

The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics of Youngstown State University firmly believes that the use of drugs and alcohol can have a negative effect on the performance of the student-athlete, both in the classroom and in sports. This program is designed to deal with critical areas and **DOES NOT SUPERCEDE NCAA DRUG TESTING FINDINGS. Any drug found on the NCAA List of Banned Substances is prohibited by Youngstown State University as well.** In addition, team policies may provide for more severe penalties. Every attempt has been and will be made to protect the rights of the individual student-athlete and the institution.

Recruitment Activities

Student-athletes are to be model ambassadors for our university and may have an opportunity to host a prospect during an official or unofficial visit. Any time a prospect is visiting the YSU campus, encouraging, arranging, providing or placing a prospect in an environment for drug or alcohol use is strictly prohibited, regardless of whether the prospect is of legal drinking age (21) or not.

A. Purpose of Drug Testing

Although educational efforts will continue to be a major thrust of the department, a program of testing the urine of student-athletes will be undertaken as an adjunct to this program. The purpose of drug testing is as follows: 1) To serve as a deterrent to drug or alcohol use by the athlete; 2) to identify athletes who are addicted to substances; 3) to promote education and arrange treatment for the athlete who needs help; 4) to protect the integrity of Youngstown State University.

Safe Harbor – A student-athlete may come forward prior to being notified of any type of test (in confidence) to a sports medicine director, athletic trainer, coach, administrator, or team physician admitting to the use/abuse of banned, street drugs and/or performance enhancing substances and it will not be considered a positive test. A base line test will be performed immediately. The student will be required to follow the drug testing protocol and is subject to team and/or individual random, unannounced drug tests. If the student-athlete's level of drug in urine does not decrease in consecutive testing, the student-athlete is subject to the consequences of positive drug testing. If the drug level decreases in consecutive testing, counseling continues, and because the athlete came forward asking for help it will not be considered a positive test.

B. Method of Drug Testing

Student-athletes shall be informed about the drug testing program. A copy of this program will be given to the student-athlete, a copy sent to each parent or guardian and is available on the YSU Website.

The team physician and/or designate shall explain to the members of each squad being tested the procedures of the drug testing program and answer any questions. A consent form for testing of urine samples and authorization for limited release of information shall be given to each athlete to sign.

Tests will be primarily conducted for drugs of abuse, such as amphetamines, cannabinoids, (substances contained in marijuana), cocaine and other controlled substances. They may also include procedures to detect anabolic steroids and other so-called performance enhancing drugs. All tests will be performed on urine.

Student-athletes may be inconvenienced during practices, meetings, strength-training sessions, etc. The student-athletes may even be tested in "off-hour" times (early a.m., meal times, and/or late evenings).

Urine will be collected by professional personnel and will be numbered. The trainer will match the individual player with a master list that is prepared so that the signature of the athlete will correspond with the number on the specimen bottle. The specimen will be transported to the clinical laboratory where the director of the laboratory will proceed with the testing. The master list of numbered urine will be given to the head team physician and/or his designate. He and/or his designate will know the identification for the individual athlete. Refusal to provide a urine specimen will be considered a positive test result.

C. Dealing with Positive Tests

The Head Coach, the Head Athletic Trainer, the sport supervisor, and the Director of Athletics will be informed of any positive drug test or alcohol related violations.

If the results of the urine tests are positive, these results will be given to the team physician and/or his designate by number. The team physician and/or his designate will inform the athlete of the presence of a substance in his or her urine. The team physician and/or his designate will advise the athlete of the nature of the substance, the health hazards involved and rights to an appeal hearing.

The team physician and/or his designate may collect a second urine sample, at his discretion, which may be analyzed by a second laboratory and confirmed by the laboratory, if positive.

Drugs banned for use by the student-athlete will be divided into four categories. Sanctions will be imposed differently in each of these groups.

Group A

Marijuana and hashish (THC)
(Street names: grass, pot, weed, tea, Mary Jane)

Group B

Stimulants - Amphetamines, Ritalin and related compounds
(Street names: uppers, pep pills, bennies, dexies, speed)

Depressants - Methaqualone, barbiturates, diazepam and related compounds.
(Street names: downers, stumblers, ludes, sopors, red devils, yellow jackets and rainbows)

Hallucinogens - LSD, PCP, Mescaline and related compounds
(Street names: acid, scramblers, mind benders)

Anabolic Steroids - Winstrol, Dianabol, Deca-Durabolin and related compounds

Group C

Cocaine and Heroin

Group D

Alcohol

SANCTIONS TO BE IMPOSED IN THE CASE OF POSITIVE TESTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

GROUP A

THC

GROUP B

Stimulants, Depressants, Hallucinogens & Anabolic Steroids

First Positive

1. Probation. The positive individual will be unable to dress or travel for one contest immediately following positive test findings.
2. The Head Coach and Director of Athletics will be informed of the results of the test.
3. The team physician and/or his designate will discuss the positive test with the student-athlete. If the athlete admits to a problem with the substance, he/she will be referred to a drug counselor. If the athlete refuses counseling or denies a problem with the substance, urine tests will be instituted and continued for the remainder of their career. Those athletes going directly to counseling will also be regularly tested.

