



# DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

*A Service Sorority Founded in 1913*

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**Policy Number:** 700-001 – Scholarship and Standards  
**Policy Title:** ALCOHOL AND DRUG USAGE POLICY FOR COLLEGIATE AND GRADUATE CHAPTERS  
**Responsible Officer:** Executive Director  
**Responsible Office:** National Scholarship and Standards Committee  
**Effective Date:** July 2017 Revised: April 2018; June 2021

This policy applies to all chapters, sorors, and members of Delta who attend or sponsor any activity or event that reasonably could be characterized as a Delta or chapter event by an outside observer. Regardless of whether the event or activity is a formal or informal event, members, sorors, and the chapter shall comply with the letter and the spirit of the policy.

## **DRUG POLICY FOR COLLEGIATE AND GRADUATE CHAPTERS**

The chapter, members, and guests must follow all federal, state, provincial, and local laws regarding illegal drugs and controlled substances. No person may possess, use, provide, distribute, sell, and/or manufacture illegal drugs or other controlled substances while on chapter premises or at any activity or event sponsored or endorsed by the chapter.

## **ALCOHOL POLICY**

### **Collegiate Chapters**

The use of alcohol by collegiate chapters or sorors in any activity or event sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, including those that occur on or off chapter premises is prohibited.

### **Alumnae Chapters**

In any activity or event sponsored or endorsed by the chapter, including those that occur on or off chapter or member premises:

1. The chapter, members, and guests must comply with all federal, state, provincial, and local laws. No person under the legal drinking age may possess, consume, provide, sell, or be provided alcoholic beverages.
2. Alcoholic beverages must either be: (1) provided and sold by a licensed and insured third-party vendor (e.g., restaurant, bar, caterer, etc.); or (2) brought by individual members and guests through a bring your own beverage (“BYOB”) system.

### **Third Party Vendor**

If a licensed and insured Third-Party vendor is used (e.g., restaurant, bar, caterer, hotel, etc.), the following criteria is required:

- a) The Vendor must be properly licensed by the appropriate local and state authority. This requires both a liquor license and a temporary license to sell on the premises if the function will not be held at the Vendor’s

normal place of business. *(Prior to signing any contract, the Third Party Vendor must present a copy of the vendor's license.)*

- b) The Vendor must carry General Liability Insurance with minimum required limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate, evidenced by a properly completed Certificate of Insurance prepared by the insurance provider. *(Request a copy of the Certificate of Insurance.)* The Certificate of Insurance should also show evidence that the Vendor has, as part of its coverage, "Liquor Liability coverage and Hired and Non-Owned Auto Liability coverage." The Certificate of Insurance should name as Additional Insured (at a minimum) the local chapter of the Sorority as the party responsible for hiring the Vendor as well as the Grand Chapter with whom the local chapter is affiliated.
- c) The Vendor/Venue agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold the Grand Chapter and the local chapter harmless for loss, damages, expenses, including reasonable attorney fees, arising out of the negligence of the Vendor, its employees, sub-contractors, and agents.
- d) The Vendor assumes in writing all the responsibilities that any other purveyor of alcoholic beverages would assume in the normal course of business, including but not limited to:
  - Check identification cards upon entry
  - Identify those who are of legal age to consume alcohol
  - Refrain from serving individuals who appear to be intoxicated
  - Maintain absolute control of ALL alcoholic containers present. Collect remaining alcohol at the end of a function and remove all alcohol from the premises
  - No excess alcohol - opened or unopened – is to be given, sold or furnished to the chapter
- e) A chapter cannot profit from the sales of alcohol but can profit from ticket sales, raffles, food, etc. All sales for ticketed events must be tracked and recorded.

### **BYOB**

BYOB allows members and guests of legal drinking age to bring their own alcoholic beverage. The host organization will not provide alcohol. For BYOB events, members and guests may not share or serve each other alcohol beverages (each individual/couple may only consume the alcohol they brought).

3. Attendance by non-members at any event where alcohol is present must be by invitation only, and the chapter must utilize a guest list system.
4. Attendance at events with alcohol must not exceed local fire or building code capacity of the chapter premises or host venue.
5. All events with alcohol must have non-alcoholic beverages and food at the event.
6. Common sources of alcohol, including bulk quantities, which are not being served by a licensed and insured third party vendor, are prohibited (i.e., amounts of alcohol greater than what a reasonable person should consume over the duration of an event).
7. Alcoholic beverages must not be purchased with chapter funds or funds pooled by members or guests (e.g., admission fees, cover fees, collecting funds through digital apps, etc.).
8. A chapter must not co-host or cosponsor, or in any way participate in, an activity or event with another group or entity that purchases or provides alcohol, illegal drugs, or controlled substances.
9. A chapter must not co-host or cosponsor an event with a bar or alcohol distributor; however, a chapter may rent a bar, restaurant, or other licensed and insured third-party vendor to host a chapter event.
10. Any event or activity related to the new member joining process (e.g., intake, rush, etc.) must be substance free. No alcohol or drugs may be present if the event or activity is related to new member activities, meetings, or initiation into the organization including but not limited to "odyssey", "instruction periods", jewels, ceremonies, any activity found in the ritual or required by any governing document.
11. Chapters, members, or guests must not permit, encourage, coerce, glorify or participate in any activities involving the rapid consumption of alcohol, such as drinking games.

