

## Impact of Alcohol and Drug Offenses

Athlete Rule: Students in the Community Diversion Program: the athlete rule applies to any juvenile who participates in high school athletics, whether during season or not. The following violations would result in written notification to the respective high school athletic director.

- If the original offense was a drug or alcohol complaint any violation of program guidelines resulting in the case being returned to court for official filing will result in written disclosure of the original complaints and the violations to the respective high school athletic director.
- If the original offense was a drug or alcohol complaint and a subsequent drug or alcohol violation takes place it will result in written disclosure of the original complaints and the violations to the respective high school athletic director.
- If the original offense was not an alcohol/drug complaint but the violation involved drugs or alcohol, written disclosure would be made to the respective athletic director regarding the violations. The original complaint would not be disclosed.

North Olmsted City Schools maintain a zero tolerance for alcohol and drug use by students. All athletes are advised of the school's no use policy and may be asked to sign a commitment of no use. Violations of the athlete rule for juveniles involved in diversion may affect athletic eligibility, even if the offense occurred off season. Please be aware of and discuss school policies relative to alcohol and drugs with your child.

College Financial Aid: Alcohol and drug violations may impact eligibility for federally funded financial aid. Amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965 went into effect in 2000/2001. Minors or those 18-20 years of age cited and convicted in the traditional court for one drug violation are ineligible for federally funded financial aid in the State of Ohio for one year. Second offenses result in two years of ineligibility and those convicted of multiple offenses are ineligible for federally funded financial aid, forever. Keep in mind that seniors complete college applications in the fall of their senior year. Their record must be clean for one year prior to applications for eligibility. Since this law went into effect over 165,000 students have lost financial aid. It is estimated that 42,000 students may be affected in the next year. College and FAFSA applications are also including questions regarding previous drug and alcohol violations and prior school discipline. Applicants may be disqualified for previous violations and/or failure to disclose. Colleges and universities are bound by federal guidelines to impose strict drug and alcohol policies to maintain their federal funding. Violations of those policies once enrolled could result in loss of funding as well.

Successful participation in the North Olmsted Community Diversion Program keeps all doors open for students to participate in high school athletics, apply for financial aid and attend their college of choice. Our goal is to avoid official court action and help juveniles succeed. Avoiding violations of the law is the best prevention!