

DRUG EDUCATION AND TESTING PROGRAM

The University of Texas at Arlington Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

Concerns

- A. Athletes need full knowledge of the harm that drugs may cause and an awareness of the benefits of avoidance and the nature of rehabilitation. The extraordinary public scrutiny and performance pressures to which they are subjected present unusual temptations and possibilities for exploitation and exposure to drugs with which even the more sophisticated may find difficulties in coping.
- B. Those attempting to combine athletic activities with drug abuse may create additional risks both to themselves and to teammates. The reduction in mental alertness, the behavior modifications – whether excessive aggression or increased indifference – expose student-athletes to physical injury. These risks are both immediate (e.g. practice injuries) and long-term (in the classroom, library and laboratory).
- C. Given the substantial time and energy required for participation in intercollegiate athletics, students who permit drug use to affect and alter their athletic performance are likely to see corresponding declines in their ability and motivation to honor their primary obligations in academic endeavors (in the classroom, library and laboratory).
- D. The NCAA can require random selection drug testing throughout the year for student-athletes participating in any NCAA sport. The NCAA can also require drug testing at all NCAA certified bowls and national championship events throughout the year for student-athletes in any sport. Discovering a student-athlete's drug problem when the NCAA performs drug testing is too late. Both the student-athlete and the University are put in a very embarrassing situation if a positive test occurs. We should make every effort to prevent such an occurrence.

Purpose of Drug Testing

As an extension of the drug education programs, and for the mutual best interests of the University and all students participating in intercollegiate athletics, a program of drug testing will be in operation in all our intercollegiate sports programs during the current academic year. The purposes of the program are to prevent illicit drug usage, to alert students who could have possible drug problems to the serious physical, mental and emotional harm caused by drug abuse, and to maintain an athletics environment free of drug abuse consistent with the high standards of the a University and with the overall development and education of its student-athletes. However, drug abuse (whether disclosed through drug testing or otherwise) obviously is inconsistent with participation in intercollegiate athletics, and procedures for dealing with such a problem are described in the following drug testing program.

Aim of the UTA Drug Testing Program

The UTA drug testing program is primarily aimed at detecting the presence in the body of “street drug” residues, such as amphetamines, cannabinoids, (substances contained in marijuana), heroin, cocaine, and other controlled substances, but also may include procedures to detect anabolic steroids and other so called “performance enhancing “ drugs.

Participants in the Drug Testing Program

The drug-testing program is intended for all student-athletes participating in any of the NCAA affiliated men and women's intercollegiate sports at The University of Texas at Arlington. Student-athletes may be selected for participation regardless of whether or not they are receiving any athletic-related financial aid (scholarship).

Selection of student-athletes for drug testing may be made on the basis of suspicion of use or athletic department-determined random choice.

Program Administrators

The team physicians, acting in a physician/patient relationship with each student-athlete, the Head Athletic Trainer, and the Assistant Athletic Trainer designated as the Drug Testing Coordinator, both of whom act under the Team Physician's supervision, will administer the drug education and testing program.

Notification

Before any aspect of the drug testing program begins, each student-athlete and his parent(s), legal guardian(s), and/or spouse will receive a written copy of the University's "Drug Education and Testing Program" and a form on which the student-athlete, by his or her signature, acknowledges receipt, indicates understanding of the program and provides voluntary consent to the urinalyses involved and to the release of the testing results to a limited and predetermined number of individuals. Signing of the consent form by each student-athlete is a **pre-condition of participation** in the UTA intercollegiate athletic program.

Method of Testing

All student-athletes will participate in drug screening urinalyses to permit testing for any or all of the substances, which appear on the NCAA's list of banned drugs (see attached NCAA drug testing regulations).

Except when prescribed by a qualified physician to treat an individual's medical condition, use of the following "street drug" substances by a student-athlete in the UTA intercollegiate athletics program is expressly prohibited and shall be considered in significant violation of program rules and regulations:

- Amphetamines (speed)
- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepines
- Cocaine metabolites
- Methadone
- Opiates – morphine, Meperidine (Demerol), codeine, dilaudid, heroin
- Phencyclidine-PCP (Angel Dust), Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD)
- Propoxyphene (Darvon)
- Tetrahydrocanna-binal (THC or marijuana)

The collection of urine samples from the student-athletes shall be made under the supervision of the representatives of the drug testing company contracted by the institution to perform the institutions student-athlete drug test. Upon being collected by the representatives, the specimens will be handled appropriately, strictly adhering to all chain of custody procedures. The results will be returned within 48 hours to the drug testing coordinator or the team physician who will review the results to determine which, if any, are positive (i.e. result indicating the presence in the urine of one or more banned substances at a detectable level).

