Students

Co-curricular Policy Concerning Drug & Alcohol Use by Students

Purpose

This policy is established for the purpose of setting forth the Board of Education's support of State and Federal law and regulation governing the possession and use of illicit drugs and alcohol by students. Further, to set forth the Board of Education's expectations in the event such use or possession occurs on and off school property, at a school-sponsored activity or event, or in any way related to the conduct of program and activities of the students involved in co-curricular activities. Co-curricular activities means activities sponsored by local or regional Boards of Education that occur outside of the school day, are not part of the educational program, and do not meet the definition of before- and after-school programs and school readiness programs (including athletics).

Philosophy

Recognizing the potential of each student and that drug or alcohol abuse and dependency can seriously impair a student's ability to learn, it is the policy of the schools to take positive actions to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.

The Board of Education believes that involvement in co-curricular activities, including athletics, is essential to the development of well-rounded students. However, participation in co-curricular activities and athletics is a privilege and not a right. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that any student who represents the district demonstrates the characteristics of a good citizen of both the school and the community. Students participating in co-curricular activities and athletics are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior and high ethical standards at all times. Negative or inappropriate behavior by participants during the school year, during out of school periods and during non-school hours can affect the community's and other students' perception of the integrity of an athletic or co-curricular program, and of the standards established by the Board for all students. Consequently, participants in co-curricular activities shall be subject to ~~PROGRESSIVE~~ progressive sanctions, up to and including dismissal from participation in co-curricular activities for negative or inappropriate behavior, at any time during the school year.

CIAC and Co-curricular Activities

The policy and/or regulations apply to all CIAC activities sponsored by New Fairfield Public Schools and participation in them is a privilege and not a right. The policy and/or regulations address alcohol, stimulants, street drugs (including but not limited to marijuana, heroin, and cocaine), tobacco products, inhalants and inappropriate use of prescription medications. The policy addresses anabolic steroids, hormones and analogues, diuretics, and other performance enhancing substances. This policy includes, but is not limited to substances defined by the penal

code of the State of Connecticut. The CIAC may impose sanctions beyond those applied by New Fairfield Public Schools for use of these substances by athletes.

Policy Expectations for Co-curricular Participants Off School Property

Medical research substantiates that the use of alcohol and mood modifying substances produces harmful effects on the human body and will affect physical and mental performance. Students must not compromise their participation in co-curricular activities with substance abuse. Students who experiment with such substances jeopardize program morale, reputation and success, and they do physical harm to themselves and risk personal injury and harm to others during any activities. Students must make the commitment to refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs, and steroids as mandated by State law. Students are considered in violation of this policy if they use, possess, consume (including being under the influence of) and/or distribute, other than as prescribed by a physician for personal use, any controlled drug and/or intoxicant or steroid, whether during school, at any school activity, on school property, or at locations off school property.

A. Chemical Usage by Students

1. For a first offense, a student will be:

Subject to sanctions as decided by an appropriate 3-person panel that would include a school administrator, coach and athletic director, and/or club advisor as appropriate. The maximum sanction will be suspension for 20% of the activity/events/games in the season. A student given sanctions will be required to give up their leadership position or captaincy for that season.

2. For a second offense, in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and co-curricular activities for 90 calendar days (excluding summer vacation). After ten (10) days, the student may return to the activity or team for meetings or practices only. Referral to an outside agency for counseling may be made upon the discretion of school administration and mental health personnel. If the student volunteers to become part of an approved chemical dependency or treatment program (at no cost to the School District), the student may return to participation after a minimum of 45 days. This treatment must be certified in writing to the school administration by a doctor or counselor.

3. For any additional violation in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and co-curricular activities for 365 calendar days.

B. Cigarette, Cigar and Smokeless Tobacco

Students who use tobacco products, including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars or smokeless tobacco, nicotine delivering devices, chemicals, or devices that produce the same flavor or physical effect of nicotine substances; will be in violation of school policy. This violation will be enforced whether during the school day, at a school activity, on school property.

1. For a first offense, a student will be:

Suspended from all sanctioned events and co-curricular activities for one (1) scheduled event of the season or 10% of the activity/events/games in the season, whichever is lesser. Every effort will be made to treat all co-curricular activities equitably. The suspended student may return to the team or activity for practices or meetings only. The student will be reinstated for competition/activity after the one (1) event or 10% of the activity/event/game was missed, once all the requirements have been met. This suspension will be completed during an activities' season. If there is not sufficient time remaining in that season to complete the suspension, it will be carried over to the next co-curricular activity or interscholastic sport season in which that student participates.

