

Hazing Information Sheet

Hazing involves conduct--either physical, mental, emotional, or psychological--that may abuse, degrade, intimidate, or put a person in danger in order to join or be socially accepted by a group.

Hazing may include:

- **Contact acts:** such as beating someone with fists or objects (i.e. tennis racquets), or physically restraining them
- **Non-contact acts:** such as making someone play drinking games, do humiliating acts, or depriving them of sleep, food, or water
- **Sexualized acts:** such as requiring someone to share nude photos or perform sexual behaviors
- **Criminal conduct:** any conduct described as hazing under federal or state law

Hazing does not include:

- Rude or mean behaviors that may be hurtful (by accident or on purpose) but are *not* part of an ongoing pattern
- A conflict in which people disagree
- Techniques and behaviors that are professionally accepted in tennis

What are examples of Hazing?

- At a party, returning athletes tell new teammates to get drunk or else they won't be added to the team chat
- While new team members are showing, players who have been part of the team since last year, hide the new team members' clothes outside of the locker room

Team Bonding: A healthier way to respond

- Hazing can reduce athletes' self-confidence, misuse power dynamics between athletes, and erode trust and respect among teammates. While many tennis providers and parents may recall childhood Hazing rituals of their own, Hazing behaviors are not harmless traditions
- Team bonding activities build trust and cohesion among teammates
- Hazing is inappropriate inclusion; team bonding is appropriate inclusion
- Even if behavior seems harmless or if athletes willingly participate, it is still Hazing according to the SafeSport Code if it subjects another person, physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically to anything that may endanger, abuse, humiliate, degrade or intimidate the person as a condition of joining or being socially accepted by a group, team, or organization

Scenarios

Justin is a long-term member of his JTT team.

- **Hazing:** Justin tells new teammates they need to post videos of themselves doing dangerous social media challenges or the more senior players won't hang out with them
- **Team Bonding:** Justin posts a video of the entire team doing a choreographed dance in their uniforms

Aalyiah is a new player to her JTT team.

- **Hazing:** Aalyiah and other new team members are forced to drink until they throw up in order to attend the preseason party
- **Team Bonding:** Before the first match, the returning players organize a fun obstacle course on the court for Aalyiah and the whole team to complete before practice