

Van Buren County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Drug Testing for Student Athletes	Descriptor Code: 6.3071	Issued Date: 08/19/10
		Rescinds: 6.3071	Issued: 12/16/04

1 In order to create a drug-free educational environment and to limit the potential liability for the school
2 system as a result of injury or health problems arising from substance abuse to members of the athletic
3 teams during competitive play, the Board authorizes drug testing for student athletes.
4

5 At the beginning of the season and continuing throughout the season, mandatory substance screenings
6 will be required for students in grades six (6) through twelve (12) who desire to participate in interscho-
7 lastic athletics. The drug test is not punitive, but is designed to create a safe, drug-free environment for
8 students involved in extracurricular activities and assist them in getting help when needed.
9

10 **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

11
12 *Student Athlete* — Any middle or high school student participating in interscholastic athletic activities
13 in the Van Buren County School System.
14

15 *Drugs* — Any substance considered illegal or controlled by the Food & Drug Administration. Sub-
16 stance abuse may, according to medical research, lead to serious health complications, which may lead
17 to death during extreme levels of physical exertion as is required of the student athlete during practice
18 and competition.
19

20 *Sport Season* — Fall, winter and spring seasons begin on the first day of practice allowed by the Ten-
21 nessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association.
22

23 **TESTING PROCEDURES**

24
25 The director of schools will contact and select an independent professional facility (doctor's office)
26 to collect the required specimens and to forward them to the proper place for the necessary testing.
27 Testing will be accomplished by the analysis of urine specimens obtained from the student athletes.
28 The independent professional facility (doctor's office) will be held responsible for ensuring that every
29 specimen being analyzed is identified with the appropriate student and that the purity of the sample is
30 maintained. The test results will be sent only to the director of schools/designee. Only the director of
31 schools/designee, affected principal, affected athletic director, and affected coaches shall have access
32 to the test results. All test results will be maintained at the central office in a secure manner with only
33 controlled access.
34

35 **FREQUENCY OF TESTING**

36
37 The student athlete, including cheerleaders and student support staff, is subject to random testing at the
38 time the preseason physical is conducted or at anytime throughout the sports season in which the student
39 is enrolled. Any athlete who previously tested positive for the first time will have to submit to testing
40 to regain his/her eligibility. The additional testing will be the responsibility of the student or parent.
41 All testing will be done at the same professional facility.

1 Refusal of test by a student athlete will be considered as a drug-positive test. The consequences will
2 be determined by the previous history of the individual athlete.

3
4 Any student athlete who tests positive (first offense) and then tests positive at a subsequent random test-
5 ing will forfeit his/her eligibility in all athletics for the duration of the student's athletic career.

6
7 Two or more positive drug tests brought about by either or both methods of testing will result in the
8 student athlete forfeiting all remaining eligibility while at Van Buren County High School.

9
10 If test results are positive because of medication prescribed by a doctor for the individual athlete, he/
11 she may appeal to the director of schools with the appropriate proof (prescription and a current doctor's
12 statement).

13 14 **RANDOM TEST PROCEDURES**

15
16 Random testing will be conducted at various intervals during the academic year in grades 6 - 12. Selec-
17 tion of student athletics for random testing shall be conducted in the following manner:

18
19 *Each student athlete will be assigned a random number within the system and four of these will*
20 *be randomly selected on a periodic basis. No individual will know the number of a student since*
21 *they will be assigned using specific software.*

22
23 *Notification of the numbers will be made by the director. Those selected for testing will be noti-*
24 *fied and tested the same day if possible.*

25 26 **CONSEQUENCES OF POSITIVE RESULTS**

- 27
28 1. The parent or guardian will be notified.
29 2. The principal will conference with the student and parent/guardian in regard to the consequence
30 of any subsequent positive drug test.
31 3. A list of available counseling and/or treatment programs will be provided to parents or guard-
32 ians.
33 4. The athlete will be suspended immediately from athletic practice and competition for one (1)
34 calendar year. To regain eligibility, the athlete must —
35 a. Complete the suspension period
36 b. Have negative results from latest drug-test conducted by the school system (paid for by the
37 parents)
38 c. The next positive result will end the athlete's eligibility
39 d. During the term of suspension, the student athlete shall have no association with the athletic
40 team at any athletic event or activity and shall not wear any apparel that is part of the official
41 team uniform.

