

Lake Washington School District

ATHLETIC / ACTIVITIES HAZING CODE

Hazing rituals at the high school level are particularly troubling because the developmental stages of adolescence create a situation in which many students are more vulnerable to peer-pressure due to the tremendous need for belonging, making friends and finding approval in one's peer group.

Hazing is not about harmless traditions or silly antics-**hazing rituals are about abuse of power and violation of human dignity.** Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, psychologically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating. The specific behaviors or activities within these categories vary widely among participants, groups and settings. If seasoned members of a team are demeaning new and/or younger members of a team, club or group, **THEY ARE HAZING!**

Policies – Hazing Rituals

Hazing will not be tolerated in any form and is **never** to be a part of our program. Acts of hazing can escalate to the point that the students participating are at risk. It is also quite possible that many acts of hazing will result in legal action being taken against the coach, advisor, student group leader, administration or the school district.

Any student who participates willingly in a hazing ritual is subject to disciplinary action, including suspension from school, the team or both, and possible legal action dependent of the severity of the incident.

Any student-athlete who observes and does not attempt to stop or report such a violation can also be subject to disciplinary action by our school. Repeated acts of hazing can result in further school action.

Examples of Acts That Are Considered Hazing Rituals and questions to ask yourself (Am I hazing?)

Questions for team leaders to reflect on:

- Have all the participants, their parents and the coach approved of the specifics of the event? *Hazing is often a surprise.*
- Would you be comfortable in telling your coach, parents, and school administration about the plans prior to the event? *If you are not willing to share your plans, STOP.*
- Does the entirety of the team/group participate equally, or are new members singled out? *If new members are singled out for demeaning treatment, they are being hazed.*
- Do juniors and seniors do anything that is unpleasant or weird to freshmen/sophomores? *If the answer is yes, the new members of the team are being hazed.*
- Are any group members breaking the law or violating school district policy? *If the answer is yes, STOP the activity.*

Examples of hazing (this is not an all-inclusive list):

- Assigning pranks such as stealing, painting, breaking the law or harassment of other groups.
- Modifying one's appearance with unusual haircuts, shaving, unusual clothing, tattoos, or skin markings.
- Forcing public acts of general buffoonery.
- Smearing unusual or disgusting substances on the skin.
- Consumption or the threat of consumption of undesirable foods and/or liquids.

- Apparel that is embarrassing, lewd or interferes with the educational atmosphere.
- Playing games where the loser must perform embarrassing acts.
- Agreeing to do demeaning tasks for others (servitude).
- Spanking, swatting or hitting.
- Throwing in the shower, dousing, powdering or dumping in the toilet or urinal.
- Requiring acceptance of verbal abuse and/or name-calling.
- Sitting or standing in uncomfortable positions.
- Pushing, shoving or tackling team members under orders from others.
- Any tests of emotional stability.
- Disruption of sleep.
- Spreading false rumors.
- Any process that produces mental anguish.

**This is to certify that we the undersigned have read and understand the
Lake Washington School District Hazing Code**

PRINT ATHLETE'S NAME

SPORT

STUDENT SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE