Hazing Definitions & Policy

Hazing has become a serious issue at institutions across the country, and represents one of the largest single liability threats for organizations and their members. All organizations at Carson-Newman, regardless of purpose or composition, are accountable to the same standards and have access to the same support and educational resources.

Organizational responsibility regarding hazing is shaped by three primary statements:

Per State Code:
49-7-123 Hazing prohibited – (a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires: “Hazing” means any intentional or reckless act in Tennessee on or off the property of any higher education institution by one (1) student acting alone or with others which is directed against any other student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student, or which induces or coerces a student to endanger such student’s mental or physical health or safety. “Hazing” does not include customary athletic events or similar contests or competitions, and is limited to those actions taken and situations created in connection with initiation into or affiliation with any organization.

(TN Code v.9)

Per College Policy:
The college prohibits illegal hazing. Further, the college's prohibition of hazing is broader than the law's prohibition. The college's policy grows out of the college's belief in the dignity and worth of every individual. Thus, at Carson-Newman, students are prohibited, in any context and anywhere, from engaging in any act, whether the act be physical, mental, emotional or psychological, which subjects another, voluntarily or involuntarily, to anything which may abuse, mistreat, degrade, humiliate, harm, or intimidate. Individual students and student organizations guilty of hazing will be disciplined individually and as an organization. Recognition or registration by the college of an organization, which engages in, allows, or condones hazing may be withdrawn or denied.

(Student Handbook, Carson-Newman University)

Per Organizational Charter:
In order to receive a Campus Charter and the privileges of association attached, an organization must include a comprehensive “No-Hazing” statement in its constitution or primary defining document affirming full support of the above policies.

(Student Activities Guide)