



VERANSTALTUNGS KONSENS

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INTRODUCTION

This event consensus was created by a project group of Rote Falken Austria. This project group was appointed by the Federal Conference in 2018. It is a document for group leaders, helpers, and staff members.

The event consensus includes not only the agreed regulations and the related justifications but also methods, concepts, and templates that should help group leaders or educational staff members communicate and work through the event consensus with children and youth.

I PRINCIPLES

1.1. The Falcons and Laws

This document establishes that legal provisions apply to us as well, and we must ensure that these are adhered to during Falcon events and group meetings. For international projects or cooperative events within Austria, our regulations are clearly communicated and enforced.

For general information, we outline the most important points from the Austrian Youth Protection Law. These points have been in effect since January 1, 2019, across Austria:

- **Alcohol:**
Alcoholic beverages without distilled alcohol, such as wine or beer, are allowed in Austria from the age of 16. Distilled alcohol like spirits, schnapps, liqueurs, rum, whisky, vodka, or mixed drinks containing such alcohol are only allowed from the age of 18.
- **Smoking:**
The minimum age for smoking in Austria is 18. Smoking is not allowed for younger people. This regulation applies not only to tobacco products like cigarettes or cigars but also to chewing and snuff tobacco, e-cigarettes, e-shishas and related liquids (whether they contain nicotine or not), and normal shishas (water pipes). However, we know that addictive behaviors cannot be simply turned off. If this applies to you, please contact your supervisor.
- **Illegal Substances:**
Illegal substances, as defined by the Protection of Minors Act (e.g., cannabis), are prohibited.

1.2. Legal Provisions Abroad

It is clear that when participating in international projects abroad, we must adhere to the regulations of the respective country. As Falcons, we also commit to applying stricter laws if necessary.

An example: In Austria, smoking is allowed from the age of 18. However, in Country X, it may be allowed from 16. In this case, Austrian law would still apply to our participants. If smoking were allowed from 18 in Country X and from 16 in Austria, the legal provisions of Country X would apply to our participants.

1.3. The Role of Group Leaders and Supervisors

Building relationships is an essential part of our work within the groups. Therefore, supervisors are often important trusted people in the lives of children and youth. It is even more important, within the context of this event consensus, that group leaders are aware of their role as role models. We must lead by example and adhere to the rules we set for ourselves. In our educational work, we want to act reliably and responsibly. This also means being honest and critical about our own behavior concerning alcohol and nicotine consumption and not pretending otherwise.

1.4. The Role of the Group

The group or the group meeting is the place where children and youth in our organization spend most of their time. Therefore, the rules established in this document should be as close as possible to the reality of the group and the life reality of our members. The group should be a place where everyone in our organization can try themselves out and develop. We want to encourage, not hinder, this. The group should provide everyone with the safety and security they need. Honesty and trust are also essential building blocks of our group work. The group should be a space that allows for making mistakes and encourages open and honest conversations or the addressing of problems. This is not limited to conversations between helpers and children or youth but also applies to conversations between helpers/staff, etc.

1.5. Clarity for EVERYONE

An essential factor of our mutual understanding of the agreements set forth here is that our event consensus is visible and clear to all. The key elements of this consensus must be easy to communicate, and everyone should be familiar with them.

Therefore, we commit to providing a framework for the event consensus during events and group sessions, where we not only communicate it but also discuss it. In this framework, we also want to shape the negotiation spaces mentioned in point 1.4 together. This is also about raising awareness and participation.

We want to make these shared rules visible to everyone. This means, for example, displaying posters during group sessions and events and producing flyers and handouts to be distributed at events. Only in this way can we create transparency about our agreement. Templates for such notices or flyers are included in the event consensus.

1.6. Prevention

In addition to responsible handling of alcohol and nicotine, strengthening self-awareness and empowering young people is a primary goal. Self-determined, reflective individuals are less susceptible to addiction. Therefore, within the framework of our events and work with children and youth groups, there should always be opportunities to strengthen our members' personalities, help them question their own actions and thoughts, and positively support their development.

1.7. (Self-)Reflection

It is important to us as group leaders and educational staff to regularly engage with (self-)reflection and reflect on our own actions. Only through self-reflection can we improve our behavior and consciously address it.

II RED LINES, NEGOTIATION SPACES, AND CONSEQUENCES

II.1. Red Lines

This event consensus includes "red lines" – boundaries that must not be crossed – but it also includes negotiation spaces. This is intended to allow the groups or participants and staff of an event to collaboratively and democratically shape these spaces according to their needs or perspectives.

As mentioned in point I.3, a space for personal development should of course remain. Everyone can make mistakes, but there are also situations where rule violations must have consequences. The place where decisions about such consequences should be made is, for us, clearly the group. This is because not every rule violation and every situation are the same, which is why possible consequences should already be worked out in advance by the group, including the participants and staff, together.

