



HAZING PREVENTION ARTICLE # 1

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"74% of students participating in varsity athletics have experienced at least one hazing behavior"

-Allan/Madden(2008)

Hazing 101

Any act committed against someone joining or becoming a member or maintaining membership in any organization that is humiliating, intimidating or demeaning, or endangers the health and safety of the person.

Hazing includes active or passive participation in such acts and occurs regardless of the willing-ness to participate in the activities! Hazing creates an environment/climate in which dignity and respect are absent.

Hazing isn't a rite of passage. It is a crime.

Please help us provide you with specific resources and tools about preventing hazing by taking a few minutes to answer this very short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OSAHAZING>

FIVE TIPS

Building positive and safe cultures within a program should be a priority for all coaches and administrators. Each month we will share FIVE tips to help you develop safe, positive programs in the areas that have the greatest impact: Team Culture, Parent Engagement, Policy Development and Communication.

Tip #1

Make sure you have very clear rules that hazing is unacceptable and share those with your team prior to the season, during the season and in the off-season. Do not rely on athletes reading or understanding a policy in a student-athlete handbook. Talk to your team - not just about the policy but how hazing goes against your core values as a program.

Tip #2

Always discuss with your athletes any team building activities that they are planning to do **before** they engage in those activities. Remind your athletes that hazing is NOT team building. Team building should always be inclusive, safe and positive. It should be something that doesn't need to be a secret, demeaning or dangerous.

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Tip #3

Intentionally develop a culture of dignity, respect and inclusion. This may mean that you need to examine all your current rituals and traditions and ask yourself a few questions:

1. Am I singling out one group or individual?
2. Do this honor everyone on this team?
3. Is this activity secretive? If yes, why?
4. Are group members *pressured* to participate?
5. Could this activity emotionally, physically or socially harm someone?
6. Would/could I defend the merit of this activity in a court of law?

Tip #4

Develop a process for reporting hazing incidents that is easy, clear and ensures the safety of the person reporting. This may be reporting directly to a coach, or athletic director although the best practice would be to have an additional reporting option outside of the athletic department as well.

Tip #5

Communicate with parents the program's policy around hazing. Help them understand the warning signs of hazing (below) and provide them a guide for talking with their children about it. Remind them that it's important that they communicate with you anything that they might see or hear about that could be hazing.

- Required to carry certain items
- Cutting, branding, labeling, or shaving of parts of the body
- Required "greeting" of members in a specific manner when seen on campus
- Performing of special tasks for the members or others
- New tattoos, other marks, or shaved heads
- Reduced contact with friends
- Sudden loss of enthusiasm for school, a sport, or other activities
- Unexcused absences from class¹

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1. ¹ Campo, S., Poulos, G. & Sipple, J. (2005). Prevalence and Profiling: Hazing Among College Students and Points of Intervention. *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 29(2), 137-149.
 2. Lipkins, S. (2006). *Preventing hazing: How parents, teachers, and coaches can stop the violence, harassment, and humiliation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
 3. Gynn, K.L. and Aquila, F.D. (2004). *Hazing in high schools: Causes and consequences*. Bloomington, Indiana: Phi Delta Kappa Educational Foundation.
 4. Finkel, M.A. (2002). Traumatic injuries caused by hazing practices. *AJEM*, 20(3), 228-233.

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Additional Resources:

Stop Hazing: <http://www.stophazing.org/>

Hazing Prevention: <http://hazingprevention.org/>

Inside Hazing : <http://www.insidehazing.com>

Making Caring Common: <https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/>

Articles of Interest:

Building a Positive Team Culture: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-jim-taylor/build-a-positive-and-high_b_3659341.html

How to Build a Positive Team Culture: <https://www.scienceforsport.com/how-to-build-a-positive-team-culture/>

Hazing: The More You Know: <http://hazingprevention.org/wp-content/uploads/Article-Page-Lorin-Phillips-2016.pdf>

Empathy In Sports: <http://www.gospmi.com/power-empathy-sports>

Warning Signs of Hazing: (Video) http://www.necn.com/news/new-england/NECN_Hazing_Among_Teams_Knowing_the_Warning_Signs_NECN-251705601.html

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