

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: HAZING

ADOPTED: February 18, 2004

REVISED: November 14, 2016

247. HAZING	
1. Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times.
2. Definitions	<p>For purposes of this policy hazing is defined as any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental health, physical health or safety of a person or which willfully destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in, any organization.</p> <p>The term shall include, but not be limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding; 2. Forced excessive calisthenics; 3. Exposure to the elements; 4. Forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance; 5. Any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of an individual, and shall include any activity which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct which is intended to or could result in humiliation, extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual; or 6. Any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. <p>For purposes of this policy, any activity, as described above, upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with or continued membership in an organization is directly or indirectly conditioned shall be presumed to be a “forced” activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity notwithstanding.</p> <p>For purposes of this policy, student activity or organization is defined as any organization, team, club, society, or group operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the district.</p>
3. Authority SC 510 Pol. 122, 123	The Board prohibits hazing, as part of any school-sponsored student activity or organization regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school property or outside of school hours.

247. HAZING

<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>No student, parent/guardian, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall engage in, condone or ignore any form of hazing.</p> <p>The district will investigate all complaints of hazing and will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal.</p> <p>Students, parents/guardians, administrators, coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal.</p> <p>District administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any individual or student activity or organization who violates this policy.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p>In addition to posting this policy on the district’s website, the district shall annually inform students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and district staff that hazing is prohibited, by means of distribution of written policy, publication in handbooks, presentation at an assembly, verbal instructions by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program, and posting of notice/signs.</p> <p>This policy, along with other applicable district policies, procedures and Codes of Conduct, shall be provided to all school athletic coaches and all sponsors and volunteers affiliated with a student activity or organization annually, prior to coaching an athletic activity or serving as a responsible adult supervising, advising, assisting or otherwise participating in a student activity or organization.</p>
<p>6. Complaint Procedure</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When a student believes that s/he has been subject to hazing, or if an adult witnesses or has reason to believe that students have been subject to hazing, the student or adult shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal. 2. The principal shall conduct a timely, impartial, thorough, and comprehensive investigation of the alleged hazing. <p>The principal shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint. The district shall document the corrective action taken.</p>
<p>7. Consequences for Violations</p>	<p>If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing by a student, the principal shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action up to and including</p>

247. HAZING

expulsion, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with the Student Behavior Expectations and/or student Code of Conduct. Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach or sponsor, up to and including removal from the activity.

Building principals shall take such disciplinary action for violations of this policy as is appropriate and within their authority, as set forth in policy and in the Code of Student Conduct.

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding that a coach, sponsor, or volunteer affiliated with the student activity or organization engaged in, condoned or ignored any violation of this policy, s/he shall be disciplined in accordance with Board policy and applicable laws and regulations. Discipline could include, but is not limited to, dismissal from the position as coach, sponsor, or volunteer, and/or dismissal from district employment.

If a student activity or organization authorizes, ignores, or condones hazing in blatant disregard of this policy or other applicable district rules, penalties may also include rescission of permission for that organization or operate on school property or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the district.

Any person who causes or participates in hazing may also be subject to criminal prosecution.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 5352, 511, 5354, 5353

Board Policy – 122, 123, 218, 233, 317