



**MIT** Interfraternity Council

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Interfraternity Council

**2022 Spring Recruitment Rules**

## Preamble

### *Spirit of Recruitment*

Formal Recruitment Rules are created and enforced with the intent of fostering a safe, efficient, and fair Recruitment for the benefit of the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and its entire member community. They serve to protect the potential new members, individual chapters, and the overall interests of the IFC, especially with respect to the maintenance of a positive relationship with the Institute. Any action committed by a member of the IFC to the detriment of another member, member organization, potential new member, or the MIT community in general is a violation of the Spirit of Recruitment, and the Spirit, rather than the literal interpretation of the rules, shall be enforced. Any information regarding alleged Recruitment violations must be given to the Recruitment Chairman or any Judicial Committee inspector upon request and failure to do so is itself a violation. All questions regarding the interpretation of the rules will be immediately referred to the Judicial Committee for proceedings, and all violators are subject to any and all fines, sanctions, and punishments that the Judicial Committee Chairman deems appropriate.

### *Definitions*

Spring Recruitment: For the Spring 2022 semester, Spring recruitment will begin on January 31st. Any official or unofficial IFC-sponsored or chapter-sponsored event during, but not limited to the duration of the time frame constitutes a Spring recruitment event.

Spring Bid Period: For the Spring 2022 semester, bids can be given anytime during the semester.

IFC Organization: includes all designations of IFC organization recognized by the MIT Division of Student Life.

IFC Member: a member of an IFC member organization.

Associated: Any person that has connections with the organization in question. This includes, but is not limited to, organization members and alumni.

Day: As used in the Rules, one “day” will be defined as the period from 9:30 am to 3:00 am.

Event: An event will be defined as any time an organization or fraternity member pays for a first year, takes a first year off campus, or hosts an occurrence for which it has openly advertised.

Excursion: Equivalent to “Jaunt”. Any event that does not take place on campus or at the organization’s house.

Organization Apparel: Any paraphernalia that bears organization-specific insignia or letters qualifies as organization apparel.

Chapter House: The house, grounds, parking lots, walkways, living space and any other area that is directly associated with an organization or its members.

MIT Campus: For the purposes of these rules, any building associated with MIT is considered on campus. This includes but is not limited to MIT numbered buildings, dorms, MIT fields common areas, and FSILG houses.

Prefrosh: A prefrosh is any prospective student, male or female, who is visiting MIT in a capacity to evaluate the school for actual or potential future enrollment.

Premises: In addition to physical spaces owned by the fraternity, premises includes any virtual spaces, including, but not limited to, Zoom (and other video conferencing service) calls.

Posting: Physical or digital means of advertising recruitment events - this includes but is not limited to business cards, FB events, and chalking. All posting must adhere to ASA rules and be in good taste.

Potential New Member: An individual being recruited by a fraternity. This designation is not limited by class or graduation year. *Abbr. "PNM"*

Recruitment Apparel: Any paraphernalia produced for the purpose of organization-specific events or to be worn or carried by a fraternity as the unit qualifies as recruitment apparel.

## Article I: General

1. Any event open to PNMs at which they can be recruited for potential future admission/awarding of a bid to the organization, even during a non-bid period, is considered a Recruitment event.
2. All MIT rules governing the provision and consumption of alcohol and drugs apply at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, the policy II (2). Alcohol and Other Drugs from the MIT Mind and Hand Book.
3. All recruitment events and paraphernalia must be in good taste. References to suggestive or illegal content, including drugs and alcohol, are prohibited. The Recruitment Chairman shall be the final interpreter of what is considered “good taste”.
4. When advertising for an event, the IFC and its member organizations will follow ASA policies including those outlined below
  - a. MIT groups have priority.
  - b. You must include the sponsor organization and contact information for the event.
  - c. You must date your advertisements.
5. No person associated with an organization shall make disparaging comments or disseminate information designed to work to the detriment of any other fraternity or sorority. The interpreter of violations of this policy is the Judicial Committee Chairman.
  - a. This includes disparaging remarks about recruitment for other organizations on campus. It should be emphasized that while communicating the value of an experience as a member of an Interfraternity Council is always encouraged, commentary and actions that would work to the detriment of the reputation of other organizations on campus is not condoned.
6. IFC member organizations may not directly interfere with Sorority Recruitment events.
7. No fraternity or sorority apparel or recruitment apparel may be given to a PNM or prefrish until a bid is accepted.
8. IFC apparel will be permitted for distribution to PNMs and prefrish.
9. No IFC member may contact a PNM if they have expressed that they do not wish to be contacted.
10. No organization member shall reveal the affiliation of any Panhellenic Recruitment Counselor to a PNM of a fraternity or sorority.
11. No scholarships shall be awarded or promised until one week after Formal Recruitment.
12. No bids for membership shall be promised or given to a first year PNM before bids are allowed to be extended.
13. Organizations must allow the IFC Executive Council or appointed individuals onto their premises if it is deemed necessary by the Executive Council in order to confirm adherence to these Recruitment Rules.

