

Marion County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Drug Testing for Athletes	Descriptor Code: 6.3072	Issued Date: 04/24/01
		Rescinds: 6.3072	Issued: 12/15/97

1 Marion County Schools is concerned with the physical well-being of its students including those who
2 participate in all athletics. While the misuse of drugs is a potential problem for all students, unique pressures
3 and risks exist for student-athletes participating in athletics and the use of drugs cannot be tolerated.
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5 The primary purposes of the drug testing policy for student-athletes are:
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- 7 1. To employ education, testing and counseling to deter drug use, and where deterrence is unsuccessful,
8 terminate participation in athletics;
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- 10 2. To educate those students on the physiological and psychological dangers inherent in the misuse
11 of drugs and alcohol;
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- 13 3. To protect those students from health-related risks inherent in the misuse of drugs and alcohol;
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- 15 4. To protect those students, and others with whom they compete from potential injury because of
16 the misuse of drugs and alcohol.
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- 18 5. To remove the stigma of substance abuse from those athletes who do not misuse and/or abuse drugs
19 or alcohol.
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- 21 6. To provide a testing program to identify student-athletic who are improperly using drugs and to
22 assist them, through education and counseling, before they injure themselves or others or become
23 physiologically or psychologically dependent.
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- 25 7. To reassure athletes, parents, and the community that the health and academic progress of each
26 of its student-athletic is the primary goal of Marion County Schools.
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28 **DRUG TESTING PROCEDURES**

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30 The student-athletics will be subject to testing for the use and/or abuse of illegal or controlled substances
31 as well as prescription and over-the-county substances, drugs or medications. Student-athletics who are
32 under the care of a physician and must take a prescribed medication shall provide a letter from that physician
33 for the head coach. This letter shall describe the medical history indicating a need for the regular use of
34 that drug as part of that care. Testing will be accomplished by the analysis of urine specimens, or other
35 recognized analytical procedures, such specimen to be obtained from the student at the direction of the
36 head coach or team physician. The testing procedures shall ensure that the specimen being analyzed is
37 identified with the appropriate student and that the purity of the sample is maintained. All chemical analyses
38 will be conducted by a professional laboratory to be selected by the Board of Education.
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FREQUENCY OF TESTING

1. All athletes shall be subject to testing at the time of their pre-participation physical. (This is the only test that will be announced.)
2. All athletes shall be subject to random drug testing throughout the year.
3. All past positives shall be subject to further drug testing throughout the year and all future tests as a result of a positive test shall be paid for by the athlete.
4. An athlete can be tested whenever medically warranted.

TEST RESULTS

The results of the drug test shall be forwarded to the principal and head coach. The following action shall be taken.

First Positive - The head coach, principal, parent/guardian and athlete will be notified. The athlete shall be placed on probation for a period of 30 days and will not be allowed to participate in any regularly scheduled TSSAA activity for the 30 day period. If the first positive occurs during the off-season, there shall be a 30 day probationary period including 12 hours of additional activity and 2 weeks suspension from regularly scheduled TSSAA activity. After 30 days the athlete shall be retested. The athlete shall be reinstated with a negative test as long as other disciplinary action and a drug counseling program (determined by a professional counselor) have been completed. The athlete shall produce a normal urine sample for testing. The athlete shall be subject to periodic retesting throughout the year. The athlete and parent/guardian shall be counseled by the head coach and/or team physician concerning the assistance that is available and the consequences of any subsequent positive drug tests.

Second Positive- A positive drug test at any time after the thirty day probationary period for a first positive shall constitute a second positive. The head coach, principal, parent/guardian and student-athlete shall be notified of the positive test results. The athlete shall lose the privilege of any further participation in the athletic program in the Marion County School System in any capacity for the remainder of his/her high school career. No application for reinstatement shall be allowed.

EDUCATION

At the time of initial participation and annually thereafter, student-athletes shall be advised in writing of the purpose and procedures of the drug education and testing program.

Educational seminars on drug and alcohol abuse shall be made available to all athletes at least once a semester and will be presented by professional and/or experienced drug educators or counselors.

Legal Reference:

1. *Vernonia School District v. Acton*; 115 S. Ct.2386 (1995), 101 Educ. L. Rep. 37