

NYOA Underage Alcohol and Prohibited Substance Policy

1 Purpose

The New York Off Road Association (NYOA) is committed to providing a safe, lawful, and family-oriented environment at every NYOA-sanctioned event. Underage consumption of alcohol or other prohibited substances creates a serious risk to competitors, families, spectators, promoters, officials, property owners, and the public. This policy establishes uniform rules, response procedures, and disciplinary consequences for such conduct.

2 Scope

This policy applies to every competitor, crew member, family member, spectator, volunteer, worker, vendor, and guest attending an NYOA-sanctioned event. It applies throughout the property used for the event from the time the gates open until the event has concluded and the property has closed to participants and spectators.

3 Definitions

Underage person means any individual under 21 years of age.

Prohibited substance means an alcoholic beverage; cannabis or a cannabis product possessed or consumed by a person under 21; an illegal controlled substance; prescription medication possessed or consumed without a valid prescription; or another intoxicating substance that is unlawfully possessed, consumed, distributed, or misused.

Responsible adult means a parent, guardian, crew member, team member, or other person 21 years of age or older who knowingly provides a prohibited substance to an underage person; encourages or permits the conduct; assists in obtaining or concealing the substance; or learns of the conduct and fails to take reasonable action to stop or report it.

An adult who promptly intervenes, requests medical assistance, or reports the conduct to an NYOA official will not be considered in violation solely because the underage person was under that adult's supervision.

For the purpose of maintaining a safe event environment, NYOA prohibits an underage person from possessing or consuming alcohol at an NYOA event regardless of whether a parent or guardian supplied or permitted it.

4 Prohibited Conduct

- An underage person may not possess, consume, distribute, or be under the influence of alcohol or another prohibited substance at an NYOA event.
- No person may furnish, sell, distribute, provide, or knowingly make a prohibited substance available to an underage person at an NYOA event.
- No person who has consumed alcohol or another impairing substance may operate a motorcycle, ATV, side-by-side, pit vehicle, golf cart, automobile, or other motorized vehicle on event property.

5 Immediate Safety Measures

When an NYOA official has reasonable grounds to believe that an underage person has consumed or is under the influence of a prohibited substance, the official may take the following actions without waiting for the disciplinary review to be completed:

1. Prevent further participation in event activities. An involved competitor will be disqualified from every NYOA race entered or completed that weekend and will forfeit all results, series points, awards, and payouts for the weekend.
 2. Prevent the individual from operating any motorized vehicle.
 3. Require the individual to remain with a parent, guardian, or other responsible sober adult.
 4. Require the individual and other involved persons to leave the event property once safe transportation has been arranged.
 5. Request assistance from the promoter, referee, security personnel, emergency medical personnel, or law enforcement.
 6. Take other reasonable action necessary to protect the individual and others.
- A person suspected of impairment will not be permitted to drive themselves or another person from the event property.

6 Emergency and Law Enforcement Response

Emergency medical services and/or law enforcement will be contacted immediately when an underage person:

- Appears intoxicated or medically endangered, including a suspected overdose or alcohol poisoning;
- Operates or attempts to operate a motorized vehicle while impaired;
- Becomes violent or threatening or creates an immediate safety risk;
- Refuses an official's direction to stop riding or operating a vehicle;
- Refuses to cooperate with removal from the event property; or
- Is involved in circumstances that officials reasonably believe require emergency or law-enforcement assistance.

7 Evidence and Review

A violation may be established through direct observation or credible evidence, including photographs, video recordings, witness statements, social-media posts, admissions, or other reliable information. Before imposing a suspension that extends beyond the current event, NYOA will make a reasonable effort to:

1. Confirm the identity and age of the persons involved;
2. Confirm that the incident occurred on the property of a NYOA-sanctioned event;
3. Determine whether the substance was alcohol or another prohibited substance;
4. Identify any adult who furnished, encouraged, permitted, or knowingly facilitated the conduct;
5. Preserve the relevant evidence; and
6. Provide the accused person and, when applicable, the person's parent or guardian with notice of the allegation and a reasonable opportunity to respond.

NYOA is not required to establish legal intoxication to determine that prohibited possession or consumption occurred. Investigations involving an underage person will be handled as confidentially as possible. Names and identifying evidence will be disclosed only when reasonably necessary for official, medical, insurance, disciplinary, or law-enforcement purposes.

8 Disciplinary Consequences

The penalties below apply to an underage person who violates this policy and to any responsible adult determined to have furnished, encouraged, knowingly permitted, concealed, or facilitated the violation. Removal and suspension apply in every capacity, including as a competitor, spectator, crew member, volunteer, worker, vendor, or guest.

Offense	When Discovered	Minimum Consequence
First	During the event	Removal for the remainder of the event weekend. An involved competitor is disqualified from every NYOA race entered or completed that weekend.
First	After the event	Exclusion from the next NYOA-sanctioned event.
Second	At any time	Suspension from all NYOA-sanctioned events for 12 months.
Third	At any time	Suspension from all NYOA-sanctioned events for 24 months.

Aggravating Circumstances

The NYOA Board may impose a more severe penalty when aggravating circumstances are present, including:

- Operating or attempting to operate a motorized vehicle while impaired;
- Providing prohibited substances to multiple underage persons;
- Concealing evidence or intentionally providing false information;
- Threatening or retaliating against a witness or official;
- Refusing to follow a safety-related instruction;
- Conduct resulting in injury or property damage; or
- Conduct creating a substantial risk to competitors, spectators, workers, or the public.

Nothing in this policy prevents the AMA, an event referee, a promoter, a property owner, emergency medical personnel, or law enforcement from taking additional action within their respective authority.

9 Notice and Appeal

A suspension extending beyond the current event will be provided in writing and will identify the conduct determined to have occurred, the policy provision violated, the disciplinary action imposed, the beginning and ending dates of the suspension, and the appeal procedure. A 12-month or 24-month suspension begins on the date stated in the written notice.

The suspended person may submit a written appeal to the NYOA Board within 14 calendar days after receiving notice. The appeal must state the basis for challenging the decision and include any supporting information. When reasonably practical, a board member with direct personal involvement in the incident will not participate in deciding the appeal. Unless the Board directs otherwise, the suspension remains in effect while the appeal is pending. The Board's decision is final within NYOA, subject to any applicable AMA appeal rights.

10 Enforcement Authority

The NYOA President, Series Referee, event referee, promoter, or their designated representatives may take immediate action necessary to protect safety and maintain order during an event. Suspensions extending beyond the current event will be imposed through the disciplinary authority established by the NYOA bylaws and rules. Enforcement will be applied consistently without regard to racing class, membership status, family relationship, position, or affiliation.

11 Participant Responsibility

Attendance at an NYOA event constitutes agreement to comply with this policy. Parents, guardians, competitors, and pit-area occupants are responsible for ensuring that members of their party understand and follow the policy. A suspended person may not enter an NYOA event property in any capacity during the suspension period. Knowingly assisting a suspended person in entering or participating may result in disciplinary action.

12 Relationship to Law and Other Rules

This policy supplements applicable federal, state, and local laws, AMA rules, NYOA rules, promoter requirements, and property-owner requirements. If another applicable rule or law establishes a stricter requirement, the stricter requirement controls. Nothing in this policy limits an official's ability to contact emergency medical services or law enforcement whenever assistance is reasonably believed necessary.