

## **F. VERMONT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF BELIEFS**

*The information outlined below was obtained from the VPA website at [www.vpaonline.org](http://www.vpaonline.org) as of 8/23/07. For the most complete and updated information, please visit the VPA website.*

### **VERMONT PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF BELIEF ON CHEMICALS AND HEALTH ARTICLE 1. PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE**

The VPA recognized the use of chemicals as a significant health problem for many adolescents, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning and the total development of each individual. The misuse and abuse of chemicals for some adolescents affects extracurricular participation and development of related skills. Others are affected by the misuse and abuse by family, team members and other significant persons in their lives.

The close contact in VPA activities of advisors and coaches and other athletic department personnel provides them with a unique opportunity to observe, confront and assist young people. The VPA, therefore, supports education and awareness training in adolescent chemical use problems including the symptomatology of chemical dependency and special issues affecting athletic activities for administrators, athletic directors, coaches, advisors, participants and their families.

### **ARTICLE 2. CHEMICAL AWARENESS**

1. Put the training and conduct rules of your coaches and school in writing.
2. Have your school attorney review the rules.
3. Have your School Board review and adopt your rules.
4. Have the rules printed in the student handbook.
5. Print the rules in the school paper.
6. Post the rules in the locker rooms and on bulletin boards.
7. Give your athletic participants a copy of eligibility rules.
8. Send the rules home to parents.
9. If possible, have your local newspaper publish your rules.
10. Sponsor a Chemical Awareness evening with parents, coaches and student athlete candidates.

### **A STATEMENT OF BELIEF A COACHES' CODE OF ETHICS**

The responsibility of a coach is to teach attitudes, proper habits, knowledge and skills. The athletic program is designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student athlete should be treated as an individual whose welfare shall be primary at all times. The coach must be aware that he or she serves as a model in the education of the student athlete and, therefore, shall never place the value of winning above the value of character building.

The coach must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the teaching profession. In all personal contact with

the student athlete, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The coach shall support and enforce school rules for the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco use and abuse, and under no circumstances shall authorize the use of these substances.

The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with contest, state, league and local rules, and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The coach shall abide by the letter and spirit of these rules at all times.

Coaches shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship by their spectators, working closely with cheerleaders, booster clubs, and administrators.

Contest officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which will incite players or spectators against the officials or against each other. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

Before and after contests, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

A coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student athletes special consideration.

It is unethical for coaches to scout opponents by any other means than those adopted by the state high school athletic association and the league.