

**HENDERSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC POLICIES 2015--2016**  
**Grades and Attendance**  
**Expectations of Athletes Inappropriate/Criminal Activity Substance Abuse Education**  
**and Testing Procedures**

Your son or daughter has indicated a desire to participate in interscholastic athletics, and you have expressed your willingness to permit him/her to compete. HHS coaches and the administration believe that athletic participation provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences which assist students in personal growth. We, who are concerned with the educational development of our students through athletics, recognize that a properly controlled, well-organized athletic program meets with the students' needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth.

A student who elects to participate in athletics is voluntarily making a choice. Self-discipline and often self-denial requiring good training habits, sound judgment, and positive citizenship skills are necessary to successfully compete in interscholastic athletics. The Sumner County School Board, the Director of Schools, and the Principal have outlined rules and regulations for the purpose of stressing to HHS athletes their needs for physical, mental, and emotional maturity in conjunction with a positive school image.

The policies that follow have been designed as a framework to assist student-athletes, parents, and coaches in participating in high school athletics at the highest level possible. These are minimum standards set forth by HHS, and the coaches of individual sports have the authority to establish and enforce team guidelines and policies in addition to the HHS athletic policy to maintain a safe and positive athletic program. Hendersonville High School recognizes that students may be involved in behavior that does not meet the standards of these policies, rules, and regulations. It is the goal of this policy to assist students' decisions to make positive choices. The athletic department encourages students to voluntarily seek help. However, a violation of these standards will result in a review for disciplinary action by the administration.

**GRADES AND ATTENDANCE**

The HHS athletic department and the TSSAA promote the idea that academic progress based on good attendance is the prime motivation for all students.

1. A player must comply with all rules set by the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA) governing attendance, enrollment in and passing of subjects, age, and residency of athletes and their families. To be eligible to play in athletic contests during any school year, a student must earn five credits the preceding school year if less than 24 credits are required for graduation; or 6 credits the preceding school year if more than 24 credits are required for graduation. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year. Students deemed ineligible for the first semester may gain eligibility second semester by passing five subjects (1/2 credit) or three blocks (1 credit per block) or the equivalent.
2. In order to participate in a scheduled contest, the player must have been in attendance that day or received prior approval from the athletic director or the principal. The player will give information concerning the absence to the coach prior to the absence. Examples of acceptable absences are: sickness, funeral, court appearance, doctor's appointment, school business, or any circumstance deemed appropriate by the school administration.

3. The principal, athletic director, and coach reserve the right to withhold an athlete from participation due to individual circumstances regarding academic performance and attendance.

### **GROOMING**

Good grooming habits create a positive image for HHS and its athletes. These rules are not intended to limit self-expression. These rules are intended to stress citizenship and team unity.

1. Proper Dress: No jewelry is to be worn during practice or scheduled contests. The coach will determine if coordinating team attire will be worn during travel to/from athletic events.

2. Hair:

**Men--Hair** will not be worn over the collar or cover the eyes. Individual coaches may determine additional provisions for hairstyles.

**Women--Hair**, if worn over the collar, will be away from the face. No unusual hairstyle or color is allowed which may call individual attention to the athlete.

### **INAPPROPRIATE/CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

A student's involvement with legal authorities may reflect activities that are contrary to team training rules and/or the school's disciplinary rules and/or the positive school image.

1. Upon any incident involving the police, school officials should be notified by the student or parent/guardian within 24 hours of the incident. All incidences of this nature not reported within 24 hours may result in a suspension from the team. The incident will be reviewed by a panel appointed by the principal for possible action.
2. Upon conviction of a crime, the athlete will be suspended until a panel appointed by the principal can make an evaluation of the situation and decide on further participation. The panel will consider the nature and severity of the crime.
3. Any violations of this policy during the "off season" (including the summer) are subject to enforcement at the beginning of the student-athlete's athletic season(s) the following school year. An athletic season is defined as the first day of practice as recognized by TSSAA and/or the school.
4. Student-athletes are strongly discouraged from creating personal profiles on Internet websites, due to unforeseen consequences associated with this type of access. Any reference to illegal, criminal, or other activity detrimental to an athletic team, another student-athlete, coaches, the athletic program, and/or Hendersonville High School will be handled according to the policies outlined in this handbook. Examples may include, but are not limited to: photographs posted on a website, comments posted on a website, electronic defamation (text messages), or any other identification that negatively reflects Hendersonville High School athletics.

