

Athletic Drug Testing Program

Overview

This administrative regulation establishes and requires participation in a random drug testing program for all students who participate in extracurricular athletics at Marshfield High School. While participation in athletics is optional, participation in this program is not optional for those students who want to be involved in athletics. It is required but it is not a disciplinary or punitive program. It does not include co-curricular activities such as music, dance, cheer team and forensics. The purpose of this program is to help insure the health, safety and welfare of student athletes by helping to prevent and/or reduce use of illegal drugs. Student athletes who test positive for illegal drugs will not be allowed to participate in competitions and may have restrictions on practice during the time they have the illegal drug(s) in their system.

The student and his/her parents must sign a consent form before participation in athletics will be allowed. The consent form only needs to be completed once and allows the student to be randomly drug tested at any time until he/she graduates or permanently leaves MHS. This program will test for illegal drugs by the use of breathalyzer, saliva and/or urinalysis. The specimen will be collected by a trained collector using standard guidelines that provide for individual privacy while ensuring the integrity of the test. Test results will be confidential and will not be used for any purpose other than those of this program. All test results will be shared with the student and his/her parents. The student athlete and his/her parents will have an opportunity to meet and explain any positive results before the results are declared as a verified positive. Verified positive test results will be shared with the student's coach and the MHS athletic director on a need to know basis. Students with verified positive tests will be prohibited from participating in competitions and may have restrictions on practice for a minimum of 10 days; and, until they are re-tested with negative (clean) results; and, until they agree to a plan to help insure that their health, safety and welfare are protected. Students who do not agree to such a plan or who do not follow it will be considered to be in violation of school rules. They will be subject to the disciplinary policies of the school not for the positive drug test but for being defiant of school rules (insubordination).

Relevant Board Policy

In paraphrased form, policies of the district say:

Students have a right to attend school in an environment conducive to learning. Since drug, alcohol and tobacco use is illegal, contagious and interferes with both effective learning and the healthy development of children and adolescents, the school has a fundamental legal and ethical obligation to prevent drug use and to maintain drug free educational environments (Policy IGAEB). It will be the policy of the district to provide a learning environment that is safe. Schools should be free from drugs and alcohol (Board policy JFCI). It is the district's obligation to protect the health, welfare and safety of students (Board policy JFCG). Rules for athletes which reflect the positive values of abstaining from the use of drugs, alcohol

and tobacco shall be created (Board policy IGDC). A safe environment for athletic practice and competition shall be provided (Board policy IGDC).

Statement of Purpose

To assist in fulfilling the above district policies, goals and obligations, this administrative regulation requires all students who desire to be involved in athletics at Marshfield High School to participate in the random drug testing program herein established.

The purpose of this program is to prevent students from participating in athletics at Marshfield High School during any time they are under the influence of illegal drugs. The student's health, welfare and safety as well as the safety of others will be the prime reasons for this. In addition to the long and short term health risks associated with the use of illegal drugs, their use can physically, mentally and emotionally alter the body affecting the athlete's perceptions, reaction time, physical skills, judgment and/or temperament. Such changes could put the athlete as well as his/her teammates and competitors at risk of injury. As defined in Board policy JFCI, "under the influence" means at any time available tests can detect the illegal substance in the athlete's body.

This drug testing program is not intended to be disciplinary or punitive in nature. Disciplinary and punitive programs already exist. This program is in addition to all such programs and has no effect on them. However, no student shall be disciplined as a result of any verified positive test conducted under this program other than as stated herein. This program does not affect the current policies, practices or rights of the district, Marshfield High School or its athletic department with respect to drug possession or use, where reasonable suspicion or proof is obtained by means other than drug testing through this program. Information gained from other programs and under other policies may be used in this program.

Reasonable Concern

Marshfield High School has a commitment to the health, safety and welfare of all of its students. National, state and county surveys and information indicate that substance abuse continues to exist among high school students. Information from the undercover policeman during the 1997-98 school year, from results in the Reasonable Suspicion Drug Testing Program, from suspensions by Marshfield's Dean Of Students, from use of the drug detection dog, from results in the Voluntary Free Confidential Random Drug Testing Program, from surveys and from reports of reliable staff, students, parents and community members as well as reports from local law enforcement agencies all indicate that some MHS students use illegal drugs. It is further known that some of these students who use illegal drugs are athletes. Even though MHS and the district already have in place excellent educational programs, discipline programs and athletic codes, the goal of all students being drug free has not yet been achieved.

Program Goals

The goals of this program are to help prevent and/or reduce the use of illegal drugs among all MHS students by focusing on one group of students – athletes. Athletes who use illegal drugs place their health,

safety and welfare at risk in ways that other students do not. Athletes also have unique responsibilities as leaders and role models. Thus, to provide for the health, safety and welfare of athletes as well as to prevent and reduce their use of illegal drugs this program will:

1. Help prevent use of illegal drugs by making it easier for athletes to say no because of this program.
2. Help reduce use of illegal drugs by making it easier for athletes to say no because of this program.
3. Educate the athletes further in the effects and consequences of illegal drug use.
4. Assist those athletes who might be using to stop.
5. By not allowing the athlete to participate while under the influence of illegal drugs:
 - a. Help protect the athlete from the health related risks of drug use;
 - b. Help protect the athlete from injury;
 - c. Help protect team members and competitors from injury.
6. Promote the image of athletes as role models and leaders in the eyes of other students and the community.

