

WVU INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

DRUG SCREENING POLICY AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

Purpose. The West Virginia University (WVU) Department of Intercollegiate Athletics believes that the use of Banned Substances, as that term is defined herein, including “performance enhancing” drugs, as well as alcohol abuse constitutes a threat to the integrity of intercollegiate athletics, represents a danger to the health and careers of Student-Athletes and unduly exposes Student-Athletes to exploitation. Additionally, use or abuse of Banned Substances can be extremely injurious to Student-Athletes and their teammates, particularly when participating in athletic competition or practice.

Therefore, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics has implemented a mandatory program of drug education, testing and treatment (counseling/rehabilitation) to assist and benefit its Student-Athletes at WVU. The Program seeks to protect Student-Athletes from the risks and dangers of drug abuse through such measures as sanctions for violations of the Program.

Goals of the Program include enhancing the health and well-being of all Student-Athletes and safeguarding Student-Athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics at WVU. Because WVU believes drug use can destructively affect the physical and emotional well-being of Student-Athletes, no matter when such use should occur during the year, drug screening tests randomly occur throughout the year for all Student-Athletes.

Athletics’ Drug Advisory Committee. The Athletics’ Drug Advisory Committee (Committee) supervises the Program. The Committee is comprised of the Director of Athletics or designee, Associate Director of Athletics/Sports Development, Associate Director of Athletics/Student Services, Assistant Director of Athletics/Football Operations, Team Physician, Psychologist for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (Psychologist), Coordinator of Athletic Medical Services, Coordinator of Athletic Training Services, Head Football Athletic Trainer, designated coaches, and the president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (in an advisory role). The team physician will serve as the Medical Review Officer (MRO) and will be the only person who may accept results from the contracted laboratory.

The Athletic Training Staff will work cooperatively with the Committee to help supervise the Program. The Athletic Training Staff will collect from each Student-Athlete, a signed copy of the Consent to Participate in the WVU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics Drug Screening Policy and Substance Abuse Program form (Consent Form) to participate in the Program. A member of the Athletic Training Staff will contact the contracted laboratory to monitor and collect urine samples during the testing procedure.

Banned Substances. The use of substances identified annually by the NCAA (Banned Substances) are prohibited before, during, and after the sport season, except as may be prescribed by a physician qualified to treat the medical condition for which the prescription is made. The list of Banned Substances includes but is not limited to: **Amphetamines, Benzodiazepines, Anabolic Steroids, Cocaine, Barbiturates, Cannabinoid, Methaqualone, Opiates, and Phencyclidine.**

Procedure. Student-Athletes are asked to sign a Consent Form giving the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics permission to test the Student-Athlete for Banned Substances as defined above and to contact various individuals to discuss the results of the described test(s) for Banned Substances. A contracted laboratory collects the urine samples for analysis.

Randomization and testing will be performed throughout the year. Official team rosters, procured from the WVU Athletic Compliance Office, will be used to compose a list of Student-Athletes eligible to be randomly selected by computer for the test. This computerized list will be generated at various times throughout the year. Additional testing may also occur as a result of reasonable suspicion, as defined herein.

A Student-Athlete’s failure to appear at the testing site will be considered a positive result which will result in a violation pursuant to this Program. In the event that a Student-Athlete appears at the testing site and is unable to produce a specimen or produces an insufficient volume for testing, he/she will be instructed to drink eight ounces of fluid every fifteen minutes for the remainder of the testing period. Failure to do so will be treated as a positive result pursuant to this Program. Any attempt to alter the integrity or validity of the urine specimen and/or collection process will be treated

as a positive result pursuant to this Program. If the specimen is not within the acceptable temperature range, another sample must be provided immediately or before the next reasonable opportunity.

Student-Athletes who have dilute urine specimens, as determined by the contracted laboratory, will be re-tested at the next scheduled testing session. If the Student-Athlete produces a second dilute specimen, the respective head coach will be notified. The Student-Athlete will then be subject to a surprise test. If the surprise test results in a dilute specimen, the results of that test will be considered valid.

Identification of those participating in a test for Banned Substances and the results thereof will be strictly confidential. The contracted laboratory will notify the MRO of all results. The MRO will be the only member of the Committee capable of matching test results with individual identification numbers and will in turn notify individuals of their results; provided, however, positive results are also communicated to the Director of Athletics, the Head Coach, the supervising Athletic Trainer, and the Psychologist.

General Results. In accordance with the purpose of this Program, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics assumes that all Student-Athletes will test negative for the use of the Banned Substances as listed above. There will be no maximum number of times a Student-Athlete may be tested during his/her career at WVU. If a Student-Athlete does have a positive urine test, then he/she will be placed on an active list which will result in an increased chance of selection for a random test for the remainder of their career at WVU.

Effect of Negative Results in Retesting to Confirm Positive Test Result. Any positive urine test will result in a violation pursuant to this Program. The urine sample yielding a positive test result will be immediately retested by the same contracted laboratory to assure there is no error in the result. In the event that a retest is negative, the immediately prior positive result will be considered an error, and that positive test shall be treated as no violation.

Incidents Involving Alcohol and/or Banned Substances. On-campus and off-campus incidents involving alcohol and/or Banned Substances may, at the discretion of the MRO, result in a violation pursuant to this Program; all incidents resulting in a conviction will be a violation. Determination of whether an incident involving alcohol and/or Banned Substances is a violation will be made on a case-by-case basis; nevertheless, to the extent practicable, the MRO will make determinations that are consistent with past practices. In the event that the MRO deems an on-campus or off-campus incident involving alcohol and/or Banned Substances to be a violation, the violation shall be counted as if the Student-Athlete's urine sample had tested positive for use of Banned Substances.

