

University of Tennessee Department of Athletics

Student-Athlete Agreement Concerning Hazing

Name: _____ Sport(s): _____

The University of Tennessee Department of Athletics supports only those activities which are constructive, educational, and that contribute to the intellectual and personal development of students. The University of Tennessee Department of Athletics unequivocally opposes any situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule.

The University of Tennessee and The University of Tennessee Department of Athletics interpret hazing as any intentional or reckless act, on or off university property, by one student acting alone or with others, which is directed against any other student that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student, or which induces or coerces a student to endanger his or her mental or physical health or safety, and includes treatment of a violent, abusive, shameful, insulting, or humiliating nature. Such action is prohibited when connected with initiation into or affiliation with an organization and does not include participation in customary athletic events or similar competition. A student committing an act of "hazing" is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct.

Instances of Hazing may also be a violation of Tennessee State Law:

State of Tennessee Hazing Law

49-7-123. Hazing prohibited.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Hazing means any intentional or reckless act in Tennessee on or off the property of any higher education institution by one (1) student acting alone or with others which is directed against any other student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student, or which induces or coerces a student to endanger such student's mental or physical health or safety. "Hazing" does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions, and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization; and

(2) "Higher education institution" means a public or private college, community college or university.

(b) Each higher education institution shall adopt a written policy prohibiting hazing by any student or organization operating under the sanction of the institution. The policy shall be distributed or made available to each student at the beginning of each school year. Time shall be set aside during orientation to specifically discuss the policy and its ramifications as a criminal offense and the institutional penalties that may be imposed by the higher education institution.

[Acts 1995, ch. 500, §1.]

Actions and activities which are prohibited include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any type of initiation or other activity where there is an expectation of individuals joining a particular team to participate in behavior designed to humiliate, degrade or abuse them, regardless of the persons' willingness to participate;
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring an individual to consume alcohol or any other substance;
- Forcing, requiring or pressuring an individual to shave any part of their body, including the hair on their head;
- Any requirement or pressure put on an individual to participate in any activity which is illegal, perverse, publicly indecent, or contrary to his/her genuine morals and/or beliefs (i.e., public profanity, lewd conduct, sexual gestures, public nudity or engaging in public stunts and/or buffoonery);
- Any activity or action that creates a risk to the health, safety or property of the University or any member of its community;
- Physical abuse of any type to include paddling, beating or hitting of a team member; to also include forced or required calisthenics, such as push-ups, sit-ups, etc.;
- Forcing, encouraging or pressuring someone to wear in public apparel which is conspicuous and not within the norm of what is considered good taste;
- Morally degrading/humiliating games or other activity that makes a member the object of amusement, ridicule or intimidation.

I have been given an opportunity to read this policy and understand the following:

_____(initial) The policy and regulations of the University of Tennessee and the University of Tennessee Department of Athletics pertaining to hazing.

_____(initial) I agree and promise not to participate in any activity deemed to be hazing. I have read the examples of hazing as described in the University of Tennessee Hazing Policy (above).

_____(initial) I understand that if I am in violation of this policy, I will be subject to discipline that may include, but is not limited to, departmental or University probation, suspension from the team and/or the University, and expulsion from the team and/or University. The team may be subject to group discipline that can include, but is not limited to, team probation, cancellation of individual contests/games, and/or cancellation of the entire season. The fulfillment of community service may also be required.

My signature below indicates that I have read and retained a copy of The University of Tennessee and The University of Tennessee Department of Athletics Policy on Hazing.

Signature of Student-Athlete _____ Date _____