



Social Event Compliance Checklist Improvements Frequently Asked Questions

Registration

How do I register an event?

The first step of registration is finding the correct form on the Greek Life website (greeklife.msu.edu). For sorority women, select Documents > Panhellenic Council > Social Event Registration or see the link below. For fraternity men, select Documents > Interfraternity Council > Social Event Registration or see the link below. This is perhaps the most crucial step in your registration process; if you select the wrong link you will not have the correct information to fill out the form completely.

Panhellenic Organizations:

<https://docs.google.com/a/msu.edu/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdj4FMNbgWPi2B7RNQeIVNYysxCcyZ9OT4pzYJeRb5f7uwx6g/viewform?c=0&w=1>

Interfraternity Organizations:

<https://docs.google.com/a/msu.edu/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdj4FMNbgWPi2B7RNQeIVNYysxCcyZ9OT4pzYJeRb5f7uwx6g/viewform?c=0&w=1>

We are not supposed to be having co-sponsored social events, will everyone see our registration?

Currently, the responses to the IFC social event registration form are public. Because of the sensitive nature of co-sponsored events however, all registrations will now be kept private and are to be used only by the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils when conducting social event walkthroughs.

Guest Lists

What are the legal implications of a guest list?

Guest lists exist to be used in legal situations not to place blame, but to help the truth be told. As members of the Greek community, guest lists can protect not only our organizations, but our friends and sisters/brothers as well. While it is true guest lists have been used in court cases on occasion, they exist mainly to affirm the occurrence of an event on a certain date, not to place blame on event attendees. Aside from a legal standpoint, this procedure can help ensure the proper people are attendees at your social events. Guest list

records are to be kept by individual chapters and should not be public information or even available to chapter members with the exception of a few officers that maintain the file.

Who are we, as sorority women, responsible for on the guest list?

As a Panhellenic chapter, you are responsible for writing down your chapter members present at the event. It is the decision of your Panhellenic organization whether or not members can bring guests to social events. These guests must be added to the sorority portion of the guest list if okayed by the organization. At the conclusion of the event or in the days following, the two organizations should compile their lists if they were taken down separately to form a master guest list for both chapter files. Women that are not members of your organization or invited by a member will not be accounted for on your personal organization's list.

Who are we, as fraternity men, responsible for on the guest list?

As an Interfraternity chapter, you are responsible for writing down your chapter members present at the event. It is the decision of the Interfraternity organization whether or not chapter members will be allowed to admit guests outside of the women of the organization they are paired with. Any guests okayed by the fraternity can go on the bottom of the guest list as they arrive or after any roster that may be present on the guest list. It is also the suggestion of PC/IFC that all guests coming to the house to meet specific people are written next to that member's name.

Will guest lists be collected by IFC/PC?

In contrast to what was earlier stated, the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils **will not** be collecting guest lists for our records. As we know, guest lists are meant to protect the organizations involved in the event of an incident. At social events, IFC/PC will only be checking if names are being taken and a guest list is being created. As a result of having to keep a guest list to comply with our policies, we hope this will lead to individual chapter guest list files to be kept in the chapter facility or electronically.

Fire Code Concerns

How can our chapter control one entrance to a social event?

The goal with encouraging one access point to a social event is to allow for easy guest list maintenance and to keep out uninvited guests. While brothers not in attendance at the event may be permitted to use alternate doors based on the discretion of the chapter, all guests should be brought in through one entrance and other entrances should be locked if possible. We are more concerned with safe entry(ies) and controlled guests rather than the specific one entrance referred to in the social policy.

Responsible Parties

Are responsible parties held responsible for whatever happens at the event?

Responsible parties are used as a preventative, proactive measure, not as a member to blame. By signing the compliance checklist, the responsible party is stating they are watching out for guests' best interest at the social event and all aspects were in accordance at the time of the walkthroughs. In no way will responsible parties be implicated legally if incidents occur. Their signature simply proves the presence of IFC and PC at the social event.

How sober is sober?

Regardless of age, a responsible party must be sober, i.e. have a 0.0 blood alcohol content (BAC), at the start of and during the social event in order to be considered a responsible party by IFC and PC.

When may a responsible party end monitoring at the social event?

Monitoring can end when the social event ends. As defined by the Social Policy, “A social function is defined as an event that takes place on a chapter property, alcohol is present, and the number of women in attendance exceeds 25 (twenty-five) persons.” After the social event dissipates, monitoring can end. Or, alternatively, if the twenty-five women present at the event are not associated with your organization (i.e. if the party “opens up”), monitoring on the Panhellenic side may stop. However, concerning fraternity responsible parties, if the social event is still happening, regardless of the affiliation of female guests, monitoring must continue with IFC responsible parties.

Alcohol Restrictions

What is the difference between an alcoholic beverage and alcoholic liquor?

