

PURPOSE

The Cherokee County Board of Education and the educators and administrators of the different schools strongly believe that the use and abuse of drugs that are not prescribed for medical conditions can be detrimental to the physical, emotional, and mental health of its student athletes. It is further believed that this use and abuse seriously interferes with the performance of students as athletes, is dangerous to the student athlete and his/her teammates, and creates an unfair and damaging stigma for those student athletes who do not use or abuse drugs. It is from these concerns that a drug screening policy is initiated for Cherokee County Schools.

The purpose of the Drug Screening of Student Athletes Program is to identify student athletes who are using or abusing drugs in order that assistance can be provided to them through counseling, education, and treatment. The drug screening program is not intended to punish students or to eliminate them from participation in interscholastic sports. It is fully recognized that student athletes are considered leaders in the school system, and for this reason, should serve as positive role models for the rest of the student population. It is also believed that this program will help motivate our young people to reject the peer pressure placed on them to experiment with or become involved in drug use.

POSITIVE TEST RESULTS WILL NOT RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL OR NOTIFICATION OF LEGAL AUTHORITIES.

GOALS

Goals of the program are:

1. To educate our student athletes about the dangers and problems associated with drug use/abuse.
2. To prevent drug use/abuse by student athletes.
3. To identify any student athlete who may be using/abusing drugs and to determine the identity of the drug(s).
4. To educate student athletes involved in drug abuse about the effect drugs have on their physical, emotional and mental well being as well as the adverse effect to the athletic team and its members.
5. To provide opportunities for counseling and treatment for any student athlete who is determined to be using/abusing drugs.
6. To provide reasonable safeguards that every student athlete who participates in Cherokee County Middle and High School athletics is medically and physically competent.
7. To remove the stigma of drug use/abuse from those student athletes who do not use drugs.
8. To develop a drug free athletic program that produces student athletes who can serve as role models and influence their peers to lead healthy and responsible lives.

PROCEDURES

**DRUG SCREENING PROGRAM FOR
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES**

Policy Code: **4326**

1. Within 30 days of the beginning of the school year, all student athletes in grades 9-12, regardless of sex, who are planning to participate in any interscholastic sport at any Cherokee County School will be tested. Thereafter, all student athletes shall be subject to random testing. Random testing procedures are described in No. 5 below. Any 8th grade student participating in JV football will be considered as participating in high school athletics and be subject to drug testing.
2. Drug testing will be for the following drugs: Amphetamines, Cocaine, Opiates, Marijuana (THC), Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Methadone, Methaqualone, Phencyclidine and Propoxyphene.
3. Testing for anabolic steroids or other performance enhancing drugs may be conducted on an individual basis. Such testing may be part of the mandatory testing each August and may be part of any random testing. The drugs tested will be approved by any federally certified laboratory customarily testing such drugs.
4. All student athletes and prospective student athletes and their parent/guardian shall be provided a copy of the drug screening program. Written consent from the student and his/her parent/guardian shall be obtained before initial testing. The student athlete will personally deliver the consent form to the Athletic Director. The consent form will be placed in a lock box and shall be used to choose subjects for subsequent random tests.
5. The scheduled testing will be conducted by professional and accredited organizations approved by the principal and the superintendent. Specimens will be collected thusly: Each student athlete will be given a sealed specimen container and a specimen control form, each with matching assigned numbers.

Male student athletes shall be directed to a urinal in the bathroom adjacent to the boys' varsity dressing room. The adult monitor will be a male member of the appropriate high school coaching and teaching staff and shall be present in the bathroom when the specimen is being produced. The adult monitor will stand or sit with his back to the student athlete while the student athlete produces the specimen. The student athlete will then exit the bathroom and return the sample for analysis to a member of the staff from the appropriate testing agency.

Female student athletes shall be directed to a stall in the bathroom adjacent to the girls' varsity dressing room. The adult monitor will be a female member of the appropriate high school coaching and teaching staff and shall be present in the bathroom when the Specimen is being produced. The adult monitor will stand or sit with her back to the Student athlete while the student athlete produces the specimen. The student athlete will then exit the bathroom and return the sample for analysis to a member of the staff from the appropriate testing agency.

6. After the initial mandatory test at the beginning of the school year, the following procedure will be used to randomly select student athletes to be tested: Using the consent forms aforementioned in No. 3 above and adding the forms of any student who entered school late or decided to participate in athletics after the mandatory August test date, 10% of all student athletes will be chosen for random testing.

All student athletes shall be called simultaneously to the cafeteria by the Principal. Prior to calling this group to the cafeteria, the Principal will mark a chair. The student who sits in that chair will be asked to draw the aforementioned forms from the lock box. The Principal will tell the student the number of forms to draw. This number will be determined by multiplying the total number of forms by 0.1 and rounding to the nearest whole number. By example, 127 student athlete consent forms multiplied by 0.1 is 12.7; hence, the number of consent forms selected for this random test is 13.

