



## BYLAWS

*(Revised April 2007)*

### TITLE I JUDICIAL CODE

*Mission Statement: In an effort to keep fraternities in compliance with University rules and regulations, the IFC Judicial Board seeks to provide a system of controls within the fraternity system, help fraternities to resolve their own problems, and provide direction to fraternities through fair and impartial judgments. The board wishes to propose constructive solutions to the problems associated with fraternities at Delta State University.*

#### Section A. JUDICIAL BOARD COMPOSITION

1. The IFC Judicial Board (J-Board) shall be composed of two representatives from each fraternity who are not currently sitting on the IFC.
2. The Board Members shall be appointed by each chapter and approved by three-fourths (3/4) majority of the IFC.
3. A quorum must be present in order to conduct official IFC business. A quorum shall be defined as three-fourths (3/4) of the members of the J-Board.
4. The IFC Vice-President shall act as chairman of the J-Board and shall serve as a non-voting member. If the J-Board Chairman is the witness, accused, or accuser of the case in question, the IFC President shall serve as the Chairman for said case.
5. The IFC Secretary shall act as the J-Board Secretary and shall serve as a non-voting member. He shall perform the following duties:
  - a. Record the minutes of each meeting
  - b. Keep files of minutes and decisions made
  - c. Inform all involved parties of J-Board hearings as outlined in these bylaws.
  - d. Tape record, as well as hand record, all proceedings for accuracy
  - e. Document the final decisions in each case and inform all involved parties of J-Board decisions as outlined in the *IFC Bylaws*.

- f. If the J-Board Secretary is the witness, accused, or accuser of the case in question, the IFC President shall appoint another secretary for said case. This appointment must be approved by three-fourths (3/4) majority of the sitting J-Board.
6. In any proceedings, no off-the-record communications, threat, or offer of reward shall be made to any member of the J-Board. Board members are bound by honor to volunteer such information and such communication shall be entered as official record of the case.

Section B. JURISDICTION

1. The Interfraternity Council shall have jurisdiction over, but not limited to, the following areas:
  - a. Alcohol/drug violations (i.e. common supply)
  - b. Lewd conduct (i.e. public drunkenness, abusive language/behavior)
  - c. Theft of any and all property
  - d. Vandalism, or willful destruction of property
  - e. Recruitment violations
  - f. Minor hazing violations (personal servitude, work party infractions)
  - g. Harassment of any University official or DSU student
  - h. Social violations (late nights, noise violations, lack of proper risk reduction at parties)
  - i. Violence/controversies between fraternities
  - j. Violation of the *IFC Constitution* or the *IFC Bylaws*.
2. Nothing in this code shall preclude the University's right to original jurisdiction in all cases.

Section C. INITIAL REPORT

1. The judicial process will begin when the Advisor of the IFC receives a written report. This report will take one of four (4) forms:
  - a. A University Police Department Report
  - b. An Administrative Report (i.e. housing, faculty, etc.)
  - c. An incident report filed on behalf of an IFC chapter
  - d. An incident report filed on behalf of a student, community member, NPC sorority, NPHC sorority or fraternity, or student organization.
2. The Advisor of the IFC will next determine whether or not the incident will be considered an action of a chapter or an action of an individual. The following list represents some, but not all, of the criteria used in this determination:
  - a. IFC Judicial Code violations
  - b. Officers Present
  - c. Location
  - d. Quantity of members involved
  - e. Classification of members (Actives/Associate Members)

3. The IFC Advisor will contact the accused chapter or member to inform them of the accusations levied against them. A preliminary written rebuttal may be submitted to the IFC Advisor within 36 hours of the first communication. This rebuttal shall be presented to the J-Board.

