



**IRENE**  
STELLENBOSCH  
— EST. 1963 —



# **Irene Residence Alcohol Policy**

## 1. Preamble

The Irene House Committee recognises the traumatic effects of binge-drinking and an irresponsible drinking culture that seems to be present on Stellenbosch campus. We therefore commit ourselves to cultivating a residence space where Ireners are encouraged to take ownership of their drinking habits in a safe and responsible manner, by giving effect to our values of integrity, respect, ubuntu, humility and empathy. Therefore, the goal of this document is to normalise healthy drinking habits throughout the residence space by encouraging safe drinking practices and preventing binge drinking at the residence and Irene events.

Further objectives include:

- To mitigate and prevent a binge drinking culture.
- To promote a positive drinking culture and responsibility in the consumption of alcoholic products.
- To educate residents on the importance of responsible drinking.
- To promote safe and responsible use of alcohol.

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1. "*Bedroom*" includes single and double rooms.
- 2.2. "*Binge drinking*" refers to more than 5 units of alcohol in a 4-hour period for males and more than 4 units of alcohol in a 4-hour period for females.
- 2.3. "*Drinking Culture*" refers to the set of traditions and social behaviours that surround the consumption of alcohol recreationally.
- 2.4. "*Drinking games*" are any social activity in which the main objective of the game is to get drunk or drink more alcohol than recommended.
- 2.5. "*Event*" refers to bigger functions planned by an Irener in an official capacity to serve as a gathering for other Ireners, such as Housewarming, any of the dances or Irene Week.
- 2.6. "*Hard Liquor*" refers to distilled beverages with an alcohol content of 35% or higher. Examples include brandy, whiskey, vodka, and tequila.
- 2.7. "*Recovery Area*" refers to an area in which people who are intoxicated may go to rest and be taken care of. This area will have water available and places to sit which will be located away from the busyness of the event.
- 2.8. "*Responsible use of alcohol*" refers to the consumption of alcohol where the Blood Alcohol Content stays at 0.08% or below.

## 3. Amendments

- 3.1. Amendments to these rules may be made:
  - 3.1.1. At the behest of the CSC representative and Resident Head.
  - 3.1.2. By the House Committee once approval has been obtained from the CSC representative.

## 4. Operation of the policy

- 4.1. The Irene Alcohol policy:
  - 4.1.1. Will come into operation after it has been approved by the Resident Head, the CSC representative and subsequently by a simple majority of the Residence during a House Meeting.
  - 4.1.2. Will apply to all Irene members and visitors.

- 4.1.3. Will not come into effect before the second week of the undergraduate year of classes.
- 4.1.4. Will be reviewed by the House Committee once a year,
- 4.1.5. Will be in force until 2 weeks before every examination period, as determined by the university.
- 4.1.6. The CSC shall in extraordinary circumstances be allowed to suspend this policy.

## **5. Default rules**

- 5.1. If the above provision in section 4 is not given effect to, the following rules apply:
  - 5.1.1. No alcohol may be stored, consumed, or displayed in containers that are recognisable as alcoholic beverages in the residence.
  - 5.1.2. Any such actions will lead to the confiscation of the alcohol and leave the resident subject to the relevant internal procedures of the residence.
- 5.2. If the provisions in section 4 are complied with, the Irene-specific Alcohol rules will apply.

## **6. Irene-Specific Alcohol Rules**

- 6.1. If more than six (6) people gather to consume alcohol, consent must be obtained by the respective House Committee Member. Alcohol may only be consumed in the following public spaces in the residence:
  - 6.1.1. If more than six (6) people gather, consent has to be obtained by either the Vice Primaria or Primaria:
    - The quad
    - The dining hall
    - The Old Rec Hall
    - The New Rec Hall
  - 6.1.2. If more than six (6) people gather, consent has to be obtained by either the Pegasus or Draco House Committee Member:
    - The rooftop
  - 6.1.3. If more than six (6) people gather, consent has to be obtained by the Lyra House Committee Member:
    - The Lyra balcony
  - 6.1.4. Application for consent:
    - 6.1.4.1 Consent is to be obtained by every individual by submitting Addendum C to the respective House Committee member by 10:00 A.M. the day prior to the date being applied for.
    - 6.1.4.2 Consent has only been granted upon receiving the approval and signature from a House Committee member.
- 6.2. Restrictions relating to spaces:
  - 6.2.1. No loud music is to be played when consuming alcohol in one of the above-mentioned communal spaces and the same rules for games and activities for functions are applicable (6.4.1 and 6.4.2).
  - 6.2.2. Under no circumstances may alcohol be consumed in residents' bedrooms.
    - 6.2.2.1. Alcohol may be stored in bedrooms, out of sight.
  - 6.2.3. Alcohol may not be consumed:

- 6.2.3.1. In section areas,
- 6.2.3.2. Any other space not mentioned in this policy.

