. A replacement election shall occur at the next scheduled general body meeting.

### **Article 5: Meetings**

#### Section 1.

Regular meetings of the Interfraternity Executive Board shall be every week during the academic year. Special meetings may be called any time by the IFC President.

#### Section 2.

Regular meetings of the Interfraternity Council General Body shall occur in regular intervals throughout the academic year. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President of the IFC or by written application to the President by one-third (1/3) of the member fraternities of The Council. The General Body shall meet at minimum, seven (7) times per semester.

#### Section 3.

It shall be the responsibility of each member fraternity to be represented at each General Body meeting. Any chapter without representation for three (3) or more General Body meetings per semester may no longer be considered “in good standing” with the Interfraternity Council

## **Article 6: Judicial Process**

### **Section 1.**

#### Judicial Board Function:

The Judicial Board shall have the authority to hear and decide certain cases involving fraternities arising from the possible breach or violation(s) of the provisions of this Constitution, its Bylaws, the rules and regulations adopted by the Council, and the rules and regulations of the Ohio State University.

### **Section 2.**

#### Judicial Board Composition:

1. The Interfraternity Council Judicial Board shall be made up of an odd number of members no less than five (5), with the Chief Justice excluded from the count.
2. The members of the Judicial Board are to be selected by the Chief Justice.
3. A member fraternity may have no more than one (1) member serve as a representative on the Judicial Board
4. Each member of the Judicial Board shall complete a judicial training program administered by the Chief Justice of the IFC Executive Board.

### **Section 3.**

#### Complaint Filing and Investigation Process:

1. An individual or group may file formal complaints against any fraternity or individual member belonging to a member chapter of the Interfraternity Council. Any complaint about a Greek group will be reported through the Joint Council Judicial Board Grievance Form. A complaint must be reported within thirty (30) days of the date of the alleged violation. The time may be extended at the discretion of the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life.
2. Any report that alleges a violation of state or local law, the Ohio State University's Student Code of Conduct, or policy established by the Ohio State University SFL Office, will be forwarded to and handled by the appropriate authorities.
3. The IFC Judicial Board will gather information and evidence in collaboration with the Office of Sorority & Fraternity Life.
4. If the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board decides that further disposition is necessary, such further disposition may include prescribing corrective measures, which could include: an intervention or other requirement, mediating the complaint, or referring the case to the SFL office.

### **Section 4.**

#### Judicial Board Procedural Guidelines:

The followings are established as the procedural guidelines that must be followed in all Interfraternity Council Judicial Board proceedings:

1. Notification shall be sent to the chapter president within five (5) school/working days of receipt of the complaint. The notification will include:
  - a. A statement of the date, time, place, and nature of the meeting.

- b. A list of possible violations with reference to specific IFC or University rules or regulations that will enable the referred party to prepare any exculpatory documents.
    - c. A short, plain statement explaining the alleged violation. The statement shall include a recitation of the date, time and place where the alleged violation occurred, and the acts or omissions alleged to constitute a violation.
  2. Copies of the notification letter will also be sent to the Sorority & Fraternity Life office, the member chapter's advisor, and the member chapter's liaison.
  3. The chapter may submit any additional information about the specific incident that it wishes no later than three (3) days prior to the scheduled hearing.
  4. The chapter or member alleged to have committed a violation shall be represented by a chapter executive, preferably the chapter president. The chapter has the right to have their chapter advisor, chapter liaison, or national organization representative present during the hearing process.
    - a. It is the responsibility of the chapter President to speak on matters regarding his own chapter.
  5. The referred chapter may choose not to attend the scheduled hearing. In such a case, the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board hearing will be held without the chapter being present and the Judicial Board will judge without prejudice.
  6. The decisions of the IFC Judicial Board will be based on the information available at the time of the hearing.
  7. The Chairman of the Judicial Board will oversee the hearing procedures and deliberation in all IFC Judicial Board hearings.
  8. The following will be the basic procedure for all Interfraternity Council Judicial Board hearings:
    - a. Chairman will call hearing to order
    - b. Explain the due process rights to the individual(s) involved
      - i. The due rights given to an organization include the right to know the alleged violation and the right to defend themselves in a judicial process.
    - c. Statement of the alleged violation(s) and formal complaint will be read
    - d. Presentation of information from the party or group filing the complaint and presentation of witnesses in support of the complaining party. If the complaining party chooses not to attend the hearing, the relevant information will be introduced by the Chairman of the Judicial Board.
    - e. Presentation of information from the referred chapter or party and presentation of witnesses in support of said chapter or party
    - f. The Judicial Board members ask questions concerning the available information
    - g. Filing party makes their final comments
    - h. Referred party makes their final comments
    - i. The Chairman will dismiss non-members of the Judicial Board and Judicial Board members will enter into confidential deliberation to determine an outcome
  9. Judicial Board hearings will be recorded in summary, excluding the deliberation process.
  10. The Chairman will reserve the right to remove any disruptive parties from the hearing.
  11. The information presented in the Judicial Board hearing must support a determination that it is "more likely than not" that a violation has occurred. Hearsay evidence and personal testimony may be considered.
  12. The Judicial Board hearing will be closed unless the accused chapter requests otherwise. It will be the Chairman's decision to uphold or deny the request and determine the facility to be used for open hearings.