Positive Results - First Violation. If the Student-Athlete's urine sample tests positive for the use of Banned Substances for a first time or, if the Student-Athlete is involved in any on-campus or off-campus incident involving alcohol and/or Banned Substances for a first time, the Student-Athlete shall be deemed to be in violation of this Program.

If a positive result is confirmed, the MRO will be notified by the contracted laboratory and in turn, the MRO will notify the Student-Athlete who tested positive, in writing. In addition, copies of this letter will be sent to the Director of Athletics, the Head Coach, the supervising Athletic Trainer, and the Psychologist. The Student-Athlete will be directed by the MRO to arrange a meeting with his/her head coach and supervising athletic trainer within three (3) business days. At this meeting, the Student-Athlete in the presence of these individuals, will telephone his/her parent or guardian and advise them of the violation and results (if applicable) unless waived by the Committee. The Student-Athlete will be expected to make an appointment to be seen by the Psychologist within one week for an evaluation of Banned Substances, alcohol or other substance abuse or dependence.

The Student-Athlete will be suspended from participation in team practices, games, and activities, including team meetings and meals, until he/she has a subsequent NEGATIVE drug screen as monitored by Psychologist, such records shall be treatment records and, with respect to this Program, positive results will not have adverse impact on the Student-Athlete. The Student-Athlete will continue participation with the Psychologist until he/she is released by this service.

Failure to comply or refusal to participate with the counseling program set forth above will result in immediate disqualification from all athletic participation until the above guidelines are met. The Student-Athlete's head coach may impose additional penalties beyond these guidelines, subject to the approval of the Director of Athletics. In all cases the Student-Athlete will be referred for appropriate counseling and rehabilitation.

Positive Results - Second Violation. If the Student-Athlete's urine sample tests positive for the use of Banned Substances for a second time or, if the Student-Athlete is involved in any on-campus or off-campus incident involving alcohol and/or Banned Substances for a second time, the Student-Athlete shall be deemed to be in violation of this Program.

If a positive result is confirmed, the MRO will be notified by the laboratory and in turn, the MRO will notify the Student-Athlete who tested positive in writing. In addition, copies of this letter will be sent to the Director of Athletics, the Head Coach, the supervising Athletic Trainer, and the Psychologist. The Student-Athlete will be directed by the MRO to arrange a meeting with his/her Head Coach, supervising Athletic Trainer, and the Director of Athletics within three (3) business days. At this meeting the Student-Athlete in the presence of these individuals, will telephone his/her parent or guardian and advise them of the violation and results (if applicable) unless waived by the Committee. The Student-Athlete will be expected to make an appointment to be seen by the Psychologist within one week for an evaluation of Banned Substances, alcohol or other substance abuse or dependence.

The Student-Athlete will be suspended from participation in team practices, games, and activities, including team meetings and meals, until he/she has a subsequent NEGATIVE drug screen as monitored by the Psychologist, such records shall be treatment records and, with respect to this Program, positive results will not have adverse impact on the Student-Athlete. The Student-Athlete will continue participation with the Psychologist until he/she is released by this service. The suspension will also include a time period of 10% of the team's season competition schedule including postseason events. In computing the 10% penalty, .50 is rounded down, and .51 is rounded up. The suspension will also include no traveling either to home or away events during this period. The suspension will begin immediately upon the Student-Athlete's notification of positive results. If a team completes its competition schedule while a Student-Athlete is under the above suspension, the Student-Athlete's participation suspension will carry over into the following year's (next season) competition. The Student-Athlete's Head Coach may impose additional penalties beyond these guidelines subject to the approval of the Director of Athletics. In all cases the Student-Athlete will be referred for appropriate counseling and rehabilitation.

Failure to comply with the guidelines set forth above will result in immediate disqualification from all athletic participation and removal of all athletic related financial aid for the remainder of the Student-Athlete's career.

Positive Results - Third Violation. If a Student-Athlete's urine sample tests positive for the use of Banned Substances for a third time or, if the Student-Athlete is involved in any on-campus or off-campus incident involving alcohol and/or Banned Substances for a third time, the Student-Athlete shall be deemed to be in violation of the Program.

If the positive result is confirmed, the MRO will notify the Student-Athlete in writing to arrange an appointment with the Head Coach, Director of Athletics, Team Physician, and supervising Athletic Trainer. At this meeting the Director of Athletics will notify the Student-Athlete's parent or guardian and advise them that the Student-Athlete will be removed from all further athletic participation and all athletic provided financial aid will be withdrawn for the remainder of the Student-Athlete's career. The Student-Athlete will also be referred for appropriate counseling and rehabilitation.

Reasonable Suspicion. As part of the Program, Student-Athletes may be tested based upon reasonable suspicion of the Head Coach, supervising Athletic Trainer, or the Director of Athletics. Reasonable suspicion will be based on the observation of behavior or conduct, or the presence of certain physical and emotional characteristics or patterns, which are symptomatic of the use of prohibited drugs or abuse of alcohol which includes but is not limited to chronic fatigue or loss of vitality, decreased interest or effort in practices and competitions, prolonged illness or injuries, unexpected weight and/or strength gains or losses, unexplained fluctuations in moods expressed as inappropriate irritability, hostility, anxiety, anger or withdrawal, other unexplained behavior changes, or outward signs (odor of marijuana or alcohol). Student-Athletes tested as a result of reasonable suspicion may be required to see the Psychologist without a positive result being counted as a violation as long as they comply with the counseling.

MRO Discretion. From time to time, rigid supervision or implementation of the Program could result in extraordinary circumstances resulting in unforeseen or unintended consequences; as such, the MRO is granted a certain amount of discretion and appropriate flexibility with regard to the results only; provided, however, that this authority shall be exercised both narrowly and consistently.