

New Member Bill of Rights

There are a number of activities that are constructive parts of new member/ associate/ aspirant education and will contribute to your becoming a more active and productive member of your Greek organization. However, there are other activities in which you might be asked to take part that are a violation of inter/national fraternity and sorority regulations, Panhellenic, Interfraternity, National Pan-Hellenic regulations, and/or GSW policies. These activities constitute “hazing.” Listed below is a New Member Bill of Rights that specifically outlines activities that fraternity or sorority members cannot require of you. If they do so, the fraternity or sorority and the individual member(s) in question are subject to severe penalties up to and including permanent removal of GSW recognition, suspension from GSW and possibly removal of the chapter’s charter. New members/associates/aspirants participating in “hazing” activities may also be subject to judicial sanctions. Please study your rights and make certain that they are not violated. No new member/associate/aspirant shall be required by any person or persons to perform any act which:

1. Interferes with the academic process – causes the pledge/new member/associate/aspirant to miss or be ill prepared for classes, labs, study sessions, or test
2. Causes the new member/associate/aspirant to violate GSW policies
3. Requires or pressures the new member/associate/aspirant to consume alcohol
4. Prevents the new member/associate/aspirant from securing normal amounts of sleep (no activities between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.)
5. Requires the new member/associate/aspirant to perform personal services for collegiate or alumni members (including, but not limited to, driving around members and/or their guests (including members of other organizations), “shopping” for members, etc.)
6. Is sadistic -- treats the pledge/new member/associate/aspirant in a “sub-human manner
7. Is illegal – including the use of drugs and alcohol
8. Is immoral
9. Places the new member/associate/aspirant in physical danger or in jeopardy of losing his or her life
10. Places severe emotional stress upon the new member/associate/aspirant
11. Requires the new member/associate/aspirant to be present at activities for unreasonable periods of time
12. Requires the new member/associate/aspirant to participate in a “Kangaroo” Court or other individual questioning activities
13. Prescribes the wearing of anything to identify new member/associate/aspirant status (this includes new member/associate or bid day T-shirts, or wearing of required clothing)
14. Requires the new member/associate/aspirant to carry items that they would not normally bear (including paddles, signature books, etc.)
15. Requires the new member/associate/aspirant to answer the telephone in a manner unlike a member would answer it
16. Prevents the new member/associate/aspirant from speaking for a period of time
17. Involves the abandonment of new member/associate/aspirant or active members thereby requiring them to find their own way back to campus
18. Requires the blindfolding of the new member/associate/aspirant (exceptions: during low ropes course with trained facilitator, or as prescribed in writing for inter/national Ritual)
19. Requires the new member/associate/aspirant to stand when a collegiate or alumna/us member enters a room
20. Requires the new member/associate/aspirant to intentionally deface the house/chapter room/suite/apt. etc.; or requires the new member/associate/aspirant to clean the house/chapter room/suite/apt., etc. of others