13. The Judicial Board will determine whether or not a violation has occurred by a majority vote.
  - a. The Judicial Board will render a decision of “no violation” if the information established was not enough to determine a violation occurred.
  - b. The Judicial Board will render a decision of “in violation” if the information established was enough to determine a violation occurred. The Judicial Board will then impose appropriate sanctions

#### Section 5.

1. The Chairman of the Judicial Board must be present for a formal hearing to occur.
2. In addition to the Chairman of the Judicial Board, (3) members of the Judicial Board must be present to meet quorum and move forward with a hearing.

#### Section 6. Possible Penalties:

1. Possible penalties for violation of the provisions of this constitution, its bylaws, the rules and regulations adopted by the Council, Ohio State University’s Code of Student Conduct include, but are not limited to:
  - a. Reprimand - oral or written warning
  - b. Deferred sanctions - no sanctions will be administered at the time, but the conduct may be considered in the deliberation of a Judicial Board hearing regarding the same party or chapter within a time frame specified by the Judicial Board.
  - c. Community service
  - d. Monetary fines - not to exceed \$200 per offense, that will be donated to the charity of the Interfraternity Council’s choice.
  - e. Restrictions - imposing limitations on activities or participation in Interfraternity Council events.
  - f. Requirements - i.e attendance at a specific University or Interfraternity Council event, speaker, training program, etc. and/or producing, sponsoring, etc. a speaker or program for educational purposes.
  - g. Loss of social events
  - h. Social requirements - i.e. insured bartenders, insured security, etc. to be required at future social events for a period of time specified by the Judicial Board.
  - i. Social probation - the loss of chapter privileges to hold activities that would constitute registration with the Joint Council policy for a period of time specified by the Judicial Board.
  - j. Suspension - loss of recognition from the Ohio State University Interfraternity Council. Petition may be made to the Council to reinstate the given organization to the Interfraternity Council
  - k. Expulsion - loss of recognition from the Ohio State University Interfraternity Council for a period of no less than one year. Petition may be made to the Council to reinstate the given organization to the Interfraternity Council

#### Section 7. Hearing Results:

1. The results of mediation or any hearing will be communicated in writing to the parties involved as well as the Joint Council Judicial Board and the office of Sorority & Fraternity Life for implementation. Copies of the results will also be sent to the Chapter, Chapter Advisor, and the Chapter National Headquarters. Compliance with the results of

any discipline process will be monitored primarily by the Interfraternity Council in collaboration with the Joint Council Judicial Board and office of Sorority & Fraternity Life.

## Section 8.

### Appeals

1. The Appeals Board is to be made up of five (5) chapter presidents selected at the discretion of the Chief Justice of the IFC Executive Board.
2. A Judicial Board member whose chapter is involved in a judicial matter may not participate in that hearing.
  - a. In the event that a member of the Judicial Board is unable to serve on the Appeals Board, the Chief Justice shall select a member of the IFC Executive Board to fill the position.
3. The procedure for an Appeals Board hearing shall be the same as the Judicial Board procedure outlined in Article 6, Section 4 of the Interfraternity Council Constitution.
4. A simple majority vote of the Appeals Board is needed to deliver a ruling.
5. The result rendered from an Appeals Board hearing shall be the final outcome regarding the individual judicial matter.