Any unexcused absences from the testing procedure will be treated as the equivalent of a positive test.

When a positive test is received, the drug testing coordinator will arrange for that result to be confirmed by a repeat analysis of a retained portion of the original urine specimen by preferably another sophisticated computer analysis procedure – gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS).

Every possible step will be taken to insure the integrity of the testing procedures and to assume and maintain the accuracy and confidentiality of the test results, including the maintenance of a documented chain of custody for each specimen.

Reaction to a Positive Test

1. Following confirmation of a first positive test result, the Team Physician will privately inform the student-athlete of the test results, and discuss the medical implications of the findings with that student-athlete.

The Team Physician(s) will inform the Head Athletic Trainer of the student's identity, the test results and their consultation with the student-athlete. The Team Physician(s) and the Head Athletic Trainer will have discretionary authority under the consent form to privately advise the Director of Athletics and the student-athlete's Head Coach. The Team Physician or Head Athletic Trainer will also inform the parents of the student-athlete regarding the positive drug test results provided the student-athlete has given permission for this contact in the signed consent form.

The student-athlete shall be required to undergo subsequent regular testing until such time as the screenings, in the opinion of the Team Physician, are no longer necessary. Follow-up tests will be administered after an interval of time sufficient for the previously found substance to be eliminated from the body if no intervening drug use has occurred. After a first positive test result for banned substances, the sanctions shall include participation in a drug education program and subsequent regular testing under the supervision of the Team Physician.

Failure to submit to subsequent required testing or participate in the prescribed drug education programs will be considered another positive test.

For a first occurrence, the physician, the Director of Athletics, the Head Athletic Trainer or the head coach may not disclose the matter of a student-athlete's testing results to any other person without the student-athlete's written consent.

2. After a second positive test result for a banned substance, the Team Physician will immediately discuss that student-athlete's test results with the student-athlete, the Head Athletic Trainer, and the Director of Athletics. The Head Athletic Trainer or the Director of Athletics will immediately inform the student-athlete's Head Coach, the student-athlete's parent(s), guardian(s), or spouse of the nature of the substances discovered by the tests. The student-athlete will be required to undergo further drug education and/or counseling and will be suspended from all athletic activity (games, practices, team meetings, functions, etc.) for a period of two weeks. The Head Coach will have discretionary authority to levy further sanctions after a second positive test, including permanent suspension from the team. This additional sanction recommended by the Head Coach must be submitted in writing to the student-athlete and signed by the Director of Athletics.

For a second positive test result, the student-athlete shall be required to complete an educational program on illicit drug use and abuse, the content and duration of which shall be determined by the Team Physician. Outside sources for such a program may be recommended to the student. However, unlike the situation where a student-athlete is injured while participating in his or her sport, the University cannot assume responsibility for continuing treatment and rehabilitation of students with drug usage or dependency problems. NCAA regulations permit a university to pay medical costs, either directly or through insurance, only for injuries or conditions which relate to a student-athlete's participation in intercollegiate athletics. The University will encourage and be supportive of a student-athlete's participation in appropriate drug treatment and rehabilitation programs, but cannot assume any responsibility for such programs or for any physical, mental or emotional damage or disability suffered by any student-athlete related to alcohol or illegal drug usage.

3. **After a third positive test the student-athlete will immediately be removed from his/her team and will have a non-renewal of his/her athletics scholarship. After one calendar year the student-athlete may apply for reinstatement to the team through the Director of Athletics, the Head Coach and the Team Physician.**

Appeals

After the finding of any positive result of a test, the student-athlete shall be given the opportunity for a hearing before a four member appeals committee to challenge the accuracy of the test result and otherwise present his or her defense. This committee shall consist of the Director of Athletics, the Team Physician, the Head Athletic Trainer and the Head Coach. If the appeals committee rules in favor of the student-athlete, then all records of the challenged test results shall be destroyed and no future action of the University will be based upon it.

Confidentiality

Except as discussed in this “Drug Education and Testing Program” and authorized by the student-athlete in the “Consent Agreement” signed before testing begins, the disclosure of test results to any persons within or outside the University is prohibited.

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