42 43 **EDUCATION**

44
45 Student athletes will be provided a written copy of the policy in regard to drug testing of student athletes
46 prior to the first drug testing. Student athletes and parents, if they wish to attend, will be oriented to the
47 drug-testing program by the school principal, athletic director, or head coach. The session will include
48 an opportunity for both the students and their parents to ask questions.
49

1
2 A copy of this policy will be made available upon request at the school level from the school principal
3 and/or athletic director or coach as well as the central office of the Board.

4 5 **REASONABLE SUSPICION DRUG TESTING**

6
7 Any athlete may be required to submit to a drug screening if the following conditions are found to exist:
8

- 9
10 1. Observed use, possession or sale of illegal drugs and/or the use, possession, sale or
11 abuse of alcohol and/or prescription drugs.
- 12 2. Violation of criminal statutes involving the use of illegal drugs, alcohol or
13 prescription drugs and/or violation of drug statutes.
- 14 3. Any other facts or circumstances to which a reasonable person would indicate a
15 basis of probability that the athlete is using or possessing drugs.

16
17 All information, facts and circumstances leading to and supporting the suspicion should be included in
18 a written report detailing the basis for this suspicion. If the principal concludes that a reasonable sus-
19 picion of drug use or possession exists with respect to an athlete under this policy, the parent/guardian
20 will be contacted and the athlete will be required to submit to a drug screening. Testing procedures and
21 penalties will be adhered to as addressed within this policy.

22 23 **TESTING PROCEDURES** — *For Reasonable Suspension*

24
25 The director of schools will contact and select an independent professional facility (doctor's office)
26 to collect the required specimens and to forward them to the proper place for the necessary testing.
27 Testing will be accomplished by the analysis of urine specimens obtained from the student athletes.
28 The independent professional facility (doctor's office) will be held responsible for ensuring that every
29 specimen being analyzed is identified with the appropriate student and that the purity of the sample is
30 maintained. The test results will be sent only to the director of schools/designee. Only the director
31 of schools/designee and affected coaches shall have access to the test results. All test results will be
32 maintained at the central office in a secure manner with only controlled access.

33 34 **CONSEQUENCES OF POSITIVE RESULTS** — *Reasonable Suspension Testing*

- 35
36 1. The parent or guardian will be notified.
- 37 2. The principal will conference with the student and parent/guardian in regard to the consequence
38 of any subsequent positive drug test.
- 39 3. A list of available counseling and/or treatment programs will be provided to parents or guard-
40 ians.
- 41 4. The athlete will be suspended immediately from athletic practice and competition for one (1)
42 calendar year. To regain eligibility, the athlete must —
 - 43 a. Complete the suspension period
 - 44 b. Have negative results from latest drug-test conducted by the school system (paid for by the
45 parents)
 - 46 c. The next positive result will end the athlete's eligibility
 - 47 d. During the term of suspension, the student athlete shall have no association with the athletic
48 team at any athletic event or activity and shall not wear any apparel that is part of the official
49 team uniform.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

Refusal of test by a student athlete will be considered as a drug-positive test. The consequences will be determined by the previous history of the individual athlete.

Any student athlete who tests positive (first offense) and then tests positive at a subsequent random testing will forfeit his/her eligibility in all athletics for the duration of the student's athletic career.

Two or more positive drug tests brought about by either or both methods of testing will result in the student athlete forfeiting all remaining eligibility while at Van Buren County High School.

If test results are positive because of medication prescribed by a doctor for the individual athlete, he/she may appeal to the director of schools with the appropriate proof (prescription and a current doctor's statement).