Club Violations Policy

Policy Information

Date Established: March 6, 2023

Date Last Updated: December 3, 2025

Category: Clubs

Overview

A club found responsible for violation of any University at Buffalo Student Association Inc. ("SA"), University at Buffalo ("UB"), or State University of New York ("SUNY") Policy, or applicable law or regulation, may be subject to a variety of sanctions, including warning, probation, fine, removal of involved officer(s) or derecognition of the club. While there may be consequences for the club's actions, SA's goal is that clubs find this process educational. Sanctions are designed to help a club learn and grow.

Sanctions imposed under the SA Club Violations Policy are separate from any proceedings or consequences a student may face if charged with a crime or violation of UB policy.

Violations Process

A report of an alleged violation of policy, law or regulation shall be submitted to the SA Vice President for Clubs or the SA Vice President for Clubs's designee. The SA Vice President for Clubs or designee may ask additional SA Officers, Directors, or Staff to advise them on the situation and help gather additional information.

If the Vice President for Clubs determines that further action may be appropriate, the club will be notified of the alleged violation and be given 7 days to submit a written statement pertaining to the alleged violation and to respond to any request for additional information that the SA Officers determine is pertinent to deciding the matter. Pending final determination, a club may be temporarily suspended from performing any activity by the Vice President for Clubs and either the SA President or SA Treasurer if there is reasonable evidence that the club has been part of an action that is deemed as a "clear and present danger" to themselves or others in the campus community or has violated rules as it pertains to spending money. While temporarily suspended a club's budget will be frozen, and they will not be allowed to perform any club functions.

Subject to any applicable legal limitations, clubs are required to fully cooperate in any SA investigation of a policy violation, including truthfully and completely answering relevant questions posed to them by SA officials and providing information, documentation and evidence as may be requested by SA officials. Dishonesty by the club or failure to reasonably cooperate with a reasonable SA investigation may be considered violation(s) of this policy, separate from and potentially in addition to the initial alleged violation.

If the SA Vice President for Clubs or designee determines that a warning is appropriate, a warning shall be provided to the club, club officers may be required to sign a statement of understanding by a certain date, and club officers or members may be required to attend training(s) by a certain date. Any such warning or training steps shall not preclude the SA Officers from taking further or additional action with respect to such violation in the future.

Upon finding that a violation of SA, UB, or SUNY policy, or applicable law or regulation has occurred, the SA Vice President for Clubs may impose any of the following sanctions for violations, following the consent of either the SA President or SA Treasurer (which must be the Treasurer for club budget freeze or fine):

- Loss of privileges
- Probation
- Fine (not to exceed 50% of the club's budget line at the time of the offense)
- Club budget freeze
- Removal of involved club officer(s) and prohibition on such person(s) serving as an officer of the club for the remainder of the academic year
- Derecognition of the Club
- Other sanctions as may be deemed appropriate.

In making such determination, the SA Officers may consider the strength of evidence against the club, the seriousness of the alleged conduct, and the club's history of past violations and/or warnings.

Once the final decision has been made the club will be informed of the outcome and any applicable sanction(s).

Appeals

Any appeal(s) of decisions regarding club violations may only be based on allegation(s) of procedural error, inaccurate application of criteria set forth under applicable policy or math pertaining to the relevant club, or violation of law. Before appealing to the Senate, the club must first submit a written request for reconsideration to the official(s) who rendered the decision, or to their successor(s) if such official(s) is no longer in office; such written request must state the basis upon which the reconsideration is requested. The club may only then appeal to the Senate if such official(s) denies the request for reconsideration or fails to respond to it within 14 days.

Consideration of Club Applications Following Derecognition

A new club application for a club that is determined to be the same as a previously derecognized club via the below criteria may be denied for two full semesters after their initial derecognition. In determining whether a new club applicant is the same as a club that was previously derecognized, SA may look at consistency of purpose, activities, club officers and membership of the proposed new club in comparison to the previously derecognized club. The club applicants will also need to provide sufficient proof that they have taken reasonable precautions to ensure such wrongdoing does not happen again.