

**Medford Public Schools**  
**Athletic Department**  
489 Winthrop Street  
Medford, MA 02155

*Robert Maloney*  
*Director of Athletics*

*Phone: (781) 393-2380*  
*Fax: (781) 393-2352*

**ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICY ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

The Medford High School Athletic Department is committed to providing for the general fitness, health and wellness of all students in the Medford Public Schools. The primary objective of this policy statement is to address the challenge of substance abuse by student-athletes. It seeks to furnish student-athletes with a well-defined code of conduct that is soundly based in part on the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Rules and Regulations Governing Athletics and Medford High School rules for student-athletes. The resultant policy strives to set a high yet realistic standard of conduct for Medford High School athletes, one that will be fair, firm and consistent in its application. It must also be recognized that not such policy can or will be effective without the combined efforts and support of all in the Medford High School community (students, parents, faculty, coaches). The Athletic Department follows all existing Medford Public Schools Alcohol and Drug Policies. (Revised 2001)

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

During the season of practice or play, a student athlete shall not, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy/sell, give away, or be in the presence of any beverage containing alcohol, any tobacco product, marijuana, steroids or any controlled substance. The Medford High School Athletic Department supports and promotes a policy of “Zero Tolerance” for substance abuse.

**DURING THOSE TIMES WHEN THE SCHOOL SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE, THE FOLLOWING REGULATIONS WILL TAKE EFFECT:**

**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 contest 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**

**Second and Subsequent:** When the Headmaster confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contest 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 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.

**Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year. If the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student during the next academic year.**

**VIOLATIONS OCCURING DURING THE OFF-SEASON**

If a violation occurs in the off-season during the school year or summer vacation, the students shall lose eligibility for the next two (2) interscholastic events of the subsequent athletic season of play in which that student is a participant. This penalty shall carry over to the next academic year if the penalty period is not completed during the school year in which the violation occurred. The student will not be eligible to be a team captain and if already a team captain, he/she will automatically forfeit the position for the remainder of the season for which he/she has been elected captain.

Please note that acceptance of this policy, as indicated by the student-athlete's signature, is considered to apply for his/her entire athletic career at Medford High School. However, the student-athlete/cheerleader and parent/guardian must sign the policy acknowledgement prior to each season as a constant reminder of the terms of the substance abuse policy.

Revised: July 11, 2007