

Messiah Hazing Policy

The Messiah University Athletics Department adheres to the NCAA principle of Health and Safety of student-athletes which states that “it is the responsibility of each member institution to protect the health of and provide a safe environment for each of its participating student-athletes.” (NCAA Division III Manual 2.2.3). In addition, the department follows Messiah University’s institutional policies regarding hazing:

Messiah University and Pennsylvania Law prohibit hazing in any form. Hazing is any activity expected of someone joining an athletic team (or to maintain full status in a group, etc.) that humiliates, degrades, or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate. The term shall include, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, exposure to the elements, and forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, or any other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health and safety of the individual. It also includes any activity that subjects the individual to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property.

All initiation activities are subject to the approval of the Athletics Director. This regulation governs on and off-campus initiation activities including privately owned facilities and/or property. Athletic teams are responsible for any activity in violation of this policy by any individual or group affiliated with the organization, unless it is proven that the group or individual activity was independent of, and occurred without the knowledge or consent of, the recognized team. Such responsibility will apply equally to situations in which one or more members knew or should have known of the activity and failed to make every reasonable attempt to prevent or stop it. Consent of those hazed will not be accepted as a defense for hazing activities.

The Dean of Students in accordance with Messiah University Student Disciplinary Procedures will conduct administrative hearings of alleged violations of this policy. Violations of this policy may result in sanctions for the student involved as well as the entire athletic team. The severity of the sanctions for a hazing offense will be determined in proportion to the hazing activity. In addition to Messiah University’s Anti-Hazing Policy, athletic teams and/or individuals may be held responsible for criminal misconduct in violation of the Pennsylvania Anti-Hazing Law, a third-degree misdemeanor punishable by up to a year’s imprisonment.