7. **Without exception**, all student athletes shall be required to undergo testing in order to become eligible to participate in interscholastic sports in Cherokee County. Student athletes who enter school after the initial mandatory test date and student athletes who decide to participate in athletics after this initial test date will be tested during the earliest scheduled random test date. These student athletes will be permitted to participate in the athletic program on a limited basis before being tested. **Any student who refuses to take part in a random test will immediately lose his/her athletic eligibility for a minimum of twelve months and shall count as a positive drug test.** Students who were randomly chosen, but absent on the day of testing will have a maximum of 24 hours to complete a drug test at the Cherokee County Health Department. The Cherokee County Health Department will contact the Principal when the test has been completed. If a student fails to complete a drug test within the 24 hours required it will be treated as a first positive, (please refer to first positive discipline).
8. Cherokee County school personnel will neither assist with the actual testing nor have access to the test samples.
9. All results of testing will be forwarded by the appropriate testing agency to the Principal and Athletic Director. The Principal and Athletic Director will review all test results. An MRO is not required to review the tests. The test can stand and the student can appeal the decision.

When the Athletic Director has confirmed the existence of a positive test result, the student athlete will be privately informed. The Athletic Director will attempt to contact the parent/guardian of the student athlete to set up a meeting.

RESULTS OF POSITIVE DRUG TESTING

When a student tests positive for a drug or drugs the following procedures will apply:

First positive:

The student athlete and his/her parent/guardian and the principal are notified. The student athlete shall undergo either counseling for a minimum of a six-week period or attend a 12-hour drug education class and sign a form releasing the school system from any liability resulting from drugs or treatment. Parent/guardian shall be encouraged to attend counseling sessions with their student. The student athlete shall be suspended from participation in inter-scholastic sports for a period of six weeks. Retesting will take place before eligibility is restored. If the student athlete tests negative, he/she shall be reinstated to participate in sports provided he/she and the parent/guardian sign a form releasing the school from any liability for injury or illness. The student athlete shall be subject to additional drug testing for a minimum of twelve months. REFUSAL OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE OR HIS/HER PARENT/GUARDIAN TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT, MEDICAL RELEASE FORM AND FAILURE OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE TO UNDERGO COUNSELING AS SET FORTH IN THIS PARAGRAPH, SHALL BE TREATED AS A SECOND POSITIVE RESULT.

Second positive:

If a student athlete tests positive anytime during his/her career for a second time, the student and his/her parent/guardian and principal shall be immediately notified. The student athlete shall be suspended from participation in interscholastic sports for a minimum of twelve (12) months from the date of the second positive. (S)he and his/her parent/guardian shall sign a written agreement that they will participate in a counseling program for a minimum period of six weeks. Retesting on or about twelve (12) months from the second positive test will take place before eligibility is restored. If the student athlete tests negative, (s)he shall be reinstated to participate in sports provided (s)he and his/her parent/guardian sign a form releasing the school from any liability for injury or illness. The student athlete shall be subject to additional drug testing for the remainder of their attendance in Cherokee County Schools. REFUSAL OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE OR HIS/HER PARENT/GUARDIAN TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT, MEDICAL RELEASE FORM AND FAILURE OF THE STUDENT ATHLETE TO UNDERGO COUNSELING AS SET FORTH IN THIS PARAGRAPH, SHALL BE TREATED AS A THIRD POSITIVE RESULT.

Third positive:

If a student athlete tests positive any time during his/her middle or high school career for a third time, the student and the parent/guardian and principal shall be notified. The student athlete is suspended from participation in any interscholastic sport in Cherokee County Schools for the remainder of their school career.

APPEALS PROCESS

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Any student athlete testing positive for drugs is eligible to appeal the decision. Retesting of a positive sample is permitted at the student/parent/guardian request by certified letter sent to the drug testing service. The sample would then be sent to another **FEDERALLY CERTIFIED LABORATORY** paid in advance by the student/parent/guardian retesting at their own expense. Retesting results will be submitted to the Principal for review. If the principal's decision upon retesting has not changed, the student will be eligible to make use of the student grievance policy.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All test results will be confidential including the maintenance of a documented chain of custody of the specimen in order to protect the identity and integrity of the sample throughout the collection and testing process. All results will be filed by the Athletic Director in a confidential medical file and will be held in a locked file cabinet. The Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director, and the Principal will retain keys for this cabinet.

COUNSELING AND TREATMENT

All counseling and treatment must be provided by a licensed professional who is certified to treat substance abuse. It is the obligation of the student to pay for the cost of counseling and other required treatment recommended by the counselor.

RESOURCES

If the Cherokee County Board of Education has a counselor specializing in substance abuse employed in the school, the student athlete may utilize this service.

Legal References

Cross References:

Adopted: September 9, 1999 (Originally adopted April 8, 1997)
Amended: June 21, 2001
Amended: July 8, 2004
Amended: July 13, 2006
Amended: March 13, 2008
Amended: November 8, 2012
Amended: December 13, 2012

**STUDENT ATHLETE DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM
FOR CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Before participating in any sport, a student athlete and parent/guardian must sign this consent form before the student athlete is allowed to participate in any game or practice.

I. _____, do hereby declare that I will be a
(Name of Student)

participant in the school board approved drug screening of athletes. I authorize the school to administer drug testing and to release the results of the test to my parent/guardian, athletic director and the principal.

The parent/guardian, _____, consents to and authorizes the
(Name of Parent/Guardian)

Cherokee County School District to conduct a test on a urine specimen provided by the student to test for drug use and the release of information concerning the results of such a test to the parent/guardian, athletic director, and the principal.

Signature: Student

Signature: Parent/Guardian

Date