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Drug Testing: Student Athletes R 7-41.1A. Generally

Student athletes shall not at any time during the season use, possess, sell, distribute, or be under the influence of any illegal drug, anabolic steroid or alcohol while a member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletic team. Coaches and other school personnel shall be responsible for communicating the above and for taking reasonable steps to ensure compliance.

1. Alcohol: Alcohol will be included as a part of all drug tests. Additionally coaches should observe all athletes carefully to ensure that they are not using alcohol. Students suspected of using alcohol should be counseled about the matter; the use of a breathalyzer is encouraged and may be used periodically with the entire team or with individuals suspected of using the drug.
2. Alcohol, Marijuana, Cocaine, and Other Illegal Drugs: Drug tests will be used as outlined below.
3. Steroids: (Refer to policy and regulation 7-53.1 for procedures for dealing with steroid use among the general school population.) Coaches have a particular responsibility for educating their athletes about the dangers of steroid use. If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a student athlete is using steroids, that student will be required to undergo a test to confirm or deny the suspicion.

B. Meeting for Parents and Athletes

A meeting with student athletes will be scheduled before practice begins during each athletic season. The drug testing plan will be discussed and copies of the policy, procedures, and consent form will be provided for each athlete. Parents will be encouraged to attend this meeting.

C. Consent Form

To try-out for or participate on any school-sponsored athletic team, the student athlete must sign a consent form by which the student agrees to participate in the drug testing program. The consent form must also be signed by the student's parent or guardian in advance of the try-out for a specific sport. The consent form will be valid for the current school year and must be renewed annually.

D. Non-Compliance

If the student athlete, his/her parents or guardians refuse to sign the consent form, the student will not be permitted to be a member of a team. Also, if during the season the student athlete refuses to be tested or attempts to tamper with or assists

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others in tampering with the sample, the athlete will be dropped from the team in the absence of extenuating circumstances.

E. Testing Procedure

A licensed medical facility selected by the superintendent and approved by the school board shall conduct all testing. An accurate chain of custody will be provided for each specimen. All samples indicating a positive result on the initial test will be immediately subjected to a second confirmation test. Drugs specifically tested for will include Alcohol, Marijuana, Cocaine, Phencyclidine (PCP), Amphetamines and Opiates. Positive cut-off levels will be those established by the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA), including the cut-off of 50 mg/ml for Marijuana. Any sample registering below 92 degrees will be rejected. If the lab technician suspects tampering has occurred, the sample will be rejected and another sample must be provided. Students will be asked to empty their pockets before entering the bathroom. Other personal belongings of students (i.e. purses, book bags, jackets) must remain in the student holding area.

F. Random Tests

Random tests will be conducted at each high school during each athletic season. The number of tests will be determined by the funding allocated annually by the school board to student athlete drug testing. Central office personnel and the high school athletic directors will devise a schedule that will insure that as many tests are administered as possible based on available funding. Furthermore, each season's test schedule will include student athletes from every team. The number of each team's student athletes who are tested will be determined by calculating the percentage of student athletes who are members of a specific team to the total number of student athletes for that season.

A committee established at the central office level will, using random selection methods, generate a list of students for each testing date. The names of these students will be communicated to the athletic director, and the students will be tested. If a student is in school and fails to report for testing at the appointed time, he/she will be dropped from the team in the absence of extenuating circumstances. Students are not to be notified in advance of any drug test. Students will be escorted to the school's testing site by a school employee and will remain under employee supervision until a sample is provided. A student unable to provide a sample by the end of the student school day will be ineligible to participate until a negative sample is provided at the next random test at his school.

G. Positive Test Result

Positive test results will be cumulative over a student's high school career within the

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Lynchburg City School system. In the event of a positive test result, the testing agency will notify the school division administrator in charge of the program. The following steps will then occur:

1. The school division administrator will notify the respective athletic director.
2. The athletic director will notify the parent/guardian, student, principal, and coach. The athletic director will advise the parents of the opportunity to respond to a positive test. The athletic director will schedule a meeting with the substance abuse educator the parent/guardian, student, and student's physician, if requested, to develop a plan of assistance for the student.
3. Progressive Actions Following Positive Test Results:

- a. First Positive Test Result

The athlete will be removed from physical participation in practice and competition until the following three criteria are met:

- (1) A minimum of fourteen (14) calendar days has elapsed.
- (2) Satisfactory completion of the plan of assistance is verified by the substance abuse educator.
- (3) The student is retested by the testing agency with a negative result.

The athlete may continue to attend team practices but will not dress out or participate. Any athlete who tests positive, receives substance abuse education, and is reinstated will be retested once a month for as long as he participates in interscholastic sports for the remainder of the school year.

- b. Second Positive Test Result

The athlete will be removed from physical participation in practice and competition for 365 days from the date of the positive test result registered by the testing laboratory. The student will become eligible for athletic participation following the 365 day period. Drug testing will resume on a monthly basis once the student resumes participation in athletics and is a member of an athletic team.

- c. Third Positive Test Result

The athlete will be ineligible for participation in interscholastic athletics for

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the remainder of his high school career.

H. Appeal

An appeal may be instituted at any stage by the parent, and/or student if over the age of eighteen, to the superintendent.

Upon request, a retest of the original sample will be conducted by the testing agency, at the parent's expense. Specimens are kept by the testing laboratory for a period of one year. The student may not practice or compete until the appeals process has been completed.

I. Confidentiality

Confidentiality of test results must be maintained at all levels including the testing agency, the school administrative officer, principal, the athletic director, the substance abuse educator, and the coach. Results will not be placed on student records, no penalties or restrictions will be placed on a student's participation in any other student activities, and no actions will be taken by the school against the student except as outlined in H. above.

Each principal will be responsible for conducting an annual meeting with his faculty and staff to insure confidentiality and fairness to all students. The policy and procedures should be carefully explained to all staff members.

J. School Discipline Policy

Nothing contained in this policy shall limit or prohibit the application of School Board Policy 7-41 which provides for disciplinary action for students using, in possession of, or distributing illegal drugs or alcohol on school property or at school events. The provisions of policy and regulation 7-41.1 should not be confused with policy and regulation 7-41.

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