

Constitution Drinks Manual





Samenwerkingsoverleg Faculteitsverenigingen
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Manual: Constitution Drink

A constitution drink is organised to celebrate that you have officially become the new board of your association. Other boards will visit you during the evening and night to congratulate you. This is done by 'recipiëren' (i.e. welcoming and congratulating in the form of a speech) and bringing a gift. This gift could be anything, from a pair of sunglasses to some biscuits. The Chair of the visiting board gives a speech and the Secretary writes something in the hosts' guestbook. This speech contains a formal congratulations, an introduction of the visiting board, a story that is as long as possible (it could be about the connection between the two associations, or it could be meaningless) and finally the presentation of the gift. The receiving board will in turn thank the visiting board, introduce their members, and tell another long story.

Invited boards are also able to 'bras' things. To 'bras' literally means to take one or more of the items over the 'bras'line. When something has passed the doorstep of the café or bar, it has officially been 'gebrast'. The objects and people who can be stolen are the guestbook, the association's flag, the announcer's staff, the announcer itself, and board members. The announcer (or 'pedel') is the person who announces congratulating boards. During 'brassen', some force can be used. When someone yells 'stop' or the target falls on the floor, the 'bras' attempt stops immediately. Additionally, 'brassen' during a break (or 'tempus') is prohibited.

To prevent 'brassen', the organising board arranges security guards. These are members of the association wearing white shirts with stickers from the association. The guards are there to stop persons and items from being 'gebrast'. Guards should not guard too aggressively. Pulling on clothes (expensive board suits) or using real violence is of course not the way to a fun evening, so don't do it.

When something has been 'gebrast', the board that has 'gebrast' can write a letter (brasbrief). In this letter, they can demand something as a reward for returning their 'gebrast' person or item. This can be anything from a breakfast or dinner for the other board or a crate of beers. It must be manageable and specifically stated in the letter.





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Constitution Drinks Preparation as Organiser

- Date: You need to find a date to organise your CoBo on. Be sure to check the SOFv CoBo calendar, so you pick a date that does not have too many CoBos yet (four or more on one day is too much for most boards to handle)
- Location: you need to reserve a bar or café. People need to be able to buy drinks (consumptions) in the form of coins, often 1 coin per board member (friendly associations, for example those of the same faculty, often receive more, this depends on the budget). Make sure the ending time of the CoBo is clear to both parties, so you don't get thrown out of the pub too early.
- Guest book where Secretaries can write in.
- A flag of the association (one that can be broken).
- An announcer (pedel). The pedel announces when the next board can start their speech. This is often a task where you need to have a loud voice and to be able to shout for a long time. Furthermore the pedel can be stolen.
- Arranging a staff for the pedel.
- Send out invites. This often goes via email, some associations also use cards. Make sure this invite is sent out on time, at least two weeks in advance. Examples of boards you can invite are: previous boards of your association, sister boards (boards of the same study in other cities), other study association boards in Nijmegen, boards of other student associations like sports or culture, and (of course) SOFv.
- Reporting the date in the SOFv constitution drinks calendar.
- Arranging security, these are more often than not members from your association. Note that you should arrange enough, but not too much, security.
- Send a message in the SOFv boards group when members of your board don't drink, have gluten allergies, can't be stolen due to injuries or any other situation that needs to be known in advance.





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Constitution Drinks Preparation as Visitor

- Chair: know vaguely what you want to talk about during your speech. It does not have to mean much, but some preparation is useful.
- Secretary: don't forget to write in the guestbook.
 - o Note that the story that the Secretary writes should be a fun story to read.
- Make sure you get the board a present. It is best if the gift is in some way connected to the speech or vice versa. The gift does not have to be expensive or nice, often people give drinks, but it could be some pancakes or a unicycle.
- Since COVID, some boards have chosen to allow reservations for time-slots through email contact. So it might be useful to contact them in advance if you have limited time for 'recipiëren'. Remember, though, that some boards still go for the first come first served method, so it will not always work.

Order of Business during a Constitution Drink

- Someone on your board reports to the pedel. This is most likely the Secretary, but it could be done by someone else. After this you get the coins for the drink for you and your board members.
- You are assigned a time slot where you can congratulate the board and give your speech. Often constitution drinks go over time, so keep this in mind.
- As the Secretary, you write in the guestbook. What you write does not really matter, again, the more the better.
- When you go to congratulate (recipiëren), this will be shouted out by the pedel. All present boards can shout 'volume' when the pedel starts talking.
- You then start saying that it is 'an honour and a pleasure' (in Dutch: 'een eer en een waar genoegen') to be able to congratulate the board. After which you introduce yourself and your board members, then you give the speech and afterwards you hand over the gift.
- Before and after the (recipiëren) there is the opportunity to 'bras'. Once again, you are not allowed to 'bras' during the breaks ('tempus') called out by the pedel.





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General rules at a constitution drink

Although every association has its own rules during their constitution drinks night, there are several general rules that we recommend adhering to:

- During the speech, you are not allowed to use a piece of paper or a phone to read from.
- The association flag must be displayed fully, it cannot be rolled up or folded.
- When an object breaks during a 'bras' attempt, the attempt is invalid.
- You cannot 'bras' security.
- Some associations wear 'sigilla' (a sort of medal, however, do not mix these terms!). You cannot touch these, there will be consequences if you do.
- You are not allowed to 'bras' during the breaks.
- There is no applause during constitution drinks. Instead, you stomp your feet rapidly on the floor.
- It is useful to publish a list of items that can be stolen to avoid confusion.
- No music can be played during a constitution drink.
- It is not allowed to make footage of the constitution drinks. The only valid time to use your phone is when you take a 'bras' picture.
- After your association has 'brassed' an item, the association takes a picture and sends this in the boards chat. After this, the item cannot be 'brassed' again. An item can only be brassed once.
- No Photographer

Rules after a constitution drink

There are some rules attached to sending a 'bras' letter to a board about the 'brassed' item. These rules are as follows:

- The letter should be delivered within 24 hours after the constitution drink.
- The letter must be written on a blank sheet of A4 paper with black ink.
- Within the letter, often written by the Secretary, cannot be a writing mistake. The mistake cannot be crossed out either.
- The name of the association should be written correctly.
- The letter cannot be longer or shorter than one A4.
- If the item was 'brassed' by more than one association, one of the associations writes a letter on behalf of every association involved.
- The closing of the letter should entail all the correct names of the associations and boards.
- In the letter, the 'brassed' item must be stated clearly.





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- There must be a clear demand in the letter. The demand should be reasonable and fun to do.
- The letter should be delivered in a closed envelope with the stickers of all participated associations on it. The name of the addressed board should also be on the envelope.
- The addressed board must respond within 24 hours to the letter with another letter. In this letter they agree or disagree with the terms to 'win back' their 'brassed' item. This depends on whether the letter was written correctly, and the terms are reasonable to be met.