## Section 9.

### Implementation of Sanctions.

The disciplinary penalty shall not begin until either the time for appeal has been exhausted, until the entire appeal process has concluded, or until the organization has voluntarily waived their further right to appeal in writing. Exceptions are made only in cases for which, in the judgement of the Office of the Director of Sorority & Fraternity Life, the physical or emotional well-being of the members of the organization, other student, or other members of the University community might be endangered.

## Section 10.

### Reporting the Outcome:

Once a final decision is rendered and all appeals are exhausted, the outcome will be available to the Interfraternity Council.

## **Article 7: Dues**

### Section 1.

Expenses incurred by The Council shall be met by dues which shall be set by the council in accordance with the Bylaws.

### Section 2.

Each member fraternity will be assessed a semesterly per-member fee, not to exceed \$30, for each member listed on its roster submitted to the Sorority & Fraternity Life office following the given semester's "Roster Day." The assessment of early payment discounts and late payment fees, not to exceed 15% in either direction, may be implemented at the discretion of the Interfraternity Council Executive Board.

### Section 3.

Failure to pay the Interfraternity Council dues within fourteen (14) days after notice from the Vice President of Finance may result in the chapter relinquishing all rights and be denied all rights granted to a member in good standing until said chapter has paid its dues in full or made the first payment in a payment plan approved by the IFC Executive Board.

### Section 4.

Additional expenditures may only be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote by the General Body. In an emergency situation in which financial commitment is required before the next regularly scheduled meeting, and an emergency meeting is impractical, a non-budgeted expense can be approved by a majority vote by the IFC Executive Board.

## **Article 8: University Relations**

### Section 1.

This constitution is ratified with the confidence on the part of all member organizations that the university administration will work cooperatively with the council in all matters for the betterment of the institution.

### Section 2.

To the end that the matters of the Interfraternity Council will be dispatched with reasonable speed toward definite results, The Council recognizes the authority of the University as supreme in the enforcement of all rules and regulations set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws. It is believed, however, that the statement of the policy of the administration was made in good faith to the effect that young men in our college and universities should learn and practice the science and art of self-government and that, therefore, they should, in student organizations and activities, be accorded the privilege of governing themselves.

### Section 3.

It is recognized that supreme authority in the matter of control over Interfraternity relations must be considered to rest with the University president or arbiter appointed by him/her, and may be exercised to these ends:

1. The settlement of a matter in dispute appealed from the decisions of The Council or a committee as provided in this constitution.
2. The suspension or abridgment of any or all clauses of this constitution to meet any emergency, which abridgment or suspension is deemed to be for the best interest of fraternities and the institution.

## **Article 9: Bylaws**

### Section 1.

The council shall from time to time adopt such by-laws as they may deem necessary, which are consistent with the provisions of this constitution. The IFC bylaws receive authority from this Constitution

### Section 2.

Bylaws may be enacted or amended by a simple majority vote of a quorum of the IFC General Body.

### Section 3.

Bylaws may be repealed in whole or in part by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Body present.

### Section 4.

All proposed bylaws or revisions shall be submitted to the Interfraternity Council General Body in writing at least one (1) full General Body meeting prior to the time they are voted upon by the council.

## **Article 10: Amendments**

### Section 1.

All proposed amendments or revisions shall be submitted to the Interfraternity Council General Body in writing at least one (1) full General Body meeting prior to the time they are voted upon by the council.

### Section 2.

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the council present.

## **Article 11: Expansion and Responsible Growth**

### Section 1.

All IFC member chapters will actively support the responsible growth of other NIC fraternities provided that each organization follows these Responsible Growth Protocols:

1. Proactively communicates with the campus administration and IFC in good faith prior to any expansion activity.
2. Considers any available readiness assessment, utilizing metrics determined in conjunction with the NIC before formally requesting the opportunity to join the IFC.
3. The group does not have any outstanding, documented campus health and safety violations.