Section D. DETERMINATION OF HEARING

1. At the J-Board meetings, the board will discuss any reports submitted to them by the IFC Advisor. The J-Board will then determine if the action warrants a hearing. Preliminary information such as the sequence of events, parties involved, and background material will be discussed. Major areas of questioning, a general idea of the order of questions, and who asks specific questions in the upcoming Judicial Hearing will be established.
2. The Board will vote by simple majority whether or not to hold a hearing. The Board may also choose mediation as a method of resolve. If the vote for a hearing is in the affirmative, a date will be set for a Judicial Hearing, and a letter will be sent to the fraternity president(s) within 48 hours of the J-Board's decision. This Notification Letter provides a notice of the hearing, date, time, location, and a brief written explanation of the complaint and the incident behind the hearing.
3. If mediation is chosen as the means to settling a dispute, the IFC Advisor, the chairman of the Judicial Board, the chapter president(s), and the chapter advisor(s) will meet at a convenient time to discuss the infraction. If all parties reach an amenable solution, the process is ended. If no solution can be agreed upon, the process automatically goes to a hearing.

Section E. OUTLINE OF EVENTS FOR THE IFC JUDICIAL BOARD HEARING

1. In the case of a Fraternity vs. Fraternity Hearing (Recruitment violations, theft, vandalism, etc.), the J-Board shall follow the following outline of events:
  - a. All parties shall be present for the introduction of the Board, explanation of J-Board and function.
  - b. Narrative account of incident report and other statements shall be read aloud by the J-Board chairman.
  - c. The accused party shall exit. The reporting party shall present its side of the incident.
  - d. The J-Board shall ask pertinent questions, followed by a closing statement from the chapter.
  - e. The accused party shall re-enter the room and the reporting party shall exit.
  - f. The accused party shall present its side.
  - g. The J-Board shall ask pertinent questions, followed by a closing statement from the chapter.

- h. The reporting party shall re-enter the room. Any clarifying questions shall be asked of both parties. All parties shall be dismissed for J-Board deliberation (as outlined in Title I, Section F, Item 1 of this code).
    - i. All parties shall re-enter the room for the reading of the J-Board decision.
- 2. In the case of a University vs. Fraternity Hearing (common supply, lewd conduct, housing violations, etc.), the J-Board shall follow the following outline of events:
  - a. The J-Board shall introduce itself and explain its philosophy and function.
  - b. The Judicial Chairman shall read aloud a narrative account of incident report and other statements.
  - c. The University official shall give his/her statement/account of the incident.
  - d. The J-Board shall ask pertinent questions, followed by a closing statement from the chapter.
  - e. The accused chapter shall present its side of the incident.
  - f. The J-Board shall ask pertinent questions, followed by a closing statement from the chapter.
  - g. All parties shall be dismissed for J-Board deliberation (as outlined in Title I, Section F, Item 1 of this code).
  - h. All parties shall re-enter the room for the reading of the J-Board decision.
- 3. For both hearing structures, fraternities shall be permitted to bring the chapter president, any accused members, and witnesses to support their side of the incident. A chapter advisor and/or legal council may also attend the hearings, but neither shall be allowed to address the J-Board.

Section F. POST-HEARING DELIBERATION

- 1. Following the hearing, all parties shall be dismissed and a post hearing deliberation shall begin. Led by the J-Board Chairman, the board shall determine the facts presented. The board members will then make a decision regarding the guilt or innocence of the accused party. Each board member will have one vote as to guilt or innocence, with a simple majority ruling. The J-Board Chairman shall only vote in the case of a tie.
- 2. The deliberation shall then focus on the severity of the infraction/violation. Based on the severity of the infraction/violation, the J-Board shall classify it as a Level One, Level Two, or Level Three violation (as outlined in Title I, Section G of this code).
- 3. An appropriate, fair, and educational-in-nature sanction shall be determined using the guidelines outlined in Title I, Section G of this code.

Section G VIOLATION LEVELS

- 1. Level One Violation: examples include, but are not limited to, common supply of alcohol and recruitment violations.

