

# POLICY FOR DRUG TESTING OF ATHLETES

One of the primary objectives of the Tangipahoa Parish School Board is to provide a learning environment that is safe and drug free. Many methods have been employed in order to accomplish this goal. They include elementary school counselors, positive behavior support program, "zero tolerance" for drugs, alcohol, and fighting, D.A.R.E., in-school suspension, conflict resolution training, and school resource officers. While these programs have been effective, student surveys have indicated drug use by students appears to be increasing. The use of drugs by student athletes poses the risk of physical harm not only to the athlete but to his/her teammates as well. Also, the "role-model" effect of drug use by student athletes could have a detrimental effect on the general school population. Because of these concerns, the Tangipahoa Parish School Board embraces the opportunity to provide the optimum health and safety for students involved in athletic type, extracurricular activities through a drug testing program. The purpose of this policy is not to invade the privacy of the student/athlete but rather to bring to the surface a potential health and safety problem. This would include any controlled substance depending on usage which by its very nature would be counterproductive to the health and safety of the student/athlete and their companions. The format adopted by the Tangipahoa Parish School Board to accomplish the above delineated goals will be:

- Annual physical as required by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (L.H.S.A.A.).
- A random drug testing procedure to ascertain the presence of controlled dangerous substances and alcohol.
- Students will be tested for the following:
  - a) Marijuana
  - b) Cocaine
  - c) Opiates
  - d) Phencyclidine, methamphetamine (PCP)
  - e) Amphetamines
  - f) Alcohol

In accordance with the regulations of the L.H.S.A.A., the test will be strictly enforced and participation will be mandatory. Because the parents/guardians have freely chosen to allow their son/daughter to participate in the athletic activity, a student may not try-out, practice or play a sport until parental and student permission forms to test for possible substance abuse are completed. By signing the forms, the parents and the student acknowledge that they have consented to the administration of the test and waive any claim of invasion of privacy.

The urine test will be administered by a laboratory representative. Those students to be tested will be randomly selected by computer at the laboratory. The results of the test will be kept strictly confidential in the principal's office. Parents of students who yield a positive test shall be notified immediately by the physician serving as the medical review officer (MRO). Should a parent or student contest the results, testing may be repeated within 24 hours. Parents must pay for the validation test. It is imperative to note that these procedures are only to be used for the purpose of identifying the use of controlled substances. Consequently, if a student/athlete is apprehended by anyone as a result of being in illegal possession of alcohol and/or a controlled substance, the regular school discipline policies will apply. Unlike the procedure to be followed for apparent and obvious possession of illegal substances, the results of a positive drug screen are not to be disclosed to law enforcement officers. Students are encouraged to self-report a substance problem to a counselor, administrator, or coach. However, the self-report must be initiated prior to a screening day.

## PRODECURES TO BE FOLLOWED FOR A POSITIVE DRUG TEST:

- A. Self Report: The principal or designee will contact the student's parent and request a conference to discuss the student's self-report. No disciplinary action will be taken against the student. Students who choose to self-report may not practice or play until the results of a drug test by the designated laboratory is received by the principal and permission to return to play is received in writing from a physician. In addition, parents may request that their child be tested. Should the student test positive, the above procedures for self-report will be followed. Students may self-report only once.
- B. First Positive: After confirmation of a positive drug screening, a student shall lose eligibility for the next 2 interscholastic contests or 2 weeks of scheduled games, whichever is longer. The student will not be allowed to practice during this time until a conference has been held between the coach, principal, parish athletic director, and/or other designee of

the superintendent, parent and student. At this conference, an appropriate plan of action will be agreed upon and signed by all parties mentioned. This plan shall include periodic drug screening and drug education counseling to be at the expense of the student/athlete. In order for the student to re-enter any athletic activity, verification for negative drug screening (at student's expense) and written confirmation that recommendation/referrals are in progress will be required at a conference with appropriate school personnel, parent and student.

- C. Second Positive: After confirmation of a second positive drug screen, the student could lose eligibility from the athletic activity for one calendar year. In order for the student to re-enter any athletic activity, he/she must voluntarily submit evidence of a negative drug screen and prove that he/she has participated in drug treatment program and has remained drug free for at least six consecutive calendar months. Evidence must include monthly negative drug screens at the expense of the student/athlete.
- D. Third Positive: After confirmation of a third positive drug screening in grades 7-8 or 9-12, the student will be dismissed from athletic activities for the remainder of his junior high or high school tenure.

Students to be tested will include all students in grades 7 through 12 who participate in athletic extracurricular activities. Testing will be on a monthly basis. The testing company will be required to generate a list of students to be included in the test. Random selection will be by social security number or student I.D. number. Students will be tested on the school campus by a representative of the testing company. School nurses will be asked to assist when possible. A maximum of 20% of the athletes on a campus will be tested each year. All student athletes will have the possibility of being selected each month. If the student athlete has been taking medication, his/her parents will be able to indicate this to the MRO after the administration of the test. The MRO will only discuss the results of positive tests with the parents of the student athlete prior to reporting them to the parish athletic director. Although random testing will be conducted, any student athlete will be tested upon receipt of a written parental request to the principal. The cost of non-random tests will be paid by the parents requesting the test prior to the testing day. Parental request may remain anonymous.

### TANGIPAHOA PARISH SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MISUSE STUDENT ATHLETE CONTRACT

As a student athlete in a Tangipahoa Parish School, I fully realize the importance of being physically, mentally, and morally fit. I understand that to pursue excellence on the playing field I must not experiment with alcohol or other illegal substances. I am fully aware of the Tangipahoa Parish School System policy on drug and alcohol use and also the additional rules set forth by my school. I understand that should I violate these rules I am subject to severe penalties including loss of athletic participation privileges. I also understand that should I have the need to discuss or seek assistance in reference to a drug or alcohol related matter, it is my responsibility to do this immediately. This can be done with a member of the coaching staff, a guidance counselor, or administrator and all discussion will be in absolute confidentiality. I know that if I ask for help I will receive help and I will not be suspended or expelled from school because of my voluntarily seeking help for a problem. I also understand that this does not relieve my obligation through the mandatory drug testing program.

#### RELEASE FORM

The undersigned releases the Tangipahoa Parish School Board from any responsibilities in connection with the administration of test results, warranties as to accuracy of said test results, and medical procedures used by the referring Laboratories. It is further agreed and understood by the undersigned parents/guardians and the student/athlete that the Tangipahoa Parish School Board assumes no responsibility for diagnosing or treating any disease that may become known as a result of said laboratory tests. The procedures to be followed if a positive test result surfaces will be provided to all students and parents. The undersigned do hereby authorize the Tangipahoa Parish School Board and the individual schools to have the test administered from the date indicated below until my child is no longer an athlete in the school system. Refusal to be tested will immediately serve as notice that the student/athlete has chosen not to participate in the athletic activity.

Parent(s) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian(s) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

#### Student's Name: PLEASE PRINT \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student's SS#: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Coach's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_