

SWIMMER AND PARENT AGREEMENT CONCERNING HAZING

The Gulfwood Swim Team supports only those activities that are constructive, educational, and inspirational and that contribute to the intellectual and personal development of its swimmers. The Gulfwood Swim Team unequivocally opposes any situation created intentionally to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule.

Hazing is an intentional action taken, situation created, or any conduct or method of initiation into a team that denies a person his or her individual rights or results in mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, ridicule or endangerment. Hazing should be understood to include any forced treatment or physical activity that is likely to affect the physical health or safety of any swimmer, or that subjects a swimmer to extreme stress. Additionally, hazing can include exaggerated or excessive teasing. Any act by a swimmer that compels another swimmer to participate in any activity that is against Gulfwood policy or state or federal law will be defined as hazing. The fact that a hazing victim may seem willing or may even agree to participate in some form of personal embarrassment or physical/mental danger does not change or lighten the responsibility of the one who is doing the hazing. In addition, any swimmer who knowingly witnesses or fails to report knowledge of any incidents of hazing may be considered to be a participant in the hazing. Actions and activities that are prohibited include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any type of initiation or other activity where there is an expectation of individuals joining our team to participate in behavior designed to humiliate, degrade, or abuse them, regardless of the person's willingness to participate.
- Any requirement or pressure put on an individual to participate in an activity that is illegal, perverse, publicly indecent, contrary to his or her moral beliefs, etc.
- Any activity or action that creates a risk to the health, safety, or property of Gulfwood or any member of its community.
- Assigning or endorsing pranks, such as stealing or harassment of members of other teams.
- Pressuring an individual to participate in an activity that is against team rules.
- Physical abuse of any kind.
- Forcing or pressuring someone to wear in public apparel that is conspicuous and not within the norm of what is considered to be in good taste.
- Morally degrading/humiliating games or other activity that makes the member the object of amusement, ridicule, or intimidation.
- Subjecting a member to cruel and unusual psychological conditions.

I have been given an opportunity to read this policy (or have had it explained to me) and understand the following:

(initial) _____ The policy and regulations of the Gulfwood Swim Team regarding hazing.

(initial) _____ I agree and promise not to participate in any activity deemed to be hazing. I have read the examples of hazing as described in the Gulfwood Hazing Policy (above) or have had them explained to me.

(initial) _____ I understand that if I am in violation of this policy, I will be subjected to discipline that may include suspension or expulsion from the Gulfwood team. My signature below indicates that I have read and agree to follow the Gulfwood Policy on Hazing.

Signature of Swimmer: _____

Swimmer's Printed Name: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____