- a. For these violations, the minimum sanction shall be a loss of party privileges, or a small fine not in excess of \$250.00.
  - b. The maximum sanction shall be an administrative probation added to the minimum sanction imposed.
2. Level Two Violation: examples include, but are not limited to, common supply of alcohol, vandalism, theft of property, and harassment.
  - a. For these violations, the minimum sanction shall be a loss of party privileges and community service for responsible parties, not in excess of three hours per individual.
  - b. The maximum sanction shall be social probation, or the loss of multiple parties; a warning letter to national organization, community service requirement, educational programming requirement, and a fine, not in excess of \$500.00.
3. Level Three Violation: examples include, but are not limited to, hazing violations, common supply of alcohol, and repeat offences in all violation categories.
  - a. For these violations, a minimum sanction shall be a letter to the chapter's national office, educational programming, community service, and social probation for at least one semester.
  - b. The maximum sanction shall be that the minimum sanctions be imposed and that an extensive letter to the national organization be sent, requesting assistance.
4. Any single sanction or combination of sanctions can be imposed for a particular case. The three levels of violations are intended simply to assist the Judicial Board in determining an appropriate sanction to impose.

Section H.                    SANCTIONS

Sanctions that may be imposed as a result of the hearing may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Social penalties, such as the prohibition of participating in or organizing social events, or a social probation that stems to off campus activity. It is at the discretion of the Judicial Council as to what encompasses the social probation.
2. Administrative probation, which is a probationary status for fraternity. This will place the fraternity in a closely monitored position so that if the situation does not improve or terms of probation are not met, the J-Board will take further action against the chapter in question.
3. Community service, which may be levied to individual chapter members or to the chapter as a whole
4. Intramural penalties, such as the loss of intramural privileges for the chapter in question
5. Fines
6. Educational programming, such as speakers on hazing or alcohol abuse
7. A warning letter copied to the national organization

Section I. DECISION

1. Within 24 hours of the hearing, the J-Board secretary shall send a decision letter to the accused party, outlining the Board's decision and listing the sanction(s) to be completed.
2. Within 24 hours of the hearing, the J-Board secretary shall send a decision letter to the accused party's chapter president (if different from above), outlining the Board's decision and listing the sanction(s) to be completed.
3. Within 24 hours of the hearing, the J-Board secretary shall send a decision letter to the IFC Advisor, outlining the Board's decision and listing the sanction(s) to be completed.
4. The J-Board secretary shall place a phone call to the parties listed above to ensure receipt of notification.

Section J. APPEALS PROCEDURE

1. Appeals of J-Board sanctions may be heard by the IFC Advisor. They should be delivered in writing to the IFC Advisor's office within 48 hours of notification of the decision. The IFC Advisor will decide to uphold, amend, or strike the J-Board's decision.
2. Appeals of the IFC Advisor's sanctions may be heard by the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA). They should be delivered in writing to the VPSA's office within 48 hours of notification of the IFC Advisor's decision. The VPSA will decide to uphold, amend, or strike the J-Board's decision. The final decision shall rest with the VPSA.

Section K. ENFORCEMENT

The Interfraternity Council, the IFC Advisor, and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs will complete the enforcement of sanctions jointly. The Board will discuss and follow up on sanctions imposed at their regular IFC meetings.

Section L. AMENDMENT

These bylaws shall be amended only by a three-fourths (3/4) vote and shall be brought forth for consideration at one meeting and voted on at the following meeting.

**TITLE II  
RECRUITMENT RULES**

Section A. SUMMER RECRUITMENT REGULATIONS

The following rules govern summer Recruitment parties:

1. Each chapter may host a maximum of two summer Recruitment parties.

2. All summer Recruitment functions shall be no more than two-day affairs.
3. Chapters are not to provide hotel or motel space for potential new members during their stay for the party.