14. These rules apply to all IFC members, IFC organization property, organization members, organization alumni, graduate residential advisors (GRAs), Recruitment helpers, and anyone associated with a particular organization regardless of their location or affiliation.
15. Amendments to these rules must be made by the IFC organization Recruitment Chairmen by vote at a meeting of said chairmen and must have  $\frac{3}{4}$  approval to pass.
16. No apparel which is intended solely to advertise an IFC member's recruitment period shall be distributed to women who are members of a sorority which subscribes to the National Panhellenic Council.
17. Electronic advertising for individual Recruitment events can be published at most one week before the event occurs. Electronic advertising for individual chapter Recruitment schedules may be published starting at midnight on the first day of Recruitment.
  - a. Events should not be described or conducted in "bad taste". The Recruitment Chairman shall be the final interpreter of what constitutes "bad taste".
18. The President and Recruitment Chairman of each fraternity must sign a Recruitment Contract that acknowledges their fraternity's understanding of all the rules and their willingness to comply with them.
  - a. Organizations that do not sign the Recruitment Contract will forfeit the right to participate in Formal Recruitment.

## **Article II: Spring Recruitment**

### **Section I - General**

1. Spring Recruitment will begin the first day of the Spring 2022 semester and is permitted to continue until the end of the semester.
2. Spring Recruitment is dry. Alcohol and alcohol references are not permitted in events where first years are in attendance.
3. Each organization shall provide the Recruitment and Judicial Committee Chairmen at least two telephone numbers that shall be operational at all times.
4. No organization may attempt to contact a PNM between the hours of 3:00 am and 8:00 am, unless the PNM has given written permission to the specific organization stating that they can contact them earlier. No organization may attempt to physically reach the PNM during this time (i.e. go to their dorm room and knock on their door).
  - a. For the purposes of this clause, "written permission" is defined as a handwritten note, a sheet with signatures collected by the organization, an email, or a text message addressed to the Recruitment Chair of the organization.
  - b. Should a PNM give permission to the organization to contact them earlier, this communication shall only be done via electronic means such as the phone or the internet.

- c. The PNM may revoke this permission at any time by contacting any member of the organization or the IFC Recruitment Chairman via the same written media outlined in this clause.

## **Section II - Informal Rush Events**

1. Informal Spring Rush Events may occur as early as January 30th, and can go until the end of Spring semester.
2. No informal rush event can last more than two hours.
3. No prizes of value may be given out at informal rush events.
4. No informal rush event can be scheduled between the hours of 9:00 am EST and 5:00 pm EST on any Institute day of classes
5. The IFC Recruitment Chairman has the power to suspend a chapter from hosting informal rush events if a chapter violates any of the Recruitment Rules.

## **Section III - Bids, Acceptance, and Initiation**

1. Unlike Fall Recruitment, bids for membership to first years and upperclassmen may be given out until the end of the Spring 2022 semester.
2. All bids extended during Spring Recruitment shall remain open until at least 5:00 pm on the last day of the Spring Bid Period.
3. Each fraternity must submit to the Recruitment Chairman records confirming the status of all bids extended within one week of the conclusion of Spring Recruitment or an automatic fine of \$500 will be assessed, with an additional \$100 fine for each subsequent day the records are still not submitted.
4. After a PNM has pledged an IFC member organization, no other IFC member organization may attempt to recruit them.
5. No organization may invite a first year whose bid is open to an event with alcohol.
6. Initiation of pledges must occur within 12 weeks of a bid being accepted.
7. Initiation must be completed before final exams.

## **Section IV - Clearinghouse**

1. The main purposes of the Clearinghouse system are as follows.
  - a. The IFC will keep track of the movements of PNMs throughout Recruitment, in order to track statistics for later analysis and to ensure that all organizations are adhering to the same standard.
  - b. Houses have access to a full list of the PNMs which have attended their events, at which time they arrived, and how long they have stayed, so that they can better keep their own records.

- c. The IFC will be able to report to MIT and its administration the whereabouts of any first years who have been entered in the system, in the case that they cannot be found.
2. The Clearinghouse system will be live starting at 9:00 am on the first day of recruitment and will close at 3:00am on the last day.
3. For the Spring 2021 Recruitment period, the Clearinghouse system will not be used for registering events and scanning PNMs due to the informal nature of events. However, all bids given out and accepted/rejected must be entered into the system.
4. PNMs may opt out of the Clearinghouse attendance system, as described in Art. V, 3.3.(a) and 3.3.(b), by emailing the IFC Recruitment Chairman from their official MIT email. This email must contain the name of the IFC member organization that informed them of the opt-out clause. IFC organizations are not required to notify PNMs of this option. They are not permitted to opt out of the Clearinghouse bid system described in Art. V, §3.3.(c).
5. Fraternities may be subject to punishments below, if it is determined that they have not been using the Clearinghouse system.
  - a. If the IFC member organization is shown to have purposefully neglected using the Clearinghouse system with a particular PNM, then the IFC member organization may be subject to sanctions decided by the Judicial Committee Chairman.
  - b. In the case of any other complaints that may arise, the Judicial Committee Chairman, in consultation with the Recruitment Chairman, shall be the final interpreter of whether or not the case constitutes an infraction, at which point it may be handed over to the Judicial Committee.

## Appendix

1. If a chapter violates policy and the decided sanction is a prohibition on participation in Spring Recruitment, its abilities to hold events, advertise for future events, or give out any bids will be restricted.
2. MIT-affiliated programs include, but are not limited to ASA events, and meetings of MIT Varsity Sports.
3. As stipulated in Art. V, 2.2, bids must remain open for the duration of the Spring Bid Period. If fraternities would like to keep their bids open longer, they must remain dry until their bids close and must notify the Recruitment Chairman of their intentions to keep bids open.
4. The purpose of keeping bids open, at least until the end of the Spring Bid Period is to allow PNMs the time to consider their options and protect them from being pressured into a rushed decision.