

HAZING PREVENTION

BUILDING APPROPRIATE TEAM RELATIONSHIPS

WHAT IS HAZING?

Hazing is any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule and risks emotional and/or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.

THREE KEY COMPONENTS

Hazing is any activity expected of someone:

1. Seeking or maintaining membership in a group,
2. And the activity humiliates, degrades, abuses, or endangers them,
3. Regardless of a person's willingness to participate.

EXAMPLES OF HAZING

- Embarrassing attire
- Scavenger hunts
- Demeaning skits
- Personal servitude
- Rookie Duties
- “Swirlies”
- Ingestion of vile substances
- Isolation/confinement
- Substance abuse
- Sexual acts
- Defacement of property
- Stealing, other illegal activities
- Other humiliations

MISCONCEPTIONS REGARDING HAZING

- Bonding/Loyalty
- Tradition
- Building Respect
- Status
- Accomplishment
- Pride

In reality, hazing is dangerous, not condoned and illegal.

WHY DO STUDENTS SUBMIT TO OR ACCEPT HAZING?

- Developmental need to belong or be accepted
- Peer pressure
- Intimidation
- Ignorance

NORMALIZATION

Conditions that can contribute to hazing becoming “normalized” as part of a group’s affiliation process include:

- Hazing is often **minimized** as simply harmless antics or pranks.
- Hazing is **justified** as an important tradition of the group.
- Hazing is **rationalized** as an effective means of group bonding.
- Hazing is often **overlooked** as a rite of passage or initiation.
- Hazing is often **ignored** because it may appear that everyone involved was a willing participant.
- Dangerous hazing **often occurs in private spaces** and is shielded from view of adults.

WHO IS HAZED?

All students who join groups are at risk of being hazed

- Hazing occurs in middle schools, high schools and colleges.
- It occurs for in all kinds of clubs and activities, not just sport teams
- Both female and male students report a high level of hazing.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN HAZING

Leaders/Perpetrators: Those who encourage/enforce the hazing behavior or take charge of the “ritual or tradition”

- Does not have to be a formal leader of a team (captain, co-captain..)

Victims: Those who engage in the acts or activities determined by team.

- Initially, many victims may see this is a rite of passage
- Can be willing participants
- Feel that committing the act is necessary in order to facilitate trust and “brotherhood/sisterhood” within the organization

WHO IS INVOLVED IN HAZING

Bystanders: Stand by as witnesses, or as people who have knowledge of the rituals/traditions but do not intervene

- Can be members of the team who encourage the activity
- Member of the team who stands look-out
- Other people in the school who may have knowledge of the hazing activities but remain silent (other students, staff, parents)

PREVALENCE

Research shows that:

- 47% of students who participated in sports or clubs in high school experienced hazing.
- 8 out of 10 students did not identify their experiences as hazing.
- Out of those who did recognize hazing, only 5% felt comfortable reporting it.

EFFECTS OF HAZING

Physical Effects

Traumatic injuries and even death have been caused by hazing practices.

Psychological Effects

Hazing can lead to depression, anxiety, social isolation and emotional difficulties that carry on to adulthood.

EFFECTS OF HAZING CONT'D

Hazing Hurts Children: Research tell us

71% of the students subjected to hazing reported negative consequences, such as getting into fights, being injured, fighting with parents, doing poorly in school, hurting other people, having difficulty eating, sleeping, or concentrating, or feeling angry, confused, embarrassed or guilty.

CONSEQUENCES OF HAZING:

Consistent with D95 Code of Conduct and Behavior
Policy violations

- Behavior Interventions/education
- Disciplinary action
- Removal from sporting event (i.e. next game, tournament)
- Removal from team
- Legal Involvement

Consequences can consist of any combination of the above

ASK YOURSELF

- **Would I feel comfortable participating in this activity if my parents were watching?**
- **Would we get in trouble if a coach or principal walked by and saw us?**
- **Am I being asked to keep these activities a secret?**
- **Am I doing anything illegal?**
- **Does participation in this activity violate my values or those of this organization?**
- **Is this causing emotional or physical distress or stress to myself or to others?**

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Hazing is everyone's problem. That's why it's also everyone's responsibility.

- If you suspect hazing is occurring...
- If you see hazing occurring...
- If hazing happens to you...

Speak up and report it immediately.