Section B. PRE-RECRUITMENT REGULATIONS

1. The Pre-Recruitment Period shall be defined as the period from the official move-in day of the residence halls to the end of the Recruitment Week.
2. A *potential new member*, formerly called *rushee*, shall be defined as any male student who is registered as a full time student at DSU during the Recruitment semester and is not currently a member or pledge of an existing fraternity
3. The rules that govern chapters regarding potential new members are as follows:
  - a. No potential new member or prospective member shall be present at any swap, mixer, or social function hosted in conjunction with one particular sorority, nor shall any swap, mixer or social function hosted in conjunction with one particular sorority be planned or held for potential new members.
  - b. No potential new member shall accept alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia of any kind from as a gift from a fraternity.
  - c. No organization can supply summer Recruitment shirts to Potential New Members. An IFC approved Summer Recruitment shirt may be purchased by Potential New Members.
4. Pre-Bidding. There may be no indication, either in writing or verbally, during the Pre-Recruitment period that a potential new member has received a bid from any chapter affiliated with the Interfraternity Council.

Section C. FORMAL RECRUITMENT WEEK REGULATIONS

1. The general rules for Formal Recruitment Week are as follows:
  - a. A spirit of fair play and confidence in all fraternity members will be fostered and maintained. No chapter shall take any degrading action toward a potential new member.
  - b. All Recruitment material and practices shall be within the confines of good taste.
  - c. No member (active, inactive, pledge, alumnus) shall indulge in defamation of character against any member or groups of members of another fraternity.
  - d. Recruitment information (including, but not limited to, party locations, invitation lists, bid lists, etc.) is to be turned in by a time and at a location specified by the IFC Advisor. Failure to turn in these items ON TIME will result in a \$250.00 fine.
2. The rules of Recruitment eligibility are as follows:
  - a. To be eligible for Recruitment, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student at Delta State University and not currently a member or pledge of another fraternity.

- b. No fraternity shall pledge a man who has not registered for IFC Recruitment in person by deadline prescribed in the official IFC Recruitment schedule. The IFC Judicial Council shall have the authority to waive this provision to potential new members who have conflicting University activities or who become ill during Recruitment.
3. The timeline of Formal Recruitment Week is as follows:
  - a. IFC Formal Recruitment Week shall be held the third week of the semester. This date may be adjusted by a three-fourths majority vote of the sitting IFC.
  - b. Recruitment Week will begin with the General Meeting.
  - c. Recruitment Week will consist of three recruitment parties.
  - d. Parties on nights one and two will each last 50 minutes.
  - e. Parties on night three will each last one hour.
  - f. Bids will be signed on the night of party three.
  - g. The signing of bids will officially conclude Formal Rush Week.
4. The rules governing the contact between potential new members and active members take effect after the opening meeting of Recruitment Week and continue until bids are issued. They are as follows:
  - a. No potential new member will be allowed on or in fraternity sections except during formal Recruitment week parties to which he has been assigned. Should a member be found in a fraternity section when he is not scheduled, he will be subject to automatic expulsion from the recruitment process and may not pledge a fraternity for that semester.
  - b. During Recruitment week, a fraternity man or fraternity cannot spend money on a Potential New Member (except refreshments at parties during Formal Recruitment Week). This includes payment of Recruitment fees.
  - c. No fraternity man may enter the residence hall of a potential new member unless he is a resident of that particular hall during Recruitment Week. A fraternity man may not call any potential new member for any purpose during Recruitment week.
  - d. No active member or pledge shall contact, converse, or communicate with any potential new member about fraternities, Recruitment, or Greek Life during Formal Recruitment Week outside of the officially scheduled Recruitment party. Casual conversation in class, on campus, or in a University sponsored activity is permitted only if it does not concern fraternities, Recruitment, or Greek Life.
  - e. Any unofficial gathering of fraternity men and potential new member(s) during the hours of Formal Recruitment will be considered a violation of the Recruitment rules.
  - f. In the event an active member is scheduled to reside with a potential member, both parties must make the situation known to the sitting IFC and the IFC Advisor prior to the Formal Recruitment period.

