Chapter Standards Boards - Frequently Asked Questions

- What is a Chapter Standards Board?

  A Chapter Standards Board is a committee established within the fraternity to try and judge any cases which violate the rules, character, and/or good standing of the brotherhood.

- Why is a Chapter Standards Board important to the fraternity?

  A Chapter Standards Board is a crucial part of a well-run fraternity because it allows issues to be solved within the brotherhood by a member’s closest group of peers. Also, the fraternity’s ability to self-govern improves the brotherhood of the image if this is ever questioned by an outside authority.

- Who oversees the Chapter Standards Board? The IFC? UJC? Honor?

  Each fraternity’s Chapter Standards Board is independently run and is headed by the Vice President of the fraternity. Any trials brought forth are confidential within the fraternity unless case details are relevant to a case underway by another authority.

- What are the benefits and consequences of having or not having a working Chapter Standards Board?

  Benefits - Ultimate demonstration of self-governance, reduces publicity of uncharacteristic events, eases punishment (usually) in IFCJC hearings, protects and upholds the properties and character of the fraternity

  Consequences - Increased chances of harsher punishments in IFC trials, no way to handle fraternity issues that do not need outside authority (i.e. dues), all problems have the possibility of increased publicity due to unorganized resolution structure
Chapter Standards Boards - IFCJC Case Studies

Example 1: Functioning Chapter Standards Board

Fraternity XYZ is brought up on IFCJC because a rushee was taken to the hospital with what is believed to be alcohol poisoning during rush. During the investigation, it is determined that three brothers of XYZ fraternity and five rushees were consuming alcohol in a non-fraternity sponsored event. The three brothers were brought up on the fraternity's Chapter Standards Board and sanctioned to 10 hours of brotherhood service and to give a presentation on the perils of supplying minors with alcohol. The IFCJC took this action into consideration during the trial and decided to simply issue one month of social probation rather than a semester of social probation along with reduced rush privileges.

Example 2: Lack of functioning Chapter Standards Board

Fraternity ABC is brought up on IFJC for throwing a rock through the window of fraternity XYZ. During the investigation, it is determined that 2 brothers of ABC fraternity were intoxicated and threw the rocks in an attempted revenge against fraternity XYZ for allegedly stealing a composite from the ABC house. The brothers who stole the composite were reprimanded by the Chapter Standards Board of XYZ. However, ABC does not have a functioning Chapter Standards Board, and this is addressed during their IFCJC trial. Not only does ABC receive sanctions to reimburse XYZ for the cost of the damage, but also must perform 50 hours of community service as a brotherhood and work with the Vice Chair of Chapter Standards Board to establish a functioning committee to handle any similar issues in the future.
Chapter Standards Board Procedures

of

[Enter Fraternity Name and Chapter]

Adopted [Enter Date]

Article I

Jurisdiction and Power

Section 1 - The Chapter Standards Board (CSB) of the [Enter Chapter and Fraternity] shall have the power to investigate and try brothers for any alleged violations of the CSB Standards of Conduct.

Section 2 - Guilt or innocence shall be determined by a majority vote of the presiding elected officials; the Trial Chairman votes only in the event of a tie.

Section 3 - Complaint must be made within thirty (30) calendar days of the time the chapter knew or should have known the identity of the alleged offender.

Article II

Organization of Members

Section 1 – The CSB shall consist of the Vice-President, who shall serve as its Chairman. In addition, six (6) other members, with two from each academic year.

Section 2 - Three (3) alternatives, one from each academic year, shall be chosen to serve in the case of a conflict of interest occurs with one or more of the six original board members.

Article III

CSB Standards of Conduct

BROTHERS OF [ENTER FRATERNITY] ARE SUBJECT TO SANCTION FOR MISCONDUCT INVOLVING:

Section 1 – Physical abuse of any person on fraternity owned or controlled property or at fraternity sponsored function or supervised functions, or conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety or any person.
Section 2 – Damage to fraternity property, or to property owned by a member of a fraternity, or to a visitor or guest of a fraternity.

Section 3 – Unauthorized entry into or occupation of fraternity facilities that are locked, closed to student activities, or otherwise restricted to use.

Section 4 – Damage or destruction to any fraternity property, university property, or property owned or operated in the surrounding communities.

Section 5 – Disorderly conduct on fraternity owned, operated, or controlled property or at fraternity sponsored functions. Disorderly conduct shall include, but is not limited to acts which tend to breach the peace, or which are deemed lewd, indecent, or obscene. Disorderly conduct may also include expression that exceeds the bounds of constitutionally protected speech.