### Section 2.

If the inter/national organization follows the Responsible Growth Protocols:

1. Any NIC member fraternity, upon expressing interest to establish a chapter, will be given a time by the IFC for the expansion to occur. The IFC can determine the best academic term for the expansion, but the expansion will occur within a four-year period from when the IFC is first notified of interest by the NIC member fraternity.
2. NIC member fraternities with an interest group already formed will be granted IFC recognition, though the IFC may elect to have an associate member status provided reasonable written expectations and metrics are established to move from associate member status to full member status.
3. The IFC will never take a vote on recognition or expansion for an NIC member fraternity.
4. The IFC will never require NIC member fraternities to present an expansion proposal to the IFC, although the IFC can require the NIC member fraternity to submit documentation or do a virtual presentation to determine the best academic term for expansion.
5. Full membership in the IFC is limited to those fraternities (including non-NIC organizations), who have adopted all NIC Standards, are affiliated with an inter/national organization, and are men's fraternities. Associate membership may be granted to

organizations that do not meet the above criteria. Only members from full IFC member organizations are permitted to serve as IFC officers, serve on the Standards Board, or vote on Constitution and Bylaw amendments.

### Section 3.

To be in compliance with antitrust law as it relates to associations, IFCs cannot restrict any group from joining the IFC that meets the membership criteria (whether an NIC fraternity or not).

### Section 4.

The IFC will honor all organizational return agreements negotiated as part of a campus or IFC conduct process. Any organization returning to campus based on a return agreement will not be required to participate in any IFC or campus expansion process. The IFC agrees to work with returning organizations to establish an appropriate and viable timeline for their return.

# BYLAWS

## **Article 1: Pledging/Associating**

### Section 1.

Definitions:

- Bid - Any formal invitation (written or verbal) to join a member fraternity recognized by The Ohio State University Interfraternity Council
- Member Organization - Any organization that is considered a member of the Interfraternity Council through procedures outlined in the Interfraternity Council Constitution.
- Potential New Member - Any undergraduate student who has registered with Sorority & Fraternity Life for IFC Recruitment. Hereafter referred to in this document as a PNM.
- New Member - Any student who has accepted a bid to an Interfraternity Council member organization.
- Recruitment event - An event hosted by an Interfraternity Council member organization that is held with the sole purpose, or intent to recruit potential new members. Any community event hosted by the Interfraternity Council is not subject to this definition.

### Section 2.

No member fraternity shall extend a bid to any man who is not enrolled at the Ohio State University or other local university as either an undergraduate or graduate, except as hereinafter provided.

### Section 3.

The signing of a membership card by the PNM shall make him a new member of that fraternity. The official date of pledging/associating shall be reported as the date of signing.

1. If at any time during a semester, a new member is released or resigns, he may not pledge/associate another member fraternity until the following semester at the earliest.
  - a. A new member may be granted immediate eligibility to pledge/associate another member fraternity if a release letter is signed by the Presidents of both member fraternities involved. A copy of these written releases shall be submitted to the

Interfraternity Council.

2. Any man who has been a new member of a member fraternity on this campus shall not be eligible to pledge/associate another member fraternity if he owes an account to the member fraternity to which he was formerly a new member.

#### Section 4.

No member of an NIC recognized fraternity can, at any time, pledge/associate with any other NIC recognized fraternity.

### **Article 2: New Member Requirements**

#### Section 1.

Any undergraduate male student at the Ohio State University may join an Interfraternity Council member fraternity provided:

1. He has submitted an interest form and grade release form to Sorority & Fraternity Life and completed any required information sessions or programs.
2. He has maintained a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.50, based on at least 12 earned college or university credit hours. Proficiency credit, examination credit (EM), or any credit earned prior to full time enrollment at college or university does not qualify.

#### Section 2.

Membership in an Interfraternity Council member fraternity, once a PNM has met the standards defined in Article 2, Section 1 of the Interfraternity Council bylaws and Sorority & Fraternity Life, is subject to the regulations and standards of the individual chapter.

### **Article 3: Initiation Requirements**

#### Section 1.

To be eligible for initiation into any fraternity, a student shall be enrolled at The Ohio State University or local university and meet all requirements set down by his local chapter and/or national fraternity.

#### Section 2.

All initiated members must be added to their chapter's roster and submitted to Sorority & Fraternity Life no more than 10 days following their initiation.

#### Section 3.

Each prospective member to be initiated must have maintained a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 2.50, based on at least 12 earned college or university credit hours. Proficiency credit, examination credit (EM), or any credit earned during secondary school does not qualify.

#### Section 4.

Membership in an IFC member chapter, once a PNM has met the standards defined by Sorority & Fraternity Life and the IFC, is subject to the regulations and standards of the individual chapter.