The student must meet with the assistant principal and with the Athletic Director/Student Activities Director, coach or activity advisor, after which, the student will be reinstated to the co-curricular activity or team.

2. For each additional offense, in the same year or subsequent year(s), a student will be suspended from all sanctioned events and co-curricular activities for 30 calendar days (excluding summer vacation).

C. Self-Referral

If the student were to self-refer to ~~the Student Assistance Counselor~~ their school counselor or to a staff member prior to being involved in an incident, there would be no sanction imposed on the student at that time. Continued participation in co-curricular activities or athletics would be based on an evaluation/recommendation submitted to the advisor/head coach and building administration. The School District is committed to doing all it can to assist students who have self-referred. Self-referral is defined as a student approaching a counselor or staff member independently without provocation and confiding in them the substances with which they are having a problem.

D. School Year Expectations

This substance use policy is in effect on and off the field, in and out of uniform, for all students involved in co-curricular activities. The reason: We care about the welfare of our students. We also expect a commitment from students if they want to be involved in afterschool activities.

E. Images

An identifiable image, photo, or video which implicates a student to have been in possession or in the presence of alcohol and/or drugs, or portrays actual use, or crime, may be considered as one piece of evidence to confirm a violation of policy 5131.6 and policy 5131.61. The Board recognizes that images can be altered, not accurately portray a complete picture of the events, and further, that establishing a timeframe of when the image originated can be difficult to determine. Because of this, caution and discretion must be used when images are considered evidence. However, students must also

understand how images can be used to implicate them in breaking the code of conduct and take every precaution not to place themselves in such an environment.

F. Education and Enforcement

New Fairfield Public Schools shall provide substance abuse prevention and intervention educational programs for its student athletes and co-curricular activity participants. The Athletic Director & Assistant Principal shall require all student athletes and co-curricular participants to attend a session that outlines substance abuse preventions and details intervention programs available to district youth, such programs to occur prior to the beginning of each sport season/activity. The school principal, working in conjunction with the Athletic Director, will be responsible for the administration, enforcement, and monitoring of this policy and regulations.

G. Annual Contract

All students in grades ~~6~~ 9 through 12 and their parent(s)/guardian(s) will, at the start of each school year or upon registering as a new student, review and sign a contract pledging to avoid the use of any controlled substances, illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. No student will be allowed to participate in co-curricular activities including athletics, and other after-school activities, unless such a signed contract is on file with the school for the current year.

To ensure that all co-curricular participants and their parents are fully apprised of this policy and regulations, they will be given a copy of the policy and regulations and be required to sign that they will abide by the contents. The policy and regulations will also be published as part of the District Athletic Handbook and posted on the district website.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-21b Smoking prohibited in certain places

10-220b Policy statement on drugs

21a-240 Definition of Dependency Producing Drugs

21a-240 sub 8 Definition of controlled drugs and dependency producing Drugs

21a-240 sub 9 Definition of controlled substances

10-221d Board of Education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures involving sale or possession of alcohol and controlled substances

10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and AIDS.

Training of Personnel

10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student. Surrender of physical evidence obtained from students.

53-198 Smoking in motor buses, railroad cars and school buses

Federal Regulations:

34 CFR Part 85 Drug Free Schools Act

20 U.S. C Sect 7181 et.seq. NCLB Act

Supreme Court Rulings:

NJ v. TLO 469 U.S. 325 (1985)

Veronia S.D. 47J v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646 (1995)

Board of Education of Independent S.D. #92 of Pottawatomie v. Earls 01- 332 U.S. (2002)

Policy adopted: November 17, 2011

Policy revised: March 6, 2014

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New Fairfield, Connecticut

5131.61 Form

Contract for Participants in Co-curricular Activities

Acknowledgement of Policy 5131.61

Co-curricular Policy Concerning Drug & Alcohol Use by Students

I/We acknowledge that participation in any interscholastic athletic team, co-curricular club or activity is a privilege and not a right.

I/We have read policy 5131.61 and understand the possible consequences that may result from infraction of these rules.

Student's Name _____

(Please print)

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____

(Please print)

Parent's/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____