



Hazing Awareness-What do I need to know?

Hazing includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Activities involving an unreasonable risk of physical harm, including paddling, beating, whipping, branding, electric shock, sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, placement of harmful substances on the body, and participation in physically dangerous activities.
- Activities involving the consumption of alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, or any other food, liquid, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of physical harm.
- Activities involving actions of a sexual nature or the simulation of actions of a sexual nature.
- Activities that subject a student to an extreme and unreasonable level of embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, or which create a hostile, abusive, and intimidating environment for the student.
- Activities involving any violation of federal, state, or local law, or any violation of school district policies and regulations.

In general, hazing includes any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student in order to join a group, regardless of that student's willingness to participate.

What steps can I take if I have been subject to a hazing incident?

- Communicate your displeasure to the person initiating the hazing activity.
- Report the incident to your sponsor, coach, activity director, athletic director, or administrator.

Recommendations for prevention

- Take hazing seriously and discuss it everywhere-home, school, sports, band, choirs, clubs, etc. Communicate with teachers, administrators, coaches, sponsors, parents, and students on hazing and its consequences.
- Make sure you understand what activities are considered to be hazing. Be alert to the dangers of hazing.
- Recognize that a willingness to participate on the part of hazing victims does not absolve offending parties of responsibility.
- Do not dismiss acts of hazing because they are considered "traditions," "initiation," or "rites of passage."
- Model respect and be conscious of others-continually ask, "How does this behavior affect others?"

What can I expect the school to do?

- The appropriate administrator will promptly review the incident and will attempt to resolve the problem. If the administrator determines after a confidential investigation that there has been a violation of the policy, penalties will be instituted.
- Hazing is a violation of not only the Athletic Code of Conduct, but District 129 Policy as well (see School Board Policy 7.18 Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment and 7.19 Student Discipline). Penalties may include suspension or expulsion from athletic events and competitive activities, as well suspension or expulsion from school.