



2007-08 State of Florida/FHSAA Anabolic Steroid Testing Program

The State of Florida has directed the FHSAA to test student-athletes in grades 9-12 for the use of anabolic steroids during the 2007-08 school year. Student-athletes who are participating in the sports of baseball, football and weightlifting will be randomly selected to undergo testing. Florida Law 2007-192 establishes the basic guidelines for the testing program.

This document contains information on how the testing program will be conducted, the penalties for tests resulting in positive findings, and the procedures for appealing positive findings and the resulting penalties. It also outlines the responsibilities and obligations of member schools and individual student-athletes.

WHO WILL BE TESTED?

Approximately 1 percent of all student-athletes in grades 9-12 who participate in the sports of boys baseball, girls flag football, boys tackle football, girls softball and girls & boys weightlifting may be tested. Student-athletes in grades 6-8 will not be tested. Neither will student-athletes in grades 9-12 who participate in sports other than the six target sports.

WHO WILL CONDUCT THE TESTS?

The FHSAA has contracted with the National Center for Drug Free Sport, Inc.TM to administer the testing program. Specimens will be analyzed at UCLA's Olympic laboratory, the leading anti-doping lab in the world, which is certified by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

HOW WILL STUDENT-ATHLETES BE SELECTED FOR TESTING?

FHSAA will submit to Drug Free Sport, a list of all athletes who participate in the identified sports. Drug Free Sport will first randomly select the schools and then randomly select students from each school. At the end of the 2007-08 school year, a maximum of 1 percent of student-athletes participating in the named sports will have been tested.

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT A STUDENT-ATHLETE COULD BE TESTED TWICE?

Yes. Because the method of selection is completely random a student-athlete who participates in more than one of the six targeted sports could possibly be selected for testing in any one or more of those sports.

WHAT SUBSTANCES WILL STUDENT-ATHLETES BE TESTED FOR?

Student-athletes will be tested for anabolic steroids, including but not limited to THG and Madol, as well as substances that are used to mask the use of anabolic steroids. Student-athletes will not be tested for recreational drugs.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR REPORTING NAMES OF PARTICIPATING STUDENT-ATHLETES TO THE FHSAA OFFICE?

Each school must provide to the FHSAA Office by sport a roster containing the names of all student-athletes in grades 9-12 who are participating in any of the six target sports. Each roster must be submitted by email on the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet template that is available for download at

http://www.fhsaa.org/compliance/steroid_testing/

Only the name of each student-athlete – last name followed by first name and current grade level– is needed. The initial roster in each target sport must be received in the FHSAA Office the week before the first permissible date of competition in that sport. The rosters will be forwarded to Drug Free Sport, which will make confidential, objective random selections of student-athletes from the rosters submitted by the schools selected for testing in the target sport.

HOW OFTEN DOES A SCHOOL HAVE TO SUBMIT UPDATED ROSTERS IN A SPORT AND WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT-ATHLETE LEAVES THE PROGRAM?

It is not necessary for a school to submit an updated roster in a sport unless the school is selected for testing. Once a school is notified that it has been selected for testing in a sport, the school must submit to the FHSAA Office within 72 hours (3 days) a complete and up-to-date roster. The roster is to include **ALL** participants, including injured student-athletes. If a student-athlete leaves the program, for whatever reason, he/she **WILL NOT** be allowed to rejoin the team at any time during the 2007-08 school year.

WHAT IF A SCHOOL DOES NOT WANT ITS STUDENT-ATHLETES TO BE TESTED?

Participation in the testing program by a school is not optional. Florida Law 2007-192 has made participation in the testing program a prerequisite for membership in the FHSAA. If your school does not consent to participate in the testing program, its membership in the FHSAA will be suspended for the 2007-08 school year. There will be no exceptions.

WHAT IF A STUDENT-ATHLETE DOES NOT WANT TO BE TESTED, OR A STUDENT-ATHLETE'S PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN(S) REFUSE TO CONSENT FOR THEIR CHILD TO BE TESTED?

Participation in the testing program by a student-athlete is not optional. Florida Law 2007-192 requires each student-athlete participating in the target sports, as well as the student-athlete's parent(s), to give their consent in writing for the student-athlete to be tested as a prerequisite for eligibility to participate in these sports. If a student-athlete does not provide to the school a consent form signed by the student-athlete and his/her parent(s), the student-athlete will not be eligible to participate in practice or competition in these sports. The student-athlete, however, will be eligible to participate in other sports.

