

Youth Empowerment and Policy Project (YEPP)

Summary of 2002 Findings and Recommendations: ATHLETIC POLICY

For the full document, visit <http://www.neias.org/pdf/FindingsRecomm2002.pdf>

Hallmark A: Policy is clear and concise, and an active part of the coaching and administrative process.

- Any pledge document should simply state the drug free expectations and consequences for infractions.
- Before signing the coach and athletes should read and discuss the document.
- There should be regularly scheduled reviews of the policy by the coach and team throughout the season, including before the season and before away games, with time for questions and answers.
- Have coaches and administrative staff review policy prior to the school year to insure clarity and that everyone has the same understanding of the policy.

Hallmark B: Teachers/coaches have appropriate ways of responding to stories/information of drug use.

- Coaches/teachers need to be more aware of the policy and respond in a fair and impartial way. Look into a situation regardless of who the athlete is/status.
- Have a system in place for reporting concerns about student/athlete drug use/stories.
- Have a mandatory meeting between coach and athlete to clarify circumstances to determine if further action is needed.
- Place suggestion box for anonymous reporting.
- Make sure teachers, parents, and students understand the policy and have access to the coaches or reporting system.

Hallmark C: Schools enforce policy in a fair and reasonable manner. (Consistent interpretation and enforcement)

- Consequences should be fairly enforced and not be based on status/ability.
- Coaches need to agree and maintain certain consequences for certain action before/prior to school year.
- Sanctions for violations should be graduated and offer help as well as punishment.
- School should obtain additional resources for assessment/intervention.
- An impartial person or group should review sanctions.
- Athletes who self report should receive lesser punishment or offered treatment interventions. Devise a plan for self reporting with a range of sanctions with educational/treatment options.

Hallmark D: Schools, coaches, parents and community encourage drug free athletes all year long.

- Community (everyone) continues to remind and encourage sobriety throughout the year regardless of contract.
- Provide alternative drug free activities during the season and the rest of the school year as alternatives to “parties” for teams. Coaches should sponsor “team night” activities.
- Find supportive community members.
- Provide education/awareness to adults at open house, pre-season meetings, etc.
- Teachers/coaches/staff need to refrain from war stories or making light of alcohol use.