



TAILGATING POLICY

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI TAILGATING POLICY IS DESIGNED TO CREATE AN ENJOYABLE AND SAFE GAME DAY EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FANS AND PERSONNEL WHILE PROTECTING AND PRESERVING UNIVERSITY PROPERTY AND FACILITIES.

The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department, Southern Miss Athletics and University Leadership are committed to fostering a fun, safe and fan-friendly tailgating atmosphere for visitors to the Southern Miss campus. Visitors are encouraged to be cognizant of the collective responsibility for maintaining an enjoyable tailgating environment.

The University of Southern Mississippi reserves the right to terminate tailgating activities in the event of a safety/security concern. The University of Southern Mississippi also reserves the right to change tailgating times as necessary.

TAILGATE CONDUCT

Responsible activities and behavior contribute to an exciting and friendly game day experience for all. Persons engaging in public indecency, disorderly conduct, lewd behavior, violations of state and/or federal laws, and violations of University policies may result in loss of tailgating privileges, criminal prosecution and/or disciplinary action through the Dean of Students office.

TAILGATE TIME

All tailgating activities may begin the day of the event and must end one hour after the conclusion of the game.

Tailgate setup, including tents and similar equipment, may begin at noon the day before a home football game. All tailgating items must be taken down and removed by 10 a.m. on the following morning to facilitate a smooth post-game campus cleanup.

If tailgate items are not removed by the designated time, items will be collected and stored at the USM Physical Plant. The USM Physical Plant and University Police Department are not responsible for damage to tents or tailgate items left behind.

TAILGATE TENTS

The University of Southern Mississippi allows personal tailgating tents to be set up across campus, except for in limited access areas. Except for approved University-sponsored tents, all spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tents must not exceed a size of 12' by 20' unless advanced written permission has been granted by the University.

For movement in an emergency and to avoid damage to pavement or the risk of damaging underground utility lines, tents must not be staked to the ground. Instead, tents must be secured with water ballasts, concrete blocks or similar types of anchor weights. Tents may not be chained to landscaping structures or signs.

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL TAILGATES/SIGNAGE

Businesses desiring to display business-related signage, distribute marketing items and/or charge admission must obtain prior approval. Please contact IMG Learfield at 601.266.7600 for additional information.

SOLICITATION

Business solicitation and/or fundraising of any kind within any University of Southern Mississippi facility or on the University campus is prohibited unless specifically approved by Southern Miss Athletics and IMG Learfield. Distributing flyers or pamphlets on parked vehicles is prohibited. The University of Southern Mississippi does not allow the sale or distribution of goods and services on the University campus, except as permitted by applicable University policies and governing law.

VEHICLES

Vehicles are prohibited from driving on or parking on the grass. All motor vehicles must be licensed with a valid license plate.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

The University of Southern Mississippi allows recreational vehicles/campers to arrive on campus and park in designated recreational vehicle parking lots at 6 p.m. on the day before a home football game.

GOLF CART POLICY

- Golf cart operators must follow all State of Mississippi laws regarding operating a motor vehicle.
- Non-University ATVs, personal tractors, utility vehicles, or any off-road vehicles are not allowed anywhere on campus, including, but not limited to, roadways, sidewalks or grounds. The only exceptions are utility vehicles used by The University of Southern Mississippi, local law enforcement and/or emergency personnel for official purposes.
- Golf carts shall only be driven on streets and roadways. Driving on sidewalks is prohibited.
- Golf cart operators must be licensed drivers.
- Golf carts must have working headlights, taillights and a rearview mirror
- The number of passengers on a golf cart must not exceed the number of seats.

SECURITY PERIMETER

Beginning three hours before kickoff, only authorized vehicles will be allowed access to the stadium's inner security perimeter (100 feet surrounding M.M. Roberts Stadium). All fans must obey barricades and signage. Only official Southern Miss vehicles, law enforcement, fire, medical, or the official Southern Miss game day shuttle will be allowed access into the security perimeter. No privately owned golf cart or other nontraditional modes of travel will be authorized.

GAME DAY PARKING

Visit the USM Parking and Transit Services website (usm.edu/parking-transit-services/campus-parking.php) to view a parking map with designated areas for reserved, general public and golf cart lots.

All vehicles must have a valid game day parking permit to enter any designated reserved game day parking lot. Dropoffs are not permitted on game day in any designated game day parking lot. Re-entry of vehicles into a designated game day parking lot is not permitted (once a parking permit has been validated, the parking permit cannot be used again).

Fans wishing to tailgate in Spirit Park may drop off items up to five hours prior to kickoff by entering Ray Guy Way from Golden Eagle Avenue.

Regular University parking rules will be enforced during regular class and business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.).

Tailgaters must not park in emergency lanes or 24-hour reserved zones.

TRAILERS

Driving or parking on grass is prohibited, and trailers may not be parked on grass.

If a spectator brings a street legal golf cart on a trailer and has purchased game day parking, the spectator is required to purchase a second parking spot for the trailer/golf cart. The trailer must be licensed with a valid license plate. Vehicles, golf carts and trailers can be parked in any non-reserved lots without a game day parking pass.

SIDEWALKS

Sidewalks must remain clear of any obstruction for pedestrians. Golf carts shall not be driven on sidewalks. The only exceptions are utility vehicles used by The University of Southern Mississippi, local law enforcement or emergency personnel for official purposes.

FOOD, BEVERAGE AND GRILLS

Food and beverages shall be for personal consumption only. Small, portable, single-unit propane gas and charcoal grills are permitted; however, the operator of any grill is responsible for its safe operation and proper cleanup of any ashes. Hot coals may not be placed on the ground, and ashes may not be left or dumped on campus property.

