The College of Charleston reserves the right to make changes in its policies, regulations, and procedures as printed herein through normal channels. The Student Handbook is produced by the Division of Student Affairs.

The College of Charleston is committed to providing leadership of equal employment and equal educational opportunities for all qualified persons regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, race, color, religion, national origin, veterans’ status, genetic information, or disability, or other legally-protected classifications. This effort is in compliance with all federal and state laws, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and all other laws and regulations as they pertain to equal opportunity. For further information, contact the Office of Human Relations and Minority Affairs at 953-5758.

An electronic version of the Student Handbook is currently available on the World Wide Web. You can access it through the College of Charleston home page at http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php
15. Alcohol Policies

1. Residence Life and Housing

1.1. Approximately 85 percent of our residence hall population is not of legal age to purchase or drink alcoholic beverages. Accordingly, the following restrictions apply: a limited amount of beer and wine is allowed in only “upper-class” residence halls and houses. There will be no alcoholic beverages allowed in Berry, Buist, College Lodge, Craig, Liberty Street, McAlister, and McConnell Halls. Where allowed, beer and wine must be in the private possession and control of the owner. All persons consuming alcohol must be of legal drinking age and are responsible for their behavior and actions. NO KEGS, LIQUOR OR CAFFEINATED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES are allowed in the residence hall system at any time.

Residential students are strongly encouraged to know the pertinent rules and procedures as listed in The Guide to Residence Living.

2. Alcohol-Related Violations (possession, use, public intoxication, possession of multiple empty alcohol containers, etc.). Responses from incidents that originate within the Residence Halls, On Campus or Off Campus

The College of Charleston will impose on students the following sanctions and other sanctions for proven violations of its alcohol policies.

2.1. First Violation  (Resolution by Residence Life and Housing staff/Student Affairs official) Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

A. Receive a letter of warning, probation period or be placed on residence life probation for a minimum of one semester if a residential student and incident occurs within the residential system;

B. Have a parental/guardian notification letter sent concerning the violation;

C. Participate in an alcohol risk reduction program and/or assessment at Counseling and Substance Abuse Services. Fees will be charged; and/or

D. Educational activities.

Failure to complete first offense sanctions will result in a fine ($150.00 or more) and other sanctions.

2.2. Second Violation (Resolution by Residence Life and Housing staff/Student Affairs official/Conduct Body) Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

A. Be placed on probation, residence life probation or deferred disciplinary suspension (one more violation and student is suspended from enrollment) and possibly moved within or removed from residence life housing for a minimum of one semester, depending on the specific circumstances;

If a student is removed from residence life housing for disciplinary reasons full payment of the contract is due if a residential student and incident occurs within the residential system;

B. Have a parental/guardian notification letter sent concerning the violation;
C. Participate in an alcohol risk reduction program and/or assessment at Counseling and Substance Abuse Services or through an off-campus provider. Fees will be charged.

Failure to complete second offense sanctions will result in a fine ($200.00 or more) and other sanctions unless student is on deferred suspension.

2.3. Third Violation (Resolution by Student Affairs official/Conduct Body) Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

A. Be removed from residence life housing with full payment of the contract due if a residential student and incident occurs within the residential system;

B. Be placed on disciplinary suspension from the College for a minimum of one semester;

C. Have re-admission to the College dependent on successful completion of a pre-approved substance abuse counseling program; and

D. Have a parental/guardian notification letter sent concerning the violation.

3. Noise Violations and other Related Disruptive Behaviors –Responses for Off-Campus Incidences

3.1. First Violation (Resolution by Student Affairs official) Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

A. Receiving a warning or probationary period; and

B. Educational and restorative activity.

3.2. Second Violation (Resolution by Student Affairs official/Conduct Body) Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

A. Be placed on probation or deferred disciplinary suspension for a minimum of one semester;

B. Have a parental/guardian notification letter sent concerning the violation if appropriate;

C. Educational and restorative activity;

D. Denial of on-campus housing and other privileges; and

E. Complete a pre-approved substance abuse/risk reduction program or assessment at Counseling and Substance Abuse Services or an off-campus provider. Fees will be charged.

Failure to complete second offense sanctions will result in a fine ($200 or more) and other sanctions unless student is on deferred suspension.

3.3. Third Violation (Resolution by Student Affairs official/Conduct Body) Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:
A. Be placed on disciplinary suspension from the College for a minimum of one semester;

B. Have re-admission to the College dependent on successful completion of a pre-approved substance abuse counseling program; and

C. Have a parental/guardian notification letter sent concerning the violation if appropriate.

4. South Carolina Scholarships – Hope, Life, Palmetto – and Violations of State Alcohol and Drug Laws
Students who have been adjudicated delinquent or have been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any South Carolina alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor offense more than once are ineligible for the scholarship for one academic year after the adjudication, conviction, or plea occurred. The student will lose eligibility the next academic year immediately following conviction and will lose the scholarship for the fall and spring terms.

