

## **DEFINITION OF HAZING:**

Any act committed against someone joining or becoming a member or maintaining membership in any organization that is humiliating, intimidating, demeaning, or endangers the health and safety of the person.

- Hazing includes active or passive participation in such acts and occurs regardless of the willingness to participate in the activities!
- Hazing creates an environment/climate in which dignity and respect are absent.
- Prevention measures are much more effective than reaction.
- Clearly defining what is and is not acceptable behavior will help overcome denial.
- Hazing is sometimes justified by calling it pranks, stunts, antics, traditions, initiations, rites of passage, bonding, etc.
- “Severity” is not always measured in observed harm — mental distress can be just as devastating to the individual as physical injury.
- Tolerance for a little hazing usually leads to Big Hazing.
- Where there is a power imbalance, there is a risk of coercion. Treat all athletes with respect as equal members of the team.
- Open honest discussion with strongly enforced policy, prevents hazing.