

STUDENT-ATHLETE SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Definitions:

Student-Athlete – Any 8th-12th grade student established as an athlete at the junior varsity or varsity level. An established athlete is one who is on a Virginia High School League (VHSL) Master Eligibility List (MEL); which encompasses all students participating in VHSL endorsed academic and athletic activities. The student athlete retains this status until the next MEL for any VHSL-sanctioned activity is submitted to the VHSL.

Consequences for Violation of the Student-Athlete Substance Abuse Policy:

1. In the event that a substance-use violation occurs on school property, in a school vehicle, at any school-sponsored event, going to or from school, or while participating in school-sanctioned activities, then the Substance Use Policies JFCF, JFCH, JFC-R.1 shall be followed. In addition, the Tazewell County Public Schools Pledge Program shall be enforced.
2. If a substance-use violation occurs other than as provided in # 1 (above), then the Tazewell County Schools Pledge Program shall be enforced.

Tazewell County Schools Pledge Program

Refusal by the student-athlete or the parent/guardian(s) to participate in the Tazewell County Schools Pledge Program will preclude the student-athlete's participation in athletics at the school until the pledge is tenured.

First Violation: When the principal or his/her designee confirms a violation occurred, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, the following will take place.

1. The student-athlete shall be suspended from play for a period of time equivalent to, and not less than, 20 percent of the total number of VHSL contest limitations for each sport to be played during the regular season (any fraction of the calculation will be dropped). The penalty will be applied immediately and include the next contest(s) including playoffs, and/or to the next sport season in which the student athlete participates within 365 calendar days. During the suspension period, the student-athlete will be allowed to attend practices and contests; however, the student-athlete will not be permitted to dress in team uniform for contests. Additionally, in the event the season concludes while the student-athlete is suspended, the student-athlete may be allowed to participate in try-outs for the next sport's season only to the extent to determine placement on the team and only if the student-athlete has been retested, at the parent/guardian(s)' expense, and the test results are negative. After which time the student-athlete will be ineligible until all conditions of reinstatement have been completed.

2. The parent/guardian(s) will contact the Athletic Director at the student-athlete's school within five (5) school days of the suspension start-date to arrange Counseling and Preventive Services (CAPS). This counseling must be completed before the student-athlete may be reinstated.
3. The student-athlete and parent/guardian(s) must agree to have the student-athlete tested at the end of the suspension by the current company who provides Tazewell County Public Schools with our student-athlete drug-testing service or another drug-testing company approved by Tazewell County Public Schools administration that operates under SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) certified laboratory guidelines. This may be done at the parent's expense, and the test results must be negative.
4. The student-athlete must also agree to regular testing for illegal drugs at the discretion of Tazewell County Public Schools administration for the remainder of the school year for any/all sports the student-athlete wishes to participate. This will be done at the school system's expense as part of the normal drug-testing schedule.
5. Once items one (1) through four (4) have been successfully completed, a letter of reinstatement from the superintendent or superintendent's designee must be granted stating the student is in good standing before he/she may continue participation with athletics.

Second Violation: When the principal or his/her designee confirms that a violation occurred, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, the following will take place.

1. The student-athlete shall be suspended from play for a period of time equivalent to, and not less than, 50 percent of the total number of VHSL contest limitations for each sport to be played during the regular season (any fraction of the calculation will be dropped). The penalty will be applied immediately and include the next contest(s) including playoffs, and/or to the next sport season in which the student athlete participates within 365 calendar days. During the suspension period, the student-athlete will be allowed to attend practices and contests; however, the student-athlete will not be permitted to dress in team uniform for contests. Additionally, in the event the season concludes while the student-athlete is suspended, the student-athlete may be allowed to participate in try-outs for the next sports season only to the extent to determine placement on the team and only if the student-athlete has been retested, at the parent/guardian(s) expense, and the test results must be negative. After which time the student-athlete will be ineligible until all conditions of reinstatement have been completed.

