



NORTH VANCOUVER
RECREATION COMMISSION

To: All North Vancouver Adult Field Sport Participants

Re: Illegal Consumption of Liquor on North Vancouver Parks, Recreation and School Property

Over the past few years, adult participation in team sport activities has increased significantly in North Vancouver. Along with the many positive aspects of this trend, there has been an associated increase in the consumption of alcohol on or around sports fields. Therefore, due to direct complaints from neighbours, it is necessary to warn field users of the consequences of disobeying liquor consumption laws.

When drinking occurs in a public place, whether it is a sports field, parking lot, change room or bleachers, this action constitutes a summary conviction offence under Section 47 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act, which states:

Except in the case of liquor purchased and consumed in accordance with a license under this Act permitting consumption in a public place, no person shall consume liquor in a public place.

In order to ensure that the Terms and Conditions of the Field Use Permit, the law, and the tranquility of neighbourhoods are sustained, the City, District, School District, Recreation Commission and RCMP have agreed on the following procedures for dealing with groups that disregard these concerns.

Discipline Procedures

- 1. When a report of an incident is verified, the league President will be called and some form of discipline will be expected. This may result in a fine or suspension of an individual or a team by the league itself.**
- 2. On the verification of a second incident involving the SAME LEAGUE, the offending TEAM will be suspended for a minimum of three games.**
- 3. A third incident with league will result in the offending team being suspended from the league for the season, whether or not this is the first offence by that team.**
- 4. A fourth infraction will result in the suspension of all field use privileges for the league.**

Please note:

- a) **If the same team is responsible for two infractions, or of the circumstances of the infraction warrant, a team may be suspended for the season at any time.**
- b) **A league and its teams are responsible for the actions of their spectators.**
- c) **These procedures may be applied for ANY infraction of the Field Use Permit as it relates to control of noise, litter and parking.**
- d) **These procedures should be considered guidelines only and the minimum degree to which discipline will be used to control aberrant behaviour. The procedures do not attempt to cover every contingency.**
- e) **At any time in the process, meetings among the league, staff and the offending team or individual may be held upon request in order to clarify outcomes or to appeal decisions.**

As you can see, the actions of individuals can affect a larger group. While it is hoped that these policies and consequences will encourage self-policing, that was not the only intent. It is clear that the suspension of an individual is impossible to monitor without team rosters and complete information. So, by copy of this notice, leagues are required to provide league rules, a list of team captains and the game schedule prior to the start of their schedule. Please be advised that the RCMP patrol the parks by bicycle and have taken action when encountering consumption of alcohol.

It is important for you to review the rules and constitution for your league and seriously consider including all of the above procedures as consequences of illegal alcohol consumption by your members. Please also be aware of the possibility that failure to control the use of alcohol during league activities could expose your directors to risk of personal liability.

Additional Concerns include:

- Excessive noise, especially after games;
- Inappropriate parking on streets and cul-de-sacs (instead of school parking lots);
- Garbage (most schools do not leave garbage containers out after school hours);
- Using parks as toilet facilities.

Any one of these problems can upset park neighbours. The School Board, in particular, has a very low tolerance for complaints and has restricted access to fields where problems have occurred.