

Heading: Athletic Union Social Behaviour Policy

Submitted by: Richard Smith (Executive Committee), Jamie Morgado (Executive Committee)

Council Believes

1. The current guidelines to govern expected standards of behaviour are outdated.

Council Further Believes

1. Greater control is needed to safeguard the efficiency of this facility.
2. With governed structure of planning and targeting such a facility will be a greater benefit to LSU.

Council Resolves

1. To adopt the following policy:

Loughborough Students' Athletic Union, as a section of Loughborough Students' Union, has a duty to ensure it upholds the name of Loughborough Students' Union and to ensure that it is acting with the best interests of Loughborough students. The Athletic Union has a duty to ensure that its members participate on and off the field in a safe, non-threatening and enjoyable environment. It is also noted that members of the Athletic Union are also representatives of Loughborough Students' Union whilst off the field in a social capacity and during transport to and from fixtures and events; good behaviour is expected of them, and the following rules apply:

All members of Athletic Union Clubs must show respect towards members of the public and other members of the University, at all times.

Whilst representing Loughborough Students' Union, AU club members must behave responsibly and not act in a way that may damage the image of the club or bring the Athletic Union or Loughborough Students' Union into disrepute.

Social Events including club 'welcoming socials'

The objective of an Athletic Union social event is to act as a team building exercise, whereby all members of an AU club can meet and socialise with each other.

- It is each individual's choice whether or not they attend any 'welcoming social' or social event.
- It is each club's objective that every member of the club has an enjoyable time. It follows that each member will have a different response to activities, and no 'peer' pressure (intended or not) should be placed on any member to do anything that they may not enjoy.
- The committee of each club is responsible for the welfare of all club members and must take the necessary measures to ensure that an adequate level of safety is maintained at all times.

With this in mind it is the duty of the Athletic Union and individual clubs to ensure that the following are upheld:

It is the responsibility of the AU club committees to organise and supervise all club 'welcoming socials' and social events. Each AU club must notify the Athletic Union of the date, venue and content of their introductory social.

It is essential that every club initiation has an appropriate number of supervisors (in the form of club committee members and returning students). The number of supervisors must be ratified by the Athletic Union President. Supervisors must remain sober throughout the event to maintain adequate control.

Supervision is essential to ensure each member's safety, and to prevent any injuries or problems from occurring. No activity should take place that causes a risk of injury or damage to health.

If the number of members attending the introductory event exceeds 50, it is obligatory that Loughborough Students' Union Security Staff are notified and are asked to oversee the running of the event.

All 'initiations' must be held within Loughborough University Campus, and preferably in the Students' Union Building and surrounding areas, for example, outside John Cooper Bar. It is not acceptable for any club member to take part in the 'Motorway Run' at any time throughout the year. If this is breached, those involved will be ineligible to compete for Loughborough Students for a minimum of two fixtures.

The Athletic Union discourages excessive consumption of alcohol and forced consumption of food substances. This applies to every club.

Every AU club should hold their Freshers' trials for selection of squads before club's 'Welcoming Social' takes place, to reduce any pressure that first years may feel to take part in the 'Welcoming Social'.

The Athletic Union insists that every club member has the right to participate as a full club member in training sessions and competitions without attending any of the club's social events. Attendance at social events is by no means a criterion for being selected into a club squad or team. Selection is based purely on ability, skill and fitness criteria.

Transport

When travelling to and from fixtures, training and social events members of the Athletic Union are representing their club, the Athletic Union, Loughborough Students' Union and Loughborough students. They should therefore behave in a responsible and safe manner:

When travelling on provided transport (i.e. minibuses, coaches or cars), no alcohol is permitted to be carried onto/consumed on board at any time. Failure to comply with this rule invalidates our insurance and puts members at risk.

Each club member is reminded that he/she are solely responsible for his/her conduct when representing the club at home or away fixtures, trips and training sessions. Any breach of conduct will be looked at seriously and could result in expulsion from the Athletic Union club and/or withholding of club grants.

The designated driver of the vehicle has the authority to refuse entry onto the vehicle or refuse to drive, if any member's behaviour is deemed unacceptable.

Accountability of Athletic Union Clubs

This policy works in line with the Union's Discipline policy, which exists to ensure that our members know that good behaviour is what we expected at all times, whilst representing Loughborough Students' Union.

Any matter arising from the improper conduct of a member should be reported via the Athletic Union President or directly to the Vice President: Finance & Commercial Services. Following this, action will be taken by the Vice President: Finance & Commercial Services in line with the Union Constitution and the wishes of Union Council. The VP: Finance & Commercial Services will keep the Athletic Union President and AU Executive informed as to the actions taken against members or clubs. It is at the discretion of the Athletic Union President and AU Executive to impose any further restrictions on a club or specific member as they feel appropriate.

Let it be noted that sanctions to members or clubs will be in line with the minimum sanctions outlined in the discipline policy, and that incidents may also be referred to other parties, such as the police or institution (i.e. University).

On Field conduct

Should the conduct of a member whilst on the field be deemed unacceptable, this will be addressed by the sports governing body (i.e. through the referee system). This will also be reported to the Athletic Union President who can impose appropriate fines/bans above and beyond the governing bodies' action. If deemed serious enough, the AU President may refer to the Vice President: Finance & Commercial Services for advice and the possibility of Union sanctions in line with the discipline policy.

It is the responsibility of the Athletic Union President and AU clubs' committees to ensure every member is aware of and complies with this policy.

Passed at Council: 2009