

PRESS RELEASE

SALE OF DRUGS AT SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

St. George's Grenada, Tuesday 13 March 2012: A strong reminder is being issued, to persons charged with the responsibility of caring for students, about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol use.

The reminder comes as schools hold their annual track and field meets.

Officials of the Drug Control Secretariat of the Ministry are reminding all schools that the use, sale and distribution of alcohol and alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, hemp, controlled drugs or any mood-altering substances at any school function, including athletic meetings, is a violation of the National Schools' Policy on Drugs.

Vendors are also urged to be mindful that the sale of alcoholic drinks to minors is a contravention of the **Liquor Dealers' Licences, CAP 174, of Grenada.**

Officials reiterate that "the consumption of alcoholic beverages is detrimental to the health and performance of all persons, including athletes, with research showing overwhelmingly that alcohol use and athleticism do not go hand in hand".

According to officials alcohol can cause severe dehydration and staggering electrolyte imbalances. Dehydration can also lead to severe brain impairment and even death when coupled with extreme temperatures and intense practices. Athletes that are dehydrated are at greater risk for injuries including: cramps, muscle pulls, and muscle strains.

"Alcohol will also impair reaction time and mental readiness for up to several days after consumption. The delayed reaction time and reduced mental acuity is of severe consequence to the athlete" says Drug Control Officer Dave Alexander. Who also points out that alcohol can also cause nausea, vomiting, and drowsiness for a number of days after consumption.

Schools athletics meets are scheduled from January through May with the Private Primary School Games bringing the curtains down on the season on May 31 at the National Stadium.

*Drug Control Secretariat
13 March 2012*