5. The rules governing Formal Recruitment functions are as follows:
  - a. Potential New Members are encouraged to wear nametags provided by the IFC at all Recruitment functions.
  - b. The IFC Advisor shall approve all Formal Recruitment party locations and open houses.
  - c. No chapter shall provide alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia of any kind to a potential new member.
  - d. Potential new members are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages during the Formal Recruitment Week's scheduled activities. Evidence of this will subject the potential new member to automatic expulsion from the recruitment process and shall prohibit his joining a fraternity for that semester.
  - e. Active members and pledges are prohibited from consuming alcoholic beverages during the Formal Recruitment Week's scheduled activities. Evidence of this will subject the members' chapter to judicial sanctions levied by the IFC J-Board.
  - f. All recruiting shall be held in the main sections of host locations during all parties.
  - g. Unfair ratios, or "hot boxing," is defined as a greater than one-to-one ratio of fraternity men to potential new members in a private room. No private room may be used during Recruitment.
  - h. "Hanging a pin" shall be defined as the placing of a fraternity pin onto the body of a potential member prior to the signing of a bid card. A chapter that hangs a pin shall automatically be in violation of Recruitment rules. Pinning shall only take place after the signing of bid cards, and when the potential member becomes a pledge of that organization.
6. No women shall be allowed to help any chapter in any manner to influence the potential new members in any way during the Recruitment program. The IFC makes no exception to this rule for wives, girlfriends, "little sisters," or daughters of fraternity men.
7. Non-alcoholic refreshments may be served at fraternity Recruitment parties during Formal Recruitment Week.
8. Each fraternity shall be allowed no more than one (1) active member representative at each of the other fraternities' formal Recruitment parties. These representatives shall be appropriately identified by the IFC as official IFC representatives. They shall be allowed to remain at the Rush parties for the duration of the event; however, not allowed to converse with potential new members. All representatives must be approved by a three-fourths majority of the IFC Executive Council prior to Rush.
9. Any fraternity man, potential New Member, faculty, staff, or student who observes a violation of the Recruitment rules by a fraternity, fraternity man, or Potential New Member is honor bound to report such violations in writing to the IFC President, Vice President, or IFC Advisor.

- a. This report should be made within one (1) week of the violation and include a description of the accused violation, the names of the person(s) involved, the location, and the time of the incident.
- b. The IFC member to whom the report is made pledges to receive the information given and submit the accusation to the IFC Advisor who in turn will follow procedures as outlined in the Judicial Board bylaws of the IFC constitution.

Section D.                      FORMAL RECRUITMENT INVITATION / BID PROCESS

1. The following is the policy on party invitations and attendance:
  - a. Each chapter must host four parties on the first night of Formal Recruitment.
  - b. Chapters must invite all potential new members to the first party of Formal Recruitment.
  - c. All potential new members must attend all parties the first night of Formal Recruitment.
  - d. Invitations will be made available to potential new members at noon the following day.
  - e. Each chapter must host four parties on the second night of Formal Recruitment.
  - f. Potential new members must attend all parties to which they are invited on the second night of Formal Recruitment.
  - g. Invitations will be made available to potential new members at noon on the following day.
  - h. Each chapter must host at least one party on the third night of Formal Recruitment.
  - i. Each Potential new members will choose two parties he wishes to attend on the third night of Formal Recruitment. He will be randomly assigned as to which party he will attend first and which party he will attend second.
2. The process of signing bids is as follows:
  - a. At the close of the second party on the third night, potential new members will be taken to an agreed-upon location in held in a “holding room.”
  - b. Potential new members will not be allowed to speak to one another while in the holding room.
  - c. Once bid packets have been prepared, potential new members will be released one at a time to pick up packets.
  - d. The next potential new member will not be released until the previous potential new member has signed his bid or declared “no sign.”
  - e. Potential new members will sign the bid of the organization with which they wish to affiliate. At that point, the potential new member will become a pledge of that organization.

