

HAZING

Hazing is illegal in South Carolina, is not tolerated at Clemson University and by extension, in the Athletic Department.

South Carolina Law

SECTION 59-101-200. Hazing prohibited; penalties.

(A) For purposes of this section:

- (1) "Student" means a person enrolled in a state university, college, or other public institution of higher learning.
- (2) "Superior student" means a student who has attended a state university, college, or other public institution of higher learning longer than another student or who has an official position giving authority over another student.
- (3) "Subordinate student" means a person who attends a state university, college, or other public institution of higher learning who is not defined as a "superior student" in subitem (2).
- (4) "Hazing" means the wrongful striking, laying open hand upon, threatening with violence, or offering to do bodily harm by a superior student to a subordinate student with intent to punish or injure the subordinate student, or other unauthorized treatment by the superior student of a subordinate student of a tyrannical, abusive, shameful, insulting, or humiliating nature.

(B) Hazing at all state supported universities, colleges, and public institutions of higher learning is prohibited. When an investigation has disclosed substantial evidence that a student has committed an act or acts of hazing, the student may be dismissed, expelled, suspended, or punished as the president considers appropriate.

(C) The provisions of this section are in addition to the provisions of Article 6, Chapter 3 of Title 16.

(D) The provisions of Section 30-4-40(a)(2) and 30-4-70(a)(1) continue to apply to hazing incidents.

HISTORY: 1994 Act No. 328, Section 1.

Student-athletes who have concerns/questions are encouraged to speak out. This can be done in an open forum (e.g. speak up with the offenders); or to a staff member with whom you feel comfortable. Members of the Athletic Department staff have a duty to follow-up, and inform the Athletic Director on all reports of hazing. The student-athlete can be assured that their safety is of paramount importance, and their report will be handled appropriately.

Incidents of hazing can be reported to the Office of Community and Ethical Standards who will conduct an investigation of the incident(s), and take action according to University policies.

Hazing: What It Is

Definition: Any activity expected of someone joining a group (or to maintain membership in that group) that harasses, humiliates, embarrasses, frightens, degrades, disempowers or risks emotional and/or physical harm, **regardless of the individual's willingness to participate.**

Facts:

- 80% of college athletes are victims of hazing
- A little more than 20% of Division I student-athletes have been subjected to alcohol-related hazing
- Female athletes are just as likely to be hazed as their male counterparts, and are more likely to engage in alcohol-related hazing
- 16% of Division I student-athletes have been subjected to physical hazing (beaten, thrown in water, heads shaved, branded) and sexual-related hazing (harassment, assault, acting/simulating sexual activities)
- 2:3 student-athletes are subjected to humiliating hazing (being yelled/sworn at, forced to act in an embarrassing manner, deprived of food/drink/sleep)
- Electronic devices such as web-enhanced cellular phones guarantee widespread humiliation of individuals/teams/institutions because of the ability to instantaneously broadcast activities
- The majority of student-athletes will not report hazing for a variety of reasons including fear of alienation from their teammates; unable to recognize the activity as hazing – may define it as “horsing around”; consider it “fun”
- Many coaches and athletes condone hazing as “tradition” and/or “team-building”
- Hazing is illegal in South Carolina: *“Hazing at all state supported universities, colleges, and public institutions of higher learning is prohibited. When an investigation has disclosed substantial evidence that a student has committed an act or acts of hazing, the student may be dismissed, expelled, suspended, or punished as the president considers appropriate.”*
- Hazing represents a violation of Clemson University Student Code of Conduct (IX A 13)

Questions to ask to determine if activity is hazing:

1. Is alcohol involved?
2. Will active / current members of the team refuse to participate with the new team members and do exactly what they are being asked to do?
3. Does the activity risk emotional or physical abuse?
4. Is there risk of injury or a question of safety?
5. Do you have any reservation describing the activity to parents, to the athletic director, a professor, or any University official?
6. Would you object to the activity being photographed for the school newspaper, for the Orange and White or filmed by Channel 4 or 7?
7. Do the activities constitute dishonor of individuals? (In violation of the principle of Pride: *Our actions honor our university, traditions, teams, performance, people and each other*)

If you have to ask if it is hazing – it probably is.

Recommendations:

- Send a clear anti-hazing message; open the discussion with your student-athletes and encourage an open conversation and environment for continual vigilance on the issue
- Expect responsibility, integrity, civility, actions consistent with the Pride philosophy
- Offer positive team-building initiation rites
- Meet with team leaders and brainstorm on the development of new traditions for introducing new members to the team, and establish guideline for conduct during these activities

Examples of Hazing

Subtle Hazing: Behaviors that emphasize a power imbalance between new members and other members of the team. Often taken as meaningless or harmless. This type of hazing should not be confused with specific assignments given to particular members of the team, but not others. If you there are questions as to whether a specific activity constitutes hazing, the student-athlete is encouraged to discuss it with their coach and/or to speak to a member of the Athletic staff.

- Deception
- Deprivation of privileges granted to other members
- Requiring new members to perform duties not assigned to other members
- Socially isolating new members
- Line-ups / drills/tests / scavenger hunts on meaningless information
- Name calling
- Silence periods with implied threats for violation
- Requiring new members to address current members with certain titles

Harassment Hazing: Behaviors that cause emotional anguish or physical discomfort. Confuses, frustrates, and causes undue stress for new members.

- Verbal abuse
- Threats or implied threats
- Expecting certain items (e.g. a paddle; golf club) to always be in a person's possession
- Asking new members to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire
- Stunts/skits with degrading, crude or humiliating acts
- Expecting new members to perform personal services to other members - cleaning, cooking, carry bags
- Sleep deprivation
- Sexual simulations
- Deprivation of basic needs - shower facilities, toothpaste, etc.
- Be expected to harass others / make prank phone calls
- Cheating, or help others cheat on an exam

Violent Hazing: Behaviors that have the potential to cause physical and/or emotional/psychological harm.

- Forced or coerced substance consumption
- Beating, paddling or other forms of assault
- Branding, burning
- Water intoxication
- Public nudity
- Expecting abuse or mistreatment of animals
- Expecting illegal activity
- Bondage
- Kidnaps / abductions / abandonment
- Extreme heat / cold exposure without appropriate protection

An athlete/coach/other choosing not to take part in the hazing activity, yet knowing that it is occurring, is guilty of *passive participation*, and is in effect condoning the activity. **Hazing is not tolerated at Clemson University, and by extension, in the Athletic Department.** Student-athletes who have concerns/questions are encouraged to speak out. This can be done in an open forum (e.g. speak up with the offenders); to a staff member with whom you feel comfortable; online to the Office of Community and Ethical Standards. All University staff are obligated to follow-up on all reports of hazing. The student-athlete can be assured that their safety is of paramount importance, and their report will be handled appropriately.