

Registered Student Organization Policy

The University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus

Policy Adoption: September 2016

Last Update: 8/15/2020

INTRODUCTION

The Division of Student Affairs is responsible for enhancing students' academic success by developing student skills, cultivating diverse, campus life experiences and enriching the University community through programs and services.

Student Affairs supports and encourages students to gather and form community and collaboration through Registered Student Organizations (RSOs). Students who join student organizations feel more connected to their peers, campus, and university as well as more knowledgeable of available campus resources. Therefore, members of RSOs are more likely to graduate and report higher levels of satisfaction with their college experience. Through being involved in RSOs, students receive a multitude of skills and experiences ranging from leadership opportunities to social, intellectual, and cultural development.

GOVERNING POLICIES & PRINCIPLES

All RSOs are responsible for understanding and adhering to the following:

- Local, state, and federal laws
- Policies and procedures of the University of Oklahoma (including, but not limited to:)
 - Student Rights and Responsibilities Code and Procedures
 - Equal Opportunity Statements, Policies, and Procedures
 - Exemptions may be requested on the basis of religion or qualified social organizations through the annual registration process.
 - Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, and Harassment Policy
 - Alcohol Policy (including the Three Strikes Policy)
 - RSO Constitution
 - RSOs will be provided their organization's constitution.
 - Each organization may add their own specific structure and guiding principles to the provided constitution; however, the provided constitution's text may not be amended.
 - Student Government Association (SGA) Policies and Procedures
 - Funding Application Process
 - Space Allocation Application Process
 - Other Policies
 - Co-Curricular Involvement Policy
 - Facility Use Policy
 - Risk Management Policy
 - Student Activities Policy
 - Student Travel Policy
 - Tailgating Policy
 - Temporary Outdoor Signage Policy

Failure to adhere to this policy and / or the guidelines within, may result in rescinded recognition and / or Student Conduct charges.

UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

Presidential

- Presidential programs are presidentially created, supported and / or directed including:
 - Crimson Club
 - Henderson Scholars Program (HSP)
 - OU Cousins
 - President's Community Scholars (PCS)
 - President's Leadership Class (PLC)

Governmental

- The official student government of the University of Oklahoma is the University of Oklahoma Student Government Association (SGA). It serves and advocates on behalf of the student body to improve the student experience.
- Student organizations may not apply to be a Government organization or a branch thereof. However, individuals may run for an elected position within the SGA. Annual registration is not required.
- SGA Branches:
 - Executive Branch: General Council (GC)
 - Judicial Branch: Superior Court
 - Legislative Branches: Graduate Student Senate (GSS), Student Bar Association (SBA), Undergraduate Student Congress (Congress)
 - Programming Branch: Campus Activities Council (CAC)

REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (RSO)

All student organizations approved through the annual registration process will be considered a "Registered Student Organization" or an "RSO" at The University of Oklahoma. An RSO is a student-created organization based on interest and / or advocacy and must allow all eligible OU students to join and participate in the RSO under the University's Non-Discrimination Policy (exemptions may be requested on the basis of religion or qualified social organizations through the registration process).

Recognition as an RSO allows students to apply for and / or request the following benefits: SGA Student Activity Fee (SAF) funding, University account access through the Student Government and Organization Services office, facility use and campus reservations access, discounted pricing structures, access to SGA reservable and allocated space, and organizational use of the Student Affairs engagement platform.

Recognition of RSOs shall not be construed as an agreement, support or approval by the University, but only as an acknowledgement of the rights of the organization to exist at the University, subject to the conditions enumerated herein. To become or remain an RSO, the following criteria must be met:

Registration

- Must be in good standing with the University of Oklahoma.
- Must register, or re-register, annually through the Student Government and Organization Services office within the Division of Student Affairs.

Adviser(s)

- Must have a full-time University staff / faculty member as an adviser.
- Part-time, PEAK, temporary, and graduate assistant employees may not advise RSOs.

