



Fraternity and Sorority Life Tailgating Standards

Philosophy Statement

These Fraternity and Sorority Life Tailgating Standards supplement FAU Regulations 4.006 and 4.007, which govern events hosted by registered student organizations, as well as FAU Policy 5.5, Alcoholic Beverages. All official tailgates sponsored by recognized social fraternities and sororities at Florida Atlantic University must be registered with the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life and conducted in accordance with these standards, applicable university regulations and policies, and all local, state, and federal laws.

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life believes that official fraternity and sorority tailgates should foster community, school spirit, leadership, and meaningful student engagement while prioritizing the health, safety, and well-being of all participants.

These standards establish the minimum expectations for planning, hosting, and participating in official Fraternity and Sorority Life tailgates. They are intended to promote consistency, accountability, and responsible event management while supporting a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable environment for students, alumni, guests, and university partners. Every official tailgate is an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in action. Host organizations are expected to serve as stewards of their event, their assigned space, and the broader fraternity and sorority community by exercising sound judgment, promoting shared responsibility, and complying with all applicable university regulations, policies, and procedures.

This policy is reviewed annually by a committee comprised of Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life staff, campus partners, and fraternity and sorority student leaders to ensure it remains relevant, effective, and reflective of evolving best practices within higher education and the fraternity and sorority profession.

Purpose

The Fraternity and Sorority Life Tailgating Standards establish the minimum requirements for planning, hosting, and participating in official fraternity and sorority tailgates sponsored by recognized social fraternities and sororities at Florida Atlantic University. These standards are intended to promote a safe, organized, and responsible event environment by establishing consistent expectations for event planning, risk management, alcohol management, physical space, guest management, and accountability.

Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of these standards, the following definitions apply:



Alcohol Distribution: the controlled process used to receive, store, distribute, and return alcoholic beverages.

Chapter Member: any individual who is active in the chapter and listed on the chapter's official roster, or any individual who is going through the new member/intake process.

Co-Host Chapter: a recognized fraternity or sorority that formally participates in planning or hosting an Official Tailgate and shares responsibility for compliance with these standards.

Corrective Action: a directive issued by a University Official requiring a chapter or individual to remedy a Safety Concern or policy violation during an event as directed by the University Official.

Guest: any individual attending an Official Tailgate who is not a Chapter Member of the Host Chapter, including alumni, students from other institutions, and other invited or approved visitors.

Hired Security: a licensed and insured security professional contracted by the Host Chapter to assist with access control, guest management, and safety monitoring during an Official Tailgate.

Host Chapter: the recognized fraternity or sorority serving as the primary organizer and responsible party for an Official Tailgate.

Official Tailgate or Tailgate: a fraternity or sorority event sponsored by an organization that has been registered in Owl Central, includes a tent larger than 10x10 ft or occurs in an equivalent amount of space, acknowledged by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, and is held prior to a university-approved event.

Risk Management Team: a designated group of chapter members responsible for assisting the Risk Manager with monitoring compliance, addressing safety concerns, communicating with University Officials, and supporting emergency response procedures throughout the event.

Risk Manager: the chapter officer, or equivalent officer, responsible for overseeing implementation of the organization's risk management procedures before, during, and after an Official Tailgate.

Safety Concern: any condition or behavior that presents an immediate risk to the health, safety, or well-being of participants or the public, including structural instability, unsafe alcohol distribution, blocked emergency access, disorderly conduct, or other conditions determined by a University Official to require immediate corrective action.

Safety Monitor: initiated and active Chapter Member designated to oversee compliance with all university, local, state, federal, and inter/national organization policies and laws during an event. Safety Monitors are responsible for monitoring event operations, facilitating the safe distribution of food and



beverages, identifying and addressing safety concerns, supporting emergency response procedures, and promoting a safe, orderly, and inclusive environment for all attendees.

Tailgate Chair: the chapter member responsible for coordinating event logistics, setup, volunteer assignments, vendor communication, and overall event operations.

Tailgate Space: the clearly identified boundary of an Official Tailgate established through approved fencing or other university-approved barriers.

Temporary Structure: any temporary constructed, assembled, or placed item within a Tailgate Space, or the surrounding area, including but not limited to stages, DJ booths, platforms, displays, benches, raised seating, decorative installations, and similar items. For the purposes of these standards, tents and approved fencing are governed separately.

Third-Party Vendor: a licensed and insured business authorized to sell or serve alcoholic beverages in accordance with university requirements and applicable law.

University Official: any authorized university employee or designee acting within the scope of their responsibilities during an Official Tailgate, including, but not limited to, personnel from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Dean of Students Office, Student Activities and Involvement, Florida Atlantic University Police Department and other agencies, or designated university departments.