### 6.3. Restrictions relating to times:

- 6.3.1. Alcohol may be consumed in the public spaces of the residence:
  - 6.3.1.1. No earlier than 10:00 and no later than 23:00. Thus, no alcohol consumption will be allowed between 23:00 and 10:00.
  - 6.3.1.2. For special functions, the Resident Head may apply for an exception to the rule 6.3.1.1.
- 6.3.2. No alcohol may be used during examination times, including 2 weeks leading up to the examination period.

### 6.4. Events and functions

- 6.4.1. No alcohol-related games will be permitted at functions or events either within Irene or at external venues.
- 6.4.2. Any activity that has intoxication as its main goal, requires alcohol consumption to participate or results in the swift and/or high-volume consumption of alcohol is prohibited in the residence.
  - 6.4.2.1. These activities include, but are not limited to, drinking games, funneling and 'shotgunning'.
- 6.4.3. No alcohol may be sold by Irene at functions or events in Irene without a certified liquor license.
- 6.4.4. The responsible use of alcohol may be permitted during events hosted by and in Irene.
- 6.4.5. At all events organised by Irene, provision will be made for non-alcoholic drinks and sufficient food to empower Ireners to exercise responsible drinking habits.
- 6.4.6. For events hosted outside of the residence:
  - 6.4.6.1. Alcohol will be limited to the amount stipulated in the Addendum A Alcohol Application Form for events.
  - 6.4.6.2. The committee planning the function must complete an Alcohol Application Form in accordance with Addendum A, as well as an Alcohol Calculation Form in accordance with Addendum B, and these forms must be:
    - 6.4.6.2.1. signed by the HC responsible for the committee and
    - 6.4.6.2.2. submitted to and approved by the Residence Head, Primaria and Vice Primaria seven (7) days prior to the event. Failure to do so may result in the alcohol application form not being approved.
  - 6.4.6.3. A "recovery area" will be set aside at every function where intoxicated attendees can go to recover.
  - 6.4.6.4. Two (2) Ireners must be appointed to act as alcohol monitors at the function. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
    - 6.4.6.4.1. Monitor the entrance of an event to ensure that prohibited alcohol is not brought into the event.
    - 6.4.6.4.2. Be mindful of the recovery area and the attendees in that space.

- 6.4.6.4.3. Act as a safety officer that attendees in need can use as a point of contact.

## **7. Education on Safe Drinking and Substance Use**

- 7.1. During Welcoming Week, a session on Safe Drinking must be presented to the Newcomers.
- 7.2. The session should be an introductory conversation on the topic in which “Safe Drinking”, “Binge Drinking” and “Substance Abuse” are discussed with the Newcomers.
- 7.3. The discussion should also emphasize the importance of knowing one’s limit. If possible, peer pressure and the bystander effect with regards to the drinking culture in Stellenbosch must also be addressed to bring awareness to subtle behaviours that enable the drinking culture.
- 7.4. This discussion may also include which steps to take in caring for intoxicated friends, such as providing them with enough water, sleeping on their side, etc.
- 7.5. An annual Res-Ed session will also take place outside of the Welcoming Period to also educate and encourage seniors regarding the above mentioned points.

## **8. Transgressions of this policy**

- 8.1. The following behaviours will, along with the other provisions of the policy, be considered as transgressions of the policy and therefore not be tolerated:
  - 8.1.1. Extreme and disturbing noise as a result of alcohol consumption,
  - 8.1.2. Any conduct or behaviour related to alcohol consumption that threatens the safety or well-being of an individual,
  - 8.1.3. The consumption of alcohol may not disturb the academic atmosphere within the residence.
  - 8.1.4. A student’s drinking behaviour should not alarm Ireners due to irresponsible alcohol consumption.
- 8.2. Any alcohol consumed outside of the designated spaces or not in line with the provisions of this policy may be confiscated and discarded of.
- 8.3. Transgressors of this policy will be dealt with in terms of the values and internal disciplinary procedures of the residence, and face consequences at the discretion of the Primaria, Vice-Primaria and Resident Head.
- 8.4. Extreme transgressions may lead to the suspension of alcohol within the entire residence.

