

REGULATIONS

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INTERSCHOLASTIC RANDOM DRUG TESTING

A. Generally

Students participating in VHSL or SMSC activities 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 participating in such activities. Coaches/Sponsors 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 student drug tests. Additionally coaches/sponsors 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 alcohol.

2. Steroids:

Coaches/Sponsors have a particular responsibility for educating their students 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 in a private lab or medical facility to confirm or deny the suspicion.

3. Other Illegal Drugs:

Drug tests will be used as outlined below.

B. Meeting for Parents and Athletes

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

C. Consent Form

To try-out for or participate on any school sponsored VHSL or SMSC affiliated activity, the student 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 activity. The consent form will be valid for the current school year and must be renewed annually.

D. Non-Compliance

If the student-athlete, after school program participant, or his/her parents or guardians refuse to sign the consent form, the student will not be permitted to be a member of a team and will not participate in the activity. Also, if during the season the student refuses to be tested or attempts to tamper with or assists others in tampering with the sample, the student will be dropped from participation in the activity, 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 Metab., Cocaine Metab., PCP, Amphetamines, Opiates and Ecstasy. Positive cut-off levels will be those established by the National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA). School Officials will strive to provide mouth swab saliva sample test and alcohol breathalyzer tests.

However, if urine sample tests are needed, students will be asked to empty their pockets before entering the bathroom. Other personal belongings of students (i.e. purses, book bags, and jackets) must remain in the student holding area. If the lab technician suspects tampering has occurred, the sample will be rejected and another sample must be provided. Breathalyzers may be used to test for alcohol use.

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F. Test Participation and Timing

All students participating in VHSL and SMSC affiliated programs, grades 6- 12, are subject to being tested within the athletic or program season. Testing will occur at a time, place, and date scheduled by the athletic director and the supervisor for instruction in cooperation with the testing agency and without prior announcement to students.

G. Random Tests

Random tests will be conducted at the High School and Middle School for 3% of the participating students each competition season. All students will be assigned numbers according to the activities they are members of and running consecutively.

These tests and numbers will be filed in the office of the athletic director. A committee established at the central office level will, using random selection methods, generate a list of numbers for each testing date. These numbers will be communicated to the athletic director, and the students corresponding to these numbers on the aforementioned list 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 participating in the activity, 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.

H. Positive Test Result, But Not Determined To Be Under the Influence

Positive test results will be cumulative over a student's Middle School and High School career within the Amelia County 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.

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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 principal, the parent/guardian, student, and student's physician, if requested, to develop a plan of assistance for the student, which may require outside drug counseling at the expense of the student or his/her family.

In the case of positive alcohol results greater than .02, in accordance with the Virginia code 4.1-305 the Commonwealth's attorney will be notified with the results.

3. Progressive Actions Following Positive Test Results:

- a. First Positive Test Result of Alcohol or Illegal Drug Except Anabolic Steroid
The student 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 athletic director.

- (3) The student is retested by the testing agency with a negative result.

Any student who tests positive, receives substance abuse education, and is reinstated will be retested once a competition season for as long as he participates in the VHSL or SMSC affiliated activity for the remainder of the school year.

b. Second Positive Test Result

The student 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 participation following the 365-day period. Drug testing will resume on a competition seasonal basis once the student resumes participation in athletics and is a member of an athletic team.

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c. Third Positive Test Result

The student will be ineligible for participation in interscholastic programs for the remainder of his/her school career.

4. First Positive Test of Anabolic Steroids

In the case of a student using or testing positive for illegal use of anabolic steroids the student will not be permitted to participate in a VHSL or SMSC affiliated program for two years, based on Virginia Code. (§ 22.1-276.3).

I. Positive Test Results Indicating Under the Influence

Students testing positive and/or under the influence will be subject to disciplinary action under Policy JFCF and where applicable subject to legal action under Virginia Law.

J. Appeal

An appeal may be instituted at any stage by the parent, and/or student if over the age of eighteen, to the Superintendent or designee. An appeal does not hold the discipline of the student in abeyance. 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 appeal process has been completed.

K. Confidentiality

Confidentiality of test results must be maintained at all levels including the testing agency, the school administrative officer, principal, the athletic director, and the coach/sponsor. Results will not be placed on student records, no penalties or restrictions will be placed on a student's participation in any other non VHSL or SMSC affiliated student activity, and no actions will be taken by the school against the student except as outlined in section L. below. Each principal will be responsible for conducting an annual meeting with his/her faculty and staff to insure confidentiality and fairness to all students. The policy and procedures should be carefully explained to all staff members.

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L. School Discipline Policy

Nothing contained in this policy shall limit or prohibit the application of School Board Policy JFCF that provides for disciplinary action for students using, in possession of, or distributing illegal drugs or alcohol on school property or at school events. Students found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be disciplined under policy JFCF and will be subject to legal action under applicable Virginia Law.

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