



National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

Position Statement: Drugs and Alcohol

WHEREAS teenagers who participate in interscholastic activities have a positive alternative to drugs and alcohol;

WHEREAS the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) membership recognizes that the United States is in the midst of an opioid epidemic. Athletes in particular, due to the risk of injury and the resulting pain, may be at risk for misusing prescription opioids;

WHEREAS adolescence is a time when students are encouraged to advocate for themselves and become more independent. When it comes to health and injury, it is essential for a parent and/or guardian, and other adults that play a major role in a student's life to become involved;

WHEREAS the NIAAA membership recognizes that tobacco products including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, or other tobacco products continue to be a health hazard for our students and coaches;

WHEREAS the NIAAA recognizes the clinical research indicating use of alcohol and illegal substances, including drugs, as harmful to the physical, mental, and emotional health of student-athletes;

WHEREAS it is perceived that the nation's secondary school activity/athletic programs play an integral role in the total education program;

WHEREAS those of us working in the nation's secondary schools have a distinct opportunity to encourage school staff to take an active role in responding to existing chemical use issues, preventing future problems from occurring, and promoting the health of all students; and

WHEREAS our athletic administrators have the great opportunity to respond to the nation's youth by providing a means by which alcohol, tobacco, and chemical use or abuse can be averted; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the NIAAA supports the National Federation of State High School Associations' (NFHS) efforts to effectively increase this nation's awareness of tobacco, alcohol, and chemical use concerns in all walks of life;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the two organizations work closely together to develop a national concept that would permit each individual community throughout the United States to take positive steps in formulating a program to assist their community toward positive measures to curtail the wide use of tobacco, alcohol, and chemicals and problems associated with them;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NIAAA supports the NFHS's efforts to effectively increase awareness of opioid, tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use as well as eliminate tobacco, alcohol, and drug use among student-athletes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NIAAA is opposed to alcohol & tobacco advertising in all printed materials or other merchandising outlets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NIAAA supports the NFHS's efforts to effectively increase awareness of alcohol and drug use as well as eliminate alcohol and drug use among student-athletes.