



Play for Keeps

ALASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

A new statewide Tobacco, Alcohol and Controlled Substances program focused on students participating in high school interscholastic activities. The program is sponsored by Alaska School Activities Association, Inc. (ASAA) and first goes into effect at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

A well developed program that promotes and provides:

- Zero tolerance of the use of Tobacco, Alcohol, and Controlled Substances
- Clear penalties for violation
- DVD/web-based Educational Components for students and parents
- Will apply to all student participants in all ASAA sanctioned activities which require the submission of the Master Eligibility List (MEL) prior to participation
- Students will be subject to policy beginning with first participation in 2008-09
- Will be in effect only during a school's calendar year, and during any activity season which falls outside of school calendar year
- Not in effect during summer vacation

After first participation under program, student will be subject to policy for remainder of high school years in Alaska

For detailed information go to:
www.asaa.org

SUMMARY

from the Board

The Board of Directors realizes that implementation of a significant new program may present administrative challenges to schools and districts. ASAA will exert the utmost effort to promptly get materials and information out to schools prior to the beginning of the first activity season in 2008-09. Staff will devote a considerable amount of time in presenting this new program at regional meetings, to individual districts when requested, and to other related organizations. We believe that full implementation of the entire program in its final form will not happen overnight but indeed may take a number of years.

As with all ASAA rules, schools and districts should consider them to be minimum policies above which members may impose stricter standards. Nevertheless, the Board encourages all districts and schools to consider the wisdom of a common set of citizenship rules uniformly administered throughout the state.

For more information go to:

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Thanks to our sponsors:



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A New Program for

Alaska High School

Interscholastic Activities

Student Eligibility.

Question: Why is ASAA implementing this program?

Answer: Because of numerous requests from schools, coaches and fans for a consistent statewide policy on Tobacco, Alcohol and Controlled Substances. Alaska ranks #1 in teen use according to a 2006 survey by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Question: When does the program go into effect?

Answer: Goes into effect at the beginning of the 2008-09 school year, or at the beginning of a school's first sport or activity season if it begins prior to the beginning of school.

Question: Will this program be in effect statewide?

Answer: Yes, in every ASAA member school. There are currently over 200 member schools.

Question: When is a student first subject to the policy?

Answer: A student is subject beginning with the first interscholastic participation during the 2008-09 school year.

Question: Is the policy in effect during the summer vacation?

Answer: No, the policy is in effect only during a school's calendar year.

Question: If an activity begins before the first day of school, or extends past the last day of school, is the policy in effect?

Answer: Yes, for only those students who are participating in an activity.

Question: When a student's activity season is over, is the student still subject to the policy?

Answer: Yes. Once a student first participates, the student is subject to the policy for the remainder of his/her high school years in Alaska, whether currently participating or not, except during summer vacation.

Question: How will students and parents learn about the program?

Answer: By participating in an orientation session prior to the first day of participation.

Question: Will students and parents have to go through the pre-participation orientation prior to each season of participation, or is once a year enough?

Answer: According to the policy, students must do this prior to each season and parents must do it annually.

Question: What if a student (or parent) chooses to not participate in the orientation, nor to sign the Acknowledgement Form?

Answer: The student will be ineligible for interscholastic activities participation.

Question: Are there penalties for violation of the policy?

Answer: Yes. There are four steps of violation and each one carries a penalty and has a corresponding Educational Component.

Question: Are violations of the Tobacco Policy penalized differently from Alcohol and Controlled Substance violations?

Answer: Yes, though only at the Step One level.

Question: Why is Tobacco treated differently?

Answer: Because the addiction to tobacco is pervasive in much of rural Alaska, and because this program is about supporting students' needs to reduce at-risk behaviors, ASAA is making this distinction.

Question: How is the *Step One* penalty different for Tobacco violations?

Answer: A student on *Step One* for a Tobacco violation must stay on *Step One* until the student can demonstrate 10 calendar days without a subsequent Tobacco violation.

Question: Will violations be cumulative?

Answer: Yes, they will be cumulative and progressive throughout a student's entire high school career in Alaska, regardless of which member school he/she attends.

Question: If a student has a violation, does the school report it to ASAA?

Answer: Yes, once the violation has been determined and any school appeal process has been completed, the school must report the violation within three calendar days.

Question: How will a student's violations be tracked from school to school?

Answer: Student records will be maintained in a secure database, accessible only to the authorized school administrator at the student's school, and to ASAA.

Question: Are schools required to provide the educational components for student violators?

Answer: No, ASAA will provide both web-based and DVD based components.