Student Membership

- Must have at least ten (10) active, currently enrolled, OU student members.
 - Dually enrolled high school students are not eligible for membership.
 - To serve in a leadership capacity, undergraduate / graduate students must be currently enrolled and in good standing with the University and with their academic college during their appointment or election and throughout their term in leadership.
 - All students holding leadership positions must have the required enrollment statuses at the campus where the organization is registered.

Safety & Insurance

- It is the responsibility of the RSO (including members and advisers) to:
 - secure insurance (through their national affiliate or other carriers) for its members and / or any events, practices, competitions, etc. necessitating insurance.
 - *Option:* The University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA) offers the TULIP event insurance program created specifically for groups (or “third parties”). More information can be found at: <https://tulip.ajgrms.com/>
 - abide by the Risk Management Policy and ensure the appropriate forms and waivers are signed and maintained by the faculty / staff adviser(s).
 - *Option:* The Student Government and Organization Services office provides waivers, medical forms, and other forms and templates for use by RSOs.
 - operate in a safe and responsible manner within the standard rules and practices of its organization, club, and / or sport.
 - *For CCSOs and SCSOs:* Must have present at least one member with current CPR certification (water Competitive and / or Sport Clubs must also have present at least one member with current and appropriate American Red Cross, YMCA, or comparable lifeguard certification), and it is highly recommended the adviser(s), coach(es), and club leadership be certified in the appropriate trainings listed above.

Prohibited

- No organization may serve as an “umbrella organization” and / or receive funding on behalf of another organization.

- All RSOs must adhere to the University's Non-Discrimination Policy unless the appropriate exemption has been granted

RSO CLASSIFICATIONS

1.) *Interest (ISO)*

The majority of Registered Student Organizations are Interest Student Organizations.

A.) Purpose

- Student-created organization based on interest and / or advocacy.

B.) Adviser(s)

- Must have a full-time University staff / faculty member as an adviser.
- Part-time, PEAK, temporary, and graduate assistant employees may not advise student organizations.

C.) Leadership

- Elects, selects or appoints student members to leadership positions at the discretion of the organization.

D.) Trademarks

- May use “*at The University of Oklahoma*” following the organization name.
- No other trademarks may be used.
- For more information, visit the OU Office of Trademark Licensing website: <https://soonersports.com/sports/2013/5/20/208806093.aspx>.

2.) *Competitive Club (CCSO)*

An RSO may be eligible to become a Competitive Club Student Organization if it meets the following criteria.

A.) Purpose

- Participates in official competitions, outside the University of Oklahoma, for its specific organizational purpose.
- Does not duplicate or involve the purpose or function of a comparable activity / sport of another Competitive Club Student Organization (CCSO) or Sport Club Student Organization (SCSO).
- Allows all levels of ability to join and participate in the club.
- Posts all events / competitions to the ENGAGE public calendar.

B.) Adviser(s)

- The full-time University staff / faculty adviser's employment:
 - directly relates to the mission / purpose of the organization,
 - is in the specific administrative department or academic unit for which the organization exists, and / or
 - is assigned to the RSO as part of (not less than 0.2 FTE) their job duties.

- The CCSO approved adviser(s) may not be dismissed or released by the CCSO without consent from Student Government and Organization Services, and where applicable, if a new adviser is obtained after permission is granted, Student Government and Organization Services must approve the new CCSO adviser prior to any commitments being made by the CCSO.

C.) Leadership

- Elects, selects or appoints student members to club leadership positions at the discretion of the organization and / or adviser(s).

D.) Trademarks

- Upon OU Licensing and Trademark Office approval, the CCSO may use the following trademarks:
 - *(Interlocking) OU*
 - *Boomer Sooner*
 - *Sooner(s)*
 - *Oklahoma*
 - *(The) University of Oklahoma*
 - Campus imagery specific to the relevant department or academic unit.
- The use of accessible trademarks does not suggest the University endorses any particular point of view, action, or speaker.
- For more information, visit the OU Office of Trademark Licensing website: <https://soonersports.com/sports/2013/5/20/208806093.aspx>.

E.) Financial Support

- Receives support / funds in whole, or significant part, from its administrative department or academic unit.