16. Good Samaritan / Medical Amnesty Policy

1. SUMMARY OF POLICY
This Policy provides that any student who is in need of medical care during an alcohol-related emergency (as defined in Section 3.2), and who receives or actively seeks out such care in a timely fashion, may do so without fear of being subjected to Student Disciplinary action.

2. PURPOSE
Unfortunately, when alcohol related emergencies arise many students hesitate to contact Public Safety officials or healthcare professionals out of fear that disciplinary consequences may follow. The Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty Policy will grant conditional amnesty from Student Disciplinary action for those students in need of medical attention, as well as those students who call for assistance to aid another student, because of alcohol abuse.

The purpose of the Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty Policy is to encourage student to seek assistance when that student is need of medical attention or when that student knows of another student in need of medical care due to alcohol abuse or alcohol poisoning (an “Alcohol Related Medical Emergency”). Those who receive medical attention for their abuse of alcohol will also receive education concerning their own habits so that they may make healthy decisions in the future.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1 **Conditional Amnesty** – Students who report an Alcohol Related Medical Emergency in accordance with this Policy will not be subjected to formal student disciplinary action. As a condition for this courtesy, however, the student or students involved will be required to undertake a series of affirmative measures to redress any damages they may have caused and to receive one or more interventions to assist them correct unacceptable behavior.

Conditional amnesty granted under this Policy does not negate the laws and ordinances enforced by local, state, and federal law enforcement authorities. Nor will it excuse violations of other College policies. If any policy or law violation beyond alcohol abuse and possession are committed, conditional amnesty will not apply. Such other violations may include, but are not limited to, threats of harm to self/others, hazing, property damage, sexual Harassment/Abuse, illegal use of other drugs, and assault. Students who have been charged with such other violations in direct relation to the incidence in which they pursue amnesty will not qualify for
amnesty. Moreover, any organization providing alcohol to students during an event or gathering at which multiple students become ill will not qualify for amnesty.

This Policy will only apply in cases under the jurisdiction of Residence Life and Housing, the Office of the Dean of Students and/or the College Department of Public Safety.

3.2 Alcohol-Related Medical Emergency – Alcohol-Related Medical Emergencies include an alcohol overdose and alcohol poisoning that warrant immediate medical attention to protect the health of the student or others. Signs of alcohol overdose and poisoning may include one or more of the following:

A. Unresponsiveness to shouting and vigorous shaking;
B. Skin that is pale, clammy, bluish, or blotchy;
C. Depressed respiration, lapses in breathing;
D. Mental confusion, stupor, or coma;
E. Seizures, convulsions, or rigid spasms; or
F. Vomiting while asleep or unconscious coupled with failure to awake.

3.3 Medical Attention – In order for a student to qualify for conditional amnesty, he/she must receive or actively seek out medical attention. This may include a range of efforts evidencing an unequivocal intention to receive medical help such as a voluntary examination by College of Charleston First Responders/EMS, contacting local EMS, or seeking transportation to or visiting a hospital for more intensive care. It also includes asking for the assistance of Student Health Services. A student will qualify for conditional amnesty only if the student makes no effort to resist the help of the College, local emergency staff, or healthcare clinicians. Medical intervention must be sought at the time of the observed conditions that give rise to a reasonable suspicion of alcohol abuse.

3.4 Helper – A helper is any student or student organization who seeks help for a student suffering from an alcohol overdose or poisoning. Although helpers are appreciated and encouraged to take action if they see a student in need, their amnesty is also conditional. Helpers that are found to have committed other violations of law or College policies such as hazing (see Section 3.1 above) will be held accountable for their actions. They will not be eligible for amnesty and will receive disciplinary sanctioning as a result of their infractions.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1 Assignment of a Conduct Officer – In the event that an Alcohol-Related Medical Emergency should arise, the Office of Student Affairs (the “Office”) will be notified. Thereafter, a Conduct Officer will be assigned by the Office to the parties involved. The Conduct Officer may be a Residence Life and Housing Official or a Student Affairs official. Each student will be sent a written notice that he/she must meet with the assigned Conduct Officer for an interview.

4.2 Decision – The assigned Conduct Officer(s) will make the decision of whether or not each concerned student qualifies for conditional amnesty under this Policy after giving full consideration to the circumstances of the case.