#### Section 5.

No less than 90% of a member chapter's membership may consist of members who are not currently enrolled at The Ohio State University.

## **Article 4: Reporting of New Members**

### **Section 1.**

Sorority & Fraternity Life shall keep a complete record of the individual new members of each fraternity with the date of their pledging/association, release, resignation or initiation.

### **Section 2.**

Any fraternity not supplying Sorority & Fraternity Life with complete lists of members and new members within three days after receiving a notice will be subject to an official grievance and be referred to the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board for further review.

### **Section 3.**

Any fraternity deliberately providing Sorority & Fraternity Life with an incorrect list of its members and new members shall be immediately referred to the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board.

### **Section 4.**

When a fraternity moves to break a man's pledgeship/associateship or a man breaks his own pledgeship/associateship, said fraternity shall update their roster with Sorority & Fraternity Life accordingly.

## **Article 5: Recruitment Regulations**

### **Section 1.**

Recruitment by any member fraternity is allowed throughout the Autumn and Spring semester.

### **Section 2.**

1. A formal recruitment period of two (2) weeks shall occur at the beginning of the semester following a recruitment kickoff period.
2. The length of the recruitment kickoff period is up to the discretion of the Interfraternity Council and shall not be in excess of three (3) days.
3. No recruitment events shall be held by any member fraternities during the kickoff period.

### **Section 3.**

1. A bid may only be extended to a potential new member if that PNM has met the membership requirements outlined in Article 2, Section 1 of the Interfraternity Council Bylaws.
2. A grade check must be performed and passed prior to the extension of a bid.
3. Upon acceptance of the bid, a potential new member is ineligible to accept a bid from another member organization until the start of the following academic term.
  - a. A potential new member may accept a bid from another member fraternity upon completion of the process outlined in Article 1, Section 2 (2) of the Interfraternity Council Bylaws.
4. A potential new member shall be granted a consideration period of at least 48 hours to either sign or decline a bid extended to them.
  - a. After this time has elapsed, the member fraternity may move to either retract the bid extended or allow the potential new member additional time to either sign or decline the bid.

5. Non-members excluding PNMs are not permitted to be present at any recruitment events.
6. Drugs and controlled substances are not permitted to be present at any recruitment events.
7. A member organization may not hold any social events with alcohol no less than four (4) hours before or after any recruitment event.

#### Section 4.

Member fraternities found to be violating these policies are subject to referral to the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board and may receive sanctioning as a result.

### **Article 6: Dry Recruitment**

#### Section 1.

No fraternity may provide alcoholic beverages at any recruitment function.

#### Section 2.

PNMs may not bring their own alcoholic beverages to a recruitment function. Fraternities will be held responsible for any alcohol brought to the said function by the recruit/signee if not discarded by the said fraternity.

#### Section 3.

No fraternity representative may drink with, give to, purchase for, or otherwise provide any alcoholic beverages, either directly or indirectly, to any PNM regardless of age.

#### Section 4.

Those who are visibly under the influence of drugs or alcohol, whether members of the chapter or potential new members, shall be denied entry or removed from any recruitment event.

### **Article 7: Risk Management Policy**

#### Section 1.

Member chapters hereby adopt and must subsequently follow all health and safety guidelines and procedures set forth in the Ohio State University Interfraternity Council Risk Management Policy.

#### Section 2.

Failure to abide by any policy may result in a referral to the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board.

### **Article 8: Academic Requirements**

#### Section 1.

1. Each chapter must maintain an average chapter GPA of 3.0 or greater each semester to be a recognized member of the Interfraternity Council General Body.
  - a. A grievance will be filed to the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board in response to any social member organization falling below the 3.0 standard. All formalized proceedings will be in accordance with those outlined in the Interfraternity Council Constitution, but will include the VP of Scholarship in all of the proceedings
  - b. Sanctions may include but are not limited to loss of recognition by Student Life as a student organization at The Ohio State University, loss of social privileges, loss of participation rights in Greek Programming Board programs and all programs facilitated by the National Pan Hellenic Council, the Multicultural Greek Council,

Panhellenic Association, the Inter-Fraternity Council and programs facilitated by the University or Student Life for the Greek Community.