WHEN WILL THE TESTING TAKE PLACE?

Student-athletes participating in any one of the six target sports will be subject to selection and testing at any time during the season for each of those sports.

WHAT WILL BE THE PROCEDURE FOR THE ACTUAL TEST?

Once Drug Free Sport randomly selects a student-athlete for testing, the procedure will be as follows:

1. Drug Free Sport will notify both the school administration and the FHSAA Office at least seven days in advance of when a certified specimen collector will visit the school to collect a urine specimen from the student. The name of the student to be tested, however, will not be disclosed.
2. When the specimen collector arrives at the school, he/she will disclose to the school administration the name(s) of the student-athlete(s) selected for testing. The student-athlete(s) will be called to the main office, directed to a private room, and required to provide a specimen.
3. The specimen collector will forward the specimen(s) to the lab, which will divide the specimen into an "A" sample and a "B" sample. The lab will only analyze the "A" sample during this period of testing. The "B" sample will be retained for analysis in the event of a challenge to a positive finding. The lab will provide to the FHSAA Office its findings within 10 – 14 business days, and the FHSAA will immediately notify the schools.
4. If a test produces a positive finding, the school administration, upon receipt of the notification, must immediately suspend the student-athlete from practice and competition in all sports. The school administration must notify and schedule a meeting with the student-athlete and his/her parents to review with them the positive finding, the procedure for challenging the finding, the penalties, and the procedure for appealing the penalties.

WHAT IF A STUDENT-ATHLETE WHO IS SELECTED FOR TESTING IS ABSENT ON THE DAY OF TESTING OR OTHERWISE FAILS TO REPORT FOR THE TEST WHEN CALLED?

Regardless of the reason why a student-athlete does not report to be tested when called (including an excused absence), the student-athlete must be immediately suspended from practice and competition in all interscholastic sports until a specimen is provided. A Drug Free Sport representative will be required to make a second trip to the school to collect that specimen. Therefore, the cost of the test will be the responsibility of the student-athlete or school. A test administered by any entity other than Drug Free Sport will not be accepted.

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES TO A STUDENT-ATHLETE WHO TESTS POSITIVE?

1. **Suspension from practice and competition.** A student-athlete who tests positive will be suspended from practice and competition in all sports for 90 school days. The suspension will begin immediately on the day the school receives notice of a positive finding. The student-athlete must undergo a mandatory exit test no sooner than the 60th school day of the suspension. If the

exit test is negative, the student-athlete will be immediately reinstated. If the exit test is positive, the student-athlete will remain suspended until a subsequent retest results in a negative finding.

2. **Drug education program.** The student-athlete must attend and complete a drug education program conducted by the school, the school district or a third-party organization contracted by the school or school district.

WHAT IF A SCHOOL ALLOWS A STUDENT-ATHLETE WHO HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED TO THE FHSAA OFFICE FOR TESTING TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THE TARGET SPORTS?

The student-athlete is ineligible. The school, therefore, will be required to forfeit each and every contest in which the student-athlete participated (dressed in uniform). Furthermore, the school may face a minimum fine of \$2,500 and administrative or restrictive probation in the sport in which the violation occurred.

WHAT RIGHTS DO A SCHOOL AND/OR STUDENT-ATHLETE HAVE TO CHALLENGE A POSITIVE FINDING OR APPEAL A SUSPENSION?

1. **Challenging a positive finding.** A school may challenge a positive finding and must challenge the finding at the request of the student-athlete. The challenge must be filed with the FHSAA Office. The “B” sample of the student-athlete’s original specimen that was retained by the lab will be analyzed. The cost of this analysis must be paid by the school or the student-athlete’s parent(s). If the analysis results in a confirmed positive finding, the student-athlete will remain suspended. If the analysis results in a negative finding, the FHSAA will reinstate the student-athlete and refund the cost of the analysis. The student-athlete will remain suspended during the challenge.

2. **Appealing a suspension.** A school may appeal a suspension and must appeal the suspension at the request of the student-athlete. The appeal must be made to the Commissioner, who may uphold the full suspension, reduce the suspension by half, or reinstate the student-athlete. The school and/or student-athlete may appeal an unfavorable decision by the Commissioner to the Board of Directors, which, likewise, may uphold the full suspension, reduce the suspension by half or reinstate the student-athlete. The student-athlete, however, will remain suspended until he/she tests negative on an exit test.

WHO PAYS FOR THE TESTS?

