

Spring Branch Independent School District
POLICE DEPARTMENT



D.B. DAREING
Chief of Police

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TO: All SBISD Middle School and High School Student Athletes and Parents
FROM: Chief Bruce Dareing
DATE: May 5, 2017

As the 2017/2018 school year begins, I would like to remind all student athletes and parents that "Hazing" is against state law and school rules. Over the past several years, the SBISD Police Department has received complaints from middle school athletes regarding hazing administered by high school athletes as a "Rite of Passage" from middle school to high school athletics.

Hazing (Statute 37.151 of Education Code In Part)

Hazing includes any willful act done by a student either individually or with others, to another student for the purpose of subjecting the other student to indignity, humiliation, physical abuse or threats of abuse, social ostracism, shame, or disgrace. No student shall engage in any form of hazing, nor shall any student encourage or assist any other person in hazing. (See attached)

The SBISD Police Department will investigate all hazing complaints and report our findings to the Harris County District Attorney's office. SBISD will not tolerate hazing incidents and will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law any student or person who administers hazing to a SBISD student. All participants of a hazing incident will be subject to arrest and suspension from school and athletic activities. Hazing offense is a misdemeanor punishable by fine and confinement in the county jail. Student athletes devote considerable time, effort and commitment to become a member of a school's sports team. Engaging in hazing will result in the student losing their time and effort that the student has committed to their respective school sports. **HAZING IS NOT WORTH THE PRICE!**

Students who are victims of hazing must notify their parents and/or a school official of the hazing incident. The student's parent or school official shall immediately report the incident to the SBISD Police Department (713-984-9805). Anonymous reports may be given to Crime Stoppers (713-222-8477). Failing to report a hazing incident to law enforcement is a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine and confinement in the county jail for up to 180 days. (Statue 37.152 Education Code)

On behalf of the SBISD Police Department have a safe and enjoyable summer break. Please contact me or an SBISD Police Officer if you have any questions or concerns regarding hazing.


Chief Bruce Dareing
Spring Branch ISD Police Department

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Chapter 37 Texas Educational Code (Sec. 37.151)

(6) "Hazing" means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization. The term includes:

(A) any type of physical brutality, such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, placing of a harmful substance on the body, or similar activity;

(B) any type of physical activity, such as sleep deprivation, exposure to the elements, confinement in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;

(C) any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student;

(D) any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subdivision; and

(E) any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task that involves a violation of the Penal Code.

Sec.37.152. PERSONAL HAZING OFFENSE. (a) A person commits an offense if the person:

- (1) Engages in hazing;
- (2) Solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in engaging in hazing;
- (3) Recklessly permits hazing to occur; or
- (4) Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student in an educational institution, or has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge in writing to the dean of students or other appropriate official of the institution.

(b) The offense of failing to report is a Class B misdemeanor.

(c) Any other offense under this section that does not cause serious bodily injury to another is a Class B misdemeanor.

(d) Any other offense under this section that causes serious bodily injury to another is a Class A misdemeanor.

(e) Any other offense under this section that causes the death of another is a state jail felony.

(f) Except if an offense causes the death of a student, in sentencing a person convicted of an offense under this section, the court may require the person to perform community service, subject to the same conditions imposed on a person placed on community supervision under Section 11, Article 42.12, Code of Criminal Procedure, for an appropriate period of time in lieu of confinement in county jail or in lieu of a part of the time the person is sentenced to confinement in county jail.

Sec. 37.154. CONSENT NOT A DEFENSE. It is not a defense to prosecution of an offense under this subchapter that the person against who the hazing was directed consented to or acquiesced in the hazing activity.