

WSU Athletics Drug Testing Policy

DEFINITION OF REASONABLE SUSPICION

At Washington State University, individuals can be tested based on reasonable suspicion. Reasonable suspicion will be based on the observation of behavior or conduct, or the presence of certain physical and emotional characteristics or patterns, which are symptomatic of the use of prohibited drugs or abuse of alcohol. Reasonable suspicion includes, but is not limited, to violation of state laws or university regulations, behavior changes, outward signs (odor of marijuana or alcohol). Examples include but are not limited to DUI, violent conduct, including assault and sexual assault, vandalism, theft, chronic fatigue or loss of vitality, decreased interest or effort in practices and competitions, prolonged illness or injuries, unexpected weight and/or strength gains or losses, unexplained fluctuations in moods expressed as inappropriate irritability, hostility, anxiety, anger or withdrawal.

PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINING REASONABLE SUSPICION

1. An athletics department staff member will notify the athletic director and/or senior associate director of athletics, and/or assistant director of athletics for athletic training service about a student-athlete, citing examples of reasonable suspicion, and requesting the student-athlete be tested. This concern will be documented in writing and copied to the athletic director and senior associate director of athletics. The athletic director or designee will process the documentation through the consulting committee.
2. The athletics department consulting committee will be composed of at least four of the following individuals: senior associate director of athletics, assistant director of athletics for athletic training services, team physician, head coach, representative from the student-athlete development staff, university substance abuse coordinator, and team athletic trainer or any designee from the previous areas.
3. The consulting committee will decide whether the student-athlete should be referred for drug testing based on the reasonable suspicion standard after evaluating the information presented to it by the individual stating their concern. If the committee approves the testing, the assistant director of athletics for athletic training services will proceed with scheduling the test, notifying the team physician to request script for the drug test to be forwarded to the appropriate lab and notifying the student-athlete.
4. The student-athlete will be informed of the basis for the referral and given the opportunity to respond, either in person or in writing within 24 hours, by presenting information he/she wants the committee to consider. This is an opportunity to present information only, not to challenge the scheduling of the test. The student-athlete will also be informed that if they miss the scheduled test it will be considered a first positive.

TESTING PROCEDURE

1. The athletics director will authorize the assistant director of athletics for athletic training services to facilitate a drug test.
2. The actual testing is done through a urine collection which will be witnessed by a full-time staff certified athletic trainer at the Pullman Regional Hospital laboratory. The sample is sent to the regional testing laboratory. At this point the lab will separate the sample into sample A and sample B (for use in the case that sample A results in a positive test).
3. Failure to report for testing will be treated as a positive test and consequences for a first positive test will result.
4. The team physician notifies the assistant director of athletics for athletic training services who immediately informs the athletics director and/or senior associate director of athletics (or their designee) of the laboratory results. The athletics director or designee notifies the student-athlete and the head coach of the results.

CONSEQUENCES OF A POSITIVE TEST

First Positive Test Result

1. The sample B will be tested. The results of the testing will be sent to the team physician. If a positive result is verified and confirmed as non-medically related, the team physician shall notify the athletics director and/or senior associate director of athletics or their designee. The athletics director or designee notifies the student-athlete and the head coach of the results.
2. The athletics director and/or senior associate director of athletics or designee will communicate to the appropriate head coach that a positive test was obtained. The student-athlete will be immediately placed on **probation** that could include mandatory drug counseling and retesting within the departmental drug testing program until released by the team physician and athletics administration and consulting committee.
3. The student-athlete will be referred to the substance abuse counselor for assessment and informed that he/she will be tested again in the near future as determined through counseling.
4. Based on the results of the assessment, the senior associate director of athletics and/or sport supervisor will complete a behavioral contract with the student-athlete. The athletics director, head coach and consulting committee will have the opportunity for input. The contract will include subsequent drug testing and counseling.

Student-Athlete Right to Request a Review

1. If the student-athlete desires to contest the results of the test, he/she has the right to request a review.
2. The request for review must be in writing and must be submitted within two days of the notification of the positive test result to the athletic director or senior associate director of athletics, who will conduct the review.
3. Evidence of the student-athlete's reasonable suspicion, documentation of a positive drug test, and information presented by the student-athlete will be presented to the athletic director or senior associate director of athletics for review.

4. The athletic director and/or senior associate director of athletics will render a written decision within five working days of the review which will be the final decision in the matter.

Second Positive Drug Test Result

1. The student-athlete will be retested, either on schedule with the consequences of the behavioral contract based on the first positive result **OR** if a new reasonable suspicion charge is brought forth. The same protocol is followed as for the first positive test.
2. If the result is positive and verified as non-medically related, the team physician will notify the athletic director or designee. The athletic director or senior associate director of athletics or designee will then notify the head coach.
3. The student-athlete will be **suspended** from participation for 30 calendar days, with counseling and contracts continually in place.
4. After 30 days, the student-athlete may be reinstated by the athletic director after receiving recommendations from the university substance abuse coordinator, team physician, head coach, and consulting committee.

Any Subsequent Positive Tests

1. Any subsequent positive tests will result in additional suspension for minimum of one calendar year or other penalties which could include loss of scholarship and/or dismissal from the team.

SELF-REPORTED USE/ABUSE OF ALCOHOL/OTHER DRUGS BY STUDENT-ATHLETES

Any WSU student-athlete who feels he/she has a problem with the use of alcohol and/or other drugs may request assistance through any athletics department staff member or the University Counseling and Testing services. **Assistance will or could include assessment, alcohol/substance abuse evaluations, individual therapy, group therapy, and behavior contracts with either the WSU substance abuse coordinator, or counselors at the WSU Counseling Center.** This request must occur prior to the student-athlete being notified of an impending drug test (NCAA or departmental) or prior to having legal charges made for alcohol and/or drug related behavior. If such a request is made prior to the above two scenarios, the request shall not be treated as a positive drug test or violation of alcohol policies. The student-athlete shall then be evaluated, treated, and/or counseled in a manner appropriate for his/her problem. It is important to clarify that being in treatment still requires the student-athlete's compliance with applicable NCAA, institutional, athletics department alcohol and drug policies. **This includes participating in any required NCAA drug testing or WSU athletics Department drug testing based upon other reported reasonable suspicion. Like any other student-athlete, you will be accountable for any violation of these policies including positive drug testing results.**