Tailgating Policies

- A. All official fraternity and sorority Tailgates must be registered in Owl Central by the published deadline and in accordance with all university procedures.
 - A. All required event documentation must be submitted by the published deadlines.
 - B. Tailgates that fail to satisfy registration requirements may not be permitted to occur, regardless of circumstances.
- B. Co-hosting a Tailgate event with another recognized chapter or organization is prohibited.
- C. The chapter must designate a Risk Management Team who is responsible for the safety and security of the event. The Risk Management Team must remain available and accessible throughout the duration of the event.
 - A. Risk Management Team members and contact information must be emailed to the Assistant Director of Risk Management, Health, and Well-Being, or designee, by 5PM the business day prior to the event.
- D. Each Host Chapter must develop and maintain a chapter-specific Tailgate risk management plan in consultation with the Assistant Director of Risk Management, Health, and Well-Being, or designee. Chapter risk management plans must be consistent with these standards and all applicable federal, state, and local laws.



- E. Temporary perimeter fencing must surround Tailgate Space and must be securely installed using appropriate anchoring methods. Ropes, zip ties, or other temporary fastening methods that do not adequately secure fencing are prohibited.
 - A. If at any time fencing is no longer secure, or is damaged, the Host Chapter must immediately remedy the situation or must conclude the Tailgate.
 - B. Secure fencing shall not be tampered with, altered, moved, or otherwise manipulated to facilitate easier access, entry, or exit at any time, except in the event of an emergency requiring immediate evacuation or emergency response.
- F. Except for approved tents and perimeter fencing, no Temporary Structure may exceed five (5) feet in height from the ground.
- G. Tailgate Spaces must maintain clearly identifiable single-entry and exit points that are unobstructed for emergency access routes. Individuals who do not enter through an official entry point must be removed from the space by Hired Security or a designee.
- H. Individuals under the age of 18 may not enter designated Tailgate Space where alcohol is present unless accompanied by a parent and/or guardian or specifically authorized by the University.
- I. Official Tailgates must hire and retain licensed and insured Hired Security, who must remain on-site for the entire duration of the event. Security must be paid for by the Host Chapter.
 - A. Hired Security must support access control, perimeter security, guest management, and emergency response.
 - B. Hired Security must cooperate with all University Officials and emergency responders.
 - C. Failure to maintain required security staffing may result in immediate corrective action or suspension of the event.
 - D. All guests must present valid government-issued photo identification verifying they are at least 18 years of age to Hired Security.
- J. Host Chapters must manage the distribution of wrist banding and/or other over-age distinctions for guests consuming alcohol.
- K. Tailgating may not begin more than four (4) hours before the scheduled athletic event. All Tailgating activities, alcohol distribution and consumption, and amplified sound must not begin prior to the established Tailgate start time as determined by the University.
- L. All Tailgating activities, alcohol distribution, and amplified sound must cease at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the athletic event.
- M. Alcohol may only be present at an Official Tailgate in accordance with these standards, FAU Policy 5.5, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- N. The purchase or sale of a bulk quantity or common source(s) of alcohol, common sources of alcohol (i.e. kegs, jungle juice, pallets, bulk containers of alcohol) are prohibited.
- O. Alcohol must be distributed on a single-serve basis, by either a licensed and insured bartender or an initiated and active chapter member over the age of 21. Alcoholic beverages must remain in a secured, access-controlled distribution area that is inaccessible to general attendees.



- P. The chapter/organization members, or guests, must not permit, encourage, coerce, glorify or participate in any activities involving the rapid consumption of alcohol, including, but not limited to: drinking games, “hurricane shots,” “dunkaroos,” “shotgunning,” “dunking,” ice luges, funnels, and other related or similar activities.
- Q. All events with alcohol must have food and non-alcoholic beverages available for all attendees, at no cost. The listed items must be provided by the host organization utilizing chapter funds. In accordance with Policy 5.5, alcohol service and/or distribution must pause or cease if there is not sufficient food and non-alcoholic beverages present.
- R. All Tailgates must have at least 15 Safety Monitors present, regardless of guest attendance.
- S. University Officials, and/or Division of Student Affairs employees, may require immediate Corrective Action to address safety concerns or policy violations. Host Chapters must immediately comply with all directives issued by University Officials.
 - A. Failure to comply with Corrective Action may result in suspension or termination of the event, removal of individuals from the event, referral through the university conduct process, loss of future tailgating privileges, and any other action deemed appropriate by the University.
- T. Host Chapters are responsible for removing all chapter-owned equipment and property from their assigned Tailgate Space by 11:59p.m. the day following the event.
- U. Host Chapters remain responsible for maintaining and stewarding their assigned Tailgate Space throughout the event, regardless of whether university-contracted cleanup services are provided.
- V. Host Chapters must comply with all event closeout procedures established by the University.
- W. Host Chapters must report incidents, injuries, property damage, or other significant events to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.

This policy is reviewed annually by a committee comprised of Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life staff, campus partners, and fraternity and sorority student leaders to ensure it remains relevant, effective, and reflective of evolving best practices within higher education and the fraternity and sorority profession.

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life reserves the right to deny or revoke acknowledgement for any event that fails to comply with these standards or applicable university policies. Failure to comply with any Corrective Actions during events may result in suspension or termination of the event and subsequent events.

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