II.2. Negotiation spaces

In addition to the "red lines" in this event consensus, there are also regulations that can be negotiated for specific events, meaning they do not always have to apply unconditionally. These negotiable rules can be agreed upon jointly before or at the beginning of the respective event. If this does not happen, these rules will apply just like the "red lines". However, they can, of course, also be renegotiated during the event.

In general, the respective organizers decide which rules will be discussed with whom (delegation leadership, assistants, junior assistants, participants).

Even negotiable rules must not lead to anyone feeling uncomfortable or uncertain because of them.

II.3. Consequences

As already described in point I.4, the group is fundamentally the space in which consequences for potential rule violations are determined. This is meant to acknowledge that not every rule violation and every situation is the same, and therefore different consequences may be appropriate.

In principle, the joint discussion should always be the first response to inappropriate behavior. This means that consequences should always be discussed and talked through with all affected individuals, so that a situation can be created that is, as far as possible, satisfying for everyone given the circumstances. If such a discussion—regardless of the reasons—does not lead to an improvement in behavior, other individuals (delegation leadership, organizers) may also be involved.

III HANDLING OF ALCOHOL

As explained in point I.1. The Falcons and Laws and I.2. Legal Regulations Abroad, we adhere to legal provisions. This means that alcohol may only be consumed from the age of 16. Distilled spirits, in accordance with legal guidelines, may only be consumed from the age of 18.

	Group session	Events with children and adolescents	Events for adolescents aged 16 and above	Events with helpers (training, committees, e.g., LaFaTa)	Events with helpers (extraordinary events, e.g., New Year's celebration)
GENERAL	All caregivers commit to handling alcohol as a recreational substance responsibly, are aware of their role as role models, and act accordingly.				
	The duty of care of the caregivers applies at all times and must not be impaired by the consumption of alcohol. This means that even at night, there must always be at least one caregiver per group who is available for the children and young people and has not consumed alcohol.				
RED LINES	Alcohol is generally not allowed during the group session.	Alcohol may only be consumed in designated areas that have been determined in advance.			
		If the serving or sale of drinks is carried out by the Red Falcons, we commit to not serving distilled spirits, meaning that only beer and wine will be sold by the Falcons.			
	Alcohol will not be offered for sale during the group session.	Consumption of alcohol is only allowed after the evening program has ended and not before 10:00 PM.	Alcohol may not be consumed during the day while the program is ongoing.		

		Even after the evening program has ended, alcohol may not be consumed during programs for children and young people (e.g., JUZ, night watch, etc.), neither during nor before the program.			
	Group session	Events with children and adolescents	Events for adolescents aged 16 and above	Events with helpers (training, committees, e.g., LaFaTa)	Events with helpers (extraordinary events, , e.g., New Year’s celebration)
NEGOTIABLE		Distilled spirits may not be consumed.			
		Staff members who do not provide caregiving services (e.g., camp staff) may consume alcohol in areas that have been defined in advance, but never in program areas.	The general rule is that alcohol may only be consumed from 10:00 PM onwards.		The selection of alcoholic beverages offered by the Roten Falken is limited to beer and wine.
			Alcohol may not be consumed during the evening program.		
			Alcohol may not be consumed during the day while the program is on-going.		

IV HANDLING OF SMOKING

As explained in point I.1. The Falcons and Laws and I.2. Legal Regulations Abroad, we adhere to legal provisions. This means that smoking is only allowed from the age of 18. This regulation applies not only to tobacco products such as cigarettes or cigars but also to chewing and snuff tobacco, e-cigarettes, e-shishas, and the associated liquids (regardless of whether they contain nicotine or not), as well as regular shishas (water pipes). However, we are aware that there are smokers under the age of 18 and acknowledge that addictive behaviors cannot simply be turned off for a weekend.

	Group session	Events with children and adolescents	Events for adolescents aged 16 and above	Committees (e.g. LaFaTa)	Cooperative events	
GENERAL	We do not allow children or minors under our supervision to be left alone in order to smoke.					
	When we are with children and young people, we do not smoke directly next to them but instead step aside to smoke. This is also about protecting non-smokers.					
RED LINES	Smoking is only permitted in previously defined smoking areas. In the interest of non-smoker protection, we ensure that these areas are clearly designated.					
	Smoking is not allowed during the group session.					
NEGOTIABLE	The group room should be smoke-free.				It must be clarified that there are smoking areas that are not located next to children and young people.	

V ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

The legal regulations apply: Illegal substances are prohibited at all events of the Red Falcons. Consumption, as well as possession and especially trade, will not be tolerated at events under any circumstances.

The Red Falcons will continuously engage with the topic in a preventive manner. As in other situations, dialogue is prioritized over prohibition and exclusion. To raise awareness among children and young people about the effects of illegal substances in advance, we conduct age-specific addiction prevention at every multi-day event.

We want to provide them with a carefree environment free from illegal drugs and teach them a reflective and responsible approach to legal substances.