

**Morgan County High School  
Drug Screening Procedures for Students Participating in  
Interscholastic Athletics and/or Parking Permit Holders**

Morgan County High School believes that the use and abuse of drugs that have not been prescribed for medical benefit can be detrimental to the physical, emotional, and mental health of its students. Also, the use and abuse of drugs seriously interferes with the performance of student-athletes and teenage drivers and is dangerous to themselves as well as others. Because of these concerns, Morgan County High School has adopted the following procedures for student athletes and parking permit holders beginning with the 2008-2009 school year.

Goals of the Morgan County High School Drug Screening Program

- Give students another opportunity to stay away from drugs and anyone who uses drugs.
- Produce student-athletes who serve as a positive role model, influencing their peers to make healthy and responsible choices.
- Anyone who drives while under the influence of drugs or alcohol endangers the lives of themselves and others. Through the drug screening program, we seek to encourage students to remain substance-free and establish appropriate habits at an early age.
- Deter the use of illegal drugs in our community.
- Identify any student who may be using drugs and to identify the drugs as well as to provide referrals for counseling and treatment.

Procedures

*For Student-Athletes*

1. At the beginning of the school year, students who are interested in participating in interscholastic athletics at any time during the year must sign a consent form which authorized the school to administer drug testing and allows the results of the test to be released to parents/guardians, administrative officials, and the head coach of the athletic teams on which the student participates. **(Note: A signed consent form is a requirement for participation in any GHSA governed inter-scholastic activity that requires an annual physical examination for participation. Parents and students do not have the option of not participating in the drug-screen program.)**
2. Random testing will take place monthly throughout the school year with students chosen through lottery/random selection. The outside firm administering the drug screening will receive student numbers (not social

security numbers) for all students who participate in athletics or are parking permit holders. Each month, the toxicology lab will select numbers *anonymously* from those in the pool and administer tests to those students. The substances that will be tested include: amphetamines, barbiturates, cocaine, opiates, and propoxyphene. Testing consists of providing a urine sample to those representatives of the firm administering the test. School personnel will supervise students, but will not administer the test. Privacy of the students and confidentiality of the test results will be protected. Specimens will be processed for identity and secured to ensure against tampering. Test results will be reported to the school through the proper chain of command. In case of a positive result, the parent or guardian will be notified.

3. The student must fill out a form delineating any medication that she/he is currently taking.

*For Parking Permit Holders:*

The procedures for testing parking permit holders are the same as for student-athletes. The following steps apply specifically to parking permit holders.

- To park on campus, a student must complete a parking permit application. As a part of the application, students must sign that they agree to the following statement:
  - *I understand that as a parking permit holder at Morgan County High School that I am subject to random drug screening as administered by the school. I also understand that parking on campus is a privilege and that it may be suspended or withheld from me if I do not meet the requirements set forth in the MCHS drug screening policy.*
- There will be one pool of student numbers from which the toxicology lab will draw. The pool will consist of parking permit holders and student-athletes.

*Additional Notes*

- A student's refusal to test will be considered a positive test result.
- A student who is both an athlete and a parking permit holder will lose both privileges during any time of suspension
- Student parking permit holders who lose driving privileges will not be permitted to park in areas near campus, including the track, tennis courts, Board of Education office, Recreation Department, or Public Library.

## Consequences for Positive Results

### First Positive

If a test is returned positive, the parents or guardians and the student-athlete will be notified. The student-athlete will be suspended for 10% of the team's regular season contests beginning with the next scheduled game (this could be a playoff game(s) or a game in the following season; it does not include practice scrimmages). Students with parking permits will be suspended from driving to school for 18 consecutive school days (10% of the year) beginning with the next school day. The student-athlete may remain a part of the team and will be expected to participate in team practices or conditioning sessions.

The student and parents must provide evidence of enrollment in a drug-counseling program approved by the Principal. The student must agree to another drug test within a timeframe recommended by the Toxicology Lab at family's expense.

### Second Positive

If a student has a second positive screen, the parents or guardian and the student will be notified. The student will be suspended from the team, and/or driving privileges at the time of notification. A meeting will be scheduled with the parents or guardians, the student, the principal, the head coach, and the athletic director (as applicable) to arrange the following:

- Agree for participation in a drug treatment and counseling program on a regular basis, for a minimum of four weeks. Parents or guardians are expected to participate in the program.
- Sign an agreement that releases Morgan County Board of Education from any liability for injury or illness resulting from drugs and /or treatment.
- Apply for reinstatement to the team and/or for driving privileges after a minimum of four (4) weeks if the following provisions are met: (a) provide a negative drug screen to school administration; (b) agree to continue with drug counseling; (c) agree to be subjected to future testing on demand at the student's expense; and (d) understand that the application for reinstatement may be denied. The principal, head coach, and athletic director will decide on reinstatement.

### Third Positive

A third positive screen will result in suspension from all interscholastic athletics for one calendar year from date of result. Parents or guardians and student-athlete will be notified immediately. Continued counseling and treatment during the year of suspension is expected with periodic testing at family's expense. Reinstatement procedures will remain constant, meaning they will have to go through the re-instatement process outlined in the Second Positive.

- In the event the student-athlete believes this policy has not been applied to him/her in a manner consistent with the intent, the parents or guardians may appeal the decision to the principal of their school within 72 hours of a positive test result, and the principal's decision in this matter shall be final. This procedure is intended to supplement the existing policies of the Morgan County Board of Education and the Georgia High School Association regarding the governance of interscholastic athletics. Administrators will not use test results obtained pursuant to this policy for disciplinary or other purposes, other than as set forth above. **All students remain subject to the Morgan County Board of Education Student Code of Conduct and may be subject to established discipline procedures if found in possession or under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol at school or at school sponsored events.**
- In addition, parents (guardians) may make a request to have their student-athletes tested at their expense.

This policy is not a part of the disciplinary code, but is relative to student participation in areas of parking and participation in interscholastic activities. There is not an appeal process as this policy affects participation and not discipline, therefore the decision of the high school principal is final in all matters regarding this policy.