

## Penfield Suspends Student Athletes

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Published Sep 30, 2005

Following the Penfield High School Homecoming game September 17, students decided to celebrate. The problem is that some did it with alcohol and drugs at a party and are now serving a suspension.

At the beginning of the school year, all student athletes signed a code of conduct which stipulated that student athletes using, or in the presence of, alcohol and drugs would be suspended from 25 per cent of the contests for their sport.



JV players get ready for varsity game.

That's why when the Penfield Varsity Football team took the field at the Gates-Chili Homecoming Friday night, they did so with many players from their junior varsity team.

We talked with two players, one from the varsity team, another from the junior varsity team. Neither one wanted to be identified for fear of reprimand from Penfield's Athletic Department. However, they did confirm that the entire junior varsity team was called up so that the game Friday night could be played.

They say at least half of Penfield's Varsity Football team was suspended for attending the party in Brighton where alcohol was served and drugs were present. The varsity player we talked to said he went to the party, but left when he realized that there was alcohol there. He was suspended anyway.

Some parents are backing up the district's decision. Christine Conlon's son plays on the team, but was not at the party.

"I think it's unfortunate that it had to happen. I think they are going to take it on the chin, but I think as far as going forward, I think they are going to think once, twice, maybe three times about engaging in such activities," Conlon said.

Penfield Superintendent Susan Gray released a statement saying that the district "regrets the loss of a game," but "feels very strongly that the athletic code must be enforced."

Suspended football players will miss next week's game as well. The suspension does also affect a number of other athletes for different sports. Those not in sports this season will serve their suspension once their season comes around later in the school year.



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