3.) Sport Club (SCSO)

An RSO may be eligible to become a Sport Club Student Organization if it meets the following criteria as well as approved through the OU Fitness + Recreation (Fit+Rec) Sport Club Council process. Approved Sport Clubs are listed on the Fit+Rec website.

A.) Purpose

- Has a primary mission of sports.
- Participates in intercollegiate competitions for a specific sport requiring a reasonable degree of physical skill and / or exertion.
- Does not duplicate or involve the purpose or function of a comparable activity / sport of another Sport Club Student Organization (SCSO) or Competitive Club Student Organization (CCSO).
- Allows all levels of ability to join and participate in the club.
- Each member of the organization possess affiliation, and is in good standing, with the sport's national organization (if affiliation with the national organization is prohibited until registered with the University, Sport Club status may be granted on a contingent basis).
- Posts all applicable events, tryouts, competitions to the ENGAGE public calendar.

- Sport Club calendars, including events, games and travel, must be submitted to Fit+Rec within the first three (3) weeks of each semester or within the week following approval of Sport Club status.

B.) Adviser(s)

- The full-time University staff / faculty adviser(s) (and coach(es) where applicable) must attend the Fit+Rec Sport Club Council Orientation meeting, meet with appropriate Fit+Rec staff, and be approved by Fit+Rec.
- The SCSO approved adviser(s) may not be dismissed or released by the SCSO without consent from Fit+Rec, and where applicable, if a new adviser (or coach) is obtained after Sport Club Council membership is granted, Fit+Rec must approve the new SCSO adviser (or coach) prior to any commitments being made by the SCSO.

C.) Leadership

- Elects, selects or appoints student members to club leadership positions at the discretion of the organization, adviser(s) and / or coach(es).

D.) Trademarks

- Must use “OU [ENTER SPORT NAME] Club” as the organization name. No other variations or trademarks will be accepted.
- May not display sponsorships on the same surface as an OU trademark (as determined by the OU Licensing and Trademark Office), and
- Upon OU Licensing and Trademark Office approval, the SCSO may further use the following trademarks:
 - *(Interlocking) OU*
 - *Boomer Sooner*
 - *Sooner(s)*
 - *Oklahoma*
 - *(The) University of Oklahoma*
- The use of accessible trademarks does not suggest the university endorses any particular point of view, action, or speaker.
- For more information, visit the OU Office of Trademark Licensing website: <https://soonersports.com/sports/2013/5/20/208806093.aspx>.

4.) Departmental (DSO)

An RSO may be eligible to become a Departmental Student Organization if it meets the following criteria.

A.) Purpose

- Exists for the benefit of the students involved in an academic unit and / or by promoting its awareness; or, where funded by an administrative department, the RSO exists to benefit students in the University community through the programs and services of that administrative department.
- Has a purpose and / or function that does not duplicate or involve a comparable student organization within that administrative department or academic unit.
- Posts all events and (open) meetings to the ENGAGE public calendar.

B.) Adviser(s)

- Is directed and advised by a full-time University staff / faculty member whose employment:
 - directly relates to the mission / purpose of the organization,
 - is in the specific administrative department or academic unit for which the organization exists, and
 - is assigned to the RSO as part of (not less than 0.2 FTE) their job duties.

C.) Leadership

- Elects their leadership through an SGA-approved election (appointing or selecting leadership is prohibited).

D.) Trademarks

- Upon OU Licensing and Trademark Office approval, the DSO may use the following trademarks:
 - *(Interlocking) OU*
 - *Boomer Sooner*
 - *Sooner(s)*
 - *Oklahoma*
 - *(The) University of Oklahoma*
 - Campus imagery specific to the relevant department or academic unit.
- The use of accessible trademarks does not suggest the University endorses any particular point of view, action, or speaker.
- For more information, visit the OU Office of Trademark Licensing website: <https://soonersports.com/sports/2013/5/20/208806093.aspx>.

E.) Financial Support

- Receives support / funds in whole, or significant part, from its administrative department or academic unit.