

Hazing Defined

“Hazing” refers to any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain full status in a group) that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate.

ALTERNATIVES/ BARRIERS TO CHANGE:

- Activities for team building
- Mentorship activities
- Leadership training activities

Websites for More Information:

- StopHazing.org - Education to Eliminate Hazing: www.stophazing.org
- National School Safety Center: www.schoolsafety.us
- The Center for the Prevention of School Violence: www.ncdjdp.org/cpsc
- Hank Nuwer’s Hazing Information Page: <http://hazing.hanknuwer.com>
- Mothers Against School Hazing: www.mashinc.org
- Inside Hazing: <http://insidehazing.com>
- HazingLaw.com: www.hazinglaw.com



EPHRATA HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC OFFICE
MR. TOMMY LONG, AD

Ephrata High School
803 Oak Boulevard
Ephrata PA 17522

717-721-1478



STUDENT INFORMATION
FOR EASD STUDENT
ATHLETES/ACTIVITIES

ANTI- HAZING



- Facts
- Definition
- School Board Policy
- Alternatives
- Tolerance
- Barriers to Change
- Consequences
- PA State Law
- Where to Receive Help

EPHRATA HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC OFFICE
MR. TOMMY LONG, AD

717-721-1478
Ext 19020

HIGH SCHOOL HAZING

MYTH: Hazing is nothing more than harmless pranks and is a practice largely isolated to college fraternities.

FACT: Hazing activities occur in many different areas. A recent study indicates that hazing takes place and is common among student groups in middle/high schools—particularly athletic teams.

MYTH: Hazing in high school is a tradition or about silly antics.

FACT: Hazing is about abuse of power and violation of human dignity. Hazing is a form of abuse and victimization.

MYTH: Hazing at the high school level is not harmful.

FACT: Hazing at any age is exceedingly harmful. Hazing at the high school level is 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 a peer group.

Further, the danger of hazing at the high school level is heightened by the lack of awareness and policy enforcement around the issue. That is why it is crucial to promote anti-hazing education and support for victims at the middle and high school levels.

MYTH: If someone agrees to participate in an activity, it can't be considered hazing.

FACT: In states that have laws against hazing consent of the victim can't be used as a defense in a civil suit. This is because even if someone agrees to participate in a potentially hazardous action it may not be true consent when considering the peer pressure and desire to belong to the group.

FACT: If you have to ask if it's hazing, it is!

EPHRATA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT HAZING POLICY, No. 247

Adopted April 25, 2005

Authority SC 510 Pol. 122,123

- The Board does not condone any form of initiation or harassment, known as hazing, as part of any school-sponsored student activity. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity. The board directs that no administrator, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall permit, condone or tolerate any form of hazing. **The District will investigate all complaints of hazing and will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy.**
- The Board encourages students who have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal.
- The district shall annually inform students, parents/guardians, coaches, sponsors, volunteers and district staff, that hazing students is prohibited, by means of distribution of written policy, publication in handbooks, verbal instructions by the coach at the start of the season, and posting of notice/signs.



Complaint Procedure Guidelines

- When a student believes that they are a victim of hazing, they shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing to the building principal.
- The principal shall conduct a thorough investigation of the alleged hazing.
- The principal shall prepare a written report of the investigation recommending disposition of the complaint, copying complaint, the accused and others involved as appropriate.
- If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the principal shall recommend appropriated disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant in accordance with the Code of Conduct. Additionally, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the coach, up to and including removal from the activity.

PENNSYLVANIA STATUTES TITLE 24. EDUCATIONS CHAPTER 20 HEALTH AND SAFETY ANTI-HAZING LAW

- **Any person who causes or participates in hazing commits a misdemeanor of the third degree of criminal law of this State.**
- **Penalties may also include the imposition of fines, the withholding of diplomas or transcripts pending compliance with the rules or pending payment of fines and the imposition of probation, suspension or dismissal.**