



November 8, 2008

NKU sets tailgating policy

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Tailgating hasn't been a part of campus life at NKU, but a championship women's basketball team and music events at the new Bank of Kentucky Center are changing that.

"Our alumni and students attending events at the Bank of Kentucky Center asked if the university had any policies and procedures on tailgating," said Dr. Jeff Waple, NKU's Dean of Students. "After researching, I learned we didn't, so we decided to draft a policy that allowed people to have social events before the game and some parameters to do that safely."

The new policy allows tailgating, including alcohol. However, tailgaters must contact the NKU parking services 24 hours before the event. They can do so by phone, 859-572-5505, or by e-mail at parkingservices@NKU.edu.

"If someone shows up in an RV and takes up four spots, we'd like to know that ahead of time," said Waple.

Tailgating is prohibited in lots O and J. Lot O is reserved for VIP parking and Lot J for students attending classes during events.

"Lot J is behind BEP (Business-Education-and Psychology building). We have some classes going on Saturdays so that we didn't disrupt the academics of our students."

There is no fee for tailgating.

Waple said the policy was written by a committee from all departments that may be affected by the tailgating. This included the university police director, Chief Harold Todd.

"He will have staff ready to patrol and monitor and provide directional support to people coming to campus," said Waple. "They are prepared to visit the tailgating areas mainly to ensure safety and that the laws are enforced."

The new tailgating policy will be in effect for today's men's and women's basketball games against the University of Louisville.

"It's a positive thing," said Waple. "We're trying to ensure a fun event and game day experience for all involved. The atmosphere will be very celebratory and a chance for people to enjoy each other and the experience. We're looking forward to the good things that come from this."