## **Article 9: Academic Sanctions/Restrictions**

### Section 1.

Academic Probation mandates the following sanctions for a member organization:

1. Level 1 (1<sup>st</sup> semester)
  - a. Chapter will be placed on academic restriction. Chapter restricted to 15 social events that must be approved by the IFC executive board. No school night functions. (Sunday through Thursday)
  - b. Conduct at least one educational workshop covering any approved subject which requires an 80% attendance rate from those members who fall below the required semester GPA.
2. Level 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> semester)
  - a. Chapter restricted to 10 social events that must be approved by the IFC executive board. No school night functions (Sunday through Thursday).
  - b. Must report on why the chapter failed to meet the GPA requirement the previous semester.
  - c. Conduct at least two educational workshops covering any approved subject which requires an 80% attendance rate from those members who fall below the required semester GPA.
3. Level 3 (3<sup>rd</sup> semester)
  - a. Chapter restricted to 5 social events that must be approved by the IFC executive board. No school night functions (Sunday through Thursday).
  - b. Must report on why the chapter failed to meet the GPA requirement the previous semesters.
  - c. Conduct at least two educational workshops covering any approved subject which requires an 80% attendance rate from those members who fall below the required semester GPA.
  - d. A grievance will be filed with the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board which may impose additional sanctions.

### Section 2.

A member organization will be bound to a sanction so long as their average member organization GPA qualifies them for it. Should a member organization fall back into either Academic Restriction or Academic Probation, it will be treated as their first semester under that academic standing.

### Section 3.

Appeals of sanctions levied on chapters for violating scholastic requirements shall be dealt with by the Judicial Appeals Board.

## **Article 10: Vice President of Scholarship**

### Section 1.

Inherent Duties of the Vice President of Scholarship:

1. The duties and obligations of the Vice President of Scholarship shall be detailed in the Constitution but are not limited to that document. The officer is encouraged to explore

further programming and improve current programming related to the scholarship of the IFC.

2. In addition, the Vice President of Scholarship shall:
  - a. Provide resources to those member organizations seeking assistance or advice.
  - b. Administer Scholarships:
    - i. A New Member Scholarship
    - ii. An Active Member Scholarship
      1. Current members of the Interfraternity Council Executive Board may not apply.
    - iii. Graduating Member Scholarship

## **Article 11: Elections Committee Composition**

### **Section 1.**

The IFC Elections Committee is hereby established to first, select viable candidates to run for office and second, to hold organized and fair elections for all necessities outlined in the IFC Constitution.

### **Section 2.**

1. The IFC Elections Committee will serve to select prepared and qualified candidates to run for Executive Board positions.
2. This committee will select candidates for the General Election

### **Section 3.**

The committee is to be composed of ten members; nine voting members and the IFC advisor serving as a non-voting advisor. Membership will be comprised of:

1. Three IFC Executive Board Members
  - a. The Chief Justice will chair the committee as coordinator
    - i. If the Chief Justice is ineligible to chair the board, the responsibility will be assumed as specified by the Order of Succession in the IFC Constitution.
  - b. The IFC President as long as he is eligible to do so.
  - c. A third representative from the Executive Board to be appointed by the committee chair and confirmed by a majority vote of the IFC General Body.
2. Three IFC Member Organization Presidents
  - a. The three presidents are to be nominated from the floor at an IFC General Body Meeting.
  - b. Each nominee must be approved individually by a majority vote of the IFC General Body.
3. Three Member Organization Advisors
  - a. The three advisors are to be nominated from the floor at an IFC General Body Meeting.
  - b. Each nominee must be approved individually by a majority vote of the IFC General Body.
4. One Council Advisor
  - a. The Sorority and Fraternity Life Coordinator that is assigned to the IFC will be represented.
  - b. The Council advisor will be a non-voting member.

It is to be understood that the composition of the committee will be representative of the diversity

of the IFC community, and in doing so will encompass all aspects of it.

#### Section 4.

1. Only one representative per chapter will be allowed. Member organization advisors are to be considered a representative of the organization that they advise.
2. Applicants running for IFC office cannot serve on the IFC Elections Committee.
3. Member organization Presidents or advisers may only serve on the committee if their organization is in good standing with the Interfraternity Council, both judicially and financially.

### **Article 12: Policy Against Hazing**

#### Section 1.

The Ohio State University's Interfraternity Council prohibits hazing in any form or fashion. Any member fraternity or individual member or pledge/associate thereof, who is involved in, any way, with a hazing incident, will be charged and brought before either the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board or the University Student Conduct Office for appropriate action.

