

## Clipper's Compass CHEMICAL HEALTH POLICY

### Alcohol

Use, possession, distribution, purchasing, having consumed, or being under the influence of alcohol are all strictly prohibited in school, on school grounds, on school field trips, prior to or at any school events. Being part of a group, in school or at school events, in which alcohol is present, puts students in jeopardy; **students are likely to receive the same discipline as all members of the group, simply by being present in the group, even if they are not consuming alcohol.**

Students who are suspected of being under the influence of alcohol may be referred to the school nurse and/or a parent, and may be sent home. Alcohol "breathalyzers" may be used to determine whether or not a student is under the influence of alcohol. Students who violate the prohibition against alcohol use, possession, distribution, purchasing, having consumed or being under the influence will be subject to an immediate suspension of five\* days from school and a referral to the Student Assistance Team (STAT). In addition, depending on the nature of the offense, it may be determined by the administration that the violators will not be permitted to attend future social or athletic events at the school. **Additionally, police may be notified. (See MOU Memorandum of Understanding with the police, Appendix B).**

In the event of a second violation, the administrator may offer to defer a suspension or portion of a suspension if the student agrees to have a substance abuse evaluation. The expectation of such agreement is full compliance with evaluation protocol. This will include the signing of release for information from all relevant contacts such as school counselor, outpatient counselor, doctor etc. This agreement also requires compliance with evaluation recommendations for treatment. The treatment plan and/or recommendations will be disclosed to the school.

\*Though this is a guideline, suspension duration may vary due to the circumstances of the infraction.

### \*Drugs (Controlled Substances)

Use, possession, distribution, purchasing, having used/consumed or being under the influence of a controlled substance are strictly prohibited in school, on school grounds, prior to or at any school events. Being part of a group, in school or at school events, in which a controlled substance is present puts students in jeopardy; **students are likely to receive the same discipline as all members of the group, simply by being present in the group, even if they are not consuming controlled substances.**

The definition of a controlled substance includes, but is not limited to: marijuana, cocaine, heroin, steroids, ecstasy and prescription drugs not specifically issued to the bearer. Students who are suspected of being under the influence of drugs may be referred to the school nurse and/or a parent, and may be sent home. Students who violate the prohibition against drug use, possession, distribution, purchasing, having consumed or being under the influence will be subject to an immediate suspension of five\* days from school, a referral to the Student Assistance Team (STAT) and may be subject to an expulsion hearing by the principal and the police will be notified (See MOU Memorandum of Understanding with the police, Appendix B). In addition, depending on the nature of the offense, it may be determined by the administration that the violator will not be permitted to attend future social or athletic events at the school.

Any student identified as violating the prohibition against drugs for a second time will be subject to an immediate suspension of ten \* days from school, and will be subject to an expulsion hearing by the principal and the police will be notified (See MOU Memorandum of Understanding with the police, Appendix B). In addition, depending on the nature of the offense, it may be determined by the administration that the violator will not be permitted to attend future social or athletic events at the school. In the event of a second violation, the administrator may offer to defer a suspension or portion of a suspension if the student agrees to have a substance abuse evaluation. The expectation of such agreement is full compliance by the student with evaluation protocol. This will include the signing of release for information from all relevant contacts such as school counselor, outpatient counselor, doctor etc. This agreement also

requires compliance with evaluation recommendations for treatment. The treatment plan and/or recommendations will be disclosed to the school.

\*Though these are guidelines, suspension durations may vary due to the circumstances of the infraction.

### **Alcohol/Drugs for Co-curricular Activities - Additional**

For students participating in a co-curricular activity (including but not limited to: clubs, theatrical performance, musical performance, student government or intramurals) the prohibition period for use, possession, distribution, purchasing, having consumed, or being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (controlled substances) includes the school year from the first official day of school to the last official day of school including weekends and vacations.

#### Minimum Penalties:

- |                                 |          |   |
|---------------------------------|----------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                 | Offense- | Removal from activity for four (4) weeks.   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>                 | Offense- | Removal from position or activity for eight (8) weeks. If student on his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, student may be reinstated in position or activity after a minimum of four (4) weeks. |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> and subsequent- |          | Removal for eight weeks and hearing with the Principal, Dean of Student Life, and Dean of Student Support Services to determine if permanent removal from position or activity is warranted.  |

Students in leadership positions, including but not limited to: co-curricular activity, club, student government officers or captains additionally jeopardize their position if they violate the alcohol or drug (controlled substance) prohibition. An officer or captain who is disciplined or involved in an incident involving an alcohol/drug (controlled substance) violation at **ANY TIME, including summer vacation**, will lose his/her leadership position in addition to any other consequences.

### **Alcohol/Drugs for Athletics - Additional**

Newburyport High School is a member of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).

**Newburyport Public Schools abides by MIAA regulations and imposes some additional and more stringent regulations upon our student athletes.** The MIAA Handbook states: *"a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any type tobacco product; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. This policy includes products such as "NA or near beer".*

*"It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor. This rule represents only a minimum standard upon which schools may develop more stringent requirements."*

At Newburyport High School, the MIAA Chemical health policy is in effect for all athletes from the first day of tryouts for fall sports through the last official day of the school year. **It is the policy of the Newburyport Public Schools that any situation in which student athletes who are part of a group of minors, in or outside of school, in which alcohol or controlled substances are present, puts students in jeopardy and will cause the student athlete to be subject to school discipline, including but not limited to the loss of eligibility to participate in school athletics or the loss of leadership positions. As a result, students are strongly advised to immediately leave any situation in which alcohol or drugs (controlled substances) are present, even if they are not consuming them.**

If a violation occurs in the summer, the student will be ineligible to participate in the first game of his/her team in the fall season. If the student does not participate in a fall sport, he/she will be ineligible to participate in the first game of the next season of sport they participate in.

Any student **participating in athletics** that receives a suspension resulting from a violation of the NHS Chemical Health Policy rules must complete the athletic season in which he/she is **servicing the suspension, otherwise the suspension shall not be considered served.**

Team captains and co-captains or other leadership positions jeopardize their position if they violate the alcohol or drug (controlled substance) prohibition. A captain, co-captain or other team leader who is disciplined or involved in an incident involving an alcohol/drug (controlled substance) violation at **ANY TIME, including summer vacation**, will lose his/her leadership position in addition to any other consequences. When the principal confirms that a chemical health violation occurred, that student will not be eligible for the captaincy or other leadership position in any sport for a period of one calendar year.

You may also refer to the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for details of the agreement between the school, the Newburyport Police Department and the District Attorney's Office with regard to alcohol/drug use and abuse. (Appendix B)

### **Penalties per MIAA Handbook**

#### *Minimum penalties (per MIAA Handbook)*

##### *First violation:*

*When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, these penalties will be determined by the season the violation occurs. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season.*

##### *Second and subsequent violations:*

*When the Principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. For the student, these penalties will be determined by the season the violation occurs. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season.*

*If after the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events. The director or a counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center must issue such certification. All decimal part of an event will be truncated i.e. All fractional part of an event will be dropped when calculating the 40% of the season.*

Revised Newburyport High School *Clipper's Compass*, Chemical Health Policy, effective 4/29/08.  
This revised policy replaces original 2007-2008 handbook printing.