Scope

This program will include all students in grades 9 -12 who participate in Oregon School Activity Association governed extracurricular athletic programs at Marshfield High School.

The reasons for this selection include:

1. Athletic participation is voluntary. It is a privilege. It is not required;
2. As an extracurricular activity, credit is not awarded for athletic participation. Thus, possible denial or restriction of the privilege to participate under this program would not affect a student's graduation;
3. The possibility of injury is greater in athletics than in nonathletic activities;
4. Students participating in athletics already have additional requirements placed on them that are above and beyond those of other students, including:
 - a. Marshfield's Athletic Code;
 - b. Team Rules;
 - c. Dress Codes;
 - d. OSAA Rules and Regulations; and
 - e. Grade and Credit Requirements (MHS, District, and OSAA).
5. Students participating in athletics are already required to provide medical/physical information (i.e., athletic physical) so that the school can help insure their health, welfare and safety;

6. Athletes, by the very nature of sports, already have a lower expectation of privacy than other students;
7. The community, other students and the school itself have a higher expectation of athletes. They are leaders and role models.

Procedures

This program will be administered by the principal's designee (hereafter called program manager) who will have the authority to develop school rules and guidelines as needed to implement this program.

1. Registration

Each student who desires to participate in athletics covered by this program must sign, have his or her parents sign and return the consent form prior to participation in any athletic activity. Failure to return the form will result in no athletic participation of any type (including but not limited to practices and competitions).

This form only needs to be completed once during the student's high school career. Completion of the form will allow the student to participate in this drug testing program from the time the form is turned in until such time that the student graduates or permanently leaves Marshfield. The student athlete, once signed up, will be eligible for random selection drug testing at any time in or out of his/her sports season(s).

A student may withdraw from this program by written request signed by the student and a parent. Once withdrawn from the program, the student may not participate in MHS athletics again until he/she re-registers. To re-register a new consent form must be completed and the athlete must request (at the student's/parent's expense) a drug test and pass it. This process can take a week or longer.

2. Selection

Selection of athletes to be tested will be done randomly by the program manager from the pool of all athletes who have turned in their consent forms. Random selection can be by individual, team and/or grade. Testing will generally occur during the school day during the regular school year. It can, however, occur during practices, before or after school and on weekends. Testing can also occur at any time during the year but will generally be done between the first day of fall practice in August and the last day of class for the school year in June.

3. Tests and Substances Tested For

This program will test for illegal drugs by the use of breathalyzers, saliva and/or urinalysis. All samples will be tested for marijuana or marijuana and methamphetamines. Nearly all, if not all, samples will be screened and tested for the following seven classes of drugs: Amphetamines (including methamphetamines), Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines (such as Librium and Valium), Cocaine, THC (marijuana), Opiates and Alcohol. Tests for tobacco and/or performance enhancing drugs (i.e. steroids) may also be conducted. The district and Marshfield High School, however,

maintain and reserve the right to test for any and all illegal drugs and are not limited by this listing. Samples will be tested using current standards and testing procedures. Laboratory services will be provided by fully qualified and licensed professional drug testing services.

4. Collection Procedures

After being selected, the collection procedures will be explained to the student. The specimen will be collected by a trained collector using standard guidelines which provide for individual privacy unless there is reason to believe the student may attempt to alter or substitute the specimen. Whenever possible, the trained collector will be of the same gender as the student. Strict procedures are followed to ensure the integrity of the specimen. Students will be asked to remove outer garments such as coats and gloves. They will be asked to leave backpacks and purses outside of the collection area. They may be asked to wash and dry their hands before providing the sample. The student will provide the specimen in a locker room restroom; or in the privacy of a bathroom, stall or otherwise partitioned area that allows for individual privacy. If the location is such (i.e. locker room, stall or partitioned area) that the collector is in the room, the collector shall be of the same sex as the student. Depending on the location, the water may be turned off in the sink and dye may be placed in the toilet before the student provides the specimen. Students will be allowed up to one hour to provide the specimen. If the student is unable to provide the specimen in that time, he/she will be required to return at a later time as determined by the program manager to provide the specimen under a higher degree of supervision with the requirement of additional drug tests to deter any possibility of alteration or substitution of specimens.

5. Chain of Custody

The collector will check the specimen for obvious adulterations and record the temperature on the Chain of Custody form. The student will then sign the chain of custody form and will place his or her initials or other identifying code on the seal. The seal will be placed on the sample. If this seal is broken for any reason before the specimen is to be tested, the specimen is declared invalid. When a specimen is declared invalid, the student will be asked to provide another specimen as soon as possible at a time determined by the program manager.

