

Sanction framework for non-compliance with corona safety and hygiene measures while organising student activities and events

Preamble

The Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) facilitates and supports a corona safe student life. VUB is responsible for the safe conduct of all activities that take place on its campuses. We therefore anticipate situations in which safety regulations and measures are not respected and/or even flagrantly violated during student activities or events.

The importance of complying with the measures and sanctioning non-compliance is essential. To avoid an uncontrolled growth of the corona-pandemic. To safeguard the public health and the health of every member of our university community as much as possible. But also to maximize opportunities to organise student life activities and events. We must avoid the need to implement stricter corona-measurements due to an increasing amount of infections. This would also have a negative impact on student life.

To organise student activities and events, each student initiative or association needs to work within the [approved VUB framework](#). This framework provides all the information and guidelines for organising a corona safe student life. VUB will communicate this framework to the student community. We expect all students and associations who organise activities and events to adhere to this framework with self-discipline and a sense of responsibility. We understand that students and student associations need to go through a learning trajectory in the switch to this new corona event organisation reality. As long as possible and where reasonable, VUB will adopt an understanding attitude. Based on this principle, the Student Life coordinator will discuss the specific identified violation of the measurements with the organiser(s), and together they will examine how such infringements can be avoided in the future. But, flagrant violations will be consistently sanctioned via the sanctioning framework that follows.

Scope and conceptual framework

This corona-specific sanction framework applies to all students - including those who perform acts outside of student associations - who organise activities or events, primarily on-campus but also off-campus.

For the application of this sanction framework, the following is understood:

1° a student association as defined in article 30 of the Codex Student Life.

2° a student initiative is one or more students who, independently of a student association, organise an activity or event for students.

3° a gathering is a gathering of more than the number of authorized persons as determined by the federal or local guidelines that apply at that time concerning non-organised gatherings, and where the generally applicable security measures and VUB-specific measures as defined in the VUB framework for student activities and events are not respected.

4° an organised activity is a student activity with a maximum of 50 participants, including the board of the association or the initiators of the activity. The activity is only intended for the association's own (potential) members or the target group of the student initiative.

5° an event is an organised, public gathering that is open to everyone and in which a maximum of 200 people indoor and a maximum of 400 people outdoor can participate.

6° non-authorized activities are organised activities and/or events that may not take place under any circumstances. These include balls, TDs and similar activities, baptisms and similar activities, and activities without an approved script.

Actions that may lead to sanctions

In the following cases, the sanction framework for non-compliance with coronary safety and hygiene measures may be applied:

- The organisation of gatherings on campus;
- Students (associations) organise activities and events without permission of Student Life;
- Student(s) associations do not comply with the general safety measures and VUB-specific measures as described in the VUB framework for student activities and events during an activity or event;
- Students (associations) do not respect the final duration of an activity or event.

Sanctions

The following sanctions, or a combination thereof, may be imposed:

Violations	Organiser	Sanction		
Organising gathering on campus	Recognized student association	Student disciplinary regulations		
	Student initiative			
Organising activities/ events without permission	Final recognised student associations	1 st infringement: Withdrawal of user rights for 1 month	2 nd infringement: withdrawal of user rights for 1 month + withholding 50% of semi-annual grants.	From 3 rd infringement: withdrawal of user rights for the rest of the semester + withholding of semi-annual grants
	Recognized student association in trial period	1 st infringement: withdrawal of user rights for 1 month	2 nd infringement: withdrawal of user rights for 1 month + extension of the trial period by 1 semester	From 3 rd infringement: withdrawal of user rights for the rest of the semester + extension of the trial period by 1 year
	Student initiative	Sanction framework		
non-compliance during activity/event with general safety measures and VUB-specific VUB framework for student activities and events	Final recognised student associations	1 st infringement: €250 fine	2 nd infringement: withholding of semi-annual grants	From 3 rd infringement: withdrawal user rights for 1 month + withholding of semi-annual grants
	Recognized student association in trial period	1 st infringement: €250 fine	2 nd infringement: extension of trial period by 1 semester	From 3 rd infringement: withdrawal of user rights for 1 month + extension trial period by 1 year
	Student initiative	Student disciplinary regulations		
Not respecting the duration of the activity/event	Final recognised student associations	1 st infringement: €250 fine	2 nd infringement: withholding of semi-annual grants	From 3 rd infringement: withdrawal of user rights for 1 month + withholding of semi-annual grants
	Recognized student association in trial period	1 st infringement: €250 fine	2 nd infringement: extension of trial period by 1 semester	From 3 rd infringement: withdrawal of user rights for 1 month + extension trial period by 1 year
	Student initiative	Sanction framework		

Before effectively imposing a sanction or starting an investigation within the framework of the student disciplinary regulations, a warning will first be given, to the extent possible, to the student association(s) concerned or the student(s) involved in the student initiative.

In case of a student initiative committing a violation, VUB can use its student disciplinary regulations. Sanctions within the disciplinary regulations include suspending the use of certain facilities for students.

In addition to these VUB-specific sanctions, the federal ministerial decree also provides for sanctions on the basis of, among other things, article 187 of [the Civil Security Act](#) of May 15, 2007. Local authorities remain competent for public order according to article 135 §2 of [the new municipal law](#). During off-campus student activities or events, police forces may carry out permanent checks to ensure strict compliance with the measures.

Determination of violations

Infringements against the measures can be established on campus by:

- The safety guards
- The Vice Rector for Education and Student Affairs
- Staff of the Vice Rectorat Education and Student Affairs
- Employees of the campus facilities under general management
- Employees of the Prevention and Environment Department
- Employees of the Directorate of Infrastructure

After detection, the infringement must be reported to the Vice Rector for Education and Student Affairs in accordance with a roadmap that concretises the operational processes for reporting, checking and recording infringements.

Sanction committee for violations by recognised student associations

The sanction committee examines violations by recognised student associations. The sanction committee consists of five voting members:

- The Vice Rector of Education and Student Affairs, or his delegate
- The head of Student Affairs, or her deputy
- One student council member with no affiliation to the association life
- One employee of Student Life
- One representative of BSGgtgv

The sanction committee has no role in examining violations by student initiatives. Violations by student initiatives are investigated through the disciplinary regulations of the VUB.

Investigation

The sanction committee will investigate the infringement(s) and determine and impose the sanction on the basis of the sanctioning framework. The sanction committee will report to the Vice Rector for Education and Student Affairs.

In case of very serious, flagrant violations by student associations, further investigation can be started via an additional disciplinary procedure:

- On the initiative of the Vice Rector for Education and Student Affairs, who leads the procedure for disciplinary regulations at the VUB;
- At the request of the sanction committee

Payment of fines

A student association that has been fined by the sanction committee will pay this fine to Student Life, within the week of receipt of the payment order. In case of late payment, we will increase the fines by 10% of the original amount.

The collected fines will be used by Student Life to invest in the operation and support of the student associations.