#### Section 2.

Hazing at the Ohio State University has been defined as follows:

1. Section 3335-23-04 (L) of the Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct states that hazing is doing, requiring or encouraging any act, whether or not the act is voluntarily agreed upon, in conjunction with initiation, continued membership, or participation in any group, that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm or humiliation. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, use of alcohol, creation of excessive fatigue, and paddling, punching or kicking in any form. Failure to intervene, prevent, or report acts of hazing may constitute a violation of this section;
2. Section 3335-23-04 (B) of the Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct states that endangering behavior is “taking or threatening action that endangers the safety, physical or mental health, or life of any person, or creates a reasonable fear of such action.”
3. "Endanger the mental health" shall include any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

# RISK POLICY

### **Article 1: Event Compliance and Registration**

#### Section 1. Registration

1. All chapters are prohibited from hosting events with alcohol until a prescribed risk management training session is completed by a chapter's President, Risk Manager(s), and

- Social Chair(s).
2. All events shall be registered at least five (5) calendar days in advance of the event taking place.
    - a. Failure to adhere to this policy on three (3) or more occasions in a semester is grounds for a grievance to be submitted to the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board.
  3. Chapters are required to register all events where alcohol is present, including but not limited to brotherhood events, formals, etc.
  4. All co-hosted events with alcohol must be registered by each individual organization.

## Section 2. Compliance

1. All events with alcohol hosted at chapter facilities and/or annex houses will be checked by the Interfraternity Council Event Compliance team prior to the start of the event.
  - a. Either a social chair, risk manager, or member of the executive council from each hosting chapter must be present for an Event Compliance check.
  - b. Mid-event checks by the Interfraternity Council Event Compliance team will occur at the discretion of the IFC Vice President of Risk Management.
  - c. Violations noted during the Event Compliance check must be seen and reported to the President of the fraternity, or another executive board representative present during the event compliance check.
  - d. The Event Compliance check evaluation will be filed to the IFC Vice President of Risk Management within 12 hours of the event.
2. Events with alcohol must not exceed four (4) hours in length. Chapters are not permitted to participate in additional registered events within three (3) hours after the conclusion of a registered event.
3. All events must end the distribution of alcohol by 2:00 a.m. and guests must have the ability to remain in the hosting facility for at least one-half hour after the distribution of alcohol has ended.

## Section 3. Unregistered Events

1. If an event is observed and is presumed to be an unregistered event, it must be reported to the IFC Vice President of Risk Management for verification.
2. Upon verification that an unregistered event is taking place by a member organization, the IFC Vice President of Risk Management may at their discretion send members of the Interfraternity Council Event Compliance Team to conduct an Event Compliance check.
3. If there is reason to believe that the unregistered event has been coordinated by, or associated with a member organization, a grievance will be filed with the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board.

## Section 4. Event Compliance Team Procedures

1. Personnel Requirements
  - a. All members of the Event Compliance team must be in good standing with their member chapter and university.
  - b. An Event Compliance Team member may not perform an event compliance check of their own chapter, including the IFC Vice President of Risk Management.
  - c. All events will be checked with at least two members of the Event Compliance Team present, barring unforeseen circumstances.
  - d. The two members performing the event compliance check may not be members of

the same chapter.

2. Observation Procedures
  - a. Event compliance team members will arrive at the entrance to the event and identify themselves to the door guards and communicate that they are there to perform a compliance check.
  - b. Event Compliance team members must arrive within 15 minutes prior to the registered start time of the event.
    - i. If they do not come before the start of the event, the Event Compliance Team still reserves the right to perform a compliance check of the event at the discretion of the IFC Vice President of Risk Management with due notification to the hosts of the event.
    - ii. If there is no function taking place Event compliance team members will leave and notify the IFC Vice President of Risk Management.
  - c. Event Compliance team members must follow all the items on the Event Compliance form provided to them by the IFC Vice President of Risk Management and must check all areas of the event and only those areas that are accessible to guests throughout the duration of the event.
  - d. Event Compliance team members must record their observations on one pre-provided form.
    - i. If any violations are observed by members of the Event Compliance team, they must be taken note of and reported to the President of the fraternity, or another executive board representative present during the event compliance check so that steps can be taken to rectify the violation.

