

## **Martial Arts and Archery FAQ**

### **Basic information**

#### **Who oversees student organizations?**

The Office of Student Engagement (OSE), which is part of the Division of Student Affairs. OSE oversees 650 registered student organizations for undergraduate and graduate students. They do so in partnership with Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation (DAPER), Office for Religious Life, Haas Center for Public Service, and the Centers for Equity, Community, and Leadership.

#### **How is OSE staffed?**

Fully staffed, the office includes six full-time professionals: a director, two full-time professional staff serving primarily non-Greek student organizations, two full-time professional staff serving primarily fraternities and sororities, and a program and operations coordinator.

#### **What kinds of organizations exist?**

OSE classifies voluntary student organizations into these categories:

- Academic
- Art: Dance
- Art: Drama
- Art: Music
- Art: Other
- Athletic: Club Sport
- Athletic: Martial Art
- Athletic: Other
- Athletic: Outdoors
- Community Service
- Ethnic/Cultural
- Fraternities and Sororities
- International
- Media/Publications
- Political
- Pre-professional
- Recreational
- Religious
- Social

- Social Awareness

## Policies

### What policies govern student orgs, and where can I see them?

The OSE website includes a [policy overview](#) that addresses safety, financial management, off-campus hires (meaning non-affiliates hired by clubs for various roles such as coaching), travel, and membership. Additional financial management information is available on the [Associated Students of Stanford University website](#), given the ASSU provides budgetary support for student organizations.

### How do students learn about the policies?

Leaders for new organizations complete an in-person workshop with OSE staff. New leaders for continuing organizations complete an online refresher. OSE publishes bi-weekly newsletters with links to policies. In addition, OSE offers drop-in hours for advising on any questions that student organization leaders may have.

### Is there any flexibility, depending on the organization or activity?

Exceptions are rare but can be approved after in-depth review and consultation with OSE, ASSU and Stanford Student Enterprises (which oversees ASSU's financial operations).

### Are the policies revised on a regular basis?

OSE policies are updated as needed given changes to policy, law, technology, and similar factors, and to enhance clarity.

## Participation

### Who may participate?

Here's the current arrangement:

- Events that re-occur on a routine basis (such as weekly practice) are open to all students.
- Special events (such as a tournament) can be open to Stanford students, faculty and staff and/or the public.
- Student organizations are free to hold one or two special events annually, with prior approval. Our goal is to ensure these events are safe and on sound financial footing.

### Can alumni participate?

Alumni are welcome to participate in special events as well as events student organizations offer in connection with Stanford Reunion Homecoming. Alumni have participated for years in the day-to-day activities of VSOs, but in direct contradiction to current policies.

## Financial matters

### How do organizations cover expenses (coaching, uniforms, equipment, travel)?

Primarily through grants from ASSU. In addition, student organizations are free to seek the following:

- Other campus resources (from departments and programs)
- revenue from tickets for special events
- student membership dues
- one-time charges for specific purposes (such as travel)

### Can organizations pay instructors and coaches, and collect fees per session?

By exception and only with prior approval from OSE. [Our policies are posted online.](#)

### Are organizations charged for space reservations and use?

Generally speaking, yes. There are exceptions, depending on the space and building management.

### What if a student cannot afford dues/fees?

Both the First Generation Low-Income Office and the [Opportunity Fund](#) are prepared to help.

## Situation-specific

### Why were the martial arts targeted?

Through a routine internal audit in the spring, we discovered that administrative practices of archery and the Stanford Martial Arts Program diverged significantly from university policies. OSE (which oversees student organizations) and DAPER responded by reaching out to archery and the 13 martial arts groups to review the irregularities uncovered during the audit. The summer suspension was created to ensure time to address these concerns.

### What is the Stanford Martial Arts Program?

SMAP is a student-initiated umbrella organization that helped individual groups with administrative matters such as practice space, publicity, and funding. [You can read more about the group here.](#) After a hiatus this summer, we expect the group to reapply for recognition this fall.

**Why disrupt what has been working for years?**

The form and function of student organizations have evolved over the years. Originally, the university sought to help students create and operate organizations for themselves and other students. Most if not all costs were borne by student fees appropriated by the Associated Students of Stanford University (ASSU). Over time, many organizations have grown in sophistication to include student and non-student participants of different ages engaging in activities under the guidance of volunteer and paid coaches and teachers. This evolution has introduced complexities not envisioned in our original policies, and we believe it is time to reassess and realign university policies and expectations.

**Why close youth events and camps?**

Youth events and camps were closed out of an abundance of caution. We require student organizations to follow specific procedures developed to protect minors. [Our policies are posted here.](#)

**How will the university prevent this from happening again?**

With clear communications, including more robust instruction on matters of safety and finance.

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