



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

SEC. IX – Safety 2.0

STUDENT – ATHLETE DRUG TESTING

UNIT POLICY--ATHLETICS

A. Policy Statement

North Carolina A&T State University is committed to establishing and operating an Athletics program that maintains the health of our student-athletes. Systematic drug testing is appropriate and necessary to ensure the safety and welfare of our student-athletes, to promote fair competition in intercollegiate athletics, to affirm compliance with applicable rules and regulations governing drug use, and to identify student-athletes who are improperly using drugs and offer assistance to them before they harm themselves or others. The intent of the Student-Athlete Drug Testing Policy is to prevent the use of prohibited substances by student-athletes through education, testing, and professional guidance.

The University may test for any substance listed on the NCAA's list of banned substances, and any unlisted compounds that are related to specific drugs listed by the NCAA (i.e., substances that are included in a class of drugs by their pharmacological action and/or chemical structure). This institutional drug testing policy is separate and distinct from the penalties and sanctions associated with NCAA administered drug-testing.

A student-athlete is responsible for everything that goes into his or her body. Student-athletes use all drugs and nutritional or dietary supplements at their own risk. Before taking any drug or supplement, students should consult with their team trainer or physician.

All student-athletes identified on the institution's NCAA official squad list and all intercollegiate teams are subject to unannounced drug testing. All student-athletes must execute a non-revocable institutional drug-testing consent form as a condition of athletics participation or receipt of athletics grant-in-aid.

Unannounced drug testing for any student-athlete may occur on or off campus at any time during the calendar year, including the preseason, postseason, the regular academic term, and during the summer. An unexcused failure of a student-athlete to report for or submit to a University drug test may be treated as a positive drug test. Student-athletes may be selected for unannounced drug testing in any manner approved by the Director of Athletics. No advance notice of intent to conduct drug testing is required. A student-athlete will be deemed to have received sufficient notice of intent to conduct drug testing when they are informed orally or electronically by a member of the Athletics Training staff of selection for testing.

This Drug Testing program will be administered through the Department of Athletics by staff Athletics Trainers through contract drug testing personnel. The testing will be done through chemical analyses of urine specimens (“urinalysis”). The testing protocol will follow NCAA approved chain of custody procedures. Testing may include screening for the presence of “street drugs”, to include without limitation marijuana and synthetics, opiates, amphetamines, cocaine, and/or performance-enhancing drugs, such as anabolic-androgenic steroids. Patient confidentiality will be maintained by code numbers known only to the team physicians and the head athletic trainer. The analyses will be performed in certified professional laboratories and results will be forwarded to the Head Athletics Trainer.

The University will not assume any financial liability for treatment and rehabilitation costs associated with treating student-athletes who have drug usage or drug dependency problems.

A student-athlete whose system contains drug residue may not be capable of performing sports activities and may detract from team performance and/or be a hazard to himself/herself and others. Accordingly, coaches may properly take positive drug test results into consideration when determining whether, and to what extent, a particular student-athlete should be permitted to practice, workout, or compete in his/her sport. The coach should consult with the team physician and athletic trainer in such cases.

B. Intervention Strategies

A student-athlete who tests positive for the presence of a prohibited or controlled substance during a University sponsored drug test, or who is deemed to have tested positive through failure to appear for a University sponsored drug test, is subject to the following intervention strategies. . A student-athlete who submits a urine specimen that is too dilute for accurate urinalysis will be subject to all intervention strategies associated with a First Positive Test, except it will not count as a First Positive Test in the Corrective Action intervention progression hierarchy.

First Positive Test

- Meeting with Head Coach and Senior Women Administrator
- Suspension from next competition opportunity
- Athletics financial aid may be terminated or reduced at the end of the current term
- Will participate in all University sponsored drug testing during the next calendar year
- Will be referred for counseling through the University Counseling Center

Second Positive Test

- Suspension from next three (3) competition events

- Athletics financial aid may be terminated or reduced at the end of the current term

Third Positive Test

- Suspended from all team activities immediately
- Athletics financial aid may be terminated or reduced at the end of the current term
- Prohibited from competition for 50% of the regularly scheduled competition season in all sports

If a student-athlete loses his or her athletically related financial aid as a result of testing positive for the presence of banned or prohibited agents, he or she will be granted an opportunity for a hearing by the appropriate University official(s) as outlined in existing University Financial Aid Appeal policy.

C. Compliance Review

1. The Department of Athletics through the Compliance Director shall annually review this policy and any attendant implementation procedures derived there from for continuing compliance with institutional and associational standards, and recommend any changes or revisions thereto.
2. The CCIA, or a sub-committee thereof, shall annually request a report from the Director of Athletics regarding departmental compliance with this Policy for the most recent academic year.

D. Enabling Legislation

1. NCAA Bylaw 12.7.3 – Drug Testing Consent Requirement

Approved by the Chancellor

Effective date of revised policy: Upon approval

First approved: January 30, 2012

Revised: October 20, 2015