

Iroquois School District

Student-Athlete Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy

(Adopted: 05/20/1997)

(Revised: 02/18/2003)

(Revised: 05/18/2005)

PURPOSE:

The Iroquois School District considers participation in athletic competition to be a privilege and not a right. Students choosing to participate in athletics are expected to accept the responsibilities which accompany the privilege. Among these responsibilities is the obligation to be drug, alcohol and nicotine-free on a year-round basis. Toward this end, students participating in Iroquois athletics are required to cooperate with and agree to testing for drugs and/or alcohol in accordance with this policy.

As an athlete, a student is a representative of the School District and the community at large. The District recognizes our athletes as role models for younger students who frequently model their own conduct and lifestyle on that of the student athlete. Thus, when a student chooses to participate in athletics, he/she has also chosen to accept to be a role model, and with that choice comes the responsibility of living a drug, alcohol and nicotine-free lifestyle.

1. The District recognizes that drugs, alcohol and nicotine have a serious and deleterious effect on motivation, memory, judgment, reaction time, coordination and performance and that continued or long-term usage of these substances can compound these problems and affect the user academically, medically, and emotionally, as well as athletically.
2. The purpose of this policy is not to punish students. It is not the intention of this policy to penalize a student who is taking a medication prescribed by a licensed physician for treatment of a medical condition.
3. The District wants to provide a legitimate excuse for students to refuse to consume or use drugs, alcohol or nicotine and to provide assistance for those who have a problem with the substances.
4. It is not the intention of this policy for School District officials to report any positive test results to the law enforcement, or any officials outside the School District, without a subpoena (which the School District will not initiate) or any other officials outside the School District, unless the student violates other policies, such as bringing prohibited substances, or paraphernalia onto school property, etc.

DEFINITIONS:

Drug - Any substance considered illegal or controlled by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the United States Government or the Food and Drug Administration; or any controlled substance which has as one of its effects, the enhancement of athletic performance, including but not limited to steroids. For purposes of this policy, this definition includes the use of tobacco products, which are prohibited by the School

District for all student-athletes. This policy includes beer, wine, and/or liquor and any substance containing ethyl alcohol to the extent that it can impair judgment or function if taken in sufficient quantities.

Student-Athlete - Any student choosing to participate on an athletic team or cheerleading squad (including managers, student trainers, student aides, etc.)

Athletic Year - The athletic year begins the date of the first official physical examination for that sport and continues for 365 days thereafter. Each student participating in athletics at Iroquois agrees to be tested at any time, or any number of times, during the athletic year.

CONSENT:

Prior to any student being permitted to practice or participate in an athletic event, both the student and his/her parent or guardian must sign a consent form agreeing for the student to participate in drug testing at any time during the athletic year as defined in this policy. If any student or parent/guardian declines to sign the form, then the student shall not be permitted to participate in the sport. If a student moves into the District after the first practice begins and wishes to participate in a sport, the student shall be required to provide a properly executed consent before being allowed to practice or participate.

PROCEDURE:

1. Drug Testing: Testing will be done without prior warning to the student. The District, in its sole discretion, shall determine the dates of testing and the number of tests to be performed. The identity of the students to be tested shall be determined randomly by a District approved program. The testing may be performed at any time during the athletic year.

Students to be tested will be notified by a representative of the Administration, the Athletic Director, a Coach or the School Nurse and shall proceed directly to the testing site. The student will be provided with a facility affording privacy, but which has been prepared so as to preclude tampering with the sample. The student shall provide the requested urine sample and shall return it directly to the test administrator without tampering with or diluting the sample. All costs of collection, testing and interpretation shall be paid by the District.

The sample shall be marked with a number or bar code so as to preserve the student's anonymity outside of the District. The key to the number or bar code connecting the identity of the student to a particular sample shall be maintained by a member of the School Administration and shall be kept confidential from the public. Appropriate members of the Administration or District and the Medical Review Officer shall be made aware of the results.

The appropriately labeled urine samples shall be maintained so as to prevent contamination and shall be delivered directly into the possession of a representative of the testing laboratory in a manner so as to preclude any possibility of contamination of the samples.

A split sample shall be maintained so that repeat testing can be done on the same sample in the event of a positive result on the first test.

Once the results of the testing are prepared by the laboratory, the results shall be sent directly to a Medical Review Officer (MRO), a licensed physician hired by the District to review and analyze the test results. The MRO shall then notify the High School Administration of the results of the testing. Any negative test results shall result in a congratulatory letter being sent to the student and parents/guardians.

If any tests prove positive, then the testing laboratory shall repeat the test on the remaining split sample and if the result is negative, the test shall be regarded as a negative test. If the second test confirms a positive result, then the MRO shall contact the parents/guardians of the student and the School Administration shall advise the student of the test result. The student and parents/guardians shall be given an opportunity to respond to the test result, but unless some objective evidence proves that the test results were wrong (or were due to properly prescribed and administered prescription medication), then sanctions will apply. Confidentiality shall be maintained with regard to any positive test results. Furthermore, if a School Official, Teacher, Coach, or other representative of the School District personally sees a student athlete in possession of drugs or using drugs, these observations shall provide a valid basis for the District finding that this policy has been violated, and sanctions will apply.

