

West Virginia University Intercollegiate Athletics

Policy: Drug Screening and Substance Abuse
Date: Revised June 5, 2008
Responsibility: Athletic Training

Purpose. The West Virginia University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (Department of Intercollegiate Athletics) believes that the use of Banned Substances, 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 student-athletes at West Virginia University (WVU). The Program seeks to protect student-athletes at WVU 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 WVU athletics. 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, Senior Associate Director of Athletics/Finance and Administration, Associate Director of Athletics/Sports Development, Associate Director of Athletics/Student Services, Assistant Director of Athletics/Football Operations, Medical Review Officer/Team Physician (MRO), Sport 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 a student-athlete (in an advisory role, appointed by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics Administration). The MRO 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 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 the following 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.

Amphetamines	Benzodiazepines	Anabolic Steroids	Cocaine
Barbiturates	Cannabinoid	Methaqualone	Opiates
Phencyclidine			

Procedure. Student-athletes are asked to sign the Consent Form giving the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics permission to test the student-athlete for Banned Substances as defined above and 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 Department of Intercollegiate Athletics 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.

Failure to appear at the testing site will be considered a positive result which will result in a violation pursuant to this Program. If a student-athlete 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. If, after this time, an adequate specimen still has not been produced, the student-athlete will be required to produce an acceptable sample for the contracted laboratory before the next practice. 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 practice.

Those student-athletes who have dilute urine specimens 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.

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. When the result of any retest for confirmation of a positive test is negative, it shall be assumed the immediately prior positive result was in error, and that prior test shall be treated as no violation.

Any positive urine test will result in a violation pursuant to this Program. All positive test results will be immediately retested by the contracted laboratory to assure there is no error in the result.

Any incident involving alcohol and/or Banned Substances, including those in the residence halls or adjudicated in any court of law, will result in a violation pursuant to this Program.

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 an alcohol and/or Banned Substances incident for a first time, the student-athlete shall be deemed to be in violation of this Program.

If a positive result is verified and confirmed, the MRO of the Committee 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 Psychologist. The student-athlete will be directed to arrange a meeting with his/her head coach and supervising athletic trainer within three (3) 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. 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 an alcohol and/or Banned Substances incident for a second time, the student-athlete shall be deemed to be in violation of this Program.

If a positive result is verified and confirmed, the MRO of the Committee 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 Psychologist. The student-athlete will be directed to arrange a meeting with his/her head coach, supervising athletic trainer, and the Director of Athletics within three (3) 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. 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's) 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 Department of Intercollegiate Athletics-provided financial support 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 an

alcohol and/or Banned Substances incident for a third time, the student-athlete shall be deemed to be in violation of the Program.

If the positive result is verified and 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.

Safe Harbor. Reasonable suspicion, notification from the police or safety officials, violation of team rules, and/or concerns from the Director of Athletics or athletic administration and coaches will result in a referral to the Psychologist without counting as a first violation. Failure to comply with the Psychologist and/or the referral could result in testing or review by the Committee. Any subsequent incidents will be referred to the Psychologist and may result in a violation pursuant to this Program.