

WCHS Athletic Policy #18

WCHS Drug and Alcohol Athletic Policy

Woodford County High School is concerned with the health related conduct of its student athletes and therefore it will strictly prohibit the use or possession of illegal controlled substances and alcoholic beverages and the misuse of prescription and non-prescription medications. Because a student athlete's health is affected by the use or misuse of these substances regardless of where the use occurs, the Woodford County High School may take action regarding a student athlete consistent with this policy even where the drug or alcohol related conduct did not occur on school property, during school hours, or at a school sponsored event.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

1. Student athletes at WCHS shall not use, possess, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal controlled substances. Student athletes at WCHS shall not use, possess, or be under the influence of prescription or over-the-counter medications in any manner inconsistent with the physician's instructions and/or the packaging of the substance, and inconsistent with Board Policies and Kentucky statutes and administrative regulations regarding possession and use of such medication. Violation of this provision will result in the denial of participation in interscholastic athletics at WCHS according to the guidelines below.
2. A student will be subject to this policy once the student joins a WCHS athletic program, regardless of grade, and will be in effect at all times until they graduate from high school. Joining a WCHS athletic program includes trying out for a team, even if the student is not subsequently selected for participation on the team and even if the student withdraws from participation prior to such selection.
3. All WCHS coaches shall enforce this policy as written below and shall report all suspected violations to the principal. A suspected violation is one for which a person in the coach's position would believe that a possible violation of the policy has occurred. The coach does not have to have personal knowledge of the circumstances, but may rely upon information received from other students, other WCHS staff, and members of the public. Violations of this policy will be determined by the principal or his designee. Nothing in this policy affects or limits the responsibilities of school personnel set forth in KRS 158.155(4) regarding the mandatory reporting of a misdemeanor relating to the use, possession, or sale of controlled substances or any felony which occurs on school premises or within 1,000 feet of the school premises, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored or sanctioned event.
4. Any student seeking assistance for alcohol or drug addiction or abuse through a coach or other school official shall not be held to this policy if his/her intent is for assistance and not solely to avoid the penalties associated with a violation of this policy. Intent to seek assistance will be determined exclusively by the principal consistent with paragraph 3 of this policy, and will be shown by the student's admission to the conduct which constitutes the violation of the policy, and the student's voluntary submission to, participate in, and completion of an alcohol or drug addiction program such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous or a similar program recommended by a health department official or the student's family physician. The student or his/her parents will be responsible for all expenses associated with the program. A student may obtain the protection of this paragraph even if the student seeks assistance after a charge of a violation of this policy has been made, but before a determination of a violation has been made. A student athlete who has completed such a program and who desires to continue participating in WCHS athletic programs may also be requested to periodically submit to drug screening by urine or blood test at the student's or his/her parents' expense, and at such times as randomly selected by the principal.

Procedures

5. A student who is suspected or accused of violating paragraph 1 of this policy shall have an opportunity for a hearing before being penalized under this policy.
6. For a first violation, the student shall be afforded the same hearing as is provided for consideration of a short-term suspension from school, which includes an opportunity for the student to hear the charges against him/her, to hear the evidence against him/her, and to present the student's version of events. Prior written notice is not required and the student does not have a right to be accompanied by either his/her parent(s) or legal counsel. A determination by the principal that the student has violated this policy will be final. A finding of a first violation will not be subject to reconsideration after the student has been charged with a second violation. Evidence that a student has admitted to the violation, or that school personnel witnessed the violation, or that the student has been convicted (or entered a plea of guilty or no contest) of a criminal statute relating to a drug or alcohol use, possession, or trafficking will be sufficient evidence to sustain a determination by the principal that a violation has occurred.
7. For a second violation or third violation, the student shall be afforded a more extensive hearing. Prior to a hearing, the principal must give the student at least five (5) days notice. The notice shall be written and shall include a brief statement of the nature of the violation alleged. The principal does not have to disclose the names of any student witness or person providing a statement if the principal determines the person's interest and well-being would be jeopardized by the disclosure. The principal must have interviewed the witness in private and provide a written summary of the interview to the accused student at the hearing. No witnesses need be sworn. The student may be accompanied by a parent at the hearing. The student may solicit statements from other students or