

# ALCOHOL POLICY 2026

**APPROVED BY BOARD ON:** 1 April 2026

**VERSION:** 1

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 1 April 2026

**SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE:** 2027

This Policy applies to the University of Sydney Union Ltd (ACN 688 637 818) (the Company). This Policy is governed by the USU Constitution, USU Bylaws, the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), and ACNC governance standards. In the event of inconsistency, the USU Constitution and applicable law prevail. USU is an independent legal entity and not part of the University of Sydney.

## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of USU's Clubs and Societies Alcohol Policy is to encourage the responsible consumption of alcohol at club events both on and off the campuses of the University of Sydney. USU aims to encourage individuals to make an informed and responsible choice as to the level of their alcohol consumption. All policy statements in the Clubs and Societies Alcohol Policy, relevant legislation and C&S and USYD guidelines and policies are to be adhered to where relevant by all USU clubs and societies.

## 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all club events held by those registered clubs and societies within the USU C&S Program. This includes all events held both on and off the campuses of the University of Sydney.

## 3. PRINCIPLES

The USU Clubs & Societies Program is dedicated to being responsible in relation to the service of alcohol. We take on a commitment to ensure that our alcohol policy:

- a. Ensures that all legislative guidelines are upheld at club events where alcohol is served
- b. Provides members of the USU with adequate information about alcohol use and misuse
- c. Engages with all stakeholders to ensure that best practices are implemented
- d. Minimises alcohol related harm to the individual
- e. Minimises alcohol related damage to property
- f. Upholds the reputation of the USU and University brands

**The funding of events at which alcohol is present is contingent on compliance with the Clubs and Societies Alcohol Policy and C&S handbook guidelines.**

The USU operates on a not-for-profit basis in furtherance of its charitable purposes as set out in the Constitution. This Policy supports those purposes.

#### 4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. USU, acting through its officers and delegates in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, will ensure that all affiliated clubs and societies are aware of the Clubs and Societies Alcohol Policy.
- b. Subject to the governance framework set out in the Constitution and Bylaws, including oversight by the Board of Directors, USU will provide funding for events that fall within the Clubs and Societies Guidelines and the funding regulations of this policy.

#### 5. Clubs and Societies

- a. Club Executive and event organisers are to be aware of and act in accordance with the Clubs and Societies Alcohol Policy.
- b. Clubs and societies will adhere to the Clubs and Societies Funding Guidelines and C&S handbook.
- c. Clubs and societies will adhere to any legal obligations relating to alcohol consumption at USU and non-USU venues.
- d. Will complete a risk assessment for any events where alcohol will be served.
- e. Affiliated student groups operate subject to the USU Constitution, USU Bylaws, and any applicable bylaws or policies

#### 6. Board

Board means the Board of Directors of USYD Student Union Ltd.

#### 7. AMENITIES

Club should ensure that all required amenities such as toilets and handbasin facilities are provided as required.

#### 8. SECURITY

Security & RSA monitoring should be confirmed with the venue prior to the event.

#### 9. PROMOTION

- a. All USU funded events where alcohol is present must have the following text on all publicity material:  
**"USU supports responsible drinking"**
- b. All Clubs and societies are encouraged to state their support of responsible drinking in their publicity material for events where alcohol is present.
- c. All promotional and funding decisions must be made consistently with the Constitution and any delegated authority under the USU Bylaws.

### Change history

Version	Date	Change	Author	Reviewer
1	April 2026	Updated for Incorporation	Governance Officer	Board

## Clubs and Societies Alcohol Policy 2020

USU considers the following practices **unacceptable**. Clubs and societies engaging in the following practices will not be eligible for USU funding and may be reported to the USU Board:

- Any labelling or titling of promotions that may encourage members to consume liquor irresponsibly and excessively to an intoxicated state.
- Any promotion that encourages members to consume liquor excessively such as “all you can drink” offers, “girls drink free” promotions, “two for one”, ‘free drinks’ promotions, and promotions encouraging the consumption of alcohol in an unreasonable time period.
- Drinking at venues that are not USU licensed venues, will not be funded by C&S event funding.

**Unacceptable** wording for promotion of events where alcohol is being served include:

- Free Drinks/Cheap Drinks
- Members Drink Free
- Advertising of heavily discounted alcohol price, i.e. ‘\$2.00 beers’

Suitable wording for promotion of events where alcohol is served include:

- Discounted beverage vouchers for first attendees
- \$5 entry and beverage voucher
- Members discounts offered
- Collect your beverage voucher from event organisers
- MOCK Soc invites you to Hermann’s bar for discounted beverages

Further factsheets, guidelines and laws surrounding the promotion or advertising of alcohol can be found [here](#).

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLUB EXECUTIVES & EVENT ORGANISERS

Clubs Executives, and others involved in organising club activity, are required to take reasonable care to avoid adversely affecting the safety and health of other people through their actions or through their failure to act. Checkout the [Intoxication Guidelines](#) from the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing. Club executives must comply with all applicable obligations under the USU Constitution, USU Bylaws, and relevant policies when organising events.

## RESPONSIBLE SERVICE OF ALCOHOL

- It is against the law to serve anyone to a point of intoxication
- It is against the law to serve someone who is observed as intoxicated
- It is against the law to serve someone who is under the age of 18. Event organisers and security contractors have the right to request proof of age from any attendee that is thought to be under 25
- The only acceptable forms of ID are a current Australian driver’s license, an RTA Proof of Age card, or a current Passport. Attendees must have their ID on their person at all times during events where they are consuming alcohol
- Events must not encourage excessive consumption of alcohol by allowing/promoting double shots, jugs of beer, and bottles of wine.

Checkout the full list of requirements for events with alcohol and RSA requirements on the [NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming & Racing](#) website.

Being aware of risks and having precautions in place falls under the duty of care to the event organisers, so be prepared.

Find more information regarding NSW law and the University of Sydney Policy below. [Standard drink guidelines and preventing intoxication USYD Alcohol Policy](#)

Compliance with applicable law includes obligations under relevant NSW legislation and any obligations arising from USU's status as a registered charity.

## **Governance**

This Policy is governed by the USU Constitution, USU Bylaws, the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), and ACNC governance standards.

In the event of any inconsistency, the USU Constitution and applicable law prevail. This Policy is to be interpreted consistently with those instruments.

USU is an independent legal entity and not a part of the University of Sydney. References to the University do not limit USU's independent governance obligations.