



Bullying, Hazing & Social Media Policy

Bullying & Hazing

Vortex Elite is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for athletes. Bullying, hazing and sexual harassment behavior have no place on the team or team culture, and is strictly forbidden as it goes against our Code of Conduct.

Bullying and hazing activities are prohibited in connection with the Club and/or any athlete aspiring to become a member of the Club. Athletes who violate the prohibition against hazing are subject to disciplinary action. Any criminal complaints will be reported to law enforcement.

Bullying and or Hazing are acts that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of an individual (including acts intended to cause personal degradation or humiliation), or that destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation in, admission to, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in a group or organization.

Such activities and situations include, but are not limited to:

- Physical punishment, contact, or exercise that causes excessive fatigue, physical or psychological shock
- Forced or coerced consumption of food, drink, alcohol, tobacco, and/or illegal drugs
- Forced or coerced transportation of individuals
- Public humiliation, ridicule, indecent exposure or ordeal
- Coercing or forcing illegal, immoral, or unethical acts
- Blocking an individual's athletic or personal success
- Personal servitude
- Mental harassment
- Sexual harassment
- Deception
- Threat of social exclusion
- Relational – maliciously spreading rumors, and/or actively excluding a person from the peer group to cause emotional harm to them, including negative or derogatory remarks and comments on social media platforms.

A person commits a bullying or hazing offense if the person:

- Engages in hazing, solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid another in hazing activities;
- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly permits bullying or hazing to occur
- Has firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific bullying or hazing incident involving an athlete and fails to report the plan to the Head Coach to prevent the bullying or hazing act.
- Has firsthand knowledge that a specific bullying or hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report it to the Head Coach.
- Athletes involved in any form of hazing will be held accountable for their actions and will be subject to disciplinary action by the coach and Club Director. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, admonishment, written reprimand, suspension from the team or expulsion from the team.

Social Media

Playing and competing for Vortex Elite is a privilege. As a member of Vortex Elite you represent your team, club, family and yourselves. With the increasing popularity and use of social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, and TikTok, players need to understand the impact of posting comments or videos on social media.

When a player posts on social media, the content becomes available in the public domain. Players need to be aware that 3rd parties (other teams, clubs, players, college coaches and recruiters) can easily access profiles and view pictures, videos, comments, and posts. Inappropriate posts can be detrimental to a player's image, be a poor representation of the team and club, and could impact potential opportunities to play in college. During the college recruiting process, it is standard practice for most college coaches to review social media content of all their recruits as part of their due diligence process.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behavior concerning participation in online communities may include:

Online postings that are unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning, or threatening toward any other individual or entity, contain profanity, derogatory comments regarding another club, taunting comments aimed at others (athletes, coach, opponents), derogatory comments against race and/or gender, and violent or depict illegal activities.

If a player, coach or member of Vortex Elite posts online content that is found to be inappropriate in accordance with the above behaviors, he/she will be subject to the following penalties:

1. First offense – Verbal warning
2. Second offense – Written warning
3. Third offense – Removal/Ban from future game/practices
4. Fourth offense – Removal from Club

Please use caution and common sense in regards to your choices on social media. If you ever question what is appropriate online material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your values and what is outlined in Code of Conduct for Vortex Elite. Remember to always present a positive image and not post anything that may embarrass yourself, your family, your team, or Vortex Elite.

Procedures for resolving issues and escalation a team conflict or issue:

1. Players should contact their Coach as the first point of contact to discuss and attempt to resolve.
2. If the issue is not resolved, the parent/guardian should contact the Coach to discuss and attempt to resolve. If resolution is not found, parent/guardian and coach should each contact Club Director or Manager.
3. Club Director/Manager will collect relevant information from both POV and perform due diligence. If necessary, the Club Director/Manager will meet with all Parties to attempt to resolve.
4. If resolution is not found, the Club Director/Manager may bring the issue to the Board of Directors for decisions. The Board of Directors may utilize a Parental Advisory Board or other external resources to resolve issues.

I will be respectful of my teammates' feelings and personal space. Players who exhibit sexist, racist, homophobic, or otherwise inappropriate behavior will face disciplinary action per Code of Conduct.

I understand that if I violate this code of conduct, I will be subject to disciplinary action determined by my coaches, the Club Director/Manager, and the Club's board of directors

_____ Print Name

_____ Signature _____ Date