Registered Student Organization Code of Conduct

RSO EXPECTATIONS

Registered Student Organizations are expected to maintain appropriate standards of conduct and will be responsible for abiding by federal, state, and local laws, as well as all University policies as specified in the Student Code of Conduct at [www.iupui.edu/code/](http://www.iupui.edu/code/).

• A complaint may be filed against the RSO, against individual members of the organization, or against the organization and individual members of the organization.

If the complaint involves an allegation of personal misconduct by a RSO or individual student member of the organization, the Office of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct/and or designee has the authority to initiate investigative or disciplinary proceeding against the organization or student.

• The University may become involved in the off-campus conduct of registered student organizations when such conduct is determined to have a substantially adverse effect on the University or upon individual members of the University community.

• The officers or leaders or any identifiable spokesperson for a student group or organization may be directed by the Office of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct or a designee to take appropriate action designed to prevent or end violations by the group or the organization or by any persons associated with the registered student organization who can reasonably be said to be acting in the organization’s behalf. Failure to make reasonable efforts to comply with the Office of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct directive shall be considered a violation of IUPUI Code of Conduct both by the officers, leaders or spokesperson for the organization.

• Hazing by members of IUPUI student organizations is strictly forbidden. Hazing activities are defined as “any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off university premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule.”

Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips, or any other such activities; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts or buffoonery, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, the regulations and policies of IUPUI/Indiana University, or applicable state law.

In determining whether or not the organization as a whole will be charged for an alleged violation the following questions may be taken into consideration:

- Did the organization approve of, preplan, have knowledge of, or support the activity?
- Did any of the organization’s officers, whether or not they were acting in their official capacity, participate in the activity?
- Were 2 or more of the organization’s members involved in the activity?
- Did any members of the organization attempt to conceal the activity or protect other members who were involved?
- Were organization funds used for the activity in question?
- Did the organization fail to fulfill its responsibility to abide by federal, state, and local laws as well as University policies?
- Was the purpose of the activity for initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership?
- Did officers of the organization have knowledge of the activity?
Types of Disciplinary Action

1. **No Action**
   • The Conduct Officer finds that the charges are unsubstantial or exonerates the RSO. The decision letter specifies the charges are cleared and no disciplinary action is taken.

2. **Written Warning**
   • A RSO may be given a written warning that additional sanctions may be imposed if the RSO engages in the same conduct again or commits any other violation of the Code.

3. **Restitution**
   • A RSO may be required to pay the cost for replacement or repair of any property damaged by the RSO. If the RSO fails to pay the cost of make the repairs, the RSO may be subjected to additional sanctions, including termination of university registration, restriction on or suspension of the use of university facilities or services, suspension of the privilege to sponsor events, or the loss of university funds.
     • Individual RSO’s must also abide by their individual council’s rules and regulations.

4. **Restrictions**
   • Restrictions are conditions imposed on a RSO that would specifically dictate and limit future presence on campus and participation in IUPUI activities. The restrictions involved will be clearly identified and may include but not limited to restrictions on university funding, the use of university facilities, the privilege to sponsor events, market the RSO or recruit new members.

5. **Suspension**
   • A RSO may be prohibited from participating in all aspects of university life for a specified period of time. When an organization is suspended they forfeit all rights given to a RSO and must cease all functions of an organization in good standing with the university.
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6. **Termination of University Recognition**
   • Termination of recognition is the permanent removal of University recognition for an organization. Additionally, charter revocation may be recommended.

7. **Additional Group Sanctions**
   • In addition to the above, the Conduct Officer may apply or recommend additional sanctions, as well as refer the case to the organization’s governing bodies for consideration of other sanctions.
Conduct Process for Registered Student Organizations

Student organizations are collectively responsible for any actions committed by members that serve to reflect upon the organization as a whole or upon the University community. Disciplinary action against organizations is separate from disciplinary action taken against individuals, and the facts of an incident may necessitate action against both an organization and its individual members.

1. Cases will be referred to the Office of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct and the Office of Student Involvement. OSI staff may serve as conduct officers and has the authority to hear cases of organizational misconduct. If deemed necessary, conduct officers can bypass the Informal Process and move forward with a Formal Hearing.

2. If appropriate, investigations and disciplinary actions will be pursued as outlined in the student organization conduct process. Conduct officers have the authority to impose all types of organization disciplinary action, as outlined in the RSO Code of Conduct.

3. Cases may include but are not limited to physical or sexual assault, hazing, disorderly conduct, acts of intolerance and/or harassment, drug violations, or repeated alcohol violations.

4. If the accused organization fails to schedule or attend the disciplinary conference, the conduct officer shall make a decision in their absence.

5. The final outcome of a disciplinary proceeding against an organization shall be provided by the Office of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct upon request of any party. The final outcome includes the finding of violations and the sanctions imposed upon the organization, if any, at the conclusion of all appropriate appeals processes.
Overall Student Organization Conduct Process

1. Informal Resolution Process
2. Hearing Board Commission (if needed)
3. Final Appeal through Dean of Students (if needed)

Step #1 - Informal Resolution Process

1. Schedule Informal Resolution Meeting
2. Attend the Informal Resolution Meeting (can bring one advisor, see guidelines for advisors)
   - The purpose of this meeting is to acquaint the student organization with process, advise organization of alleged violation, determine need for further investigation
3. Receive Informal Resolution Offer
4. Make Decision whether to Accept Informal Resolution (10 days)
5. Accept Informal Resolution or Request Formal Hearing
Step #2 Hearing Board Commission (if needed)

1. Schedule Formal Hearing with the Hearing Board Commission
   - If a student organization believes new information has become available since the informal hearing, due process rights were violated, or the informal sanction was excessive, a written request may be submitted to request a formal hearing to the Office of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct within 10 days.

2. Attend Formal Hearing with the Hearing Board Commission (can bring one advisor, see guidelines for advisors)

3. Receive Decision of Formal Hearing Commission

4. Review the Decision of the Formal Hearing Commission (10 days)

5. Accept Decision of Formal Hearing Board Commission or Make a Final Appeal to the Dean of Students

Step #3 Final Appeal through Dean of Students (if needed)

1. Final Appeal through Dean of Students
   - If a student organization believes new information has become available since the hearing, due process rights were violated, or the Hearing Board Commission sanction was excessive, a written request may be submitted to the Dean of Students Office for a final appeal within 10 days of the Hearing Board Commission

2. Dean of Students Office Review of Information from the Informal Resolution and Formal Hearing Commission

3. Attend Meeting with Dean of Students

4. The Decision of the Dean of Students is Final