



Alaska Association of Student Governments

Resolution #14

Raising Awareness of Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Policy (TAD) Guidelines

Submitted by: Allison Devine and Rylee Pitney from Wasilla High School

October 13, 2023

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that:

- 1. Whereas**, according to the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) 2023-2024 Handbook, “The possession, distribution or use of any tobacco products, including “E” or electronic cigarettes, alcohol and controlled substances (as defined in number 11 of this policy) by a student-athlete or activity participant, whether it occurs on or off school property, is prohibited and shall result in the penalties set forth herein.”¹
- 2. Whereas**, the ASAA Handbook requires that the schools provide “a short informative presentation designed to encourage students to maintain a chemical-free lifestyle, and to ensure that students and parents/guardians understand the policy and the consequences for violation” that the students must attend prior to the first season they plan to participate in¹;
- 3. Whereas**, according to the ASAA Handbook “Upon completion of the Orientation, the student and parent/guardian must sign the Student/Parent/Legal Guardian TAD Acknowledgement Form for the student to gain eligibility. Schools will affirm that this has happened by marking the designated field on the School Activities Reporting System (SARS)”¹;
- 4. Whereas**, 300 high school student athletes and activity participants from 30 schools and 18 different school districts across Alaska participated in a survey regarding the TAD policy²;
- 5. Whereas**, 26.3% of students in said survey are not aware of what a TAD violation is²;
- 6. Whereas**, 44% of students in the survey are not aware of the guidelines of the TAD policy²;
- 7. Whereas**, only 40.8% of students in the survey can confidently say that they have had a coach or school administrator talk to them about the TAD policy²;

8. **Whereas**, 23.8% of respondents said that they have seen TAD violations and not reported them²;
9. **Whereas**, 29.3% of respondents said that they believe that the TAD policy is effective, while 50.8% believe that the policy is partially effective, and 19.7% believe it is not effective at all in reducing tobacco and alcohol abuse²;
10. **Whereas**, this data suggests that there is an inequity in the education, implementation, and/or enforcement of the ASAA TAD Policy²;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments, supports the encouragement of a diverse committee created by the AASG Executive Board that works in cooperation with the ASAA Board of Directors to create a more equitable system of education and enforcement of the “Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug” policy.

Action Statement: if passed by the General Assembly of AASG, this resolution would be taken to ASAA for consideration of amending the TAD policy to address the inequity of knowledge and enforcement of violations by supporting the creation of a new statewide mandatory presentation, research into the integrity and flaws of the reporting system, and addition of remediation for offenders.

Sources:

1. Alaska School Activities Association(ASAA). *23-24 ASAA HB Working 7-27-23*. 2023.
2. Devine, Allison, and Rylee Pitney. “TAD Student Survey.” *Google Forms*, 5 Oct. 2023,
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1T1V4iJ77KlkWWnBkHyrOfXXw0etsPzYGvmLnbgnfLGU/edit#responses>. Accessed 11 Oct. 2023.

The resolution passes with unanimous consent

Passed by the Fall 2023 General Assembly of AASG hosted by West Valley High School

Danika Hamm

AASG Vice President, Danika Hamm

Kathleen A. Navarre

AASG Executive Director, Kathleen Navarre