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Anti-Hazing Message to the School Board

To the School Board:

This document is being written and submitted to you on behalf of the coaching staff from the Rangers Basketball organization. The purpose of this document is to show you how our organization looks at hazing, what we define as acceptable and unacceptable, and our punishments. Simply giving more awareness to hazing is one step closer to minimizing it. Our organization strives to build and raise responsible leaders within our community. Hazing will not be tolerated in our community.

Hazing defined

Hazing is defined as one or more persons wishing to cause mistreatment, harassment, or embarrassment to another person or group for acceptance into a club or team. This can be seen as physical, mental, or emotional. Specific to our organization, hazing may be seen as an athlete or coach requesting an act for mental, emotional, or physical acceptance to the team. There will be zero tolerance for any sort of hazing activity.

What is acceptable

We encourage team bonding for our athletes both on and off the court. Players are encouraged to gather together off the court for team events (team dinners, high ropes team building day, going to the men's basketball games together, etc.) As a reminder to all athletes, the purpose of sport will be discussed. Remembering that life skills and basketball skills are the most important part of being on the team is essential to our success as players and people. As an organization to build up leaders, we do expect encouragement and bonding activities between our athletes.

What is unacceptable

As noted in the definition of hazing, there will be a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to hazing. It will not be acceptable for players or coaches to intimidate, mistreat, harass, or cause embarrassment to other players. This includes within the athletic arena, at school, and off campus. Specific examples include requiring athletes to participate in nudity or sexual related incidents, consuming alcohol or drugs, embarrassing acts alone or in front of others, altering body hair, etc. At any time that an athlete feels uncomfortable with a request, they have the responsibility to tell a coach or other member of administration what has occurred.

Punishments

Every and any complaint of hazing will be directly addressed and investigated. Under our zero-tolerance policy, there will be strict punishments given as necessary. Missed games or the suspension of the season may be possible. Expulsion from school may be necessary. Legal action will also occur as necessary. Each case will be handled on an individual basis by the coaching staff and will require the assistance of the administration as necessary. Coaches are also subject and could face suspension or expulsion from the staff.

Who will see this document

Because hazing can occur outside of the sport setting, it is crucial that this document is seen by anyone related to our organization. The players will receive this document within the first practice and it will be discussed in detail. Every administrator and teacher within the school will receive this document in their mailbox. It is important for them to be more aware of hazing and

be able to recognize possible signs within a classroom setting. Each parent of the players will also receive this document. It will allow the parents more insight into what hazing is, signs to look for, and how they can talk to their child about hazing. Because this document was created by the coaching staff of the basketball organization, it will also be distributed to all coaches within the district as an example. Our zero-tolerance policy should be recognized throughout the district and should be the same across the board. Our goal is to promote a positive sport environment for our athletes.