**DEFINITIONS OF HAZING**

**1. Pennsylvania Hazing Law**

[P.S.] § 5352.  Definitions   
The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:   
   "**HAZING.**" Any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student 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 for continued membership in, any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by an institution of higher education. The term shall include, but not be limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the 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 could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property. For purposes of this definition, any activity as described in this definition 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 "forced" activity, the willingness of an individual to participate in such activity not withstanding.   
    
   "INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" or "INSTITUTION." Any public or private institution within this Commonwealth authorized to grant an associate degree or higher academic degree.

[P.S.] § 5353.  Hazing prohibited   
  
Any person who causes or participates in **hazing** commits a misdemeanor of the third degree.

[P.S.] § 5354.  Enforcement by institution   
  
   (A) ANTIHAZING POLICY -- Each institution shall adopt a written anti-hazing policy and, pursuant to that policy, shall adopt rules prohibiting students or other persons associated with any organization operating under the sanction of or recognized as an organization by the institution from engaging in any activity which can be described as **hazing.**   
    
   (B) ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.--   
    
   (1) Each institution shall provide a program for the enforcement of such rules and shall adopt appropriate penalties for violations of such rules to be administered by the person or agency at the institution responsible for the sanctioning or recognition of such organizations.   
    
   (2) Such penalties may 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.   
    
   (3) In the case of an organization which authorizes **hazing** in blatant disregard of such rules, penalties may also include rescission of permission for that organization to operate on campus property or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the institution.   
    
   (4) All penalties imposed under the authority of this section shall be in addition to any penalty imposed for violation of section 3 or any of the criminal laws of this State or for violation of any other institutional rule to which the violator may be subject.   
    
   (5) Rules adopted pursuant hereto shall apply to acts conducted on or off campus whenever such acts are deemed to constitute **hazing.**

2. Hazingas defined by the Gettysburg Area School District Board of Education Hazing Policy 247:

*“as any activity that recklessly or* intentionally *endangers the metal health, physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or membership in or affiliation with any organization recognized by the Board of School Directors.*” This includes any action taken or situation created that directly or indirectly embarrasses, humiliates, harasses, ridicules, or causes harm or mental or physical discomfort to another. Furthermore:

* *No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity.*
* “*no administrator, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall permit, condone, or tolerate any form of hazing.”*

3. Hazing as defined by the National Federation of High Schools:

*“Any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a student to belong to a group, regardless of their willingness to participate.”*

**FIVE EASY STEPS TO PREVENT**

**HAZING IN YOUR ATHLETICS**

**DEPARTMENT**

**Reasonable person perspective.** Ask yourself if a reasonable person will deem a particular behavior or act acceptable. Conclude whether or not a particular behavior or act is acceptable. If unsure, err on the side of caution and prohibit the behavior or act.

**Be on the lookout.** Telltale signs that hazing might be occurring include younger athletes with bruises inconsistent with a rough practice and hangovers (forced alcohol consumption as part of a hazing ritual).

**Use team leaders as buffers.** They are your best sources when you are not available. Team

leaders have the inside perspective on what is happening. Encourage your team leaders to report signs of hazing, anonymously if necessary.

**Provide alternatives.** Hazing has long been considered a necessary evil to enhance team unity and chemistry. If there are traditions within your program that you want to eliminate, offer substitute activities that will decrease the chance of the illegal hazing continuing. Obstacle and rope courses encourage working together and can be good tools.

**Set down the rules and then follow them.** This should happen before the season starts. Outline the rules and what the ramifications will be if they are broken. Most importantly, follow through on rendering punishments when violations do occur.

*Managing School Athletics*

*June 2003*

**THE WARNING SIGNS**

If you see a group where the “power differential” between the old and the new is great, this should be a warning. Watch out for groups where everyone is not equally respected and treated the same. The following activities are all examples of but not limited to:

**HAZING**

• Being yelled, cursed, or sworn at

• Being publicly embarrassed

• Having to act as a personal servant to an older group member

• Being told to eat or forced to eat disgusting things such as cat food, tabasco sauce, raw eggs

• Being thrown or forced to go into a pond, ocean, toilet or other body of water

• Pressured to be tattooed, body pierced or shaven

• Participating in drinking contests

• Drink, exercise or smoke drugs until you pass out

• Making prank phone calls or harassing others

• Destroying or vandalizing property

• Inflicting pain on yourself or others

**HAZING IN ATHLETIC PROGRAMS**

In athletic settings, some may view hazing as a harmless rite of initiation or an important activity for team bonding. However, it is actually a form of harassment and represents a Gettysburg Area School District Disciplinary Code offense. A more complete explanation of Hazing can be found in GASD Policy 247

Hazing, therefore, cannot and will not be condoned or permitted in the athletic program of the Gettysburg Area School District. This means that HAZING is not tolerated on the fields or courts, in the locker rooms, on the bus, or at any other activity in which student-athletes represent the Gettysburg Area School District.

The elimination of hazing from our athletic program will greatly help provide a positive experience while participating in the athletic program at Gettysburg Area School District.

**NIAAA Hazing DVD: “Break the Tradition or Break the Law”**

[***www.stophazing.org***](http://www.stophazing.org)

**Should you have any**

**questions about these policies,**

**please contact your school’s**

**Athletic Director.**

**Revised 8/13**

**Hazing**

**In**

**Athletic Programs**

**Gettysburg Area School District**

Prescription for Success:

Comprehensive Programming

and Policy

**A proud member of the Pennsylvania**

**Interscholastic Athletic Association**

**(PIAA)**

**The Gettysburg Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, physical or mental disability, age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs.**

**Mike Williams, CMAA**

**Director of Athletics**

1130 Old Harrisburg Road

Gettsyburg, PA 17325,

**717-334-6254, X6210**

**FAX 717-337-4438**

[**www.gettysburg.k12.pa.us**](http://www.gettysburg.k12.pa.us)

*“The ultimate indicator of the value of school athletic programs must be the level of citizenship displayed by those who participate.”*