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More high school athletes suspended from sports for using alcohol

10/7/05

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The incident is separate from the one in the Penfield district. NEWS 10NBC spoke with Fairport School Superintendent Dr. William Cala Friday. Cala says--in this case--no adult was home when the teenagers broke the promise they made with the district in order to play sports.

The party was after Fairport's September 24th homecoming. Some of the 11 football players are starters on the team. Athletic Director Jim Zumbo says some student athletes stepped forward and admitted they violated the district policy against using alcohol, which is spelled out in what's called the blue sheet. Extra curricular eligibility standards in Fairport are not just for student athletes. In this case, the kids will miss two games and they face more consequences.

Zumbo says, "They meet with myself and their parents. Following that meeting they will have a meeting with our chemical abuse coordinator for the district and from there they are then required to have an evaluation done by one of the local chemical health agencies in the area and deal with a counselor there."

NEWS 10NBC did not find any Fairport football players to talk with Friday, but other Fairport athletes talked with us. Jim Beaudry says "I don't agree with Mr. Zumbo about the 25% of the season suspension. But these guys shouldn't have been at that party doing what they were doing I guess." Another Fairport athlete, Chris Razavi says, "I agree with the decision to suspend these players. They should have been there doing what they were doing. And there's got to be some consequences." Jake Fisher says, "I was actually kind of surprised when I heard about it because we have such a great tradition at fairport, so I thought these guys would think twice about what they did."

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NEWS 10NBC also talked with two football players from Wayne Central. They feel the punishment is justified. "I think it's a good thing. if you want to play football, don't drink," says Anthony Fitzsimmons. He continues to say, "It's a big responsibility to be a football player. It's a privilege. If you're not going to follow the rules and do what they tell you, you're not going to play football."

Another Wayne Central Football player, Ian Storm, says, "well, I think anyone who's stupid enough to risk it, they don't deserve to play. So it's a good move I think to suspend the players."

Fairport Athletic Director Jim Zumbo says, "I've been though disappointed for our kids and our program and the community, I have been very impressed by the cooperation and the integrity that's been shown by our student athletes and their families have moved through the process."

Also, in the Honeoye Falls-Lima School District, about half-a-dozen JV athletes have been suspended for violating training rules by using alcohol. The district says the party on September 17th was unsupervised.

Brighton police say they continue to question students who were at the party on Fairhaven Road in the Penfield School district. Police confirm that the homeowner--a parent--was at the house at the time. No charges have been filed at this time.

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