

## **Alcohol Abuse**

As an athletics participant, you may receive special attention from other students. Along with this “high visibility” come some responsibilities. As a role model, you are asked to present a wholesome public image.

Tennessee law decrees that drinking under the age of 21 is illegal. Excessive consumption of intoxicating beverages is strongly discouraged no matter what your age, as it may have an adverse effect on your intellectual and athletic abilities. While you may feel a few drinks will not hurt anything, it has often been found that after drinking, you are much more likely to place yourself in situations that you probably could have avoided with some clear thinking. In addition, fair or not, should trouble occur, the student-athlete is often the most visible in a group. Remember, the consumption of intoxicants in public areas of the main campus is prohibited.

## **Policy Concerning Alcohol Use for Vanderbilt University Department of Athletics**

The University recently approved several changes to the Alcohol and Controlled Substances policy found in the Vanderbilt University *Student Handbook*. These changes are intended to strengthen the existing policies and penalties for illegal and improper use, while also providing increased communication and related programs to address the responsible use of alcohol. The Department of Athletics fully supports these University initiatives and expects the Department of Athletics staff and student-athletes to abide by the policies. In addition to the University regulations, the Department of Athletics has implemented the following policy:

- No alcohol will be allowed at any Department of Athletics event if student-athletes are present.
- No alcohol should be consumed by Department of Athletics staff members in the presence of student-athletes or prospective student-athletes during official University business. This applies to team travel and recruitment.
- No alcohol should be consumed in McGugin Center or other athletic facilities unless approved in writing by the Director of Athletics or his designee.
- Student-athletes will continue to receive alcohol and substance abuse education each year and will participate in the designated University-sponsored alcohol education programs.
- Student-athletes and members of the athletics staff involved in an incident involving alcohol will be subject to the applicable University disciplinary procedures and may also face additional penalties or sanctions administered through the Department of Athletics.

- Alcohol and substance abuse education and training will be made available to all coaches and staff in the department. This is designed to help recognize the signs of abuse and learn what resources are available to assist students.
- Whenever possible our sponsors and media outlets will be encouraged to air public service announcements concerning the responsible use of alcohol.

## **Drug and Alcohol Regulations**

In compliance with the federal Drug Free Schools and Campuses Regulations, Vanderbilt University has adopted the following policy. In addition to the standards of conduct prohibited by law and this policy, students, faculty, and staff are subject to the additional requirements and procedures promulgated by their respective schools or departments.

Vanderbilt University prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students, faculty, and staff on its property or as a part of any University-sponsored activities.

The University and the NCAA will conduct random drug tests of student-athletes. If you would like to obtain a list of banned substances, please see your head coach.

Vanderbilt University will impose disciplinary sanctions on students, faculty, and staff up to and including expulsion or termination of employment and referral for prosecution, for violation of this policy. A condition of continuance may include the completion of an appropriate rehabilitation program. These sanctions will be imposed consistent with disciplinary standards and procedures found in the *Student Handbook*, the *Faculty Manual*, the *Staff Handbook*, the Medical Center Alcohol and Drug Use Policy (Policy No. 30-08), the *Student-Athlete Handbook*, and any applicable union contract. Students, faculty, and staff should refer to the appropriate document for detail.

(Adapted from the brochure entitled “Drug and Alcohol Regulations for Students, Faculty, and Staff.”)