



October 24, 2019

Stinger Esports

On October 15, 2019, Student Organizations & Leadership (SO&L) was informed of allegations related to the overall operations of Stinger Esports, specifically the makeup of membership, compliance with membership applications, constitution adherence, competing on behalf of the University, and University branding. The specific policies violated is as follows, and can be found in the Student Organization Handbook (<http://www.csus.edu/soal/pdf/handbook.pdf>):

1. The **Student Organization Handbook** states “The organization must maintain, at all times, a membership of at least five regularly enrolled students in good standing at the University. A maximum of 20% of the members of a student organization may be individuals who are not CSU students, except for social fraternal organizations and sport clubs which must be 100% Sacramento State students.”
2. The **Student Organization Handbook** states the following expectations related to member registration:

“Recreation Club Member Registration

All students must complete an application process in order to be approved by Student Organizations & Leadership to participate in a recreation club. Interested student participants are not allowed to partake in club activities until they receive application approval from the Sport Clubs professional staff or their representative. This includes club practices, trainings, fundraisers, events, etc. Below are the necessary steps to become a member:

1. Join your club’s organization on Hornet Hub
2. Complete and submit Recreation Club Member Application on Hornet Hub (application is located under “Forms”).
3. Receive approval from Sport Clubs professional staff or their representative

If a Recreation Club practices, trains, etc. with a non-approved participant, the individual and Recreation Club are violating University policy and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Recreation Club Community Member Registration

All community members (non-Sacramento State students) must complete an application process in order to be approved by Student Organizations & Leadership to participate in a recreation club. Interested participants are not allowed to partake in club activities until the President of the club receives application approval from the Sport Clubs professional staff or their representative. This includes club practices, fundraisers, events, etc.

Below are the necessary steps to become a community member:

1. Submit club specific liability waiver to Student Organizations & Leadership
 - a) Trial Waivers from Community Members will not be accepted
 - b) Community Members must be 18 years of age or older
2. Submit Community Member Information Form to Student Organizations & Leadership (Tier 1 Recreation Clubs only)
 - a) Community Members in Tier 1 Recreation Clubs must have primary medical insurance
3. Receive approval from the President of the club

If a Recreation Club practices, trains, etc. with a non-approved participant, the Recreation Club is violating University policy and may be subject to disciplinary action.”

3. The **Student Organization Handbook** states organizations must “Adhere to the organization’s own approved constitution.”
4. The **Student Organization Handbook** states “Recreation clubs cannot not travel and compete on behalf of the University, but many of them enter competitions that are unaffiliated with the University.”

Findings of the investigation

1. Leaders of the club have indicated through various means, including media interviews, that the club has 400 members. When asked more about this, it is reported that most of the make-up of this large number is nonstudents that participate within the club’s Discord. The non-student membership cannot exceed 20% of the total members.
2. Individuals who indicate that they are members and/or leaders of the club have not applied and been approved through the registration process. There are inconsistencies in the total of individuals in the club that do not match up with University records (currently there are 75 approved student members, 0 approved community members).
3. During the course of the investigation it was found that the club invited members to submit their interest to run for an officer position in June 2019, however, not all students were permitted to actually be considered for members to vote on. The application was due August 5th and that same day the club was informed of who the new officers were for Fall 2019. This announcement included positions that do not exist in the constitution (i.e. Secretary/Admin, Sergeant at Arms, Competitive Director/Director of Esports and Competitive Assistant Director/ Assistant Director of Esports). Toward the end of August, an election meeting was held in which only 6 members were in attendance to formally vote on the officers, which does not meet the quorum requirement of the club. When the President position became vacate, the club did not follow the process for replacement as outlined in their constitution. It has also been confirmed that the constitution itself was never voted on officially within the club.
4. Stinger Esports has competed on behalf of the University, most notably through TESPAs, and conveyed to its membership the ability to do so. Members also purchased matching Sacramento State jerseys, which were worn at one of the competitions.

Additionally, the club was informed in July it could no longer use the Stinger Esports logo with the S due to licensing concerns from University Marketing. The club has continued to do so across various online platforms.

After careful consideration of the situation and circumstances presented, the University is imposing the following sanctions on Stinger Esports:

1. Student Organizations & Leadership is placing Stinger Esports on probation effective immediately until **May 31, 2020**.
2. The organization must work with SO&L to vote on its constitution and run an election process. The club will remain on cease until this has been completed and the club has elected officers and vote on a constitution to operate within.
3. The organization must register all of its student and community members. Non-approved individuals are not permitted to participate in the club.
4. The organization must cease its misrepresentation as a competitive club and representing the University in competition.

5. The organization must cease using the denied logo. You can work with our office to create and/or seek approval of a new one.

If the organization does not meet the terms of the probationary period and/or if there are any violations of the Student Organization Handbook, Student Organizations & Leadership may take further disciplinary action, including removal of club recognition.

Pursuant to SO&L policy, if you disagree with this decision you may seek reconsideration in writing within five business days to the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs/ Dean of Students, Dr. Beth Lesen at beth.lesen@csus.edu. For more information about the reconsideration process, please reference the Student Organization Handbook.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact me at 916-278-6595 or croly@csus.edu.

Sincerely,
Nicki

Nicki Croly
Interim Director, Student Organizations & Leadership

cc:

Kevin Lovelace, Faculty/Staff Advisor, Sacramento State
Jackie Pulatie, Sport Clubs Program Advisor, Student Organizations & Leadership, Sacramento State
Josh Mandel-Sonner, Assistant Director, Student Organizations & Leadership, Sacramento State
Dr. Beth Lesen, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs/Dean of Students, Sacramento State

