Alcohol Agreement for SU Activities Clubs and Societies

**Introduction:**

UCSU recognises that there is a student diversity in cultures, backgrounds and lifestyles. For many students, drinking alcohol simply does not feature in their social activity. Therefore, the provision of social activities for our clubs and societies should incorporate this in its activities.

As a Students Union, we recognise social activities are an enjoyable aspect of being part of a club or society. We encourage clubs and societies to hold social activities to offer a diverse variety to boost engagement of its members.

However, students can feel extreme peer-pressure to take part in excessive drinking in order to gain acceptance within a club/society. This is especially prominent with new students who want to fit in and gain acceptance with established members and who maybe unaware of their alcohol limit.

The SU seeks to promote a social environment which is accessible and safe for all. Social activities must always be organised in such a way that no member feels harassed, intimidated or bullied into undertaking any activity.

1. **What is a social?**

Clubs and societies are known to host welcome events or socials for members or potential members. The definition of social is an event which clubs and societies organise outside of their normal activity.

Any event/social that pressures students to participate in tasks that potentially compromises a person’s dignity, forcing or requiring a student to drink considerable amounts of alcohol, eat various food items or any other behaviour will be considered as an initiation and will not be tolerated.

All members should be made aware that socials are not compulsory and that members have the right not to participate in any activities within the social. This will not affect their admittance to a club/society or selection for a team. All social activities should be inclusive and be organised in a safe manner without fear of harassment or bullying.

Clubs and societies must always act to uphold the reputation of the Students Union and University whether on campus or offsite.

1. **Duty of care**

Committee members have a duty of care in law to ensure the safety of its members and other people who may be affected by its activities and events.

Committee members are responsible for the welfare of all club or society members and must take necessary measures to ensure that an adequate level of safety is maintained

1. **Transport**

When travelling on provided transport, no alcohol is permitted to be consumed on the vehicle at any time.

The designated driver of the vehicle has the right to refuse entry onto vehicle or refuse to drive if any members’ behaviour is deemed unacceptable. Disciplinary action may be taken against any student who is reported.

1. **Breach**

Any reported breach in the agreement will be investigated by the SU Activities team who may refer the matter to the Union disciplinary procedures at stated in Bye-Law H.

Sanctions may be imposed on any society found to be in breach of code of conduct. In some cases, there may be cause to escalate it to the University and its disciplinary procedures.

**Guidelines to protect students:**

* Drinking games are opt-in only and shall have no bearing in membership to the club/society or in team selection.
* Non-alcoholic alternatives to alcohol should be promoted
* Committee members are responsible for the welfare of all club/society members and must take necessary measures to ensure that an adequate level of safety is maintained
* Members of SU Activities or other student will not apply ‘peer pressure’ or what is perceived to be peer pressure upon students in any social and this also extended out to club/society ‘traditions’
* Undertake any activity which brings the union into disrepute or damages the Union’s or the University’s reputation.

**To be signed by Club or Society Social Secretary and President**

By signing this, you acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions of the alcohol agreement.

President Name:

Signature:

Social Secretary Name:

Signature: