

INITIATIONS

Initiations is changing, there is mounting pressure from all areas to disband them altogether. With growing public scrutiny initiations are moving forward and will not resemble anything that has happened previously.

The Students' Union believes...

A ban on initiations would not stop them from happening but would send them 'underground' and into the local community where sport clubs and societies cannot be monitored nor controlled and this would lead to poor community relations and would be detrimental to the Union's image as well as to the safety of its members.

If any complaint is made to the Students' Union by any parties involved in or affected by initiations the Students' Union may hold the committee members of the club involved to account which may lead to the club incurring a penalty (at the discretion of the Students' Union).

Key Point

Participation in any initiation activity is completely optional for all members. Whilst recognising initiations primarily are seen as a team building social activity, they must allow for all cultural and personal beliefs in which members can opt out without fear or undue pressure, reprisal or any other discrimination. Refusal to take part in initiations will not have a negative impact on the individual's ability to take part in sport.

Procedure and Policy

A meeting will be held with a member from each sporting committee where the ceremony will be discussed, if this meeting isn't arranged then no form of initiation will happen. Organisers of initiations must also submit a detailed written proposal to the Sports Development Manager ten working days prior to the ceremony. Failure to do so will result in your club not being able to initiate. If a club is found to be initiating after it has been banned from doing so, all funding will be withdrawn. All the individuals within that club are then banned from initiating with any other club. If a club is found to be initiating after the proposal has been rejected all funding will be withdrawn.

Detail

To promote health and well-being, clubs are encouraged to run activities that breakdown barriers and have a sporting element. Initiations are supposed to act as a forum for team bonding - please bear this in mind when you submit the proposal form.

The proposal should include the following: The theme of the event. If drinks are required they are to be purchased in advance from the Students' Union bar. Details about any activities that are going to take place, any food or props that will be used and any additional materials required from the Students' Union.

The proposal is subject to rejection or amendment by the Students' Union.

On approval of the proposal a date and a time slot for your clubs initiation will be allocated.

Responsibility

There must be a delegate from each initiation who is the point of contact for the Union staff. This person must remain sober and competent throughout the ceremony if taking place in the bar, and the absence of such a person may result in the cancellation of the initiation ceremony.

No initiation style activity involving drinking will take place outside of the Union bar, as this can be dangerous and/or could damage the University's reputation and/or the Club's. This may then have a detrimental effect on recruiting new members. There is no set date apart from Wednesday 19 October if you want your activity to be on the Union stage.

Initiations will not be:

- dangerous to the individual or others involved
- disrespectful to the community
- discriminatory
- compulsory.

Under no circumstance should a club member be penalised or discriminated against for not participating. Initiations or similar activities are voluntary and will not hinder members' participation in activities.

Initiations will be

- Conducted in a safe environment
- Stewarded and monitored throughout
- Inclusive
- Accessible
- Advertised appropriately by the Students' Union.

Students' Union bar rules and regulations

Standard Students' Union bar procedures such as eviction and bans will be enforced throughout the event. The management has the right to refuse entry (including anyone deemed to be too drunk) in accordance with our entry policies. Any activity conducted which has not been approved by the Students' Union may result in eviction from the premises and may lead to the club incurring a penalty.