2. The parent/guardian(s) will contact the Athletic Director within 5 school days of the suspension start date to arrange Counseling and Preventive Services (CAPS). This counseling must be completed before the student-athlete may be reinstated.
3. The student-athlete and parent/guardian(s) must agree to have the student-athlete tested at the end of the suspension by the current company who provides Tazewell County Public Schools with our student-athlete drug-testing service or another drug-testing company approved by Tazewell County Public Schools administration that operates under SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) certified laboratory guidelines. This will be done at the parent's expense, less extenuating circumstances and the test results must be negative.
4. The student-athlete must also agree to regular testing for illegal drugs at the discretion of Tazewell County Public Schools administration for the remainder of the school year for any/all sports in which the student-athlete wishes to participate. This will be done at the parent's expense, less extenuating circumstances, and the test results must be negative.
5. Once items one (1) through four (4) have been successfully completed, a letter of reinstatement from the superintendent or superintendent's designee must be granted stating the student is in good standing before he/she may continue participation with athletics.

Third Violation: When the principal or his/her designee confirms that a violation occurred, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, the following will take place.

A student-athlete who is found responsible for a third violation during their VHSL eligibility is ineligible to participate in all VHSL sanctioned events while enrolled in Tazewell County Public Schools.

Drug Testing of Student-Athletes

Purpose and Intent

In keeping with the mission of Tazewell County Public Schools, the role of the student-athlete drug testing policy and substance abuse programs is to protect student health, safety and welfare, and to strengthen partnerships among faculty, administrators, coaches, parents, and students in order to reduce drug related barriers and hazards to academic, athletic and personal development success.

Guidelines

Any 8th-12th grade student established as an athlete at the junior varsity or varsity level will be subject to random drug testing. An established athlete is one who is on a Virginia High School League (VHSL) Master Eligibility List (MEL). The student athlete retains this status until the next MEL for any VHSL-sanctioned activity is submitted to the VHSL.

Non-Compliance

If the student-athlete refuses to be tested or attempts to tamper with or assist others in tampering with the sample, the student-athlete will be dropped from the team, absent extenuating circumstances.

Drug Testing Procedures

This policy is not designed to be academically punitive, but to ensure the student's health while participating in athletics.

- A. Sample random selection with replacement will be used for the drug testing process.
- B. A Third Party Administrator (TPA) will be contracted to conduct all testing and will be responsible for the random selection with replacement and testing process.
- C. Testing will be performed monthly. At each site visited, ten percent of the total population of student – athletes participating in athletic events during that sport season will be tested. Middle school students participating in Junior Varsity athletics selected to test will be transported to their respective high school
- D. A copy of the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Master Eligibility List, identifying athletes for every sport, per sports season, will be used to determine who will be eligible for testing. For the purpose of confidentiality, student-athletes will be identified by a unique number as designated by the school.
- E. Drug testing will be performed by collecting a urine sample.
- F. Testing will take place at each school by the TPA.

- G. Students will remain under school supervision until an adequate sample can be provided. If a student has not provided a reliable sample by the end of the school day, then the student will be ineligible to participate in the remaining portion of that sport's season absent extenuating circumstances.
- H. The TPA will provide testing materials, testers and a Medical Review Officer (MRO).
- I. In the event of a positive test result, the MRO will make direct contact with the parent/guardian to resolve any extenuating circumstances, medical or other, that may have contributed to an inability to provide a sample, or a positive test result. Tazewell County Public Schools will not be involved in resolving positive testing results.
- J. After all testing and test results have been verified, the final report will be provided by the TPA to the Superintendent/Designee.
- K. The Superintendent/Designee will provide the results to each school's principal.

Positive Test Results

In the event the final report has identified any failures to provide a sample, or verified positive test results, the TPA will contact the Superintendent/Designee and then the Superintendent/Designee will notify the Principal. The Principal will contact the parent/guardian and a conference will be scheduled to present the test results to the parent/guardian.

For positive results, the Tazewell County Public Schools Pledge Program will be enforced, per School Board Policy JFC-R.9, Student-Athlete Substance Abuse Policy.

For positive results for the use of anabolic steroids, an athlete will also be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition for two years per the Virginia High School League (VHSL). A failure to provide a sample will be considered a positive test result unless there are extenuating medical circumstances that physically prevent a student from providing a sample.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of test results must be maintained at all levels including the TPA, the School Board, the Superintendent, the Principal, the Athletic Director, and the coach. No penalties or restrictions will be placed on a student's participation in any other non-VHSL activities. Results will not be placed in the student's cumulative records.

Drugs Tested

The substances commonly tested for, but not limited to, are: controlled substances, imitation controlled substances, illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

Approved by the School Board: February 9, 2015