12. An Event Notification Form must be submitted to the Regional Director for the Region that will host the event, or to the National President if the event is a National event at least 14 calendar days prior to the event. Failure to timely submit the form shall result in the cancellation of the event.

**The following events with alcohol are PERMITTED as long as the provisions of this policy are followed:**

- **Homecoming, Tailgating and Other Athletic Events**
- **Events hosted by graduate chapters in accordance with the Chapter Management Handbook.**
- **Fundraisers at Stadium/Concession Stands**

*Collegiate and Alumnae chapters may work at concession stands where alcoholic beverages are sold and the proceeds from that work is used as a fundraiser for chapters.*

- *Collegiate chapter members are prohibited from serving alcoholic beverages when working at concession stands.*
- *Collegiate and Alumnae chapter members are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages while working concession stands.*
- *Chapter members working at the concession stands cannot wear Delta paraphernalia, symbols, or trademarks at any time that they work at the concession stand.*

- **Chapter Raffles**

*Donated gift baskets, closed and not opened at the event, are allowed at Delta events.*

- **Virtual Events**

*If alcohol is present, no paraphernalia, trademark, or symbol of Delta and no social media presence is permitted.*

**Alcohol is NOT PERMITTED at the following events:**

- **Activities or Events Involving Children**

*(i.e., GEMS, Delta Academy, EMBODI, Cotillions, Jabberwock, or any other Delta-sponsored youth program)*

- **Social Media**

*Sorors and members must be substance and alcohol free in all social media presence including posts, videos, websites.*

- **Events hosted by the undergraduate chapter in accordance with the Chapter Management Handbook.**

- **Conventions, Conferences, State, Area or Local Meetings**

- **Delta's Logos and Names and/or Images of Delta's Founders**

*No chapter, member, or soror may use, or authorize any other individual, business entity, or organization to use, the name or image of Delta's Founders, any iteration of Delta's name, or any Delta trademark (names, symbols, or logos) in combination with alcohol or any alcohol related paraphernalia, including but not limited to, the creation of shot glasses, wine glasses or other inappropriate drinkware.*

- **Delta Founders Day Celebration**

*Renting a closed area within an establishment that sells or provides alcoholic beverages to other guests would not violate this policy.*

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*Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has a Code of Conduct which outlines its disciplinary policy and procedures. **To report a violation of the Alcohol and Drug Usage Policy for Undergraduate and Graduate Chapters, please utilize one (or more) of the options below:***

- *In case of an emergency, call 911.*
- *Contact local Chapter President to report.*
- *Contact undergraduate Chapter Advisor to report.*
- *Contact Regional Director of region to report.*
- *Call the National Headquarters (NHQ) at 202-986-2400 during business hours to report.*
- *Contact university/college resources (campus police, Greek Life Office, Dean of Students, etc.)*

### **Claims**

*Sorors have a duty to report injuries or incidents that could lead to a claim under the general liability insurance. Reporting of incidents shall be made within 48 hours of the incident. Failure to report a claim within the prescribed notification period may void coverage of the claim. Any such incident shall be reported to your regional director, Delta Headquarters, and our broker:*

*Professional Insurers and Associates, Inc.  
7700 Old Branch Avenue, E-104  
Clinton, MD 20735  
Phone: 301-856-1810  
Fax: 301-868-7719  
Email: professional.insurers@verizon.net*

### **Definitions**

*When used in this policy, the following terms have these designated meanings:*

- *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - The Grand Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*
- *Delta - Commonly known as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*
- *Chapter - The local branch of the Sorority designated by geographic location or college or university campus that consists of members who have paid dues to Grand Chapter and the chapter.*
- *Co-Host - The organization or individual (s) paying for sponsoring or co-sponsoring a part or the entire event with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. or those acting as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*
- *Co-Sponsor - An organization or individual(s) who gives money or other support including in kind support to an event with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. or those acting as Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*
- *Grand Chapter - Includes all members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*
- *Intellectual Property - Delta's trade secrets, copyrights, trademarks, service marks, and patents (including, but not limited to, word marks, logos, symbols, crest, seal, Greek-letters, and the Delta name).*
- *Member - Any soror who pays dues to a chapter and to Grand Chapter, or who pays a member-at-large fee, or those exempt from payment of Grand Chapter dues and fees but who have paid dues to a chapter.*
- *Soror - A woman who has been duly initiated into the sorority.*
- *Third Party Vendor – An establishment that is licensed and insured for the purposes of hosting an event.*