Section E.

OPEN RECRUITMENT

1. Timeline
  - a. Open Recruitment will begin the Monday following the close of Formal Recruitment.
  - b. Open Recruitment will last for a period of time agreed upon by the sitting IFC.
  - c. Open Recruitment will conclude on the date and time set by the sitting IFC with the signing of open bids in the IFC Advisor's office.
2. To be eligible for Recruitment, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student at Delta State University and not currently a member or pledge of another fraternity.
3. The rules for contact between potential new members and active members are as follows:
  - a. These rules begin at the start of Open Recruitment and end at the close of open recruitment.
  - b. During Open Recruitment, a fraternity man or fraternity may not spend money on potential new members. This includes payment of Recruitment fees.
  - c. No chapter shall provide alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia of any kind to a potential new member.
  - d. "Hanging a pin" shall be defined as the placing of a fraternity pin onto the body of a potential member prior to the signing of a bid card. A chapter that hangs a pin shall automatically be in violation of Rush rules. Pinning shall only take place after the signing of bid cards, and the potential member becomes a pledge of that organization.
4. Open Bid Signing
  - a. Potential new members must sign bid cards and complete a Recruitment Form in the IFC Advisor's office prior to the deadline stated above.
  - b. Chapters are only allowed to sign up to the difference between twenty-five percent (25%) of the number of potential members that participated in Formal Recruitment and the number signed in Formal Recruitment. Mathematically, it is expressed as thus:  $\# \text{ of bids in open} = [(.25 \times \# \text{ participating in formal}) - \# \text{ signed in formal}]$
  - c. Chapters may issue open bids over the allotted amount if the Potential New Member can provide documentation that supports a legitimate reason for his lack of participation in the Formal Recruitment Process. This decision will be made by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the sitting IFC. Legitimate reasons may include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - i. Illness documented by a physician or DSU Student Health
    - ii. Participation in a University sponsored event
    - iii. Participation in a University sports program
    - iv. Academic obligations that will take them out of 2 or more nights of Formal Recruitment
    - v. Family emergency or death of relative or friend

- vi. Work obligations that will take them out of 2 or more nights of Formal Recruitment
- vii. Other situations deemed legitimate by the sitting IFC.

Section F. DE-PLEDGING / DROPPING PROCESS

1. The following describes the definition and process of de-pledging from a chapter:
  - a. De-pledging shall be defined as a pledge officially discontinuing his affiliation with the chapter that he pledged.
  - b. When the pledge de-pledges, the chapter shall notify the IFC in writing no later than one week after the pledge has resigned.
  - c. For the remainder of the semester, no chapter shall pledge any person who has de-pledge from a fraternity.
  - d. If at the beginning of the new semester a former pledge wishes to pledge a different fraternity than the one he initially pledged, he must ask and receive permission from the sitting IFC to allow him to accept a bid from a different fraternity.
2. Dropping a Pledge
  - a. Dropping a Pledge shall be defined as a fraternity officially discontinuing their affiliation with a pledge.
  - b. When the fraternity drops a pledge, the fraternity shall notify the IFC in writing no later than one week after the pledge has turned in his resignation.
  - c. No fraternity shall pledge any person who has been dropped from a fraternity for the remainder of the semester.
  - d. If at the beginning of the new semester a former pledge wishes to pledge a different fraternity than the one he initially joined, he can appeal to the sitting IFC to allow him to accept a bid from a different fraternity.

Section G. ENFORCEMENT

The Interfraternity Council, the IFC Advisor, and the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs will complete the enforcement of these bylaws.

Section H. AMENDMENT

These bylaws shall be amended only by a three-fourths (3/4) vote and shall be brought forth for consideration at one meeting and voted on at the following meeting.