4.3 Assignment of Amnesty Conditions – Should the student(s) qualify for conditional amnesty the Conduct Officer(s) will evaluate the case and surrounding circumstances in order to assign appropriate conditions as alternatives to sanctioning. These conditions will be educational or therapeutic in nature, designed to benefit the student and improve his/her future decision.
making. These conditions will most likely include mandatory sessions with a professional in the Office of Counseling and Substance Abuse Services (CASAS). All service fees for assigned substance abuse counseling will be waived if the student qualifies for conditional amnesty.

4.4 Failure to Complete Conditions – If the student fails to agree to the amnesty conditions, or fails to satisfactorily complete the assigned conditions deemed necessary by his/her Conduct Officer, conditional amnesty will not be given, and any amnesty previously given shall be revoked. Student disciplinary charges will be filed. Thereafter, the case will be turned over to the Office of Resident Student Conduct of the Department of Residence Life and Housing or the Office of the Dean of Students where it will be subject to conduct processes. This will most likely result in the creation of a formal disciplinary record of the incident in question and, if culpability is found, may require the imposition of disciplinary sanctions.

4.5 Documentation and Record Keeping – If a student qualifies for conditional amnesty, documentation or evaluation of the case will not be placed in any disciplinary record. A record, however, will exist in Student Affairs that the incident transpired, but this record is not normally reportable to outside employers, agencies or other higher education institutions without the permission of the student. However, some background checks for local, state and/or Federal employment may require full disclosure and release of student records, in which case, the record of the incident may be reported. In addition, the College may be served with a subpoena or other legal process that requires that the College produce the record. In such cases, the College will comply with all applicable provisions of law. In addition to the foregoing, the record will exists in the Division of Student Affairs to track the student’s behavior should there be another incident of a similar nature.

4.6 Amnesty for Multiple Alcohol-Related Medical Emergencies

A. For those needing assistance –

This policy is intended for one-time use only by any individual student. It is intended to serve as a wake-up call and a way for students to improve their decision-making skills as well as to learn healthy habits of living. Amnesty under this Policy is granted as a matter of comity and not of right. It should be viewed as an opportunity and is not to be abused by those who break rules of conduct on repeated occasions. Accordingly, any student needing medical attention for an Alcohol Related Emergency on more than one occasion may not receive amnesty even if all other terms and conditions of this Policy are met. The granting of any form of amnesty remains a matter of discretion with the Office of Student Affairs.

B. For Helpers –

Helpers, or those who seek help for the endangered student, are not limited to only one use of the Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty Policy. It is expected that members of the College of Charleston community will always make an effort to help a fellow student that is in need even if they have been using alcohol themselves. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a Conduct Officer has reasonable suspicions that the Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty Policy is being abused in any way, he/she may hold in abeyance the amnesty to a helper until an investigation of the incident is completed.

5. FUTURE REVISIONS

This Good Samaritan/Medical Amnesty Policy can be revised at any time in accordance with the College’s Campus Wide Policy Making Procedures.
17. Procedures for the Use of Alcohol on Campus or During College Sponsored Events

1. PURPOSE

These Procedures describe the process that will be used by the College to review requests for allowing alcoholic beverages to be available during events that are either held on College Property or are sponsored by the College (each individually referred to as “an “Event”. When the term “Event” is used in these Procedures it means any College gathering where alcohol will be available). The Procedures are not intended to change the existing substantive policies dealing with the permitted uses of alcohol on campus or on College owned or rented property (“College Property”). Those policies are recited in the Employee Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy (for faculty and other employees) and in the Compass and other publications directed to students (for students and student organizations).

1.1 Events include gatherings that are --

A. Sponsored by the College or an approved College organization to take place on or off College Property;

B. Advertised or promoted using the name and/or resources of the College;

C. Held off College Property, but using student fees or other College resources to finance the Event; or

D. Held on College Property by third-parties.

2. IDENTIFICATION AND RANKING OF RISKS

2.1 Categories

The purposes for an Event can be diverse and may include such matters as raising funds for the College, enhancing the College’s public image, hosting Alumni gatherings or other cultural, social or professional meetings, or merely providing a meeting place or performance space for third-parties not affiliated with the College. In general, however, these Procedures recognize three different types of entities that may host an Event. The types of entities that may host an Event are categorized as follows:

A. **Affiliate or Third-Party Sponsored Events**: These Events could be hosted by the College Foundation, the College Alumni Association or non-affiliated third-parties such as a business, a non-profit organization or other legal entity.

B. **Student Sponsored Events**: These Event would include those sponsored by an approved student organization, such as a sorority or a fraternity, as well as, any other approved group or organization of students.

