

IFC Quick Reference Guide.

Fraternalties need a unified base to work together to advocate for the fraternal experience. At the campus level, it's **critical that chapters work together toward strengthening the local fraternal community through the Interfraternal Council (IFC)**. The purpose of [IFC resources](#) is to provide a framework for successful IFC and fraternal community operations, a consistent baseline for IFC policies and practices, and guidance for fraternal leaders and higher education partners in managing complex and challenging environments.

The IFC resources are interconnected and designed to provide a **playbook for anticipating and addressing critical operational needs**. Implementing these policies and practices will put the IFC in the best possible position to serve the needs of its member chapters and advocate for the fraternal experience.

ROLE OF THE IFC

- NIC believes an Interfraternal Council (IFC) exists to advance conditions conducive to the success of its member chapters and to promote the progress of the fraternal experience.
- With this aim, the IFC should actively encourage interfraternalism and collaboration with other fraternal/sorority governing councils and student governance bodies.
- Maintaining a positive working relationship and partnership with the campus administration, alumni, NIC and inter/national headquarters of member chapters is critical toward elevating the role of the IFC.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

- Fraternalties thrive when they embrace their responsibilities, while ardently advocating for their fundamental rights.
 - Citizenship: Fraternal men must be responsible, respectful and inclusive citizens of their community.
 - Accountability: Fraternal men have the responsibility to hold each other accountable to their fraternal ideals and expectations.
 - Choice: Fraternalties have the responsibility and right to select men who align with their ideals and expectations.
 - Opportunity: Every man has the right to seek membership in a fraternal experience on terms he determines best fit his needs.
 - Fairness: For justice to effectively be administered, fraternal members and organizations must provide and be afforded fundamental due process rights
 - Interfraternalism: NIC members stand in solidarity for fellow members that meet NIC Standards
- More specifically, the IFC and its member chapters will support and actively work to meet its responsibilities to:
 - Enforce and hold member chapters accountable to the IFC Code of Conduct and other governing documents.

- Develop policies and procedures to provide safe and healthy membership experiences.
- Develop policies and procedures to provide safe and healthy social experiences.
- Advocate for appropriate levels of university financial and staffing support.

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

- The IFC shall establish the following policies with remediation plans for non-compliance regarding:
 - A minimum new member class and chapter GPA.
 - A minimum chapter graduation rate (four-year and six-year).

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- To safeguard our members and potential members, the following health and safety practices shall be adopted by the IFC:
 - The IFC shall establish health and safety policy that addresses alcohol consumption, drug use, sexual misconduct, and hazing; seeks to reduce the availability and presence of alcohol in the chapter house; and caps the number of events a chapter may have with alcohol in any given semester/quarter.
 - All recruitment and new member education/orientation activities will be substance free, including, but not limited to bid day events, big brother events and initiation-related activities.
 - The IFC shall establish a statement in support of environments that are free of hazing and sexual misconduct.
 - The IFC shall establish a medical Good Samaritan policy.
 - The IFC and each of its member chapters must carry sufficient liability insurance coverage.
 - The IFC shall work with the campus to provide health and safety education and training provided for all chapters each term.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- The IFC should elect or appoint a diversity and inclusion officer to serve on its executive board.
- Each year, the IFC should provide diversity and inclusion education and resources to member chapters.

PEER GOVERNANCE

- To address issues and solve problems before others must intervene, the IFC must have a robust peer governance process that addresses violations of IFC policies and NIC Standards.
 - The authority of the IFC to hold member chapters accountable to the IFC Constitution and IFC Code of Conduct is separate and independent from any university expectations or process related to the Student Code of Conduct.
 - The IFC will adopt a Code of Conduct for full and associate IFC members. This shall reflect the responsibilities and rights of fraternity membership, NIC Standards and recommended practices.

