AFS Rules and Regulations Regarding Alcohol Consumption and Association

Please refer to the *Rules and Regulations* (Pages 16-20) Section of your Welcome to the USA Handbook regarding AFS USA's policies with regards to AFS's Alcohol Policy for Participants in the US. See attachments below (Pages 18-19):

Alcohol Policy for Participants in the U.S.

Keeping you safe and healthy while on the program is the number one priority of AFS. You and your host family are partners with AFS in this effort. By applying to the program, you both agreed to certain rules, including the alcohol policy that follows. Disregarding this policy puts you at risk and can damage the reputation of AFS. For this reason, you could be sent home if you do not obey this policy.

It is against the law in the United States for anyone under the age of 21 to publicly possess or purchase alcohol, including beer and wine. Possession of alcohol includes simply holding an alcoholic beverage. You could also be sent home if you are arrested or suspended from school related to alcohol use.

AFS is aware that there are American high school students who abuse alcohol and binge drink. Binge drinking means consuming several drinks on one occasion. Serious injury and death can occur from the abuse of alcohol, such as binge drinking. Binge drinking or inappropriate behavior related to drinking is not allowed while on an AFS-USA program.

Talk to your host parents about their views on alcohol and the laws in your area. You should also talk to your Liaison about teenage drinking in the community in which you are living.

Call your host parents or another responsible adult (such as your Liaison) if you find yourself at a party or event where there is binge or under-aged drinking, no matter what time of day or night. Please don't jeopardize your AFS program by ignoring the laws about under-aged drinking. Everyone at AFS takes these laws seriously. To read AFS-USA's *Alcohol Policy for Participants*, please see the *Safety Tips* booklet.

Signatures:

_____

Participant

_____

Liaison