C. **College Employee or College Sponsored Events**: These Events would be hosted by the President, Board of Trustees, the Faculty Senate, a School or a department, a College manager, or any recognized academic or employee unit or organization.
2.2 Risk Assessment

When determining the risk of alcohol abuse associated with an Event, College reviewing authorities will consider at least the following factors:

A. The location of the Event;
B. The number of underage students or other underage persons who are expected to be in attendance as guests;
C. The number of underage persons who will have access to the Event by, for example, working as servers or volunteers;
D. The sponsor of the Event;
E. The history of the Event and of the conduct of participants during the Event;
F. The estimated number of total guests to attend the Event;
G. The primary purpose of the Event; and
H. The publicity surrounding the Event and/or the public perception of the Event.

2.3 Standards

The considerations and standards used by the College to review an application for an Event shall include the following:

A. The College will not approve an Event if, in the exercise of its sole discretion, it has determined that holding the Event will present an unreasonable risk to the health or safety of the College community and/or to the property of the College, or that the Event will be conducted in a way that would portray the College or the members of the College Community in a false light or otherwise subject it or them to public ridicule or disgrace.

B. The higher the risk assessment, the more stringent shall be the requirements of the Alcohol Management Plan (see 3.3).

3. APPROVAL PROCESS

3.1. All sponsors of Events must complete and submit the appropriate approval form to the College office having management responsibility of the College site. Sponsors of Affiliate or Third-Party Sponsored Events, Student Sponsored Events, or College Employee or College Sponsored Events utilizing College owned or rented property shall complete the form entitled Event Planning and Notification.

3.2. If any alcohol will be available at a student sponsored Event, there shall be a conclusive presumption that underage students will be in attendance.
3.3. An Alcohol Management Plan attached to the Form described in section 3.1 shall be required for every Event where alcohol will be served. Depending on the risk assessment made pursuant to Section 2.2, the alcohol management plan shall address the following issues with the specificity needed to adequately address the perceived risk:

A. How the organization will prevent underage persons from having access to alcohol;

B. The type and amount of alcohol that will be available at the Event;

C. The type and amount of food that will be served;

D. The starting time and ending time of the Event;

E. The Event security that will be provided by the organization members themselves;

F. The number of police requested from College Public Safety, or if the Event is to be held off campus, a description of the security available; and

G. If a Student Sponsored Event, appropriate acknowledgement that Public Safety will contact the Student Affairs staff member on-call if a police action is required or similar serious or exigent circumstance arises.

3.4. In addition to any other Form that may be required to rent or use a College facility or to rent or use a site not located on College Property (if any), the Event Planning and Notification Form, described in Section 3.1, where alcohol will be available must be pre-approved by the Department of Public Safety before the Event may be held. In addition to the requirements of the preceding sentence,

A. All Forms for Student Sponsored Events, including those prepared by recognized student organizations, must also be pre-approved by the Office of Student Life, The Graduate School or Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, as appropriate; and

B. All Forms for other than student Events where alcohol will be available shall also be pre-approved by the College’s Director of Events or Sponsoring Department.

4. ON CAMPUS ALCOHOL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Procedures to the contrary, the College’s Director of Events is authorized to review the licensure of any alcohol service provider that is named for a particular Event. The Director shall also issue such guidance as may be appropriate, from time to time, to promote the safe use of alcohol during approved Events including, but not limited to, the training of alcohol servers. The Director will act for the Office of the President in all such matters.

ADVERTISING AND SANCTIONS. THIS SECTION IS SEPARATE FROM THE ABOVE POLICY AND APPLIES ONLY TO STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.

1. ADVERTISING OF STUDENT ORGANIZATION-SPONSORED EVENTS WHERE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL BE CONSUMED.
1. Advertising of student organization-sponsored events where alcoholic beverages will be consumed must be consistent with the educational philosophy of the College of Charleston and follow these conditions:

   A. Advertisement for any event where alcoholic beverages are being served must note the availability of non-alcoholic beverages and food as prominently as the alcoholic beverages.
   B. The message conveyed in the event promotion must not encourage the use of alcohol.
   C. Publicity must not convey that consumption of alcohol is the purpose or reason for the event.
   D. Promotion must not refer to the amount/quantity of alcohol to be present
   E. Advertisements for events must not portray drinking as a solution to personal or academic problems or as necessary for social, sexual, or academic success.
   F. Alcoholic beverages must not be provided as awards, door prizes, or giveaways to individuals or campus organizations.

