

For the Coach: Introducing a Student Organization to FailSafe

GET THE GROUP ON TRACK FROM THE VERY START

Before you begin any of the FailSafe modules, it's important that the group's student leader and you introduce all of the members of the student organization to the FailSafe program. Even if the group voted to implement FailSafe, members should have a formal introduction to the program. Below are the main points to cover as well as some scripts that you can tailor to suit your style. (This information is also available in the FailSafe Module 1 tools for student leaders.)

1. Explain what FailSafe is and why the student organization is taking it on.

- What: "FailSafe is a risk management program to address our organization's use of alcohol. The program will show us how to minimize the risks of alcohol and will introduce us to strategies we can incorporate in our organization's practices to reduce the risk of physical or legal problems."
- Why: "A lot of student groups are getting shut down because of problems with alcohol use, problems like emergency medical rescues, physical injuries, police or judicial affairs involvement, even criminal charges. We want our members to have fun without experiencing these kind of problems or exposing someone else to problems."

2. Discuss specific issues related to your organization that explain why the group is implementing FailSafe.

- If your group has had recent problems related to alcohol use, discuss these issues (e.g., sanctions, problems faced by individual members, problems at recent group events).
- If your group has not experienced any problems, mention this, and explain that implementing FailSafe is a way to prevent problems from occurring and to demonstrate that the group has effective risk management strategies in place.

3. Describe the organization's commitment to FailSafe.

"Our organization is committed to doing the program. FailSafe will only work if everyone in the group takes it seriously."

4. Explain how members will participate in FailSafe.

- "You'll receive an invitation to complete the FailSafe Member Alcohol Profile. It's important that you click the link, set a password, and fill out the Profile. Only you will see your answers to the survey; no one else will know how you responded to any of the questions."
- "We'll be doing FailSafe activities throughout the year/semester that we expect everyone to participate in and take seriously."
- "No one is going to tell you that you can't drink. The goal is to eliminate harm and negative consequences for everyone."