The FHSAA will pay for the initial test of a student-athlete (analysis of “A” sample) and one exit test if needed. The school or student-athlete’s family must pay the cost of any subsequent exit tests. If the school or student-athlete challenges a positive finding, then they must pay for the cost of the “B” sample analysis. If the challenge test produces a negative finding, the FHSAA will reimburse them for the cost of the challenge test

CAN A STUDENT-ATHLETE SUBMIT TEST RESULTS FROM ANOTHER AGENCY?

No. Only those tests administered by Drug Free Sport will be accepted.

WILL THE RESULTS OF A TEST BECOME A PART OF A STUDENT-ATHLETE'S PERMANENT EDUCATIONAL RECORD?

No. Florida Law 2007-193 states that all records relating to the test, and to any challenge or appeal resulting from a positive finding, must be maintained separately from the student-athlete's educational records.

WILL A POSITIVE TEST SUBJECT A STUDENT-ATHLETE TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION?

No. Florida Law 2007-193 states that the result of test is not admissible as evidence in a criminal prosecution.

ARE RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS PERTAINING TO THE TESTS SUBJECT TO PUBLIC RECORDS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS?

No. Florida Law 2007-194 exempts all records relating to the tests from Florida's public records laws. Test results may be disclosed only to the FHSAA Office, the student-athlete, the parents of the student-athlete, the administration of the student-athlete's school, and the administration of any other school to which the student-athlete may transfer during a suspension resulting from a positive finding. All these individuals must keep the information confidential. Likewise, appeals before the FHSAA Board of Directors relating to the tests are exempt from the state's open meetings laws and will be closed to the public.

HOW LONG IS THE TESTING PROGRAM EXPECTED TO LAST?

The testing program currently is for the 2007-08 school year only. Florida Law 2007-193 will stand repealed on Oct. 2, 2008, unless renewed by the Florida Legislature during its 2008 session.

WILL SCHOOLS BE PROVIDED INFORMATION REGARDING THE SUBSTANCES THAT MAY CAUSE A POSITIVE FINDING SO THAT IT CAN EDUCATE ITS STUDENT-ATHLETES AND THEIR PARENTS?

Anyone needing information regarding anabolic steroids and other substances can visit the Center for Drug Free Sport web site, www.drugfreesport.com. The Hanley Center web site, www.hanleycenter.org, or its facility at 5200 East Avenue, West Palm Beach, Florida, also can provide resources to schools, student-athletes and parents.

WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE TESTING PROGRAM DOES A MEMBER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION HAVE?

The administration of each member senior high school sponsoring a program in baseball, football and/or weightlifting will have the following responsibilities:

1. Meet with student-athletes participating in the six target sports, as well as their parents, before the first day of practice in the sport to explain the testing program.
2. Distribute to every student-athlete participating in the six target sports a consent form for the testing program. This form must be signed by the student-athlete and his/her parents and returned to the school before the student-athlete can be permitted to participate in any practice or competition in these sports.
3. Provide to the FHSAA Office using the Microsoft Excel template a roster by sport containing the name of every student in grades 9-12 participating in the target sports who has turned in a signed consent form. A student-athlete will not be eligible to participate in any of these sports until his/her name has been reported to the FHSAA Office.
4. Provide to the FHSAA Office an updated roster in a sport for which it has been selected for testing within 72 hours (3 days) of receiving notification of the test.
5. Do not inform coaches or student-athletes as to when a specimen collector will visit the school.
6. Provide a site coordinator, who must cooperate fully with a specimen collector who visits the school. The site coordinator is responsible for calling the selected student-athlete to the office, presenting signed consent forms, and helps maintain proper conduct in the testing area.
7. Provide a private room for the specimen to be given. Remember, a student-athlete who does not provide a specimen, regardless of the reason, must be suspended from all practice and competition until a specimen is provided.
8. Notify the student-athlete and his/her parents of the results of the test. If the test is positive, the school administration must immediately suspend the student-athlete from all practice and competition in all sports. The school administration also must schedule a meeting with the student-athlete and his/her parents to explain the penalties and the procedures for challenging the finding or appealing the suspension.
9. File a challenge of a positive finding or an appeal of the suspension at the request of the student-athlete.
10. Do not include in the student-athlete's permanent school record any documentation relative to the test.
11. Keep all information pertaining to the test confidential.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE TESTING PROGRAM?

Contact Assistant Director of Eligibility Sedeirdra Smith in the FHSAA Office by email at ssmith@fhsaa.org or by phone at (352) 372-9551 ext. 380.