

Hazing

All athletes shall understand the definition of hazing, refrain from involvement in hazing, and report any incidents to the coach and Athletic Director immediately.

Hazing means to recklessly or intentionally endanger the health or safety of a student or to inflict bodily injury on a student in connection with or for the purpose of initiation, admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a club, organization, association, fraternity, sorority or student body regardless of whether the student so endangered or injured participated voluntarily in the relevant activity.

Section 18.2-56 of the Code of Virginia prohibits hazing and imposes Class 1 misdemeanor penalty for anyone found guilty of this violation.

The following are examples of conduct which constitutes hazing. This list is not meant to be exhaustive or to limit the school's ability to discipline any conduct which it determines to be inappropriate.

1. Subtle hazing includes initiations and the like which manipulate, coerce, or in other respects seek to deny the rights of the individuals. Typically this involves psychological pressures on an individual to agree to certain action in order to be more fully accepted, whether or not performance of this action has any bearing on actual membership status.
2. Harassment hazing involves actions which cause mental anguish or physical discomfort. Typically, this involves persistent physical or verbal actions which threaten, irritate, demeans, or inflict pain.
3. Hazardous hazing includes action which endangers life or mental health, which have the potential of causing bodily injury or which subject a person to severe mental stress.

The following list is provided for the purposes of clarifying what actions constitute an act of hazing. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Assigning pranks such as stealing, painting objects, harassing another group or club.
2. Modifying one's appearance such as partial or total haircuts, shaving of eyebrows, tattoos, and drawing on skin with magic markers.
3. Engaging in public stunts and buffoonery.
4. Consumption of undesired foods or liquids.
5. Apparel which embarrasses or which is lewd.
6. Playing games where the loser must perform some humiliating action.
7. Agreeing to do demeaning tasks for others (servitude).