### **TOBACCO USE**

An athlete's use of any tobacco product is strongly discouraged by the Athletic Department. The Sumner County Board of Education prohibits the possession and/or use of tobacco at school, in route to and from or at school sponsored events. HHS intends to strictly enforce the ban on tobacco products. The first offense of the policy is a three-day suspension from school and all activities. The second offense is a five-day suspension.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Drug and alcohol use by student-athletes is strongly discouraged by the administration and coaching staff. The Athletic Department's response to the first incident involving the use, consumption, possession of illegal drugs or alcohol and/or drug paraphernalia will be:

1. To notify the parent/guardian;
2. To determine if the action violates the rules and regulations set forth by the Sumner County Board of Education;
3. To suspend the student-athlete for a minimum of two weeks from athletic participation;
4. To refer the student-athlete for counseling from the school's STARS program; the athlete may select to obtain counseling from an outside agency approved by the principal;
5. For the athlete to submit to future drug testing conducted by the school's athletic program. If the test results indicate the use of a controlled substance, the athlete will be in violation of the school's drug testing policy;
6. For the athlete to submit to additional enforcement of the affected team's coach's rules; and
7. For the athlete to request reinstatement on the program from the Drug Education and Screening Committee.

The Athletic Department's response to a second and subsequent incident will be the same with the exception that the team suspension will be for a minimum of thirty days.

## **DRUG EDUCATION AND TESTING POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

### **PURPOSE:**

Sumner County Schools is concerned with the physical wellbeing of all students, including those who participate in athletics. Sumner County Schools is concerned with the physical well-being of all students. This policy only refers to voluntary extra-curricular activities. For the purpose of this policy, 'athletics' refers to all activities governed by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA).

1. All students will be subject to random drug testing beginning with the first official practice as defined under TSSAA regulations.
2. All students who participate in athletics will be subject to random testing throughout each school year of participation.

### **School Drug Education and Testing Policy and Procedure**

The primary purposes of the drug education and testing policy and procedures:

1. To employ education, testing, and counseling to deter drug use;
2. To educate those students on the physiological and psychological dangers inherent in the misuse of drugs and alcohol.
3. To protect those students from the health-related risks inherent the misuse of drugs and alcohol.
4. To provide a testing program to identify student-athletes who are improperly using drugs and to assist them through education and counseling before they injure themselves or others or become physiologically or psychologically dependent.
5. To reassure students, parents, and the community that the health and academic progress of each student is Sumner County School's primary goal.

**DRUG TESTING PROCEDURE:**

Students participating in athletics will be subject to random testing for the use and/or abuse of illegal or controlled drugs. Student-athletes who are under the care of a physician and must take a prescribed medication must provide documentation from that physician. A standard test will be established by the Director of Schools and will be administered under the direction of the athletic coach or sponsor, certified athletic trainer or school administrator. The testing procedures will ensure that the specimen being analyzed is identified with the appropriate student and that the purity of that sample is maintained. A professional laboratory accredited by the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment will conduct all chemical analyses. The Sumner County Board of Education and/or the individual school shall pay the cost of initial testing (TCA 49-6-4213). The parent(s)/guardian(s) or student will incur the expense required of any secondary testing following a positive test result, payable to the school.

**SELECTION OF ATHLETES TO BE TESTED:**

Before the conclusion of the fifth day of official practice based on the TSSAA calendar, coaches must submit a roster of students participating in the practices to the school's athletic director. Students unable to attend these practices that coaches know will be a part of the team must also be included on this roster (i.e. students unable to be present for the practices due to illness, or who are participating on other athletic teams).

Using the Research Randomizer random selection tool, (<http://www.randomizer.org/form.htm>), the athletic director at each school will select at least 10% of the students on the roster to be tested within 24 hours.

