Club Rules and Regulations

I. College and BSG Policy

All clubs and organizations on the Bowdoin College campus, chartered by the SOOC or nonexistent otherwise, will submit to the SOOC their amended club contracts. These contracts will adhere to the following requirements:

i. The entirety of the Student Handbook as put down by Bowdoin College. This handbook will remain as the parameters and framework of each and every club contract. The Student Handbook may be found at the following link: http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/student-handbook/  

ii. The By-Laws of the BSG (http://students.bowdoin.edu/bsg/about/) will remain as further parameters of each and every club contract.

iii. The formatting of each club’s contract will remain in alignment with the Rules and Regulations of the SOOC.

iv. No group, if part of a greater local, regional, national, or international organization, will allow said group’s guidelines to supersede College and BSG policy.

II. Nondiscrimination Policy

As precaution and reminder, the SOOC reminds students of the Bowdoin Student Handbook Discrimination Policy:

Respect for the rights of all and for the differences among us is essential for the Bowdoin community. Discrimination or harassment of others on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, age, marital status, place of birth, veteran status or against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability has no place in our intellectual community. If members of the Bowdoin community experience or witness any apparent incident of harassment or discrimination by students, faculty, or staff, they may discuss their
concerns or request advice from deans, academic advisors, proctors, or resident advisors. Such incidents violate both the ideals of the College and its Social Code and may be subject to appropriate disciplinary sanctions. When such incidents violate the statutes of the State of Maine or Federal Law, criminal prosecution may be pursued. This policy is all encompassing and will be enforced by the BSG and the SOOC Chair without apology. Any reason for concern will result in a meeting with the Chair of the SOOC to resolve the issue in conjunction with the Assembly and action the College administration deems necessary and appropriate.

III. Club Contracts

All club contracts will contain the following articles excepting Article (A), followed by articles that may be amended by the club.

A. Club Charters

i. To be chartered, each club will go through the SOOC Charter Process. This includes filling out the online forms and meeting with the SOOC. If chartered, a club will spend a semester on a probation period. This will serve to gauge interest in a club and its community impact. At the semester end Rechartering Process, successful clubs will receive a full Charter.

B. Leadership

i. All clubs will vote exactly two members to top leadership positions. These position names may be supplemented by the club, and may be Co-Presidential, Presidential-Vice Presidential, or any other combination or terminology that the club thinks appropriate. These positions MAY NOT be liaison positions to the BSG. This will serve to establish quick, effective, and direct communication between club leaders, the BSG, and the College.

ii. New leadership will be voted on and names submitted to the SOOC and SAFC by the end of a fortnight period following the return from Spring Vacation every year. Continued negligence of the election of new leadership positions for a period over one week past this deadline will result in a serious examination of the merits of rechartering a club. Student leadership should note that the Academic Calendar is available during the summer months, and as such there is plenty of time to plan elections. It may be found at the following link:

http://www.bowdoin.edu/academic-affairs/calendar/academic-calendar-13-14.shtml

iii. If applicable: ALL leadership, current and newly voted for the next year, will be present at SAFC operating budget meetings at the end of the academic year.
iv. At least one member of the leadership of every club is strongly encouraged to attend the Student Activities-BSG-run Leadership Development Series. If the SOOC strongly believes a certain club should be in attendance, the SOOC reserves the right to include a mandatory attendance article for the leadership in a club’s contract.

v. All club leaders will be required to attend an annual hazing workshop at the start of the year, hosted by Athletics or Student Activities.

vi. Orbit leadership must be updated as appropriate. This includes any electoral changes or changes in leadership due to a student’s abroad status.

vii. The SOOC reserves the right to suspend a club’s charter if it is noncompliant with the above rules and regulations. Inability to comply with these regulations may result in immediate suspension of a club’s Charter. Details on such a process may be found under Section III.

viii. The SOOC reserves the right to remove individuals from leadership positions, call for elections within a club, and establish a new leadership in the case of violations of the SOOC Rules and Regulations. Club members may petition the SOOC to commence an inquiry to evaluate the effectiveness of the current leadership.

C. Membership

i. If a club has not attained sufficient membership, is experiencing funding difficulties, etc., the SOOC reserves the right to examine the benefits of rechartering a club. This may be due, among a variety of reasons, to the following:

   a. The cost of a club, especially if the cost is high and student membership low.
   b. The existence of another club that has greater membership and fulfills the same or a similar mission statement as the club in question. The SOOC reserves the right to make exceptions if and only if the student body will benefit from the existence of multiple clubs with similar mission statements.
   c. Lack of interest in a club from the student body.

Because “sufficient membership” and “funding difficulties” are subjective, clubs are assured that the BSG and SOOC understand that each club is different. Majority vote from the SOOC and the opinion of the SAFC Chair will be taken into account when making final decisions.

ii. Clubs will fill out an online form provided by the SOOC to document attendance of their first three meetings, rehearsals, non-event gatherings.
D. Rechartering, Meetings, and Other

i. Non-operating budget clubs must submit recharter forms by April 15th of every year. Groups on an operating budget will submit their recharter forms by April 1st of every year. By this time, two weeks should have passed from the end of Spring Vacation, and new leadership should have been elected. If Spring Break has not passed, April 20th will be the deadline. Because the recharter form includes vital details necessary for the rechartering process, including the names of the new leadership, negligence of this deadline will result in the suspension of a club’s charter for one semester. If a club is on its probation period, it will not be given a full charter.

ii. Meetings should be held at least once during the following months: September, October, November, February, March, and April. Inability to accomplish this will result in a serious consideration of not rechartering a club.

iii. No events, meetings, or programming of any kind by SOOC-chartered clubs may take place during Reading Period.

E. Advertising

i. No advertisements may be placed on glass or painted surfaces that may be damaged by the removal of the advertisement.

ii. Official Bowdoin logos and wordmarks (i.e. the Bowdoin seal) may not be placed on any advertisements without the express permission of the Communications Office.

iii. Club posters and advertisements must have the full name of your organization easily visible.

iv. Online conduct by all organizations through social media must still abide by the College’s Social and Academic Honor Code.

IV. Noncompliance and Misconduct

A. Noncompliance

i. Noncompliance with the above statements will first result in a warning to a club and to the club leadership.

ii. Continued noncompliance will result in a meeting with the Chair of the SOOC and the full committee to resolve the issue.
iii. In extreme circumstances, suspension of a club’s charter will result. This in effect means *no meetings may be held without the presence of a member of the SOOC*. A charter will be removed from suspension once a club is aligned with its contract and focus on its Mission Statement is again established.

B. Misconduct

i. Misuse of SAFC funds will result in a meeting with the SAFC and SOOC Chairs, a serious examination of future budget proposals and, in extreme cases, suspension of a charter for the length of time deemed appropriate by the Chairs and the Student Activities Office.

ii. Meetings by a club that has not been chartered, that has a suspended charter, or that has been stripped of its charter will be treated under the Fraternity Membership Policy of the Student Handbook. At this time, the Student Activities Office will be informed of the situation. Informal meetings may be held by non-chartered clubs to gauge interest. They may not program.