Section 6 – Conduct that is incompatible with the good character and personal responsibility expected of all members of [Enter Fraternity] and that dishonors the fraternity system at the University of Virginia. Incompatible conduct shall include but is not limited to any public action within the community that brings the character of the fraternity to question as well as failing to support the vitality of the fraternity through lack of payment in dues or lack of attendance to specified events/meetings.

Section 7 – Hazing in violation of the Virginia statue or University regulations.

Section 8 – Failing to comply with elected [Enter Fraternity] officials acting under provisions 1-6 set out above.

Article IV
Trial Procedures

Section 1 – A trial shall be held within 45 academic days (excluding Summer Session or holidays) after a complaint has been filed with the CSB, where a trial is deemed necessary by the Chairman, unless circumstances deemed extraordinary by the Chairman make a trial within that time frame impossible.

Section 2 – A trial shall have one proceeding to address the questions of both guilt and another if necessary to determine sanction.

Section 3 – The accused brother shall be given reasonable notice of all charge, and reasonable notice of the time and place of the trial.

Section 4 – The complainant shall be given reasonable notice of the time and place of the trial.

Section 5 – All parties shall be informed that the Honor Code of the University of
Virginia shall apply at all trial proceedings.

Section 6 – The Trial Panel shall be composed of seven (7) representatives, consisting of six (6) officials appointed by the executive committee and the Vice President (Chairman).

Section 7 – The accused shall have the right to be present at all trial proceedings at which evidence is presented. If a decision is made to try an accused in absentia, the Trial Panel shall make specific findings that the accused was given reasonable notice of the hearing and of the charges against them.

Section 8 – The complainant must make every effort to be present at all trial proceedings at which evidence is presented, in order to fully inform the Trial Panel of the charges and the evidence against the accused brother. Failure to appear or to request a continuance may result in the dismissal of the charges at the discretion of majority of the Trial Panel.

Section 9 – The trial shall begin with introduction of evidence by the complainant followed by a similar statement by the accused. The CSB members may ask questions at any time throughout the proceedings.

Section 10 – The Trial Panel shall then privately deliberate over guilt and sanction. Upon a majority vote, the Trial Panel may find the accused guilty or not guilty. The Trial Chairman shall then recall the parties and announce the verdict.

Section 11 – If the accused brother is found not guilty, the case is closed.

Section 12 – If the accused brother is found guilty, the Trial Panel shall also deliver the sanction.

Section 13 – The accused brother, if found guilty, may appeal within two weeks for an Appellate Hearing, on the basis of:

Grossly inappropriate sanction;

Violation of fundamental fairness in the notice or the opportunity to be heard afforded the accused; or

Substantial new evidence that could not reasonably have been uncovered by the accused brother before the trial.

Article V

Appellate Hearing

Section 1 – An accused brother found guilty of a CSB proceeding may request an
appellate hearing within two weeks after the CSB has rendered its decision. The CSB will entertain motions for an appeal only on one of the grounds listed in Article IV. The appellant shall bear the burden of demonstrating that any of these grounds are applicable and can be established by clear evidence.

Section 2 – When an appeal is request in a timely fashion based on an appropriate ground as determined by the Vice President (Chairman), a new appellate panel shall convene consisting of four (4) officials appointed by the executive committee who did not sit on the original panel.

Article VI
Sanctions

The CSB may, at its discretion, impose any sanctions that it deems appropriate and just. Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, the following:

Section 1 – Admonition. An oral statement to a brother that is has violated the established rules.

Sanction 2 – Warning. Notice in writing that continuation or repetition of conduct found wrongful, within a stated period of time, may be cause for more severe disciplinary action.

Sanction 3 – Reprimand. A written censure for violation of a specified regulation, including the possibility of more severe disciplinary sanctions in the event of another violation within a stated period of time.

Sanction 4 – Fines. Assessing any fine that is appropriate to a given case.

Sanction 5 – Community and Brotherhood Services. Assessing any project, duty, or service to the brotherhood or fraternity house, or to the surrounding communities, as appropriate to a given case

Sanction 5 – Restitution. Reimbursement for damage to or misappropriation of property.

Sanction 6 – Social Probation. Restricting the social privileges of any brother.

Sanction 7 – Restricted Rush Privileges. Restricting the rush privileges of any brother.

Sanction 8 – Recommendation for Withdrawal from the Fraternity. Recommendation to the brotherhood for withdrawal from the [Enter Chapter and Fraternity]. Withdrawal is subject to the approval of a simple majority of the brotherhood.