

Section 4 | Hazing and Liabilities

Recent policy changes will appear in hi-lighted and italicized font.

QUICK TIPS

What is Hazing?

- Any act committed against a student or non-student who is trying to join a new group that is humiliating, demeaning, or endangers the person's health and safety.
- Occurs regardless of consent or willingness to participate. If you choose not to take part but knew what was going on, you are part of the problem. It's called passive participation.
- Even the creation of an environment that promotes or allows hazing can be considered hazing.

Does the University of Iowa have a hazing policy?

Yes, the University of Iowa has a hazing policy that applies to all students, faculty, and staff of the University.

What are the consequences of hazing?

Iowa law can charge someone up to a serious misdemeanor for hazing acts.

Does the University of Iowa provide insurance for Sport Club members?

Sport Clubs are encouraged, and sometimes required, to have their own insurance through a national governing body or another third-party organization. The University of Iowa does not provide insurance coverage to Sport Clubs or participants. Participants generally must rely on their own personal health insurance to respond to illness or injury. *For higher risk activities and as directed by the Office of Risk Management and General Counsel, a sport club may be required to purchase their own general liability insurance for club practices and events.*

Hazing and Liabilities | Definitions and SCP Policies

What is Hazing?

A person commits an act of hazing when the person intentionally or recklessly engages in any act or acts involving forced activity which endanger the physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into, or affiliation with, any organization operating in connection with a school, college, or university. Prohibited acts include, but are not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature such as whipping, forced confinement, blindfolding, or any other forced activity which endangers the physical health or safety of the student.

“Forced activity” means any activity which is a condition of initiation or admission into, or affiliation with, an organization, regardless of a student’s willingness to participate in the activity.

University of Iowa Hazing Policy – Code of Student Life

Any intentional or reckless action or situation, with or without consent, that endangers a student or creates risk of injury, mental or physical discomfort, harassment, embarrassment, and/or ridicule for the purpose of initiation into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in any student organization, fraternity, sorority, or team recognized by the University of Iowa Student Government or by any other University sponsor or department. Hazing may occur on or off campus. Acts of hazing include, but are not limited to: compulsory alcohol or drug consumption; physical brutality; psychological cruelty; public humiliation; morally degrading activities; forced confinement; creation of excessive fatigue; required removal or destruction of public or private property; or any other activity that endangers the physical, mental, psychological, or academic well-being and/or safety of an individual. Officers and members of a student organization who knowingly permit such prohibited activity to occur without taking reasonable preventative measures are subject to the Code of Student Life as an individual, even if they did not administer the hazing activity.

In the State of Iowa, Hazing is a Criminal Offense

- A person who commits an act of hazing is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.
- A person who commits an act of hazing which causes serious bodily injury to another is guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

It is not a defense to a charge of hazing that:

- The consent of the victim had been obtained.
- The conduct or activity that resulted in the death or injury of a person was not part of an official organizational event or was not otherwise sanctioned or approved by the organization.
- The conduct or activity that resulted in death or injury of the person was not done as a condition of membership to an organization.

Hazing does not achieve	Hazing does achieve
Discipline	Distrust and anger
Bonding or togetherness	A power trip for perpetrator
Group strength	Humiliation
Respect for members	Victimization and abuse
Better job performance	Injuries and possibly death

How Do We Eliminate Hazing?

- Climate and environment change.
- Incoming club members will model after what they see from veteran club members. Veterans need to change the culture now, so that in the future young club members will not allow a hazing culture to exist.

Questions to Ask Yourself

- Is this a group activity where members are encouraged to attend and where any members are consuming alcohol?
- Will current group members refuse to do exactly what new members are asked to do?
- Is there risk of emotional or physical abuse?
- Is there any risk for injury or is safety a question?
- Would you invite your parents, supervisor, or university official?
- Would you object to being photographed or videotaped by the media or school paper?

Danger of Social Networking Websites

Sport Clubs need to be especially careful when posting club related pictures or material on social networking web sites (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, *Tik Tok*, etc.) These sites are open to the public and the content on these sites can be directly associated with your club, including any photos that appear to be hazing. Please remember to only post content that is suitable for public exposure. Educate all members of the club to use caution when using these sites.

Hazing and Liabilities | Insurance and Medical Considerations

Insurance and Medical Considerations

1. The university holds no blanket insurance policy for sport club participants. Consequently, all club members are strongly encouraged to purchase some type of personal comprehensive accident-health insurance. An injured participant is responsible for all financial obligations incurred and any treatment necessitated by injury. Club officers should notify their members of this fact. *For higher risk activities and as directed by the Office of Risk Management and General Counsel, a sport club may be required to purchase their own general liability insurance for club practices and events.*
2. The university does not provide insurance for club members while traveling. Club members are responsible for their own auto insurance and passengers if traveling with private vehicle. Passengers in private vehicles that are driven by club members are at the sole risk of the driver.
3. Sport Clubs at the University of Iowa are responsible for their events and activities, as well as the actions or negligence of the organization membership.
4. Each participant is always responsible for their own well-being when participating with the group with which they are affiliated.
5. Each participant shares with the other members the concern and responsibilities of safety and agrees to follow safe procedures and to avoid any unnecessary, hazardous situations.
6. Participants are encouraged to discuss with the University of Iowa Student Health medical staff or with their family doctor any known physical problems which may limit participation in the Sport Clubs Program. This should be handled before participation.
7. It is highly recommended that all participants in Sport Clubs receive a physical examination from a physician prior to participation.
8. Participants are encouraged to wear proper dress and appropriate protective equipment. If the participant chooses not to use such equipment, the participant must realize that they are doing so at their own risk.
9. Participants are responsible for proper conditioning as a prerequisite for participation.
10. Arrangements will be made to have proper supervision at home club contests to be held on campus that have been properly scheduled through the Sport Programs Office.