According to the Michigan Liquor Control Code of 1998, alcoholic liquor is:

“Any spirituous, vinous, malt, or fermented liquor, powder, liquids, and compounds, whether or not medicated, proprietary, patented, and by whatever name called, containing 1/2 of 1% or more of alcohol by volume that are fit for use for food purposes or beverage purposes as defined and classified by the commission according to alcoholic content as belonging to 1 of the varieties defined in this chapter”

Alcoholic liquor and its presence at social events is the primary concern of our national/international organizations and Panhellenic and IFC. The Michigan Liquor Control Code of 1998 is an ordinance all residents of East Lansing must comply with and, we have found, this is the closest definition that can be found pertaining to what is NOT allowed at social events. The FIPG guidelines followed by our organizations do not offer definitions of what cannot be at events, but rather list what can: beer and wine in individual containers.

How can we, as individual chapters, control or regulate “pregaming”?

Drinking before events is an added liability chapters choose to partake in. If organizations wish to have an event before a registered event exceeding 25 people and wish to register it at the above links, please do so.

Also a concern is the consumption of hard liquor prior to a social event. It is the feeling of PC and IFC that if these events do occur, they will not qualify as social events and will, as a result, be managed more easily than larger social events. It is the hope of the councils that drinking at these unregulated events will be responsible and, if a chapter feels members are not capable of attending the later social event because of inebriation, that they take the appropriate actions, as is always expected. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils understand the apprehension of the Greek community revolving around these events and recommend chapters realize their responsibility as resources of alcohol awareness education and overall, values-based recruitment.

If you are ever placed in a “pregame” situation that makes you feel uncomfortable, calling PC and IFC is always an option.

What if someone, 21 years of age or older, has hard liquor at our event?

The Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils cannot regulate of-age drinking in a private, leased area unless a social event is taking place in said area, in which case they can request access. The newly enforced alcohol restrictions apply to the party area only. Thus, **no bottles or other hard liquor paraphernalia should be present in the party area.**

What if one member of our organization is not in accordance with the Compliance Checklist?

It is the goal of PC and IFC to make events comply as closely as possible with policy. If one of one-hundred present at a social event is not in compliance with checklist or the Social Policy, the councils expect to work with the organizations involved to make sure similar occurrences will not happen in the future. However, Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils do expect the same cooperation and understanding from individual organizations. If a member or members of an organization are deliberately violating policy the organization may be asked to provide evidence that this member or members have been appropriately dealt with through judicial proceedings or the organization may risk being disciplined themselves.

General Questions

How do these policies apply to my organization?

Panhellenic and Interfraternity chapters abide by a policy and manual written by the Fraternal Information and Programming Group (FIPG), a leader in risk management. If your organization is one of these fraternities or a part of a group that belongs to the FIPG (the North American Interfraternity Council (NIC), for example) or if your organization belongs to the Panhellenic Council on our campus, you are expected to abide by all FIPG standards. In other words, NPC and NIC abide by FIPG and therefore all organizations on our campus are expected to as well. Additionally, as members of your college PC or IFC, we as a student organization abide by these policies.

Nearly all new enforcements on the improved Social Event Compliance Checklist are discussed in the joint Social Policy of PC and IFC. Alcohol restrictions specifically are also important, as the City of East Lansing has passed an ordinance outlawing the serving of alcoholic liquor outside of bars and other licensed locations (see link below). As a student organization with many groups to manage, both Panhellenic and IFC reserve the right to ensure our chapters are abiding by the law. This is yet another reason the alcohol restriction is justified and will be enforced. Also a factor to consider, is the obligation to policy the chapter you are co-sponsoring your social event with. Policies will not be enforced on one chapter and not another because of national/international viewpoints. While some matters pertaining to the venue of the event may fall solely on fraternities, like fire code violations and taxi signs, many items on the checklist will be considered a 50/50 effort and enforced as such.

Why our chapters? Why now?

Whether or not MSU has been affected by it, the reality of what is happening across the nation to Greek communities cannot be ignored. As Greek Life operates now, our national officers and attorneys have said Greek Life at MSU is not sustainable as is. While we could choose to continue operating with rampant disregard of policy incidents and even incidents leading to death are imminent.

The time has come for us, members of the Greek Community, to begin to take responsibility for social events and the risks they incur. If we fail to do so, it has been made quite clear our national/international organizations will implement a plan to help us do so that will be far more rigorous and change our social culture even more radically than the current five small changes ahead of us today. We encourage chapters to educate themselves on the current events happening with Greek Communities across the nation. One recent article reporting on the suspension of Greek Life at Dartmouth, quoted university faculty saying, “What is the great value that the Greek system lends to the college experience that we can’t possibly live without?” We as chapters and councils need to take definitive steps to better our social event environment and take proactive action not only to regulate our social events but to become an asset to the MSU community.

