

January 17, 2025

Now that our new insurance carrier allows programming with alcohol, so long as there is no money changing hands, I have had a request to do a program with a beer tasting:

[...] St. Patrick's Day program, in March, where we talk about Irish History, the Holiday and how it's celebrated here in the US. With the program we would love to do an Irish Beer taste testing (2oz cups) of 4 different beers. We would do this as a registered, Saturday program [...].

Chapter 9, Section 5 of the Employment Handbook states that:

It is the policy of the BDL to prohibit the possession, distribution, manufacture, or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or marijuana on the BDL's property or while conducting the business of the BDL.

Since in the program as described, staff would definitely be "possessing" alcohol as they plan and present the program, that would go against this policy.

From an email discussion, the Personnel Committee proposed a change to the above policy by adding the following sentence to the end:

"Alcohol provided by the library as part of a free program and used in controlled setting following all applicable laws is permitted." The idea here is to be clear that we are not interested in having a situation where program participants can bring their own alcohol to a program.

How does the rest of the board weigh in on this question?

Submitted by John Rucker