

RGU SPORTS CLUBS

ALCOHOL & INITIATIONS POLICY



1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 RGU Sports Clubs are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for training and competing, and do not condone the irresponsible consumption of alcohol.
- 1.2 RGU Sports Clubs recognise 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. RGU Sports Clubs recognise the need to promote encourage a positive culture amongst our students, including safer drinking habits.

2.0 RGU SPORTS CLUB POLICY

- 2.1 RGU Sports Clubs will liaise with our colleagues within RGU Union to ensure RGU Union 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 RGU Sports Clubs do not condone the misuse or abuse of alcohol and are committed to reducing the risks associated with alcohol use within its community. If appropriate RGU Sports Clubs and RGU Union 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 RGU Sports Clubs and/or RGU Union Disciplinary Committee.
- 2.4 The President of Sport and Physical Activity will liaise with the Sport and Physical Activity Team to ensure that not all, all club fundraising activity will involve alcohol.

3.0 CLUB POLICY

- 3.1 All RGU Sports Clubs must at all times act to uphold the reputation of the RGU Sports Clubs, RGU Union and the Robert Gordon University, whether on campus or an alternative venue.
- 3.2 All members must act in accordance with **BUCS regulation 5.2.1, Misconduct and Bringing BUCS into Disrepute.**
- 3.3 Students who are already intoxicated must not be encouraged to drink more alcohol.
- 3.4 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 the President of Sport and Physical Activity.

- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Online socials or fundraising activity, must not promote the sale of alcohol.
- 3.8 All RGU Sports Clubs must actively discourage spectators from consuming alcohol when in attendance at matches, fixtures and competition. Spectators must respect the facility and must act to uphold the reputation of RGU Sports Clubs, in accordance with **BUCS regulation 5. 1.3, Misconduct and Bringing BUCS into Disrepute.**

4.0 TRANSPORT

- 4.1 When traveling on transport provided by RGU Sports Clubs (coaches, hire cars and public transport), no alcohol is permitted to be carried onto/consumed on board at any time. Failure to comply with this rule invalidates our insurance and above all, is against the law.
- 4.2 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.

5.0 BAR/PUB CRAWLS

RGU Sports Clubs does not support organised bar crawls. Bar/Pub Crawls contribute to the negative image of the student binge drinker, can worsen social tensions in the local community and can be dangerous to students' health and well-being.

The following guidelines are in place to protect the students:

- 5.1 Students should not be expected nor forced to consume alcohol at each venue.
- 5.2 Students should remember that they are representatives of the University when in the local community and therefore act accordingly.

6.0 SPORTS CLUB FUNDRAISING BALLS

RGU Sports Clubs does not support organised sports club fundraising balls, other than the RGU Sports Clubs Annual Blues Ball, and must not associated with such events.

7.0 INITIATIONS

An initiation or other associated terminology reflecting 'initiations' is defined by Universities UK in their **Initiations at UK Universities Report** as "any activities expected of someone joining or participating in a group that humiliates, degrades, abuses or endangers them, regardless of persons willingness to participate".

Given the nature of Initiation behaviour the activity has potential to be incredibly dangerous. The following guidelines are in place to protect the students:

- 7.1 Initiations must not be conducted or condoned by any RGU Sports Club.
- 7.2 Members of RGU Sports 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 In the case of suspected abuse, harm or exploitation this must be reported immediately to the President of Sport and Physical Activity.

8.0 BREACHES OF THE POLICY

Breaches in this policy may result in a disciplinary hearing, as outlined in the RGU Sports Club Code of Conduct.

Where breaches are deemed extremely serious, such as initiations, RGU Sports Clubs may escalate the investigative and disciplinary responsibility to the University, under **Academic Regulation A3-2 Student Misconduct Procedure**,

9.0 RESOURCES

For more information on drinking responsibility or for further support if you or someone within your club has been affected by alcohol, please visit:

<https://www.alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk/>