A copy of the official TSSAA registration roster as well as any addendums, the list of students tested, the results of the tests, and any consequences assigned must be submitted to the Sumner County Director of Schools Office.

**TEST RESULTS:**

Violations of the Drug Education and Testing Policy will be cumulative and follow the student throughout his/her high school career. Testing positive for illegal or controlled substances will result in the following consequences:

**1st Positive Test Result:** The athletic coach or sponsor, certified athletic trainer or school administrator, parent(s)/guardian(s), and student will be notified that a positive test result has occurred. The student will be suspended immediately from all practices, competitions, and participation in any scheduled voluntary activity for a period of thirty (30) days beginning with the date the test results are received. If the test results are received in the "off-season", the thirty (30) day suspension period will begin at the start of the first official practice of the next sport season in which they participate. The student and parent(s)/guardian(s) will meet with the athletic coach or sponsor, certified athletic trainer or school administrator concerning the risk of drug use, assistance that is available and the consequences of any subsequent drug test. At the conclusion of the thirty (30) day suspension period, the student must submit to an additional drug test before reinstatement; a positive result of this drug test would be a second offense for the student.

This 30-day suspension from activities shall be held in abeyance if the student agrees to participate in a 4-week counseling program through STARS or a similar service. At the conclusion of the counseling program, the student must submit to an additional drug test before reinstatement; a positive result of this drug test would be a second offense for the student.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Positive Test Result: Second Offense** –The athletic coach or sponsor, certified athletic trainer or school administrator, parent(s)/guardian(s), and student will be notified that a second positive test result has occurred. Students failing a drug test for the second time will be suspended for sixty (60) days from all practices, competitions, and participation in any scheduled athletic activity and are required to participate in counseling, either through STARS or a licensed, accredited agency outside of school at the expense of the parent. The student and parent(s)/guardian(s) will meet with the athletic coach or sponsor, certified athletic trainer or school administrator concerning assistance that is available and the consequences of any subsequent drug test. At the conclusion of the sixty (60) day suspension period, the student must submit to an additional drug test before reinstatement; a positive result of this drug test would be a third offense for the student.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Positive Test Result:** The athletic coach or sponsor, certified athletic trainer or school administrator, parent(s)/guardian(s), and student will be notified that a third positive test result has occurred. Upon a third positive test result, the student will lose the privilege of any further participation in any athletics in any capacity for the remainder of his/her high school career. Application for the reinstatement will not be considered.

**Violation/Refusal:** A student who attempts to alter a sample, or otherwise provides an invalid sample, or who refuses to provide a sample as requested according to the program will be considered “positive” for the test date. He/she will then be handled according to the above stated consequences, and the parent or guardian will be notified.

---

**SUMNER COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **High School**

**CONSENT TO PERFORM URINALYSIS FOR DRUG TESTING**

I hereby consent to have a sample of my urine collected and tested for the presence of drugs in accordance with the Sumner County Schools Drug Testing Policy and Procedures if requested by school officials.

I understand that this testing will occur at such time or times as deemed appropriate by the athletic coach or sponsor, certified athletic trainer or school administrator. I understand that my urine samples will be sent to a licensed medical laboratory for actual testing and that the samples will be coded to provide confidentiality.

I hereby authorize the release of such urine testing results to the athletic coach or sponsor, certified athletic trainer or school administrator and other high school officials as deemed appropriate. I understand that these results will also be made available to me.

I understand that I am free to withdraw from this consent for urinalysis testing. However, I also understand that should I refuse to submit to this consent at the time requested, I will not be permitted to participate in any voluntary extracurricular program until such time as my head coach/activity sponsor and school administration shall deem appropriate. I understand that before such a test would take place, my parents and I would have an opportunity to read and to understand the Sumner County Schools Drug Education and Testing Policy and Procedures.

I hereby release the Sumner County Board of Education and \_\_\_\_\_ High School from any legal responsibility or liability for the release of such information and records authorized by this form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature  
*(Necessary if Student-Athlete is a minor)*