

Christopher Newport University

Policy: Campus Tailgating Policy

Policy Number: 1030

Executive Oversight: President's Office
Contact Office: Athletics
Frequency of Review: Biennially
Date of Last Review: August 16, 2024

A. PURPOSE

This policy is intended to permit tailgating and promote the safety and enjoyment of all participants.

B. POLICY STATEMENT

Tailgating is defined as parking in a designated area and consuming food and beverages, including alcohol for those individuals of legal age, prior to home football games or other approved events.

Christopher Newport University forbids the distribution to or consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages by underage persons.

C. DEFINITIONS

Tailgate Zone: The Tailgate Zone is a fenced in area that is available for tailgating only during defined times prior to home football games or other approved events.

Tailgate Pass Holder: Any person over 21 who has received a parking pass within the Tailgate Zone. The Tailgate Pass Holder must be 21 or older.

Social Host: A Tailgate Pass Holder who entertains guests in the Tailgate Zone. A Social Host is responsible for the behavior and safety of his or her guests, to include the consumption of alcohol.

D. PROCEDURES

1. Tailgating Locations/Times

- a. University tailgating activities are only permitted at specified times on the days of home football games, unless otherwise authorized.

- b. The University permits tailgating in designated areas (“the Tailgate Zone”). A Tailgate Parking Pass is required for vehicular entry into these lots and must be prominently displayed at all times. One pass equals one parking space. Tailgate Parking Passes are issued once for each event and are non-transferable.
- c. Lots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis using festival-style parking; one lot will be specifically designated for Christopher Newport students. All cars will be directed to specific spaces by parking attendants. Tailgate Pass Holders wanting to park in adjacent spaces must enter the Tailgate Zone at the same time. Contiguous spaces cannot be guaranteed and reserving spaces is not permitted.
- d. Tailgate Pass Holders and their guests will not be allowed to establish party areas in empty parking spots for which they have not purchased an additional pass. Parking is prohibited in grassy areas, on parking lot islands, medians, and street shoulders.
- e. Emergency vehicle access lanes must be maintained at all times. Vehicles that block these lanes will be towed.

2. Tailgate Closure

The Tailgate Zone shall close 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the associated event. Consequently, all food and beverages must be stored and locked in a vehicle and all individuals must leave the Tailgate Zone prior to the start time of the event.

3. Respectful Environment

All tailgate participants are expected to consider and be respectful of the enjoyment of others around them. Disruptive and disorderly behavior, including public intoxication, will not be tolerated. Persons acting in this manner are required to respond to reasonable requests from University personnel to curtail their behavior; failure to do so may result in individuals being required to leave the Tailgate Zone and/or campus. In such instances, they may also be subject to citation, arrest, and forfeiture of Tailgate Zone parking pass privileges.

4. Tents and Structures

Shade canopies or similar non-enclosed weather coverings are permitted in the Tailgate Zone. Any canopies or similar covering must be removed within two hours after the conclusion of the athletic event.

5. Food/Grilling

Food may be prepared by tailgaters for their enjoyment and that of their guests; no commercial gain or benefit resulting from tailgating food is permitted.

- a. Fires for grilling are allowed only in above-ground, enclosed containers. Open flame fires, including fire pits, are prohibited.
- b. All flames and coals must be extinguished prior to departing the Tailgate Zone.

- c. Coals and ashes must be disposed of properly and may not be thrown into dumpsters or garbage cans

6. Prohibited Items

- a. No glass is allowed in the Tailgate Zone. All coolers are subject to inspection.
- b. Generators are not permitted in the Tailgate Zone. Anyone bringing a generator into the Tailgate Zone will be required to remove the generator immediately.

7. Alcohol Consumption

- a. Consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21 is prohibited.
- b. Individuals consuming alcohol may be asked to provide proof of age to law enforcement and University staff. Those without proper identification may be removed from the Tailgate Zone and may be cited under Virginia State Law.
- c. The Tailgate Pass Holder is the Social Host when entertaining guests and is responsible for the behavior of his/her guests. A Social Host does not need a license to serve alcohol to his or her invited guests, friends and personal visitors. A Social Host is, however, responsible for the consumption of alcohol, behavior and safety of his or her guests. {see Section 9c of this policy}
- d. The Social Host may not serve alcoholic beverages to anyone other than his or her guests of age. Virginia Law requires a license before a person can sell, trade or give away alcoholic beverages. A violation of this law is a felony.
- e. If alcohol is served, food and non-alcoholic beverages also must be made available.
- f. Drinking games and the use of devices intended to accelerate the consumption of alcohol are prohibited in the Tailgate Zone.
- g. Common source alcohol containers such as kegs - are prohibited. These items will be confiscated and discarded.
- h. Alcohol must be transported in and out of the Tailgate Zone in a vehicle. Pedestrians are not permitted to carry alcohol into or out of the Tailgate Zone.
- i. Alcohol may only be brought into the Tailgate Zone in prepackaged containers (e.g. plastic bottles, cans, etc.). Individually prepared mixes (punch, etc.) and fermented fruit are not permitted.

8. Clean-up

Garbage must be properly disposed of in nearby dumpsters or taken off campus for disposal. Tailgating spaces that are not clean at the start of the event may result in the loss of future tailgating privileges for the permit holder.

9. Sales and Solicitations

Only University-sponsored sales activities or solicitations are allowed in the Tailgate Zones.

10. Other Responsibilities of Participants

- a. The Social Host is responsible for informing his or her guests and visitors concerning this tailgate policy.
- b. The use of recreational items such as bicycles, skateboards, in-line skates, hover boards and motorized vehicles such as scooters, ATVs, go-carts and golf carts are prohibited within the Tailgate Zone. Recreational items do not include any assistive devices.
- c. All animals, except service animals, are prohibited in the Tailgate Zone. Animals and their owners/caregivers shall leave the Tailgate Zone upon notification by University staff.
- d. The safety and security of personal property in the Tailgate Zone is the sole responsibility of its owner. Personal property should not be left unattended.
- e. All tailgating participants are subject to federal and state law.

E. APPROVAL AND REVISIONS

Approved By: President, November 1, 2009
Revision 1: President, September 1, 2010
Revision 2: Policy Committee, November 16, 2016
Revision 3: Policy Committee, August 29, 2018
Revision 4: Policy Committee, April 21, 2021
Revision 5: Policy Committee, August 24, 2023
Revision 6: Policy Committee, August 16, 2024

F. NEXT REVIEW DATE: Fall 2026