THE CENTER FOR SPORT PSYCHOLOGY

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Individual and Team Consultants Educational Workshops Programs For All Ages Programs For All Skill Levels

15 Hazing Prevention Recommendations Dr. Joel Fish

Recommendations

- 1. A *proactive approach* to addressing hazing involving student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and student support staff is an effective model that can reduce the frequency of hazing behaviors.
- 2. There is a value in a *conference-wide* anti-hazing statement. This will help prioritize the issue and develop a consistent, uniform approach to the issue.
- 3. Work with *team captains* and *leaders* is very important. This group needs ongoing training in the tools and strategies to be effective leaders. Team leaders are a significant component to hazing prevention.
- 4. There needs to be greater *consistency within schools* from team-to-team in implementing alcohol and hazing policies. When one team knows that another team has less/more strict rules this undermines the effectiveness of the policy.
- 5. *Coaches need ongoing training* in recognizing the signs of hazing and risky student-athlete behavior and how to utilize resources on campus to help.
- 6. In a clear, specific way, a *list of hazing* and *non-hazing behaviors* need to be developed and distributed to student-athletes. This will help clarify the 'grey areas' that can exist around this issue.
- 7. The relationship between *high school cliques*, *athletes* and *hazing* needs to be further examined.
- 8. Time, energy, and resources need to be spent to develop *alternative*, *positive forms of team celebration* and *initiation*. (ropes courses, etc.) If a void is left, hazing behaviors are more likely to occur.
- 9. At each school, certain teams are at a higher risk for hazing and risky behavior. Small group work should be targeted towards *high risk teams*.
- 10. *Social contracts* can be effective tools in working with student-athletes on hazing and risky student-athlete behavior.
- 11. *Sportsmanship* and *ethical behavior* are related student-athlete issues which need to be addressed as they pertain to hazing.
- 12. To have long-term impact, continued follow up using the *hazing prevention model* below is recommended. Education

Deterrence Counseling

Peer Pressure

- 13. It is suggested that hazing be a *top priority issue at orientation* for freshmen and new students. At present, each school differs in emphasis given hazing at orientation.
- 14. To maintain athletic department credibility on the hazing issue, *consequences* must be *consistently applied* to high and low profile sports.
- 15. When the hazing program is initiated by the school administrators, it adds weight and credibility to the work being done and makes the issue a priority in the minds of the students and staff.