- The IFC will adopt a Constitution and Bylaws that reflects NIC Standards and recommended practices.
- The IFC will establish a Standards Board with representation from full IFC members. The IFC will work with the campus to provide annual training to the Standards Board on due process, standard of proof, and progressive, educational sanctioning.
- The Standards Board shall work with the university to implement a comprehensive conduct program that enhances peer-governance; respects the authority of the university to adjudicate the Student Code of Conduct and major alleged policy violations (such as hazing and sexual misconduct); and avoids multiple, overlapping conduct processes.
 - The IFC shall develop an agreement with the university that identifies the role of each body in adjudicating allegations of chapter-level misconduct.
 - The IFC Standards Board shall defer to the university to investigate and adjudicate hazing and sexual misconduct allegations, or any other allegation that is being investigated and/or adjudicated through the university's conduct process.
- In all other instances, the Standards Board has the autonomy and responsibility to adjudicate chapter-level violations of the IFC Constitution and establish educational sanctions, provided:
 - Basic due process protections have been provided for the accused chapter.
 - Sanctions are punitive and/or educational (but not solely punitive or financial), progressive, and do not restrict associational rights or student choice.
 - An appeal process is available.
- The Standards Board shall inform the inter/national organization of any charges in advance of a hearing and work collaboratively with the inter/national organization and university when adjudicating a potential violation that may result in suspension/loss of recognition from the IFC for the member chapter.
- The IFC will not issue blanket sanctions for chapters that have not been found responsible for policy violations (i.e. system-wide ban on activities). An exception may be made for health and safety concerns with restrictions limited to events with alcohol, provided the exception is for a defined period of no more than 30 days, with a specific plan to lift the restriction, and in accordance with powers enumerated in the IFC Constitution and Bylaws.
- The IFC will not recognize chapters that have been suspended or have had the charter revoked by the inter/national organization
- The IFC will honor and follow all organizational return agreements negotiated as part of a university or IFC conduct process. As the return has already been negotiated and agreed to, any organization returning to campus based on such agreement shall not be required to participate in any IFC/campus expansion process.

NIC STANDARDS FOR THE IFC AND ITS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- The member fraternities of the NIC have passed minimum Standards for all NIC member fraternities. These do not preclude the IFC or member fraternity from adopting higher or additional standards.
- The IFC can amend its Constitution and Bylaws, adopt policies and pass resolutions, so long as those do not conflict with existing NIC Standards established to improve all facets of the fraternity experience.
- Further, the IFC and its member chapters will actively support and pass no policy that infringes on the associational rights of member chapters. Specifically, the IFC and its member chapters will support:
 - Student choice
 - Any male student should be free to join a fraternity when he determines it is in his best interest to do so.
 - All fraternities should be free to determine when they wish to extend an invitation to join to a male student.
 - Responsible growth
 - Recognition by the IFC and university are two distinct processes with potentially different outcomes, though it is best for students when organizations recognized by the IFC are also recognized by the university.
 - Accordingly, all IFC member chapters shall support the responsible growth of other NIC fraternities provided that each organization:
 - Pro-actively communicates in good faith.
 - Considers any available readiness assessment, utilizing metrics determined in conjunction with the NIC.
 - Does not have any outstanding, documented health and safety violation
 - Upon completion of the above:
 - Any NIC member fraternity, upon expressing interest to establish a chapter, must be given a time by the IFC for the expansion to occur. The IFC can determine the best academic term for the expansion, but the expansion must occur within a four-year period from when the IFC is first notified of interest by the NIC member fraternity.
 - NIC member fraternities with an interest group already formed will be granted IFC recognition, though the IFC may elect to have an associate member status provided reasonable written expectations and metrics are established to move from associate member status to full member status.
 - The IFC will never take a vote on recognition or expansion for an NIC member fraternity.
 - The IFC will never require NIC member fraternities to present an expansion proposal to the IFC, although the IFC can require the NIC member fraternity to submit documentation or do a virtual presentation to determine the best academic term for expansion.

- Full membership in the IFC is limited to those fraternities (including non-NIC organizations), who have adopted all NIC Standards, are affiliated with an inter/national organization, and are men's fraternities. Associate membership may be granted to organizations that do not meet the above criteria. Only members from full IFC member organizations are permitted to serve as IFC officers, serve on the Standards Board, or vote on Constitution and Bylaw amendments.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION

- The IFC shall establish a strategic communication plan for the IFC and its member chapters that addresses protocol for crisis response, social media, marketing and media engagement.

RECRUITMENT

- The IFC shall work with member chapters to establish a recruitment process that meets the needs of chapters and potential new members, as well as provides opportunities for interested men to learn about the fraternity experience.
- The IFC should focus on fostering interest in joining fraternities and marketing the fraternity experience to incoming students and potential new members.
- The IFC should not restrict the ability of chapters to distribute bids outside of any designated recruitment period.

RESOURCES

- These practices were adopted by the NIC member fraternities to provide basic parameters for how an IFC should operate.
- These practices are not meant to be all-inclusive nor answer every question an IFC may have regarding implementation of the practices.
- Additional resources available include:
 - NIC Position Statements
 - IFC Model Constitution and Bylaws
 - IFC Model Judicial Code
 - IFC Officer Resource Guide
 - Model IFC Code of Conduct

Advancing fraternity.

The mission of an Interfraternity Council (IFC) is to foster a healthy and vibrant fraternity community on campus and provide interfraternal leadership and positive change. nicfraternity.org/ifcsop