## **Article 2: Event Limitations and Requirements**

### **Section 1. Limitations**

1. All member organizations shall have no more than 20 events with alcohol per semester, barring any reductions to this number imposed on a chapter by either the Interfraternity Council or the university Student Conduct Board.
2. Events with alcohol may not be held within 24 hours or in conjunction with new member ceremonies such as pinning, big/little, and initiation.
3. Alcohol is prohibited from being present at any philanthropic or fundraising events unless given permission through The Ohio State University's Office of Student Life.

### **Section 2. Requirements**

1. Each sponsoring IFC/MCGC/NPHC/PHA member chapter must provide at least one (1) non-drinking member(s) for every 20 people present at the event or hire a security guard where two security guards are equivalent to three sober monitors. The names of these individuals shall be posted at the door and at the point of alcohol distribution.
2. Sober attendees tasked with monitoring the door shall deny access to any person who appears or is actually intoxicated.
3. A predetermined guest list of expected attendees is required and guests who attend that do not appear on the predetermined list shall be added to the list.
  - a. The time of each guest's entry and exit shall be recorded throughout the event.
4. Persons attending any social event shall show proof of age and be marked with a wristband.
  - a. A universal "Under 21" colored wristband will be set by the Interfraternity Council at the beginning of each semester.
  - b. Proof of age (i.e. wristband) shall also be checked at the central location of alcohol

distribution.

5. Non-salty food and non-alcoholic beverages shall be supplied by the hosting chapter(s) for 20% of the expected guests and shall be in plain view throughout the entirety of the event.
6. Water is to be made available at all times, to all guests. Hosts are required to ensure that hanging signs clearly denote where guests may receive water.
7. The hosting chapter shall be responsible for posting signs throughout the event space to provide relevant information to their guests. These include:
  - a. Up to date lists of the event's sober monitors, to be posted at the door, bar, and at least one other place at the event.
  - b. Emergency numbers and numbers for alternative transportation, to be posted at the door, bar, and at least one other place at the event.
  - c. Signs designating the bar, to be posted at the bar.
  - d. Signs signifying the location of food and water provided by the host chapter must be hung near each location.

### **Article 3: Alcoholic Beverage Management**

#### **Section 1.**

All alcoholic beverages at social events shall be managed according to the following guidelines:

1. The chapter, members, and guests must comply with all federal, state, provincial, and local laws. No person under the legal drinking age may possess, consume, provide, or be provided with any alcoholic beverages.
2. The chapter, members, and guests must follow the federal law regarding illegal drugs and controlled substances. No person may possess, use, provide, distribute, sell, and/or manufacture illegal drugs or other controlled substances while on chapter/organizational premises or at any activity or event sponsored or endorsed by the chapter.
3. No drinking games are permitted at any event.
4. Alcoholic beverages must be either provided or sold on a per-drink basis by a licensed and insured third-party vendor (e.g. restaurant, bar, etc.), or brought by individual members and guests through a "Bring Your Own Beverage" (BYOB) system.

#### **Section 2: BYOB Guidelines**

1. The purchase of alcoholic beverages may not be coordinated through the chapter treasury, by monetary collection (e.g. passing a hat, electronic funds transfers), by any member of the chapter, or by any funds allocated to student organizations by the Council on Student Affairs or any other governing body.
2. Only beverages classified as "beer", "wine", "cider", or "seltzer" defined by the Ohio Revised Code [Chapter 4301.01(B)] are permissible at any social function in addition to non-alcoholic beverages
3. No beverage with an ABV of greater than 15% shall be allowed at any event.
4. The presence of a communal source of alcohol is not permitted at any event, including but not limited to kegs.
5. Alcohol may not be served in any container greater than 12 fluid ounces.
6. Alcohol shall be distributed from one (1) central location.
  - a. Each guest of legal drinking age will be allotted alcoholic beverages based upon *(the number of hours the event will run) x (2)*.
  - b. During the compliance check, the chapter must provide proof of a system dedicated to monitoring the distribution of all alcohol based on the time span of the event.
  - c. All person(s) responsible for distributing the alcoholic beverages must be over the

age of 21.

7. Open containers of alcoholic beverages, as defined by federal, city, and state law, shall not be permitted to leave the event.