2. SANCTIONS

2.1. Violations of these policies on or off-campus will be subject to the following responses for student organizations:

   A. First Violation - Sanctions may include, but not limited to:
      i. Group is on social/event suspension for minimum of one month. The exact time period is to be determined by the Director of Student Life or Director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
      ii. Group executive board must schedule and attend a meeting with the Campus Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator to develop a risk reduction plan.
      iii. Social/event suspension remains in place until meeting and plan are completed.
      iv. Failure to comply with sanctions for the first offense may result in sanctioning as imposed under a second violation.

   B. Second Violation - Sanctions may include, but not limited to:
      i. Loss of campus privileges including access to the organization account for a minimum of three months, excluding summer months.
      ii. Entire organization must attend a 6-hour alcohol risk reduction seminar (deadline to be set by the disciplinary administrator).
      iii. Must pay a $500.00 fine to the Office of Student Life or Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life or plan an alcohol-free social event for the entire student body on a weekend.
      iv. Letter of notification to be sent to the national organization, sponsoring agency or academic department.
      v. Failure to comply with sanctions for the second offense may result in sanctioning as imposed under a third violation.

   C. Third Violation
      i. The sanction for a third violation is suspension of recognition by the College for a time period consistent with the level of infraction up to a permanent suspension from the College of Charleston campus. This will
be determined by the Director of Student Life or Director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life in conjunction with the Dean of Students and/or Executive Vice President for Student Affairs.

18. Student Tailgate Policy

1. SUMMARY OF POLICY

In an effort to continue to develop student life at the College of Charleston and promote an increased sense of institutional pride and school spirit, this policy has been created for use of the space and facilities adjacent to the Carolina First Arena for student tailgates and events held prior to athletic contests.

1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Tailgate Policy is to assist student organizations and/or on-campus departments in the coordination of tailgates and activities and ensure that existing institutional policies related to event planning and risk management are appropriately applied.

1.2. DEFINITIONS

A. Facilities – the facilities that will be available for use for student tailgates will include the area adjacent to the student entrance to the Carolina First Arena and the Practice Gym.

B. Reservable Space – the facilities included in this policy are to be considered reservable space. Use of the space for tailgates activities must be scheduled in advance through the Director of Operations for Athletics.

C. Sponsoring Organization – recognized student organization or on-campus department hosting the event.

D. Amplified Sound – use of a public address system and/or speakers to broadcast information or music

1.3. PROCEDURES

A. Limitations of use – tailgates and pre-game activities must be limited to the area adjacent to the student entrance to the Carolina First Arena and the Practice Gym. Reservation of the space is limited to recognized student organizations and on-campus departments for student-only events. Individual tailgating will not be permitted.

B. Reservation/ Preparation of Space – sponsoring organizations must reserve the facilities no less than one week prior to the date of the proposed event. Reservations will be coordinated by the Director of Operations for Athletics. Athletics will provide and install the floor covering in the Practice Gym prior to the scheduled event. In the event that no activity is scheduled, the Practice Gym will not be available for pre-game activities and will remain locked.
I. **Occupancy** – Attendance at events in the facilities will be limited to occupancy rates established by the Fire Marshal.

II. **Responsibilities of Sponsoring Organizations** – student organizations or on-campus departments hosting the event are responsible for providing all staffing and equipment for the proposed activity (this includes security personnel, sound equipment, tables, trash cans, recycling bins, etc.) as well as set-up and clean-up related to the activity.

III. **Entry/Exit** – A valid College of Charleston student identification card will be required to enter the event or activity. Individuals that leave the area prior to the end of the scheduled activity will be denied re-entry and will be ineligible for access to the athletic contest. All student participants will be required to enter the Carolina First Arena through the designated student entrance.

IV. **Use of Alcohol** – The College of Charleston’s alcohol policy shall regulate any use of alcohol at pre-game activities within the facilities. The Authorization to Host a Student Event form must be completed and submitted to the Office of Student Life for review no less than two weeks (fourteen business days) prior to the date of the proposed event. Individuals determined to be inebriated or unable to care for themselves will be denied entry to the activity and/or to the athletic contest.

V. **Duration of Tailgates/Activities** – Pre-game activities will be limited to two (2) hours. Activities must end 15 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled athletic contest.

VI. **Use of Amplified Sound** – Due to the proximity of the facilities to local business and residences, amplified sound must be limited to the Practice Gym.

VII. **Open Flames/Personal Grills** – No open flames or personal grills may be used.

VIII. **Damages** – Sponsoring organizations are responsible for all costs associated with any damage and/or repairs that result from the scheduled activity.

1.4. **FUTURE REVISION**

This Student Tailgate Policy can be revised at any time in accordance with the College’s *Campus Wide Policy Making Procedures*. 

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