

## **Buford High School Drug Screening Program**

### Drug Screening Goals and Procedures

The purpose of Buford High School's Drug Screening Program is to further the well-being of the student athlete and to educate and raise awareness of improper drug use including the physiological, psychological, and legal ramifications of substance abuse.

#### **Goals:**

- Provide awareness, education, and motivation to avoid drug and alcohol abuse.
- Produce students who serve as positive role models, influencing their peers to make healthy and responsible choices.
- Encourage students to remain substance free and establish appropriate habits at an early age.
- Deter the use of illegal drugs in our community.

#### **I. Definitions:**

**A. Chain of Custody** refers to the procedures for maintaining control of and accountability to the drug screening process from initial collection to final disposition for all such materials or substances, and providing for accountability at each stage in handling, testing, and storing specimens and reporting test results.

**B. Drugs** shall mean any substance screened for under this program including both street and over-the-counter drugs and may include, but not be limited to: amphetamines, methamphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, marijuana, opiates, hallucinogens, steroids and prescription medications used without a prescription.

**C. Specimen** means urine sample collected from a student in accordance with the procedures designated by the testing laboratory.

**D. Participating Student** is any student enrolled in Buford High School who participates in or applies for participation in any interscholastic athletic activity or extracurricular activity; or any student who applies for a parking permit.

#### **II. Drug Screening Procedures:**

**A. Screening:** Buford High School shall select a certified drug-testing laboratory to assist with implementing its drug-testing program. The Principal, Athletic Director, Assistant Athletic Director, and/or the Fine Arts Coordinator of Buford High School shall determine the dates and times for screening.

**B. Chain of Custody:** The school shall utilize strict "chain of custody" procedures as established by the drug-testing laboratory conducting the testing process.

**C. Consent and Cost:** Each participating student and his or her parents are required to sign a written consent form for drug testing prior to being allowed to participate in any interscholastic athletic activity, extracurricular activity and/or to apply for a parking permit at Buford High School. This form is in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and the Athletic Code of Conduct. The cost of random drug testing will be paid for by Buford City Schools.

**D. Selection Process:**

- a. Random--The program director shall develop and maintain random announced and unannounced selection procedures for administering drug screens. Students may be tested one or more times at any time during the calendar year.
- b. Reasonable suspicion--Drug testing may be required of a student where there is reasonable suspicion the student is engaged in the use of any unauthorized drugs. Reasonable suspicion may include a change in student's behavior, inconsistency of athletic or academic performance, failure to attend class or practices/games/events, and observation of use of drugs or alcohol.

**E. Notification of Screening:** Students selected for screening will be escorted by an administrator or designee to the designated site for the collection procedure. If the student cannot be located, the Administrative Team will inform the proper coach or sponsor of the inability to locate the student and activities will be suspended until a urine screen can be obtained.

**F. Specimen Collection Procedures:** Testing consists of providing a urine sample to those representatives of the firm administering the test. Privacy of the students and confidentiality of the tests results will be protected.

**The drug testing collection agency shall:**

1. Conduct on site collection of urine drug screens.
2. Forward any positive screens to laboratory for confirmation.
3. Alert Buford High School Administration of a positive test.
4. Provide Medical Review Officer information to determine if there is a valid medical reason for the substance to be in the donor's system.
5. Report final results to BHS Administration.

**III. General Prohibitions and Penalties:**

**A. Refusal to Test:** A student's refusal to test shall be treated the same as a positive test result and shall be counted in the cumulative number of positive test results. No student who tests positive or refuses to test shall be penalized academically. Testing results will not be released to criminal or juvenile authorities unless required by state or federal laws. Additionally, a student who fails to sign and turn in the consent to test form will not be permitted to participate in athletics, any extracurricular activity, or acquire a parking permit.

### **First Positive Drug Test Result:**

**The student must complete a drug and alcohol education program.**

**Student shall be tested again the following month and is subject to up to five additional unannounced tests excluding any test conducted under reasonable suspicion.**

### **Second Positive Drug Test**

**1. In Athletics:** The participating student will be suspended from participating in interscholastic athletic competitions for a minimum of 30% of the team's scheduled games for the season beginning with the next scheduled contest. In the event that the positive screen occurs with less than 30% of the athlete's schedule remaining, the suspension will be for the remainder of the year. The student-athlete may remain a part of the team and will be expected to participate in team practices or conditioning sessions. The student-athlete and parents must provide evidence of enrollment in a drug-counseling program approved by Buford High School. The student must provide a clean drug test before returning to competition, at the expense of the family.

**2. Extracurricular Activities Other Than Athletics:** The participant will be suspended from participating in competitions or performances for 30 school days. The student may remain a part of the team/club and will be expected to participate in practice sessions. The student and parents must provide evidence of enrollment in a drug-counseling program approved by Buford High School. The student must provide a clean drug test before returning to competition, at the expense of the family.

**3. Parking on Campus:** The student will not be allowed to drive or park a vehicle on campus for 9 weeks. The student and parents must provide evidence of enrollment in a drug-counseling program approved by Buford High School. The student must provide a clean drug test before returning to competition, at the expense of the family.

### **Penalty for Third Positive Drug Test Result:**

The participating student will be suspended from participating in all interscholastic athletic activities (practices and competitions), any extracurricular activity (practices, competitions or performances) or parking a vehicle on school grounds at Buford High School for one calendar year from the date of the positive test. Any student applying for a parking permit who has had a second positive drug-screening test may not obtain a parking permit until the one-year suspension has been completed.

### **Penalty for a Fourth Positive Drug Test Result:**

The participating student will be permanently suspended from interscholastic athletics, any extracurricular activity or from parking his or her vehicle on school grounds at Buford High School.

**Confidentiality:**

Test results will only be shared with parents and direct school personnel.

An administrator will receive all reports of positive drug test results. The administrator shall contact the participating student whose test resulted in a positive drug test report and that participating student's parent(s) to afford them the opportunity to confidentially discuss the test report and any available options for treatment.

Note: All positive drug tests are cumulative over a student's high school career and are also cumulative toward the suspension of practice, competitions, performances, and parking, regardless of what activity in which the student is involved during the time of the positive result.

**No Limitations on Discipline:** Notwithstanding the above protocol, nothing herein shall prohibit a coach or teacher from mandating additional discipline or punishment, dismissing a student from a team or extra-curricular activity, or referring such matter to a discipline panel tribunal.