Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Policy

Overview of Policy

The Eastern University Athletic Department, its Coaches, Athletic Trainer(s), Administrators and Health Care Personnel believe that the illicit use of drugs, and the use/abuse of alcohol or tobacco is detrimental to the physical and mental well-being of student-athletes, no matter when such use should occur during the year.

We also seek to encourage one another to live a life that is consistent with biblical teachings. The Bible says “do not get drunk with wine, for it is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18). Second Timothy 3:16 tells us that all scripture is “God-breathed” and teaches, corrects and trains us in righteousness so that we may be equipped for good works. James 1:22 tells us “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive [ourselves]. Do what it says.” The Lord instructs us to “train [ourselves] in godliness, for while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise of both the present life and the life to come: (I Tim 4:7-8). The message is clear. We take seriously the words of the Bible, our guide and inspiration for living, and we need to abide by its teachings.

Furthermore, since the use of drugs, tobacco, and misuse/abuse of alcohol can impair athletic performance, this use is not consistent with our goal of maximizing the full potential of each student-athlete.

The Athletic Department recognizes that problems with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are not confined to student-athletes but are of special concern because of the high visibility and social pressures student-athletes often face as representatives of our institution.

Goals of the Policy

1. To promote informed, intelligent decision making on the part of our student-athletes with regard to use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
2. To promote a culture of accountability, personal discipline and excellence that does not include illicit drug use and alcohol and tobacco misuse/abuse by Eastern University student-athletes
3. To encourage one another to live a life consistent with Biblical teachings regarding the consumption of alcohol as well as the use/abuse of tobacco and other drugs.
4. To encourage an atmosphere of open discussion to any questions student-athletes may have regarding the use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

Expectations for Student-Athletes Concerning Alcohol, Tobacco, & Drugs

Student-athletes must obey state and federal laws, as well as NCAA and Eastern University regulations concerning alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Violations of these laws will be punishable in accordance with the Eastern University policy as well as local, state, and federal law consequences.

Possession, intent to sell and/or use of illegal drugs is not permitted.

If a student-athlete is found to be in the presence of illegal alcohol and/or other drug use by others and does not remove himself/herself immediately from the situation, he/she may face sanctions from the Athletic Department.

The providing and/or consumption/use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs is prohibited during any and all activities related to the recruitment or hosting of prospective student-athletes, their parents/legal guardians, sibling(s) or friends at all times during the calendar year. Policy violations will be handled by the Athletic Administration in accordance with the Head Coach.

Commuter student-athletes are responsible for what occurs in their off campus housing. This includes parties in which under-aged drinking and/or other drugs are present. If this occurs, it will be dealt with by the Athletic Administration and coach, and the University’s Dean of Students.

If a student-athlete is found to be in the presence of illegal alcohol and/or other drug use by others and does not remove himself/herself immediately from the situation, he/she may face sanctions from the Athletic Department.
Traditional Season Policy:
1. The possession and/or consumption of alcohol by student-athletes (regardless of age) is prohibited during their traditional season, which starts on the first day of preseason and finishes on the last day of regular or post-season play.
2. The use of tobacco and NCAA banned drugs is prohibited at all times.

Non-Traditional Season Policy:
1. As per University policy, student-athletes over the age of 21 may consume alcohol in moderation during their non-traditional season. However, alcohol use on campus or returning to campus under the influence or excessive use and/or abuse is prohibited and will be cause for appropriate disciplinary action. The possession and/or consumption of alcohol for minors is prohibited at all times. Policy violations will be handled by the athletic administration in accordance with the Head Coach and Dean of Students.
2. Student-athletes over the age of 21 must abstain from any alcohol consumption 48 hours prior to game day during their non-traditional season (game day begins at 12:01am)
3. The use of tobacco and NCAA banned drugs is prohibited at all times.
4. Discipline for violations during the non-traditional season may be administered during the regular season.
5. Within programs, coaches can opt to apply traditional season policy to the non-traditional season.