2. Alcohol Testing: Testing for the presence of alcohol will not be done without cause. If the District has information that a student has possession of alcohol or has consumed alcohol and is under the influence of alcohol and if the District believes the information to be credible, then the District has the right under this policy to request testing to confirm or deny the information. Refusal by the student and/or the parent/guardian shall be considered a violation of the policy and sanctions will apply as though a positive test result had been obtained. Furthermore, if a School Official, Teacher, Coach, other representative of the School District, or law enforcement official personally sees a student athlete in possession of alcohol or consuming alcohol, or makes observations regarding odor, speech or behavior which objectively indicate that the student is under the influence of alcohol, these observations shall provide a valid basis for the District finding that this policy has been violated, and sanctions will apply. The District is legally permitted to obtain information regarding citations.
3. Nicotine Testing: Testing for the presence of nicotine will not be conducted. If the District has found that a student has possession of any tobacco product, then disciplinary sanctions will apply. If the student chooses to enter a tobacco cessation program recommended by the District, but at the expense of the student, and comply with the issued disciplinary measures, upon completion of the cessation program, he/she may be reinstated to his/her Iroquois-sponsored or sanctioned sports activity after thirty (30) days.

SANCTIONS:

Sanctions are intended to apply to participation in PIAA-sanctioned interscholastic sports and to any Iroquois-sponsored or sanctioned sports activity. If a student's test indicates that this policy has been violated, or if a student has been observed in possession of drugs or using drugs, or if a student has been observed in possession of alcohol, using alcohol, or under the influence of alcohol, or if a student refuses to take a test upon request, then the following sanctions shall apply:

1. The student shall be immediately dismissed from the team on which he/she is currently participating. If the student is not currently participating in a sport, then the student shall be required to miss the entire season for the next sport in which the student normally would participate, even if that sport takes place the following school year. The District will consider past participation, sign-ups and participation in off-season events as evidence of intent to participate. The District will not accept an unsupported, first-time, after-the-fact statement of intent to participate in a new sport.
2. If a student is participating in an Iroquois sponsored or sanctioned sports activity, which is not a PIAA-sanctioned interscholastic sports activity, and tests positive, the student shall immediately be dismissed from the activity and shall be prohibited from participating in the next PIAA-sanctioned interscholastic sport in which the student would normally participate. The District will consider past participation, sign-ups and participation in off-season events as evidence of intent to participate. The District will not accept an unsupported, first-time, after-the-fact statement of intent to participate in a new sport.
3. The student is required to undergo drug counseling, with a counselor or program approved by the District, without expense to the District. The student is required to comply with all recommendations of the counselor prior to applying for readmittance to the Iroquois athletic program.
4. After the student misses the athletic season required by this policy and completes the counseling and satisfies the administration of the student's intention to remain drug, alcohol, and nicotine-free, the student may be readmitted to the Iroquois athletic program, but shall not practice or participate in any athletic activities until the student has first been tested as specified by the Medical Review Officer and tests drug-free.
5. In the event of a second violation of this policy, the student shall be permanently prohibited from participating in any Iroquois athletic events.
6. A record of the positive test as well as the student's subsequent compliance with counseling, retesting, etc., shall be maintained at school, but shall not be included in information provided to colleges, employers, the armed services, etc. and shall remain in an envelope within that file marked "confidential."
7. Unless it is apparent that the prohibited substance was possessed, used or consumed on school premises or while engaged at a school-sponsored activity, no further sanctions, such as suspension or expulsion from school, shall apply.

Nothing in this policy shall curtail or render ineffective any other existing policy of this District with regard to the possession or use of illegal substances or paraphernalia or those policies dealing with expected behavior of students on school property or while in engaged in school-sanctioned activities.

This policy becomes effective May 20, 1997, the date of its adoption.

IROQUOIS SCHOOL DISTRICT
CONSENT TO DRUG/ALCOHOL TESTING

I, _____, a student of the Iroquois School District interested in participating in athletics, do hereby consent to drug/ alcohol testing in accordance with the Iroquois School District policy. This consent shall take effect the day of the first scheduled physical for the sport in which I intend to participate and will last for one (1) full calendar year thereafter. I am voluntarily signing this form so that everyone in the District can know with certainty that my representation of the District through athletics is not, and will not, be tainted by the presence of drugs, alcohol, or nicotine in my body.

Specifically, I hereby authorize the Iroquois School District, through its Administrators, Athletic Director, Coaches, School Nurse, or other agent or representative appointed by the District, to request (at any time and without any prior warning) that I submit a urine sample for testing to a laboratory of the District's choosing. I am fully aware that this testing will be done without prior announcement and that the sample must be given at the time the request is made. I am also aware that more than one request may be made during the term of this consent. I am fully aware that if the testing reveals a violation of the School District's policy, sanctions will apply as set out in that policy which will affect my ability to participate in Iroquois athletics. I further voluntarily agree that if at any time I refuse to submit a sample for testing, this shall result in my disqualification just as if the presence of a prohibited substance had been detected.

All test results will remain confidential. All costs associated with the testing shall be paid by the District.

This consent must be signed in the presence of, and witnessed by a School District Official.

Student-Athlete

Date

Witness

Date