

DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO USE BY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

(Co-Curricular Substance Abuse Policy)

The intent of this policy is to discourage students from engaging in the harmful use of alcohol, tobacco, or any other illegal substances.

Any student participating in co-curricular activities (athletic or non-athletic) shall not use, possess, buy, sell, or give away alcohol, tobacco, or any other substance defined by the law as a drug or look-alike drug (regardless of the quantity). It is not a violation for student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

For the purposes of this policy the term "drug" shall include alcoholic beverages, malt beverages, fortified wines or other intoxicating liquors, tobacco, narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, anabolic steroids, any other controlled substances defined in federal and state laws/regulations, any look-alike substances, or any substances that are represented to be a controlled substance.

The use, possession, sale, transportation, and/or distribution of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products are strictly prohibited. This prohibition applies to conduct on school property, at school-sponsored events, on school transportation, and at any other time or place during the school year. Students are encouraged to seek help for substance abuse related problems or incidents.

Violations:

- Offenses accumulate during a student's tenure at the middle/high school
- This policy will be monitored/enforced from the first day or pre-season practice in the fall to the last day of school

The **first** violation of this policy during the school year, or at any time on or after the day of the first try out, meeting or activity, will:

- A. Result in a co-curricular student's suspension from all practices, events, activities or games that occur during 1/3 of the Maine Principals' Association (M.P.A.) countable games/league regular season scheduled contests or activities.
- B. Require that a student must secure substance abuse counseling by a licensed substance abuse counselor, at no cost to the district. In the case of tobacco use, the student must attend smoking cessation classes approved by the administration. The student must attend the recommended number of classes by the counselor. The counselor will communicate with the school when sessions are finished.
- C. Require that the school obtain a release signed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) for permission for the superintendent and/or designee to talk to the substance abuse counselor concerning student athlete progress.
- D. Require that the student will be eligible to return to his/her team following the last game suspension.
- E. Require that the parent or guardian of any student found in violation of the substance abuse policy shall be notified of the violation and the terms of the suspension.

The **second** violation of this policy during the school year, or at any time on or after the day of the first try out, meeting or activity, will:

- A. Result in a co-curricular student's suspension from all student practices, events, activities or games for the remainder of the school year.
- B. Have the suspension reviewed by the administration team, if the co-curricular student
 1. Successfully completes an outside substance abuse treatment program/smoking cessation classes.
 2. Requests in writing reinstatement to the activity program
- C. Result in the parent or guardian of any student found in violation of the substance abuse policy being notified of the violation and the terms of the suspension.

The **third** violation of this policy during the school year, or at any time on or after the day of the first try out, meeting or activity, will:

- A. Result in suspension from co-curricular activities for the balance of the school year. The suspension will be final, and shall not be subject to modifications under the procedure set forth in the preceding paragraphs.
- B. Result in the parent or guardian of any student found in violation of the substance abuse policy being notified of the violation and the terms of the suspension.

Suspension for student activities pursuant to this shall not carry over from one school year to another.

Self-referral for substance abuse

The Board encourages student athletes who recognize they have substance abuse problems to seek assistance. Any student athlete may refer himself/herself to the Student Assistance Counselor, or to the coach, Athletic Director, or Principal, who will then refer the student, in confidence, to the Student Assistance Counselor. The self-referral must be made prior to any observation or report made by an authoritative source. The Student Assistance Counselor will develop an action plan, which will include participation in substance abuse counseling through a licensed substance abuse counselor or school administration-approved smoking cessation classes. The student's parent/guardian must sign a release permitting the substance abuse counselor to release information to the Superintendent/designee concerning student progress and completion of the program or the number of sessions or classes specified in the action plan.

Students who self-refer for the first time may not be suspended from participation in practices, events, activities or competition or dismissed from the team while willingly participating in the form of treatment specified in the action plan. Students may self-refer only one time during his/her tenure at Searsport District High School without disciplinary consequences.

A student who fails to complete the substance abuse program, counseling sessions or classes within the time period specified in the action plan, who self-refers for a second time, or who violates the policy after completion of an action plan will be subject to the disciplinary consequences for a first violation. Subsequent violations will result in disciplinary consequences for second and third violations.

CROSS REFERENCE: ADC, Tobacco-Free Schools
 JICH-R, MSAD #56 Drug and Alcohol Use by Students –
 Procedures

ADOPTED: September 12, 2006
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