Violations of the Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Use Policy can be reported to the Athletic Director and Coaches from, but not limited to, the following sources:

- Campus Security
- Other Students
- Residence Life Staff
- Other University Staff
- Local, State and/or Federal law agencies
- Any other source, including social media

Sanctions and Consequences for Violations
Each situation will be handled on a case by case basis. All violations will be adjudicated by the coach, in conjunction with the Athletic Director. Precedent cases may be considered, however, they will not dictate actions.

Possible consequences will include, but not be limited to:
- Community Service (on or off campus)
- Reflective paper
- Game suspension(s)
- Counseling (on or off campus)
- Expulsion from the team and/or department

Appeal Process:
1. The student-athlete will have one (1) week to appeal a disciplinary decision.
2. The appeal must be in writing and addressed to the Director of Athletics, with a copy given to the Head Coach.
3. The appeal must be based on perceived irregularities in the application of the policies and procedures outlined heretofore, which had the effect of rendering the disciplinary decision arbitrary or capricious, or based on new information which was not available at the time of the hearing (as stated in the EU Student Handbook).
4. If the appeal is denied, the student-athlete may appeal to the Vice President for Student Development, who is the final appeal authority.
5. Positive NCAA drug test results will follow the appeal guidelines as set forth by the NCAA Drug Testing Protocol.
Drug Testing Program

1. Random drug testing will be conducted in accordance with the NCAA Drug Testing Protocol as described in the educational materials provided to each student-athlete in the annual NCAA Compliance Meeting prior to their participation in athletics and will include all banned drugs, street drugs, performance enhancing substances, and nutritional supplements as defined by the NCAA in Bylaw 31.2.3.4.

2. Missing a scheduled drug test is the same as the penalty for testing positive for the use of a banned drug. You will remain ineligible until you retest negative and the NCAA Student-Athlete Reinstatement Committee and the EU Athletics Administration have restored your eligibility.

3. A positive drug test will result in the immediate suspension of your athletics eligibility for one calendar year (e.g., 365 days) from the date of your positive drug test and you will be charged with all relative NCAA sanctions and EU policy discipline procedures as well as local, state, and federal law consequences.

4. All nutritional/dietary supplements carry some risk of containing an NCAA banned substance because they are not well regulated and may be contaminated. Failure to check out any supplement with the Sports Medicine Staff prior to use may result in a failed appeal to a positive drug test. Student-athletes are responsible for anything they ingest.

5. The list of NCAA banned drug classes is subject to change and student-athletes are held accountable for all banned drug classes on the current list. The list is located on the NCAA website (www.ncaa.org) under the Health and Safety Services section.

Disciplinary Action For other Campus Violations

By signing the Athletic Agreement Statement, the student-athlete gives his/her permission for open dialogue between the Residence Life Staff and Athletic Administration concerning disciplinary actions they might receive from the Office of Student Development. Additionally, each student-athlete who receives disciplinary action(s) shall be dealt with at the discretion of the Coach and/or Director of Athletics.

Any student-athlete who goes before the Office of the Dean of Students or the Judiciary Board and has disciplinary action taken against them, will have a copy of the outcome letter placed in their athletic file.

In accordance with the NCAA and MAC regulations, any student-athlete who is ejected from a contest by the officials shall sit out the next contest.

Commuter Student Responsibility

Commuters represent Eastern University in the community and neighborhood where they live. Eastern students who commute agree to uphold the local and community ordinances, laws of the state and country and be good neighbors to those living around them. Eastern expects all students to respect the property and sensibilities of their neighbors at all times.

Commuter student-athletes are responsible for what occurs in their off-campus housing. This includes parties in which alcohol and/or other drugs are present. If this occurs, it will be dealt with by the athletic administration and coach, as well as the University's Dean of Students.

Failure to check out any supplement with the Sports Medicine Staff prior to use may result in a failed appeal to a positive drug test. Student-athletes are responsible for anything they ingest. Just because a supplement is for sale, does not mean that it is NCAA legal.