Our national/international policies do not agree with the campus Social Policy, FIPG manual/policy, which policies take precedence over which?

In these specific cases, chapters should contact Panhellenic and IFC first and foremost. Excerpts from chapter policies, FIPG policies and the Social Policy will most likely be sent to the policy interpreters or legal representation of the national/international organization. The national/international organization will then decide what policies should take precedence, possibly with the collaboration of PC and IFC.

What constitutes mediation with Panhellenic Council?

It is important to understand mediation is **not** the typical result when rules are broken in the college Panhellenic. Mediations are seen by NPC as a disciplinary action being taken against an organization that has repeatedly failed to comply with policies. When rules are broken, it is the responsibility of the corresponding PC officer or the Panhellenic President to speak with representatives from the organization that violated a policy. Mediations **are not** the “go-to” procedure for our council except, of course, in the case of serious violations (hazing, extremely unsafe behavior, etc.). It is the goal of our council to work with Panhellenic organizations through these conversations outside of mediation to get them closer to complying with policies rather than punish them, fine them and alert their national organizations.

How will the new Social Event Compliance Checklist effect “open” parties?

An important fact to understand is that there are never any true “open” parties in the Greek community. What are commonly referred to as “open” parties are events only open to the student body of MSU. Organizations that host these parties are responsible for checking MSU IDs at the door. All compliance checklist items will still be expected in a walkthrough as an “open” party of this nature is much more prone to incidents than a co-sponsored event.

What about tailgates?

A social event according to the Social Policy is still a social event, no matter the time of day. Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils understand that the nature of tailgate events is inherently different from that of a co-sponsored social event, but, regardless, these events need to be monitored for the safety and well being of attendees as well. Through member education and by working with chapters, PC and IFC hopes to make these events compliant with the Social Policy while still taking into account the reality that is game day at Michigan State.

What are the benefits of being in the Interfraternity Council?

Advising: IFC fraternities have the benefit of a chapter advisor or an advisory board. When unexpected situations occur, they have the knowledge of alumnus with many years of experience to depend upon.

Assessment: This can be as simple as an evaluation to check up on procedure, officers or even a check on whether or not chapter values are being upheld. If the situation was to arise in which serious membership review was needed, they chapter would also have access to professionals that are practiced in conducting these proceedings.

Support:

Direct relationship with MSU: As an IFC fraternity members are part of a group with a louder voice than a student organization that could be as small as 1/60th or 1/30th of the IFC on our campus. Through IFC, chapters can voice concerns to MSU staff and faculty.

Educational Programming: National/International organizations work full-time to provide their chapters with proper education and resources for a positive chapter experience. This includes everything from pledge/new member education programs lasting between six and twelve weeks to short, in-chapter programs on professional development and branding, or even sessions on alcohol awareness. As a local organization, these resources would have to be completely created from scratch without the benefit of field professionals.

Participation in Greek-wide events: All IFC chapters in good standing are included in events like Greek Week, Greek Fall Welcome, Greek Gala, recruitment and similar events.

Networking: Working with the thousands of members in Greek Life provides endless opportunities for networking with our peers and professionals as well. Additionally, all chapters of IFC are currently nationally recognized organizations, which in itself offers hundreds of thousand of connections.

What are the benefits of being in the National Panhellenic Council?

Although there are many benefits of being a part of NPC (those listed above for IFC apply to PC as well), women's organizations do not have a choice if they wish to join or not. Each nationally recognized women's group has to be a member of NPC at their respective university.

How are these new enforcements going to be regulated/looked for?

All new compliance checklist items will be introduced with the same understanding the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils have always shown towards new elements at social events and new officers facilitating social events. It is common practice during walkthroughs at social events at the beginning of all new terms in January to be more relaxed and understanding. So, as previously stated, our enforcement of the new Social Event Compliance Checklist items will be enforced in a similar manner. The end goal of the

Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils is to create a safer party environment for all involved, not simply to fine and mediate the Greek community.

Where do the specific fine numbers come from (\$250, \$500, etc.)?

While some fines are spelled out in our governing documents, additional fines may be decided on by the Panhellenic and/or Interfraternity councils as the need arises. As many chapter leaders in the community know, it is impossible to plan for every individual incident that may occur in a chapter, yet alone a community. In lieu of writing the exact fine of each indiscretion committed by our chapters in our bylaws, a document available to the public, the councils have been given the power to respond appropriately to each situation that arises.

What happens to money after we pay a fine?

All fines processed through the Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils are put towards better education for our members. Events like Greek Speaker (fall and spring), recruitment-training speakers in the spring and other education opportunities are paid for through fines and member dues. The goal of the councils is to provide workshops, speakers and other opportunities for our members to grow as leaders. We want to provide chapter members with the opportunity to learn from their experiences and become better Greeks as a result.