

POLICY JFG-R**DRUG TESTING OF STUDENT ATHLETES & STUDENT DRIVERS**Philosophy

In keeping with the mission of the Page County Public Schools, the role of the student-athlete and student-driver drug testing policy and programs is to protect student health, safety and welfare, and to strengthen partnerships among faculty, administrators, coaches, parents, and students in order to reduce alcohol and other drug related barriers and hazards to academic, athletic and personal development and success. This policy is being implemented to deter drug abuse or misuse by students and to provide them with an excuse to say NO TO DRUGS. Furthermore, this policy is geared to provide a vehicle for parents to become aware of drug abuse problems involving their children so that we can partner together in getting help for students. Page County Public Schools is committed to eliminating student drug abuse.

This policy is directly related to policies governing student searches and student conduct.

Definitions

- A. Drug – any substance considered illegal by Virginia Statute or which is controlled by the Food and Drug Administration.
- B. Student athlete – any student participating in high school interscholastic athletic programs as defined by Virginia High School League definitions and sponsored by the Page County Public Schools.
- C. Sport Season – Fall, Winter, and Spring season begin on the first day of practice allowed by the Virginia High School League and end when the team has completed its season. This policy will be in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during an athlete's sport season, through and including post-season play (playoffs, regionals, etc.).
- D. Student Driver – Any student who registers for a parking permit and parks in the school parking lot.
- E. Calendar Year – a 12-month period from the date of occurrence.

Drug Testing Procedures

This policy is designed not to be academically punitive, but to assure the student's health. The standard athletic and student driver drug-testing program includes tests to deter drug use and help students live drug free lives. The main points of the program are as follows:

- A. If there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a student is using a prohibited substance (for example, Marijuana, THC, steroids, etc.), including but not limited to alcohol or drugs, that student athlete and/or driver will be required to undergo a test to confirm or deny the substance.
- B. Student Athletes may be randomly tested in each season they participate. (Example: a student who plays football could be tested during the football season and if the student plays basketball, could be tested in the basketball season.). Student drivers may be randomly tested anytime upon requesting parking privileges at the school.
- C. Approximately 5% of the active student athletes and/or student drivers will be selected for random tests each 9 weeks period. All student athletes and student drivers will be eligible for a random test.
- D. Students will not be notified in advance of any drug test. Students will be called to the school testing site by a school official.

E. 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 and/or drive until a negative sample is provided at the next random test. Students will have access to their school materials during this time.

F. Any sample registering below 92° Fahrenheit will be rejected. Also, if the lab technician suspects tampering has occurred, the sample will be rejected and another sample must be provided. If tampering occurs in an attempt by the student not to comply with the policy, the student will be dropped from the team and/or lose their driving privilege, absent extenuating circumstances.

G. The cut-off level for THC is the same as the department of Transportation and National Institute for Drug Abuse Standards.

Consent

The random drug testing consent form will be made available to all students at the beginning of the school year, or upon school board approval of this policy. This can be picked up at the high school office, or downloaded/printed from the school's website. To participate on any school sponsored athletic team, and/or gain approval to drive to/from school, the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign a consent form by which the student agrees to participate in the drug testing program. The consent form must be turned in to the coach and/or school administration in advance of participation in a specific sport or right to drive to/from school. The consent form will be valid for the current school year and must be renewed annually.

Non-Compliance

If the student, or parent(s)/guardians refuse to sign the consent form or seek to review or rescind consent already given, the student will not be permitted to be a member of a team and/or drive to/from school. Also, if during the year the student refuses to be tested or attempts to tamper with or assist others in tampering with the sample, the student will be dropped from the team, or forfeit their driving privilege for the remainder of the year, absent extenuating circumstances.

Procedures

After all eligible students have signed a consent form they will be assigned to the random pool for the duration of participation in the random drug-testing program. For random drug testing, each student will be randomly selected in advance by the testing company. This selection will remain confidential. Such random drug testing may occur at any time during the school day. The drug testing company will randomly select student names, and school administration will identify the selected participants each time the company comes in to randomly test students. Participants will be called for testing in the order listed until all have been identified as available for testing. Testing will occur during the school year only.

Positive Test Results

Positive test results will be cumulative over a student's high school career. In the event of a confirmed positive test result, the testing agency will notify the Principal. The parent/guardian will be contacted immediately and a private conference will be scheduled to present the test results to the parent/guardian. A meeting will then be set up with the student, parent/guardian, and principal concerning the positive drug test.

Progressive Actions Following Positive Test Results

• First Positive Test Result

The athlete will be removed from game participation for the next 45 days. Students may continue to practice during this time. The student athlete must complete a substance abuse education/intervention program at the school's expense. Students will lose their parking privileges at school while suspended from athletic competition.

The student driver will lose the privilege to drive to/from school (and park on school property) for the next 45. The student must complete a substance abuse education/intervention program at the school's expense.

• Second Positive Test Result

The athlete will be removed from participation in practice and competition beginning on the date of the positive test result registered by the testing laboratory, in all sports, for 90 days. The student athlete must complete a substance abuse education/intervention program. The student athlete will also be placed on poor school standing (PSS) for 90 days.

The student driver will lose the privilege to drive to/from school (and park on school property) beginning on the date of the positive test result registered by the testing laboratory, for 90 days. The student athlete must complete a substance abuse education/intervention program. The student driver will also be placed on poor school standing (PSS) for 90 days.

• Third Positive Test Result

The athlete will be ineligible for participation in interscholastic athletics for the next 365 days. The student athlete must complete a substance abuse education/intervention program at their own expense.

The student driver will lose the privilege to drive to/from school (and park on school property) beginning on the date of the positive test result registered by the testing laboratory, for 365 days. The student athlete must complete a substance abuse education/intervention program.

Student Athletes and Student Drivers will be placed on Poor School Standing and lose their driving privileges for the next 365 days. The student driver must complete a substance abuse education/intervention program at their own expense.

Appeal

Appeals will be limited to consideration of procedural irregularities. A written appeal may be submitted to the Page County Schools Director for Administration within five (5) working days of the positive confirmation test by the parent/guardian, or student if eighteen years of age or older. The appeal will be considered by the appeals committee. A decision will be reached within fifteen (15) working days of the date the appeal is received.

The appeal committee will consist of at least three of the following five (5) individuals: Director for Administration, School Principal, Director of Support Services, Director of Instruction, and Director of Special Services. The student athlete may not practice or compete until the appeals process is complete. The student driver may not drive to/from school until the appeals process is complete.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of test results must be maintained at all levels including the testing agency, the School Board, the Superintendent, the Principal, the Assistant Principal, the Athletic Director, and the coach. No penalties or restrictions will be placed on a student's participation in any other non-athletic activities, and no actions will be taken by the school against the student except as outlined in the positive test results section of this policy.

Adopted: October 29, 2018

Legal References: Code of Virginia 22.1-206; 22.1-279.6; 22.1-279.7; Guidelines Concerning Student Drug Testing in Virginia Public Schools, Virginia Board of Education, 2004

Cross References: JFC Student Conduct JFC-R Standards of Student Conduct JFG Search and Seizure