

What you need to know:

Dangerous behaviour at student social activities

Our expectations

Newcastle University is committed to promoting a safe, positive and inclusive environment for all its members. All Newcastle students can expect to be treated with dignity and respect and enjoy a positive University experience.

The University's [Student Charter](#) sets out the positive standards of conduct the University expects of students in order to ensure a fair, equitable and supportive environment for all members of the University community.

We expect all organised student social activities to operate safely and inclusively. Our expectation applies to all student organisations that are associated with Newcastle University and not just those that are officially affiliated with NUSU.

What are dangerous behaviours at student social activities?

Dangerous behaviours at student social activities include any communication, event or activity that could reasonably be perceived as involving improper coercion or manipulation, resulting in a risk of physical or mental detriment to any person. This behaviour is considered misconduct under the [Student Behavioural Code of Conduct](#).

Dangerous behaviours could occur at any social event, ceremony or ritual, including 'initiations', and are not limited only to activities that occur around the start of the academic year for new students joining clubs and societies.

Your responsibilities

- It is the responsibility of every student attending an event to ensure that student social activities are safe.
- Event organisers and those in leadership roles in clubs and societies have additional responsibilities for making sure the events they organise are safe and inclusive.
- If you see something unsafe, speak up about it if you feel able, or leave and report it if you don't.

Options for reporting incidents and getting support

Any student can report or disclose potentially dangerous initiations or other events of this nature to the University, or seek support, via the following routes:

- [Student Health and Wellbeing Service](#)
- University's Casework team: casework@ncl.ac.uk
- NUSU's [Support & Advice Hub](#)

What happens if expectations are not met

Reports of dangerous behaviours before, during or after any organised student social activity will be treated seriously by the University. Anyone found to have potentially committed misconduct will be investigated in line with the [Student Conduct Disciplinary Procedure](#). All reports of potential student misconduct in relation to dangerous behaviours will be investigated at Level 2 of the Procedure.

University and Newcastle University Student's Union working together

The University and Newcastle University Student Union (NUSU) work together to keep student social activities safe. Both have processes that can be used to investigate reports of dangerous behaviour.

When a report of dangerous behaviours at organised student socials is received by either the University or NUSU, a case conference will take place to establish which of the two processes will be used first.

- University [Student Conduct Disciplinary Procedure](#)
- NUSU [Disciplinary Policy and General Misconduct Regulations and Members Code of Conduct](#)

Both processes may run at the same time, but simultaneous investigations when considered necessary.

Where appropriate, NUSU will report the outcome of any disciplinary investigation relating to organised student socials to the University for investigation and the University will do the same to NUSU. An outcome from one procedure is not indicative of the outcome of the other.

Sanctions can range from advice and guidance to expulsion depending on the seriousness of the behaviour and contextual factors. More information on sanctions is **provided below** and in the [Student Behavioural Code of Conduct](#).

Further information

- University's [Student Procedures](#) page
- NUSU guidance on [Dangerous Behaviours and Initiations](#)
- British Universities and Colleges Sport – [Club Culture](#)

Possible sanctions

Misconduct type	Possible University sanctions (Level 2 or 3)	Possible NUSU sanctions for clubs/societies	Possible NUSU sanctions for individuals
5. Dangerous behaviours 5.1. Involvement in behaviours or any event or activity that involves force, coercion or manipulation of Students to their physical or mental detriment 5.2. Involvement in more serious behaviours or any event or activity which involves force, coercion or manipulation of Students to their physical or mental detriment 5.3. Organisation or being in a position of responsibility at events that involve behaviours or any event or activity that involves force or coercion or manipulation of Students to their physical or mental detriment Other categories of misconduct may also be applicable.	• Advice and guidance; • Written Warning; • Final Warning; • Disciplinary suspension; • Expulsion with immediate effect; • Withdrawal of funding for sports-related activities; • Withdrawal of opportunities to represent the University at high-level	• Financial penalty (up to £350); • Financial restitution in full or in part of the cost of making good any damage or loss suffered by the Students' Union or other members or persons; • Total or partial ban from some or all of NUSU for a specified period of time; • Removal of rights to use some or all of NUSU's facilities for a specified period of time; • Closure of the group, club or society; • Any combination of the above sanctions; • Any other sanction deemed appropriate by NUSU.	• Verbal or written apology required; • Total or partial ban from some or all areas of NUSU services, facilities or activities for a specified period; • Withdrawal of rights to participate in or benefit from specified NUSU services, facilities or activities for a specified period; • Suspension from membership of NUSU for a specified period of time; • Exclusions from membership to NUSU; • Immediate withdrawal of position of power (e.g. club committee membership); • Withdrawal of rights to hold future positions of power (e.g. sabbatical officer, club committee membership); • Financial penalty up to £50; • Financial restitution in full or in part of the cost of making good any damage

			or loss suffered by NUSU or other members or persons; • Any combination of the above sanctions; • Any other sanction deemed appropriate by NUSU
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