

Club Membership Activities Policy

Scope of this Policy

This policy applies to organized club activities upon which club membership is contingent or can reasonably be understood as contingent. This policy shall apply only to clubs and club-sponsored activities; it will not apply to individual activities involving team members.

Affirmative Practices

There are many practices which are perfectly acceptable ways of welcoming new members to a club and building team unity. These practices should always be conducted in positive and affirmative manner. Note that the “opt out” clause under the rules of conduct section below still applies. Examples of acceptable activities include:

- Nicknaming, provided names are not vulgar, insulting, demeaning or discriminatory on the basis of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, ethnicity, physical traits or socioeconomic status.
- Games and challenges of a clearly innocent nature.
- Specifically-assigned, functional responsibilities for the maintenance of club activity.
- Club parties in accordance with College policies.
- Group activities that include all members.
- Ceremonies that are not explicitly intended to create fear or embarrassment.

This list is not intended to include all acceptable practices. Club leaders are welcome to consult the VP for Student Organizations in advance of any activities regarding the propriety of a particular element.

Rules of Conduct

Clear standards guide the conduct of club leaders and members as they plan and implement club membership activities. These include:

- Sensitivity to issues of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, ethnicity, physical traits and socioeconomic status.
- Providing clear and specific processes by which members can opt out of any activity.
 - Members have a corresponding responsibility to use these processes when provided and make all possible efforts to make leaders aware of any concerns they might have.
- There should be no implication that the use of controlled substances is required for inclusion in a club.
- Club activities cannot include the structured consumption of controlled substances.

- Opportunities for individual experiences should be consistent and equivalent for all members.
- Leaders should be conscious and respectful of personal knowledge they already have of club members in designing club activities. This knowledge should be used to avoid the adverse effects of activities that relate to negative life experiences.

Unacceptable Activities

The BSG will have no tolerance for structured activities that include the potential for: physical harm, fear, intimidation, physical restraint, nudity, verbal abuse, violations of the Sexual Assault and Misconduct Policy, or disrespect for gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, ethnicity, physical traits or socioeconomic status. Also, activities intended to cause reputation-harming public embarrassment or compel members to break laws or College policy are strictly prohibited.