Second Positive - (any drugs in Groups A or B)

1. Suspension of sport-related activities (minimum of 6 months - all sports) but not study table or conditioning program until a negative specimen is collected.
2. Evaluation by a Drug Counselor and regular attendance to whatever program is suggested.
3. Reinstatement can be considered after a period of time (minimum of 6 months from date of 2nd positive) but be approved by the Head Coach, team physician and/or his designate and Director of Athletics.
4. Drug tests for the remainder of the athletic career.

Third Positive - (any drug in groups A or B)

1. Removal from the squad for a minimum of one calendar year from the date of the third positive test. Financial aid may be continued as long as the athlete follows certain guidelines (attendance at class, continued drug testing and continued drug counseling).
2. If unable to remain "clean" for the entire suspension year - permanent **EXPULSION**.

GROUP C - Cocaine and Heroin

First Positive

1. Suspension of sports-related activities (minimum of 6 months – all sports) but not study table or conditioning program until a negative specimen is collected.
2. Evaluation by a Drug Counselor and regular attendance to whatever program is suggested.
3. Reinstatement can be considered after a period of time (minimum of 6 months from date of 1st positive) but must be approved by the Head Coach, team physician and/or his designate and Director of Athletics.
4. Drug tests for the remainder of the athletic career.

Second Positive

1. Removal from the squad for a minimum of one calendar year from the date of second positive test. Financial aid may be continued as long as the athlete follows certain guidelines (attendance at class, continued drug testing and continued drug counseling).

2. If unable to remain “clean” for the entire suspension year - permanent **EXPULSION**.

GROUP D - Alcohol

Because alcohol is the most frequently abused drug in our society, abuse by a student-athlete during the time the student is under the jurisdiction of the college will result in specific sanctions.

Each of the following instances constitutes CLASS A offenses:

- Conviction of Driving While Impaired (DWI)
- Conviction of any other offense with legal intoxication as one of the charges.
- Destruction of property while under the influence
- Assault while under the influence

The following constitutes CLASS B offenses:

- Drunken and disorderly conduct
- Public intoxication
- Under age drinking

The sanctions are as follows:

- One Class A offense = Ineligible to participate **Two** contests
- One Class B offense = Ineligible to participate in **One** contest
- One Class A + B offense = Ineligible to participate in **Two** contests
- Two Class B offenses = Ineligible for **Two** contests
- Two Class A or Three B offenses = 6 months **suspension** from team
- All offenses = Mandatory counseling and testing

D. General Principles

1. As a required condition for any student to be a member of a Youngstown State University varsity intercollegiate athletics team, he/she must agree to participate in the Athletic Department’s Drug Testing Program. Such monitoring is considered an extension of the ongoing physical examination of our athletes and is in the best interests of a comprehensive Drug Testing Program.
2. Multiple testing may be done with each athlete.
3. All positive test results are considered cumulative (annually carried over) for the career of the Youngstown State student-athlete. After 18 month period of negative testing, **one positive** test will be removed during a career.
4. Any student-athlete found guilty of selling any drug shall be immediately and permanently terminated from the squad and his/her athletically related financial aid (if any) may be terminated.
5. Any drug not specifically listed on the penalty chart is subject to classification by the team physician and/or his designate for inclusion on the chart.

6. Any athlete who does not report for scheduled testing or counseling will be subject to suspension or dismissal. It is possible that a formal drug rehabilitation program (in-patient) will be recommended for the athlete. The Athletic Department will encourage and be supportive of the student-athlete's participation in an appropriate drug treatment but will not assume financial responsibility for this treatment.
7. We strongly urge that parents avail themselves of the University's insurance program which assumes some of the expenses for illness and injury not athletically related.
8. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics will make every effort to keep test results confidential and will oppose disclosure thereof to any persons within or outside the University.
9. The department's Drug and Alcohol Education Program and its sanctions serve as a minimum penalty for violations. Team policies may provide additional penalties.

Appeal Hearing

1. Athletes who test positive under the terms of the program will be entitled to an appeal hearing before the Drug Education and Testing Council.
2. Member of the Drug Education and Testing Council shall include Director of Athletics, Head Trainer and a counselor from University Counseling Center.
3. Request for an appeal hearing must be made by the end of the second business day of notification.
4. The Director of Athletics or designee will notify the athlete of Council's decision in writing.
5. The results of the hearing are final and binding.

This form will be distributed to the student-athlete at the beginning of each academic year.

YSU INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM

I, the undersigned, agree to submit to unannounced, witnessed drug screening by the medical staff of the YSU Intercollegiate Athletics Department and will abide by the Department's policies concerning athletes who test positive. I understand that submitting to random drug testing is required for participation in athletics.

Name (print)

Athlete's Signature

Social Security Number

Date of Birth

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under age 18)