

Resolved to Educate

Continuous Open Bidding

The purpose of continuous open bidding (COB) is to enable those chapters that did not pledge to quota or pledged quota but did not reach total to pledge additional new members immediately following the primary membership recruitment period. The intent of COB is to provide maximum opportunities for membership to the greatest number of chapters possible and the greatest number of women who are eligible to join a sorority.

Continuous Open Bidding (2022, 2023, 2024) – POLICY

During the primary recruitment term, continuous open bidding (COB) cannot precede, or replace, primary membership recruitment.

On campuses with deferred (spring primary) membership recruitment, any COB prior to the scheduled primary membership recruitment period is limited to upperclass* and transfer women.

The College Panhellenic cannot place restrictions on the COB process, which may include (but is not limited to) designated COB dates, schedules and bid distribution.

**upperclass woman is any woman entering her second year of college*

What does the policy mean for College Panhellenic?

The COB process is not structured or organized by the College Panhellenic. The College Panhellenic can impose **no requirements or restrictions**.

During COB, some chapters will want to meet many women and will have events anyone can attend. If the chapter requests, the College Panhellenic can assist by promoting the chapter's COB event(s) on the College Panhellenic's marketing channels.

Neither NPC chapters nor potential new members (PNMs) should be required to register for COB. The College Panhellenic can create an interest form and share results with COB-participating chapters.

COB Membership Recruitment Acceptance Binding Agreement (MRABA)

All PNMs joining an NPC sorority through COB must sign the COB MRABA. During COB, the proof of a woman's acceptance of membership must be dated and signed by the woman.

If a PNM receives a bid, signs the COB MRABA and then declines it or accepts a bid and then breaks her pledge, or has the pledge broken by an NPC sorority, she is ineligible to be pledged to another NPC sorority on the same campus until the beginning of the next primary membership recruitment period.

When does COB begin?

COB begins once total is set at bid matching for chapters that did not achieve quota or reach total.

- Primary recruitment term: total is set at bid matching
- Non-primary recruitment: total is set within 24 hours of the academic term

What chapters can participate in COB?

Only chapters with available spaces in quota/total are eligible to participate in COB. A chapter may not participate in COB unless they fall below campus total and/or did not pledge to quota.

Who is eligible for COB?

If a PNM does not receive a bid at the end of the primary membership recruitment period, she is eligible immediately to participate in COB. Any PNM who did not register for primary recruitment can participate in COB.

A woman who has accepted a bid either through primary or COB membership recruitment and who has had her pledge broken by an NPC sorority or has broken her pledge may be repledged by the same NPC sorority chapter on the campus at any time before the beginning of the next year's primary membership recruitment period, even if the chapter is over total.

Who is ineligible for COB?

Any woman who signed an MRABA during primary recruitment who declined a bid or later decided not to initiate is ineligible for COB. That PNM is not eligible for membership again until the next primary recruitment.

Similarly, any woman who signed a COB MRABA following primary recruitment and then later declined the bid or decided not to initiate is ineligible for COB until the next primary recruitment term.

What is a COB moratorium?

To accommodate a newly established chapter or to allow a chapter to build its membership, the College Panhellenic may vote to suspend COB for a period **not to exceed three weeks**. The start and end dates for the COB moratorium must be set by a vote of the College Panhellenic, *preferably* during the academic term prior to implementing the moratorium. The College Panhellenic should consider the need for chapters not at quota or total to have up to one week following primary recruitment to fill vacant spaces through COB before the moratorium begins. For the non-primary recruitment term, a COB moratorium could be considered one week from the start of the academic term.

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