



July 2006

Dear Parent/Guardian and Samohi Athletes:

Events have made it necessary to clarify and articulate the policies regarding HAZING. As defined by the California Education Code, HAZING includes any method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or any pastime or amusement engaged in with respect to such an organization which causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm, to any student or other person attending any school, but the term “hazing” does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions. Additionally, the following refers to California Education Code Section 32051:

No student, or other person in attendance at any public, private, parochial or military school, community college, or other educational institution, shall conspire to engage in hazing, participating in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily damage, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or person attending the institution.

The violation of this section is misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than one hundred (\$100), nor more than five thousand (\$5,000) dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year or both.

Please be aware that there are legal ramifications if students engage in activities that can be considered hazing.

To guide you in working with your student around activities involving a school club or team, please use these guidelines:

- Check with the coach, teacher or advisor of the activity to ensure that the activity has his or her approval.
- Check with the coach, teacher or advisor for written guidelines to govern the activity.
- Get written verification that adults are involved in the activity.
- Do not assume that if a group of students from the team are organizing an event that the school is actually sponsoring it. Students who organize events in the name of any school group without authorization will be subject to disciplinary action by the school.
- Do not allow your child to travel to any school-related or school-sponsored event for which students are driving one another. Only parents whose insurance has been documented with the school are permitted to drive students.

Sincerely,

Norm Lacy  
Athletic Director