Depending on environmental and fire risk conditions, the University may prohibit all grilling. Grilling/cooking vessels should be used on stable ground and not under/near tents. Tailgaters are encouraged to have a fire extinguisher available at their tailgate. Open fires are prohibited. Professional, industrial, catering and pull behind cookers/grills are prohibited unless approved by Aramark. All food sales are prohibited unless approved by Aramark.

ALCOHOL

Use of alcoholic beverages must not violate state and local laws. Games involving alcohol are prohibited.

To ensure a safe, responsible and enjoyable atmosphere on game days, visitors who engage in any action prohibited by The University of Southern Mississippi policy, state and/or federal law related to alcohol consumption and distribution may be subject to disciplinary and/or criminal action in accordance with applicable University Policy, state and/or federal law. Individuals who engage in tailgating activities agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless The University of Southern Mississippi ("University") and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, departments, officers, employees, faculty members, and representatives and agents, from any and all loss, damage, injury or liability, arising out of, or in any way related to, tailgating activities, including, but not limited to, the consumption and/or distribution of alcohol.

TOBACCO

The University of Southern Mississippi adopted a campus-wide tobacco-free/vape-free policy on January 1, 2018.

LEAVE IT CLEAN

Each personal tailgate area is expected to dispose of trash in the waste disposal units provided by the University. This includes empty fuel containers. Charcoal must be disposed of properly. Do not place charcoal or other flammable materials in trash cans, on the grounds, under trees or in the parking areas.

GENERATORS AND PROPANE HEATERS

Generators and propane heaters must be operated outside tents with fuel stored in a separate location from the unit. Please take noise considerations into account with operation of generators. The University of Southern Mississippi reserves the right to prohibit the use of any generator or sound system deemed disruptive to others.

FACILITIES

Hooking into, connecting to or similar use of electrical outlets on campus light poles is allowed.

Hooking into, connecting to or similar use of University communication cable service is prohibited.

- No extension cord will be allowed to run across streets or sidewalks.
- No extension cord will be allowed to be run or passed through open windows or through doors of campus buildings.
- No electrical outlets on campus buildings may be used for tailgating.
- Electrical circuits are not to be overloaded by plugging in multiple extension cords by splitters or power strips.
- Unauthorized tampering with the University's electrical distribution equipment, including circuit breaker panels, junction boxes or disconnects, will not be tolerated.

RESTROOMS

The University of Southern Mississippi provides portable toilets at convenient locations around campus. Individuals, groups or businesses are prohibited from bringing or arranging the delivery of their own toilets. Restrooms located inside administrative buildings, academic buildings and residence halls are not for public use. The Thad Cochran Center and the Union Complex will be open on game day for public use and open restroom facilities.

AMPLIFIED MUSIC

Amplified music played in tailgating areas and on campus during game days should be at a reasonable volume and reflect that guests of all ages participate in game day events. All music played should include "radio edits," and be appropriate for the general public. Speakers must be turned to the center of the tent/ tailgating space and not face outwardly.

No live music or DJs, except those provided by the University, will be allowed on campus.

LOST AND FOUND

The University is not responsible for lost, stolen or misplaced items. Any tailgating supplies left unattended are done so at the owner's risk.

SERVICE ANIMALS, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS AND PETS

Pets are not permitted in tailgating areas or sporting venues. Visitors are limited to bringing service animals to campus. All visitors with service animals must adhere to the same service animal control, behavior and safety guidelines as students attending the University.

A service animal, as defined by the United States Department of Justice, is a dog that has been individually trained to perform a specific task, or tasks, for those with disabilities. There are no restrictions on the breed or size of a service dog.

Emotional Support Animals, also known as comfort or assistance animals, are not recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act but instead recognized by the Federal Housing Act and the Air Carrier Access Act. As such, emotional support animals or comfort animals are allowed in campus housing but are not allowed access to public spaces, unless that public space is also accessible by pets.

A pet is defined as an animal that is kept for ordinary use and companionship.

For information on the University's Service Animal Policy, contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services at 601.266.5024.

STUDENT TAILGATING AT SPIRIT PARK

Spirit Park maintains a student- and alumni-centered focus with the understanding that all participants will respect the space and fellow Golden Eagles. The University of Southern Mississippi Tailgating Policy applies to Spirit Park tailgating activities.

- All student tents in Spirit Park must register with the Dean of Students office via the online registration form.
- Only lawn furniture is permitted. Residential furniture is not appropriate.
- Glass containers are prohibited.
- Amplified sound must be facing the Reed Green Coliseum to not interfere with artists performing at Southern Station.
- Spirit Park will open at noon on the day before each home football game for tailgate setup and will remain open until 5 p.m., at which time adjacent parking lots will close.
- All tailgating materials must be removed from Spirit Park by 10 a.m. the following morning to facilitate a smooth post-game campus cleanup.
- The University of Southern Mississippi Code of Student Conduct will remain in effect at all times. Violations of the Student Tailgating guidelines will be managed by the Dean of Students office and the University Police Department.
- Questions regarding student tailgating at Spirit Park should be directed to the Dean of Students office at 601.266.4025 or dos@usm.edu.

The University of Southern Mississippi Police Department, Southern Miss Athletics and University Leadership appreciate the support and cooperation of all students, alumni and fans of this policy, which was established for the safety and enjoyment of all fans. All other University procedures and policies will remain in effect during times of athletics events and tailgating.