

UNIVERSITY POLICY

Tailgating

Tailgating at Slippery Rock University provides a lively and family-friendly environment and is designated as a special University intercollegiate athletic event. Each individual participating in tailgating is responsible for their behavior and is expected to act responsibly and be in compliance with all University policies, municipal ordinances and state laws. All tailgating participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner respectful of the nature and character of the University. Persons acting in a disruptive, disrespectful or disorderly manner; who are not in compliance with terms of this policy; or who disregard a directive from law enforcement, game security personnel or University officials, may be asked to leave the premises, be subject to citation or arrest, and or banned from future events. Students acting in the manners describe above may also be charged with a violation of [SRU's Student Code of Conduct](#).

DEFINITION

Tailgating is defined as parking in a designated location or area and/or setting up non-permanent facilities (such as tents and tables) to consume food and beverages prior to an officially sanctioned University event to which the public is invited and the event has been approved for tailgating.

GUIDELINES

- **Parking and fees:** Each reserved parking space used for tailgating will be charged a fee as set forth by the Athletic Department. Large vehicles such as campers, buses, limos and vehicles with trailers requiring more than one parking space will be charged a higher fee per game than single vehicles. Individuals will be permitted to select the space of their choice based on availability. Failure to comply with directions of parking staff may result in removal from the tailgating area. Parking spaces may not be reserved or saved for others. Individuals who want to tailgate adjacent to one another must arrive and enter parking lots and/or tailgate areas at the same time. No tailgating or assembly will be allowed in parking spaces that are not occupied by vehicles (vacant) or in traffic-ways. Occupants of a parking space are responsible for the area surrounding their vehicle and the space immediately behind the parking space extending to the center of the traffic way. Parking lot traffic-ways shall not be blocked for any reason by other vehicles, pedestrians, tents, tables, equipment, games, activities, etc., and must remain open to vehicle traffic and emergency egress at all times.
- **Tailgating hours:** To maintain order and safety, tailgating is permitted four hours prior to the scheduled start time of a game. Everyone must leave the tailgating area by the start of the scheduled game. No halftime tailgating is permitted. All tailgating areas must be vacated 90 minutes from the conclusion of a game.
- **Tailgating locations:** Unless otherwise directed by the director of athletics in conjunction with University Police, tailgating will be limited to Stadium Lots A, B, and C. Stadium Lot A is designated at the premier tailgating lot with reservable and season tailgating spots. Visitor tailgating is limited to the Gail Rose parking area on Harmony Road.
- **Non-vehicles:** Any non-vehicle items such as furniture intended for interior household use (i.e., couches, chairs, elevator lifts, etc.) are prohibited in University parking lots or tailgate areas.
- **Pets:** All pets must be leashed at all times on University property. Animals must not be left unattended. Individual vehicle owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets.

POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY DOES NOT SANCTION THE CONSUMPTION OR POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BY UNDERAGE PERSONS; NOR DOES IT SANCTION THE VIOLATION OF FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL LAWS.

ALCOHOL MAY BE POSSESSED AND CONSUMED DURING TAILGATING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE RULES OUTLINED BELOW.

- **Alcohol:** No persons less than 21 years of age is permitted to consume or possess alcohol of any kind on University property. Possession and/or consumption of alcohol is limited to beer or wine from 12-ounce cans or plastic cups and is only permitted at a tailgating activity where food and non-alcoholic beverages are being served. No glass containers are permitted. No liquor, spirits, kegs or other common large containers are permitted at any time. Possession and/or consumption is permitted only in designated parking lots. No one may possess or consume alcohol from any device or apparatus designed to consume beverages at a greater than normal rate of consumption, including but not limited to, funnels or beer bongs. The sale or resale of alcohol is prohibited.
- **Pedestrians:** Pedestrians who wish to bring alcohol into tailgating areas must do so by placing the 12-ounce cans into standard, enclosed insulated beverage coolers. Alcohol in its original packaging and/or other containers, including cardboard boxes, plastic six-pack rings, grocery bags (plastic, paper or reusable), tubs, or any other containers beyond a standard insulated beverage cooler will not be allowed to be brought in by pedestrians arriving at designated tailgate areas.
- **Identification:** Anyone possessing and/or consuming alcohol shall possess valid identification establishing that they are 21 years of age or older and will comply with requests to show such identification when requested by law enforcement, game security personnel or University officials upon request.
- **Drinking games:** Drinking games, including but not limited to beer pong or other orchestrated efforts that may promote excessive drinking, are prohibited.
- **Mihalik-Thompson Stadium:** Possession and/or consumption of alcohol is prohibited within Mihalik-Thompson Stadium with the exception of the President's Tent and other areas designated by the director of athletics.
- **Policy compliance:** Failure to comply with this policy as well as any and all local and state alcohol laws may result in criminal charges, loss of tailgating privileges or student disciplinary charges. Visitors who use, consume or possess alcohol pursuant to this policy assume all responsibility and liability for any and all issues resulting from such matters related to alcohol. SRU assumes no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any and all issues that result from the use, possession or consumption of alcohol on its premises as it pertains to this policy.

MUSIC, AMPLIFICATION AND SOUND

As a courtesy to all participants, only personal sound systems are allowed in the tailgating area. Live bands, DJs and PA systems are strictly prohibited unless organized by University personnel. Personal sound systems must be played at a moderate/respectful level and should not produce audibly obscene, profane or abusive language. Participants are expected to comply with law enforcement, security staff personnel or University official directives to reduce sound levels or cease playing of personal sounds systems if directed to do so.

TRASH AND RECYCLABLE ITEMS

Each individual is responsible for making sure that the tailgating area and grounds around them are maintained in a clean and orderly fashion. No trash or recyclable items are to be discarded anywhere except the proper trash and recycling containers located throughout the tailgating areas.

FUNDRAISING

All game day tailgaters are encouraged to participate in any SRU fundraising activities that take place in conjunction with tailgating activities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all student, faculty, staff and visitors to campus.

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy is a campus wide effort involving the offices of Athletics, Advancement, Student Affairs, Facilities, Planning and Environmental Safety, University Police and the Alumni Association.

Authority for creation:

University Cabinet, 10/5/2022