



Play for Keeps

www.playforkeepsalaska.org

Play for Keeps is a statewide Tobacco, Alcohol and Controlled Substance program focused on students participating in high school interscholastic activities. The program is designed to reinforce good decisions and a healthy lifestyle for young people by imposing sanctions supported by educational components for those who do not follow the rules.

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 current school year
- 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.playforkeepsalaska.org

SUMMARY

from the Board

ASAA is concerned about the rate of tobacco alcohol and controlled substance abuse among high school aged children and identified the issue as a part of their strategic plan of action. ASAA can influence the norms and values of underage students around the use of tobacco, alcohol and controlled substances by the enforcement of a no tolerance policy for students that participate in athletics and activities thereby contributing to the reduction of the number of motor vehicle accidents, suicides, teen pregnancy, criminal acts, and other health issues related to abuse of substances.

The organization is responsible for providing consistent enforcement of its rules across Alaska. Because of the varying commitment to local school policies around the use of substances, not all athletes and activity participants have a level playing field. Up to this point individual school districts have been responsible for the enforcement of the policy that has resulted in inconsistencies around the state. In addition, communities have a disparity of resources available for parent and community education and intervention. By requiring the students to follow the ASAA policy, a consistent and significant no tolerance statement can be made to all Alaskan students and their parents. The program can provide educational services to rural communities via interactive web based educational programs so all students and parents have access to the information.

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Play for Keeps

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**A 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 ranked #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 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 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 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 Requirement.

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

Answer: Yes, though only at the Violation 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 *Violation One* penalty different for Tobacco violations?

Answer: A student on *Violation One* for a Tobacco violation must stay on *Violation 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 provides web-based components.