

Gainesville High School Drug Screening Procedures For Extra-curricular and Permitted Car Drivers

The Gainesville City Board of Education and Gainesville High School believe that the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs that have not been prescribed for medical benefit can be detrimental to the physical, emotional and mental health of their student athletes and teen drivers. It is further believed that this use and abuse of alcohol and drugs seriously interferes with the performance of these students, and is dangerous to themselves as well as their peers. Because of these serious concerns, the following policy is in effect beginning with the 2011-2012 school year:

GOALS

- To develop an alcohol/drug free program that produces student athletes and teen drivers who serve as positive role models and influence their peers to lead healthy and responsible lives.
- To educate our student athletes and student drivers about the dangers and problems associated with alcohol and drug use and abuse.
- To prevent alcohol and drug use and abuse by our student drivers and student athletes.
- To identify any student athlete or student driver who may be using and abusing alcohol and/or drugs, as well to provide help through counseling and treatment.
- To educate our student athletes and student drivers of the effects alcohol and drugs have on their mental, emotional, and physical well-being and the effect drug abuse has on their teammates and the athletic program, the school, and the community.

PROCEDURES

1. The student athlete and student driver must present to the school administration a signed consent form which authorizes the school to administer drug tests and allows the results to be released to parents or guardians, administrative officials, and the head coach.

(Note: A signed consent form will be included in the Athletic Registration for student athletes and in the Driver's Parking Permission Registration for student drivers. Parents and students do not have the option of not participating in the drug screening program to have access to these privileges.)

2. Random drug testing will take place at any time during the school year with the student athletes and student drivers chosen through a lottery/ random selection. The substances that will be tested include (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO) THC, amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, and opiates. Testing will consist of providing a urine sample to those representatives of the firm administering the test. Random selection, on site collections, and lab analysis will be done by the staff at Northeast Georgia Medical Center Forensic Toxicology Laboratory. School personnel will supervise but not administer the test. Privacy of the students and the confidentiality of the test results will be protected. Specimens will be processed and secured to ensure against tampering. The facility will report test results to the Principal.

In the case of a positive result, the parent or guardian will be notified.

3. The procedure for the drug testing will be as follows:

- A. The student will fill out a form delineating any medication he/she is taking.
- B. A coach/ sponsor/ school principal, asst. principal, and or athletic director will be present prior to the collection process to ensure proper student identification by a current student picture ID.
- C. Restroom facilities will be secured for the collection process.
- D. The absolute privacy of the student during the collection process will be insured.
- E. The student's personal belongings will be secure prior to entering the collection stall.
- F. Water in the collection area will be monitored to prevent any attempt to dilute the specimen.

4. For any student who has tested positive, the parents or guardian may contest the test results by informing the principal of their wish to have a conference with in 48 hours of the results. The student and the parents will be allowed to present any further evidence. The suspension shall be on hold until the appeals process is complete.

5. In the event of an appeal, any further laboratory analysis shall be conducted at the student's expense with the student's remaining urine specimen preserved by the testing lab. A final decision will be made by the Principal within 5 days of the result of the second test. The determination of the student's eligibility shall be made by the Principal.
6. If the student is 18 years old or will turn 18 years old during the activity season or school year for drivers, the student must agree that all test results will be released to the parents or legal guardians.
7. If a student refuses to take the drug test, they are considered to have failed that drug test and are immediately ineligible to participate in athletics until they produce a negative drug test at their own expense and then they will serve the 1st time failure penalties.
8. If a student is called for a drug test and is not able to urinate during the time frame provided by the test administer, the student will be considered as having failed the test and will then have to provide a negative test at their own expense.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality of the drug screening results for each student is required throughout the procedures. The Principal/Coach is not to talk to anyone other than the student and the parents/guardians regarding the results once the information is received from the medical facility. An exception to the above confidentiality guideline might occur for students who participate in instructional activities that involve the use of potentially dangerous equipment or chemicals. Teachers of these courses may be notified of a positive drug test if it is deemed necessary by the Principal. When this situation occurs the Principal will require the teacher to sign a confidentiality statement.

PUNISHMENT FOR A POSITIVE TEST

First Offense:

A student testing positively for a first time will be suspended from participation for 20% of the scheduled games (excluding practices and scrimmages.) Student drivers will have driving privileges suspended for 20% of the school year (36 days.) If the student driver is an athlete both punishments shall apply. The student athlete must agree to another drug test within a timeframe recommended by the Toxicology Lab at the family's expense. The student must enroll in a drug-counseling program prior to regaining full scale student status.

Second Offense:

If a student athlete or student driver tests positive for a second time, the student will be suspended from the team and/or driving privileges revoked. A meeting will be held with the parent, the Principal and or coach.

The student will:

- A. Agree to participate in a drug treatment and counseling program on a regular basis for a minimum of 5 weeks.
- B. Parents or guardians are expected to participate in the program.
- C. Sign an agreement that releases Gainesville City School Board of Education from any liability for injury or illness resulting from drugs and/or treatment.
- D. Apply for reinstatement to the team after a minimum of 5 weeks (if athlete) and 60 days if a student driver.
- E. Provide a negative drug screen to the principal.
- F. Agree to continue drug counseling.
- G. Agree to continued unannounced drug testing
- H. Understand that the application for reinstatement may be denied. The school administration has the final decision.

Third Offense:

If a student tests positively for a third time, student will be suspended from Athletics/Extracurricular Activities and driving for one calendar year.

All student athletes and student drivers are subject to the Gainesville City Schools Code of Conduct and may be subject to established disciplinary procedures if found in possession or under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol at school or at school sponsored events.