

**SECTION 1**

**SHS ATHLETICS ALCOHOL/SUBSTANCE USE POLICY**

*(Effective Seasonally)*

Being a part of Shrewsbury High School Athletics is a great opportunity to broaden oneself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the best out of your education and your athletic experiences.

**CONDUCT OF AN ATHLETE**

The conduct of an athlete is closely observed in many areas of life; during competition, in the classroom, and in the community. A Shrewsbury athlete should always project a positive image. The following rules are in effect for all Shrewsbury athletes.

- 1. No hosting of parties where consumption of alcohol or drugs/controlled substances are used**
- 2. No consumption of tobacco**
- 3. No consumption of alcoholic beverages**
- 4. No consumption of illegal drugs or mood altering substances**

Hosting of Drinking/Drug Parties- Student athletes hosting a party that involves any alcohol, drugs, or other controlled substances will be subject to review by the Shrewsbury High School Disciplinary Committee and could result in disciplinary action being taken. Each athlete represents our organization at all times. An athlete's involvement in inappropriate behavior, both previously defined or implied, would necessitate disciplinary review.

Use/Possession of Tobacco-Tobacco is physically harmful to everyone. The harm done by this is not only a health problem. The community follows the progress of the Shrewsbury athletes, and any deviation from accepted training rules marks one as unwilling "to pay the price". If one squad member breaks the rules, the whole team is branded as non-trainers.

No Consumption/Possession of Alcoholic Beverages- Even though social pressures may be hard to resist, there is no way to justify athletes using alcoholic beverages. It is unhealthy and illegal.

Drugs- Drug abuse is the consumption of any chemical substance or the smoking of some plant derivatives for the purpose of mood modification. Students with a strong sense of self and purpose have no need for mood modifiers.

**CONSEQUENCES**

**Any violation of our alcohol/substance abuse policy by a Shrewsbury team member could result in, but not be limited to:**

- 1. Benching for 3 games/races, or one month, whichever is greater**
- 2. Probation, during which no further violations may occur, or immediate suspension will result**
- 3. Suspension for the remainder of the season**
- 4. Appropriate intervention, if needed, for the health and well-being of the student-athlete**
- 5. Removal from the team forever (at parent's expense).**

Alleged minor offenses may be reported orally or in writing to the captains, coaches, or a school Administrator. During normal circumstances, the head coach will make an appropriate decision for disciplinary action. If an offense is more involved, the case may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will be a non-biased group made up of at least five people from the following groups: the SHS Principal or Assistant Principal, the athlete's team coach, the SHS Athletic Director, another SHS coaching staff member, a volunteer from law enforcement, a social worker from a substance abuse prevention organization, or someone from the community at large. This committee will investigate any alleged activity as well as speak to the athlete and their parent(s) in order to determine the necessary consequences. The determination and recommendation of this committee are final.

**Whistle Blower Reprisal**

The disciplinary committee will take action against any team member, volunteer, or coach who retaliates against a person who makes a good faith report of alleged misconduct of another athlete.

Participation in Shrewsbury Athletics is a privilege which should elicit great pride in both the athlete and the parent. Standards of behavior and training are high and a willingness to live up to them is a part of being a member of the team. For this reason, each athlete **must** sign this agreement as a personal commitment to their team, as well as their teammates, to show a willingness to set a positive example and follow proper training practices.

Athlete's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Athlete's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_.

***This form should be printed out, filled in, and handed in to the head coach on the first day of tryouts.***