6. Drug Test Results

The following procedures will be used with the results of all drug tests done through this program:

a. All Results

The results of the drug test as well as who has been tested is confidential information. Results will only be shared with the athlete, his or her parents and in the case of verified positive test results with the coach and athletic director on a need to know basis. No staff member other than the program manager is to share any information about specific students gained from this program with anyone. If asked and he/she feels the need to respond, the student's coach shall only say, "The student and I have decided that the student will not participate until further notice."

b. Negative Results

If the results of a drug test are negative (clean) for all drugs the program manager will notify the athlete and his/her parents.

c. Positive Results

If the results of the drug test are positive for any drug, the program manager will arrange a meeting with the athlete and his/her parents to discuss the results and to determine if it is a verified positive test. At this meeting the parents and athlete can, if they desire, present evidence that the positive results were due to prescribed medication or other reasons which will be considered in determining whether the positive test has been satisfactorily explained. The parent or athlete can, at their own expense, appeal by requesting that the specimen be re-tested. For every positive test, the program manager will assist the parents and athlete to arrange a plan to help insure that the athlete's health, safety and welfare is protected.

d. Verified Positive Results During An Athlete's Sport Season

If the test is verified as positive, the program manager will:

Meet with the athlete and his/her parents to provide information, suggestions and/or resources that may be of assistance to the family.

Inform the athlete and his/her parents that the athlete cannot participate in competitions and that practice may be restricted until such time as a follow-up test is requested by the program manager and negative (clean) results are reported back to the program manager. The program manager will request the follow up test after such an interval of time that the substance previously found would normally have been eliminated from the body but due to drug testing being done to cut off levels higher than zero, this time span shall not be less than one week. It may take up to one additional week to receive back the result report after the student is re-tested. In no case shall the athlete be allowed to participate in competitions in less than 10 days after the initial verified positive test.

Require the athlete to follow any plan of assistance, including regular drug tests, developed by the program manager for the athlete. Students who do not agree to such a plan or who do not follow it will be considered to be in violation of school rules. They will be subject to the disciplinary policies of the school not for the positive drug test but for being defiant of school rules (insubordination).

Inform the athletic director and the athlete's coach that the student may not participate in competitions until further notice. The program manager will use his/her professional judgment of the type and amount of illegal substance to determine when and if the student will be allowed to condition or practice as well as any restrictions to practice during this time period. The athlete will remain on the team and shall attend practices and competitions as a "not dressed down player" even if he or she is not participating.

e. Verified Positive Results Not During an Athlete's Sport Season

If the test is verified as positive, the program manager will:

- (1) Meet with the athlete and his/her parents to provide information, suggestions and resources that the family may want to contact for help.
- (2) Inform the athlete and his/her parents that the athlete cannot participate in athletics until such time as a follow up test is requested by the program manager and the negative (clean) results are reported back to the program manager. The program manager will request the follow up test after such an interval of time that the substance previously found would normally have been eliminated from the body, but due to drug testing being done to cut off levels higher than zero, this time span shall not be less than one week. It may take up to one additional week to receive back the result report after the student is re-tested. In no case, however, shall the athlete be allowed to participate in less than 10 days after the initial verified positive test.
- (3) Require the athlete to take and pass a drug test before he/she begins his/her next sports season.
- (4) Require the athlete to follow any plan of assistance, including regular drug testing, developed by the program manager for the athlete. Students who do not agree to such a plan or who do not follow it will be considered to be in violation of school rules. They will be subject to the disciplinary policies of the school not for the positive drug test but for being defiant of school rules (insubordination).

7. Positive Follow Up Tests; Additional Positive Tests

If a follow up drug test is returned as positive and then verified positive, the same procedures listed above will be used to ensure that the athlete's welfare, safety and health are protected.

8. Not Showing Up For A Test; Refusal To Be Tested

An athlete who does not show up to be tested when requested or refuses to be tested will be considered to have a verified positive test as in 6D or 6E above.

Financial Responsibility

1. Under this program Marshfield High School will pay for all initial random drug tests as well as all follow up drug tests requested by the program manager. Funds for these tests will come from donations from the community, Athletic Department Funds, user fees, gate receipts and/or other Marshfield funds.
2. Requests on appeal for another test of a positive urine specimen is the financial responsibility of the athlete and or his/her parents.
3. Counseling and/or treatment by nonschool agencies is the financial responsibility of the athlete and or his/her parents.

4. Re-registration testing and/or follow up testing requested by the athlete or his/her parents shall be paid for by the athlete or his/her parents.

Education Component

Near the beginning of each sports season, the coach of each team will hold a team meeting to review this policy with the team members and to offer further education regarding substance abuse. This meeting shall be planned by the coach in consultation with the athletic director. The program manager may hold additional team meetings to provide more detailed information or additional educational opportunities.

Confidentiality

Under this drug testing program, any staff, coach, assistant, volunteer or sponsor of or with a Marshfield High School athletic team who may have knowledge of the results of a drug test done through this testing program will not divulge to anyone the results of any test or the disposition of the student involved other than in the case of a legal subpoena being made upon the person. This underscores Marshfield High School's commitment to confidentiality with regards to this program.