

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY SPORTS UNION ALCOHOL & INITIATIONS POLICY

1.0 Introduction

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

2.0 EUSU

- 2.1** EUSU 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** The EUSU 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 the University will take disciplinary action in response to unacceptable behaviour associated with the misuse or abuse of alcohol, as outlined in the EUSU Code of Conduct.

3.0 Club

- 3.1** It should be remembered that groups of the EUSU must at all times act to uphold the reputation of their club, EUSU and the University, 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 related to a club or EUSU-organised event, they must be accompanied by a responsible person. Any hospital visits of this nature must be reported to EUSU via an [incident report form](#) at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 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 assets must market and promote events containing alcohol responsibly and must not actively promote drinking games.
- 3.6** Clubs should refrain from partnering with alcohol brands.

4.0 Transport

- 4.1** Any student who is driving members of a EUSU Club as part of an event must not consume any alcohol before or while driving. Blood alcohol levels should be zero during all driving activities.
- 4.2** When traveling on provided transport (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 invalidates and insurance and is against the law.
- 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 individual who is reported by the designated driver.

5.0 Bar/Pub Crawls

The EUSU does not support organised bar crawls, whether they take place on the high street or in Student Union venues. 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 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 or social group. 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 to the individual. Some optional activities may still be classed as initiations if members feel pressured to take part.

The following guidelines are in place to protect the students:

- 6.1** Initiations are not permitted by any SU Club
- 6.2** Members of SU 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.
- 6.3** 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.
- 6.4** In the case of a suspected initiation or any other abuse, harm or exploitation this must be reported immediately to the SU via [Report + Support - Report + Support - The University of Edinburgh](#).

7.0 Breaches of the Code of Conduct

Breaches in this policy may result in disciplinary action, as per the EUSU Code of Conduct.

Any breach of this policy may result in one or more of the following:

- 7.1** Individual or group suspension or expulsion from Sports Union or Club activity.
- 7.2** Club Suspension or Expulsion from the SU.
- 7.3** Any other sanction as permitted within our disciplinary procedure.

If any incidents occur at the end of a season, the sanctions may be levied for the following year.

