

When should my Student Organization *consider* utilizing a ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION FORMS

What is an assumption of risk, release and indemnification form?

An assumption of risk, release and indemnification form is a method of risk transfer which “releases one party from liability to another for injuries arising from some particular undertaking in which both parties are involved.”¹ In plain English, this form allows the risk (the chances of getting hurt) involved in a particular activity (a flag football tournament) to be transfer from the host (the Biology Club and its leaders) to the participant (the student who shows up, acknowledges the risks involved in playing flag football and *chooses freely* to accept them).

“Waivers” do not remove responsibility on behalf of the student organization to:

- Provide a safe environment to play flag football
- Take reasonable steps to prevent injury (remove obstacles from the field)
- Take reasonable actions should someone get hurt
- Report any accident or injury to your advisor
- Consult with your advisor regularly about activities and risk management

Why use an assumption of risk, release and indemnification form?

To provide *additional* protection for yourself and student organization from the liability involved in particular activities. Much like a seatbelt can protect individuals involved in car accidents from additional injury (along with careful and sober driving) a release can help protect your personal property from legal liability.

When should my Student Organization *consider* utilizing an assumption of risk, release and indemnification form?

- When assuming responsibility for a minor (under 18) at an event or activity
- When traveling off-campus to participate in a organization activity
- When hosting large and/or specialized campus activities (the Assistant Director for Student Activities and Leadership will assist with this analysis).
- When the activity involves an elevated risk of injury or harm such as:
 - Competitive physical activity
 - Whitewater rafting / Mechanical Bull Riding
 - Use of tools or work at a construction site
 - When alcohol will be present
 - Demanding physical activity (paintball, marathons, food eating contests)
 - Specialized training (medical, EMT, stunts, etc)
 - Exposure to unusual chemicals, body fluids, locations or conditions

Where can I go for help with assumption of risk, release and indemnification forms?

The Office of Student Organizations in 269 DiGiorgio Campus Center is available to help as well as the Office of Risk Management. Samples are available on the Risk Management and Student Organizations web sites. Workshops will be hosted at different times of the year to provide real-time help with adapting forms.