



FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: STUDENT ATHLETES – DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES FOR ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS AND DRUG PARAPHERNALIA OFFENSES

Alcohol, drug, and tobacco use are extremely serious offenses. Not only is the quality of life of the student athlete in jeopardy but the quality of life of innocent bystanders may be in jeopardy as well. Individuals participating in athletics depend on one another to be mentally and physically prepared to give their best effort each day. This cannot happen if the student athlete is using alcohol, tobacco, or drugs that are not prescribed by a physician. **Accordingly, the following provisions apply to student athletes effective with the designated start date of the athletic season in August and ending with the last day of school for students. Therefore, the provisions apply to student athletes for the entire designated period, regardless if they are in or out of season.**

A. A participating student athlete involved in possession (having control over or the access to use, even if the control or right is shared with others; possession does not require ownership, it includes constructive possession), use, being under the influence to any degree, or being party to an actual or attempted transaction of any of the substances which are or have the appearance of drugs (prescription or non-prescription used outside of their legal medical purposes), steroids, alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, controlled dangerous substances, inhalants, or drug paraphernalia on/off school property, under or not under school supervision shall be subject to the following consequences:

1. Immediate exclusion of the student athlete for 20% of regularly scheduled competitions or performances. If less than 20% of regularly scheduled competitions or performances in which a student is officially representing the school remain, there will be a carryover into the post season and/or next season of participation including the following year so that the total exclusion level is at 20%. During the 20% exclusion period, the student may participate in practices and related athletic training activities but may not participate in any other team activities including, but not limited to, participating in interschool competitions (including scrimmages), sitting or traveling with the team, wearing the team uniform, or being excused from class for team activities.

AND

2. The student athlete must complete an assessment and associated program (if recommended) by an approved and recommended substance abuse program (i.e., Project 103) and provide appropriate verification of participation.

OR

3. Failure to comply with Part 2 results in no participation for three (3) consecutive sport seasons (see Reg. 400-86 for specific clarification of sport seasons).
4. Second and subsequent violations will result in exclusion from all participation for three (3) consecutive sport seasons (see Reg. 400-86 for specific clarification of sport seasons).

B. A participating student athlete involved in the distribution of substances, which are or have the appearance of drugs (prescription or non-prescription used outside of their legal medical purposes), steroids, alcohol, narcotics, controlled dangerous substances, inhalants, or drug paraphernalia on/off school property, under or not under school supervision shall be subject to exclusion from all participation for three (3) consecutive sport seasons (see Reg. 400-86 for specific clarification of sport seasons).

C. Self-Referral by Student Athlete/Parent

Student representatives may take advantage of a self-referral procedure to seek information, guidance, counseling, and assessment in regard to student athlete use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs. **Voluntary referrals do not carry punitive consequences.**

1. This self-referral is allowed one (1) time in a student’s four-year high school career.
2. Only the student or a member of the student’s immediate family may make referral.
3. The self-referral cannot be used as a method to avoid consequences once a conduct rule is violated and a student has been identified as having violated one of the conduct rules.
4. The self-referral must be made to an athletic director, administrator, guidance counselor, or school nurse.

“Out of Season” student athletes found in violation shall be subject to consequences in their next season of participation, including the following year.