



University of Massachusetts Amherst
Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life

Dear Students,

Both the fall semester and the final weeks of the Major League Baseball (MLB) season are in full swing, and Red Sox fans are counting the days to the start of the playoffs. As we approach the playoffs, I want to wish you and your favorite team the best of luck. It will be an exciting time for fans of the Red Sox, Cleveland Indians, Los Angeles Angels, Yankees, NY Mets, Brewers, Cubs, San Diego and Arizona.

Enjoy the playoff games in your own rooms, with friends, or on the big screen in the Blue Wall. When you celebrate your team victories, do so wisely and responsibly. And accept the losses with equal levelness.

The past few years, we have seen destructive student action associated with athletic events. While I personally do not understand this concept of violence and rioting as an expression of celebration, nonetheless it is a phenomenon we are currently witnessing nationally on college campuses and in major cities. Here, on our campus, these riots are usually related to the Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots.

Today, we are reminding everyone of the influence that these actions have when a well meaning celebration turns into destruction of University property and injury to others. The results are lasting consequences to students and their families as well as reputation and financial repercussions to the University.

As the senior UMass Amherst administrator responsible for Student Affairs and Campus Life, I have a responsibility and am accountable to the University Office of the President, state and local legislatures, deans, faculty, staff and alumni, and especially our students and families, for providing a safe and secure campus environment.

While I am hopeful our students – and friends of our students – will enjoy the baseball playoffs and conduct their celebrations in a manner that makes us proud, as a campus we also must be prepared.

Below this letter, is a link to important detailed information that will assist you during the Major League Baseball playoffs. Please take the time to read the contents fully and understand it. Consult with your resident director or resident assistant with questions and for the most updated information. The resident hall lobbies will have posters communicating policies and procedures throughout the playoffs.

Sincerely,

Michael Gargano, Ed. D
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life

Information about responsible fan behavior at UMass Amherst:
<http://www.umass.edu/stuaf/responsiblefans/>