

## **OKLAHOMA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY STUDENT DRUG TESTING POLICY**

The Oklahoma School for the Blind recognizes that drug use is one of the most serious problems confronting our community and, in an effort to protect the health and safety of its students from illegal drug use and abuse or injuries resulting from the use of drugs, thereby setting an example for all students of the Oklahoma School for the Blind, adopts the following policy for drug testing of students participating in extracurricular activities.

### **Statement of Purpose and Intent**

In an effort to protect the health and safety of its students from illegal and/or performance-enhancing drug use and abuse, the school adopts the following policy for drug testing of students in grades 7th through 12th grade who participates in competitive extra-curricular activities identified under the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) and activities sanctioned by Oklahoma School for the Blind that are not related to a student' academic requirements or success in a course as well as any other student who voluntarily wishes to be tested. This policy supplements and complements all other policies, rules, and regulations of the school regarding possession or use of illegal and/or performance-enhancing drugs. The school believes that accountability is a powerful tool to help students avoid using illegal and/or performance-enhancing drugs and that early detection and intervention can save students' lives.

Although the school, administration, and staff desire that every student in school refrain from using, or possessing drugs, the school officials realize that their power to restrict the possession or use of illegal and/or performance-enhancing drugs is limited. The sanctions imposed for violations of this policy by students will be limited to the opportunity of such students to exercise the privilege of participating in competitive extra-curricular activities. No suspensions from school or academic sanctions will be imposed for violations of this policy.

Participation in school-sponsored extracurricular activities at the Oklahoma School for the Blind is a privilege. Students who participate in these activities should be respected by the student body as well as the school and the community they represent. Accordingly, students in extracurricular activities carry a responsibility to themselves, their fellow students, their parents and/or guardians and their school to set the highest possible examples of conduct, which includes avoiding the use of illegal drugs and performance-enhancing drug use. For the safety, health, and well-being of students in extra-curricular activities, the school has adopted this policy for use by all participants in competitive extra-curricular activities in grades 7-12.

### **The purposes of this policy are:**

1. To educate students as to the serious physical, mental, and emotional harm caused by illegal and/or performance-enhancing drug use.
2. To alert students with possible substance-abuse problems to the potential harms that drug use poses for their physical, mental, and emotional well-being and offer them the privilege to compete as an incentive to stop using such substances.
3. To ensure that students adhere to a training program that bars the intake of illegal and/or performance-enhancing drugs.
4. To prevent injury, illness, and harm for students that may arise from illegal and/or performance-enhancing drug use.
5. To offer students practices, competition and school activities free of the effects of illegal and/or performance-enhancing drug use.

## **Definitions**

**Extracurricular activities:** Those activities are recognized by the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association. Those activities sanctioned by Oklahoma School for the Blind that are not related to a student's academic requirements or success in a course.

**Athlete or Student Athlete:** A member of any Oklahoma School for the Blind sponsored interscholastic sports team, including athletes and cheerleaders.

**Drug Use Test:** Scientifically substantiated method to test for the presence of illegal drugs in a person's urine.

**Illegal Drugs:** The use, possession, distribution, sale or solicitation of alcohol, drugs (their imitators), unauthorized prescription or non-prescription drugs, drug-related paraphernalia, narcotic substances, marijuana or other intoxicants and any other substances, which an individual may not sell, possess, use, distribute, or purchase under either federal or Oklahoma law.

**Performance Enhancing Drugs:** Includes anabolic steroids and any other natural or synthetic substance used to increase muscle mass, strength, endurance, speed, or other athletic ability. These do not include dietary or nutritional supplements such as vitamins, minerals or proteins which can be lawfully purchased in over-the-counter transactions.

**Positive Test Result:** When referring to a drug test administered under this policy, a toxicological test result which is considered to demonstrate the presence of an illegal drug or the metabolites thereof using the standards customarily established by the testing laboratory administering the drug use test.

**Random Selection Basis:** A mechanism for selecting students for drug testing that:

1. Results in an equal probability that any student involved in extracurricular activities from a group of students subject to the selection process will be selected, and
2. Does not give the school discretion to waive the selection of any student selected under the mechanism.

**Reasonable Suspicion:** A suspicion based on specific personal observations concerning the appearance, speech, or behavior of a participating student, and reasonable inferences drawn from those observations in the light of experience. Information provided by a reliable source, if based on personal knowledge, shall constitute reasonable suspicion.

## **PROCEDURES**

**1. Consent Form:** Each student involved in extracurricular activities shall be provided a copy of the "Extracurricular Activity Student Drug Testing Policy" and "Extracurricular Activity Drug Testing Consent Form" which shall be read, signed, and dated by the student athlete and parent/guardian before such student shall be eligible to practice or participate in any extracurricular activity. This consent will be to provide a urine sample: a) as chosen by the random selection basis and; b) at any time requested based on reasonable suspicions to be tested for illegal or performance enhancing drugs. No student shall be allowed to practice or participate in any extracurricular activities unless the student has returned the properly signed "Extracurricular Activities Drug Testing Consent Form."

**2. Orientation:** Prior to the commencement of random drug testing each year, an orientation session will be held to educate students of the sample collection process, privacy arrangements, drug testing procedures, and other areas which may help to reassure the student and help avoid embarrassment or uncomfortable feelings about the drug testing process.

Each student shall receive a copy of the Student Drug Testing Policy. The administration will be responsible for explaining the policy to all students and for preparing an educational presentation to acquaint the students with the harmful consequences of drug and alcohol use and abuse.

**3. Testing:** Drug use testing for students will be chosen on a random selection basis from a list of all students. The school will determine a number of student names to be drawn at random to provide a urine sample for drug use testing for illegal drugs or performance-enhancing drugs. In addition, any student for whom the administration has reasonable suspicion of illegal and/or performance-enhancing drug use by that particular student will be included with the random tests and will not be identified in any way as separate from the random group.

Any drug use test will be administered at the direction of a professional laboratory chosen by the school. The professional laboratory shall be required to use scientifically validated toxicological testing methods, have detailed written specifications to assure chain of custody of the specimens, and proper laboratory control and scientific testing.

All aspects of the drug use testing program, including the taking of specimens, will be conducted so as to safeguard the personal and privacy rights of the student to the maximum degree possible. The test specimen shall be obtained in a manner designed to minimize intrusiveness of the procedure. In particular, the specimen must be collected in a restroom or other private facility behind a closed stall. The school nurse or testing service will designate a person of the same sex as the student to accompany the student to a restroom or other private facility. The monitor shall not observe the student while the specimen is being produced, but the monitor shall be present outside the stall to listen for the normal sounds of urination in order to guard against tampered specimens and to insure an accurate chain of custody. The monitor shall verify the normal warmth and appearance of the specimen. If at any time during the testing procedure the monitor has reason to believe or suspect that a student is tampering with the specimen, the monitor may stop the procedure and inform the principal/athletic director, who will then determine if a new sample should be obtained.

The school nurse shall obtain information from each student and/or parent/guardian on which the student taking any medications legally prescribed he or she has taken in the preceding thirty (30) days. The parent/guardian shall be able to confirm the medication list submitted by their child during the twenty-four (24) hours following any drug test. The medication list shall be submitted to the lab in a sealed and confidential envelope and shall not be viewed by school employees except the school nursing supervisor.

If the initial drug test is positive, the initial test will be subject to confirmation by a second and different test of the same specimen. A specimen shall not be reported positive unless the second test utilizing this procedure is positive for the presence of an illegal drug or the metabolites thereof. Student drug test records will be retained until the end of the school year.

**4. Positive Drug Test Results:** If the drug test for any student involved in extracurricular activities has a positive result, the testing service will contact the Athletic Director with the results. Procedures for maintaining confidentiality will be practiced. Within 2 school days of receipt of a second positive test result, the school will contact and schedule a private conference with the parent/guardian to present the test results to the parent/guardian. This conference will include the student, parent/guardian, athletic director or sponsor as appropriate, and the principal, and the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the positive drug test.

At the conference, the student athlete will be given the opportunity to submit additional information to the Athletic Director or the testing service. If the student and his/her parent/guardian desire another test of the remaining portion of the specimen, the Athletic Director will arrange for another test at the same laboratory or at another laboratory agreeable to Oklahoma School for the Blind. Any such retests shall be at the expense of the student and his/her parents/guardians. The Oklahoma School for the Blind will rely on the opinion of the laboratory which performed the test in determining whether the positive test results were produced by reasons other than the use of illegal drugs or performance enhancing drugs.

**5. Appeal:** A student involved in an extracurricular activity who has been determined by the Athletic Director and Principal to be in violation of this policy shall have the right to appeal the decision to the school superintendent of Oklahoma School for the Blind. Such appeal must be lodged within three (3) school days of the notice of the initial report of any offenses as stated in this policy, during which time the student will remain eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities. The superintendent shall then determine whether the original finding was justified. No further review of the Superintendent's decision will be provided, and his/her decisions shall be conclusive in all respects. Any necessary interpretation or application of this policy shall be in the sole and exclusive judgment and discretion of the Superintendent which shall be the final and non-appealable.

**Confidentiality:** The laboratory will notify the principal/athletic director or designee of any positive test. To keep the positive test results confidential, the principal/athletic director or designee will only notify the student, the head coach/sponsor (if applicable), and the parent or custodial guardian of the student of the results. The principal/athletic director or designee will schedule a conference with the student and parent or guardian and explain the student's opportunity to submit additional information to the principal/athletic director or to the lab. The school will rely on the opinion of the laboratory which performed the test in determining whether the positive test result was produced by something other than consumption of an illegal and/or performance-enhancing drug. Test results will be kept in files separate from the student's other educational records, shall be disclosed only to those school personnel who have a need to know, and will not be turned over to any law enforcement authorities.

**Restrictions:** No suspensions from school or academic sanctions will be imposed for violations of this policy.

**First Offense:** A student with a positive drug test will be suspended from participating in any meetings, practices, scrimmages, or competitions for extracurricular activities for 14 calendar days. In addition, if there is no activity scheduled during the 14 day suspension, the student will be prohibited from participating in the next scheduled event. After the 14 calendar day suspension from participating in any meetings, practices, scrimmage, or competitions, the student must complete four (4) hours of drug counseling from a qualified drug treatment program or counseling entity, which will be facilitated by the school, in order to continue participation in the activity. For both in season and off-season offenses, the student will be randomly tested for the remainder of the school year. The cost of subsequent, random testing will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The time and date will be unknown to the student and determined by the principal and athletic director.

**Second Offense (Within the Same Calendar Year):** A student with a second positive drug test will be suspended from participating in any meetings, practices, scrimmages, or competitions for extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year. In order for the student to participate in the next school year, the student must complete a program of substance abuse education/counseling for a total of eight (8) hours from a qualified drug treatment program or counseling entity, which the school will facilitate. The student will be randomly tested for the remainder of the school year. The cost of subsequent, random testing and drug counseling will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The time and date will be unknown to the student and determined by the principal/athletic director or designee.

**Refusal to Submit to Drug Test:** If a student participating in extracurricular activities refuses to submit to a drug use test authorized under this policy, such student shall not be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities including all meetings, practices, performances, and competition for the entire school year.