

Report to Florida Legislature and Florida Department of Education

on

2007-08 F.S. 1006.20 Random Drug Testing Program



Submitted by

Florida High Schools Athletic Association

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I. Overview of Steroid Testing Program

The FHSAA Steroid Testing Program was implemented during the 2007-08 school year as a pilot program. Contingent upon funding, and to the extent funded, the organization shall facilitate a 1-year program during the 2007-2008 academic year in which students in grades 9 through 12 in its member schools who participate in regular and postseason competition in selected sports governed by the organization shall be subject to random testing for the use of anabolic steroids as defined in s. 893.03(3)(d). All schools, both public and private, shall consent to the provisions of this subsection as a prerequisite for membership in the organization for the duration of the program. The FHSAA has approximately 657 member schools eligible for testing.

II. Statistics on the number of students tested

Through agreement with the testing agency, The National Center for Drug Free Sport (DFS), 600 student-athletes were selected for testing in approximately 53 different schools. DFS set up a process that would allow for multiple students to be selected and tested at a randomly chosen school. The following summarizes the testing participants:

(Table 1)

Sport	FB	GWtl	BWtl	SB	BA	Total
# of Schools tested	30	3	5	5	10	53
# of students tested	411	14	25	50	100	600

Table 1 identifies the number of students and schools selected for testing. Softball was included in the testing as an answer to FHSAA membership’s questions regarding the parity in gender representation.

(Table 2)

Football	Girls Weightlifting	Boys Weightlifting	Softball	Baseball
American HS	Mandarin HS	Florida Air Academy	Calvary Christian HS	Academy at the Lakes Day School
Berkeley Prep	Santaluces HS	Lake Highland Prep School	Chaminade HS	Bishop John J. Snyder HS

Boca Raton Comm	Wellington HS	Liberty HS	Ferguson HS	Episcopal HS
Bolles School				
Boyton Beach HS		Nease HS	Hagerty HS	Raines HS
Braden River HS		Ridgewood HS	Ridge Community HS	LaBelle HS
Brandon HS				Palm Harbor University HS
Christopher Columbus				St. Joseph Academy
Clearwater HS				St. Francis Catholic HS
Cypress Creek HS				Southwest Miami HS
Fleming Island HS				Tavares HS
Fort Walton Beach HS				
Glades Day School				
Keswick Christian				
Lake Wales HS				
Largo HS				
Mater Academy Charter				
Miami Country Day				
Miami Palmetto HS				
Mount Dora HS				
Mulberry HS				
Newsome HS				
Orange Park HS				
Palmetto HS				

Wharton HS				
South Sumter HS				
St. Johns Country Day				
Taylor County HS				
Robinson HS				
Venice HS				

III. Number of violations

Of the 600 student-athletes testing for steroids, **one individual tested positive**. This individual tested positive for two steroids found on the banned substance list. The student's approximate concentration of 19-norandrosterone was about 1879 times the NCAA cutoff of 2 nanograms per milliliter of urine for males and 19-noretiocholanolone.

IV. Number of challenges and Results

There were no challenges to the results.

V. The number of appeals and their disposition

According to Statute the member school may appeal to the organization's commissioner the period of ineligibility imposed on a student as a result of a positive finding and must appeal at the request of the student. The executive director may require the student to complete the prescribed penalty, reduce the prescribed penalty by one-half, or provide complete relief from the prescribed penalty. Regardless of the decision of the executive director, the student shall remain ineligible until the student tests negative on an exit drug test and the student's eligibility is restored by the organization.

Should the member school or student be dissatisfied with the decision of the executive director, the school may pursue the appeal before the organization's board of directors and must do so at the request of the student. The board of directors may require the student to complete the prescribed penalty, reduce the prescribed penalty by one-half, or provide complete relief from the prescribed penalty. Regardless of the decision of the board of directors, the student shall remain ineligible until the student tests negative on an exit drug test and the student's eligibility

is restored by the organization. The decision of the board of directors on each appeal shall be final.

The school submitted an appeal on behalf of the parents and the student. The appeal requested a reinstatement for participation prior to the expiration of the 90-day suspension. The factors to be considered for the appeal consisted of the following:

- Student completed required nutrition and drug education program;
- Student presented negative exit test results; and
- Student missed sixty school days of athletic participation.

The executive director reinstated the student-athlete's eligibility prior to the expiration of the 90-day suspension.

VI. Costs incurred by the organization in the administration of the program

The Association used the \$99,750 of the \$100,000 allocated by the Legislature for testing the student-athletes. Equally dividing the expense by the number of students tested resulted in \$166.25 per test. All administrative costs associated with the testing program were funded by the FHSAA. There were no legal fees as a result of the program as there were no legal challenges to the tests' results. The FHSAA paid for the mandatory exit test required of the student who tested positive.

VII. Survey Results

The Association conducted a survey for schools selected to participate in the steroid testing program. Approximately fourteen days after collections of the testing samples, the FHSAA received the results of the specimen. Upon notifying the member schools' principals of the testing results, principals were provided a link for either the principal or school representative to complete an electronic survey. In some instances, more than one school representative responded to the survey, as more than one school representative played an integral part in making the testing process work smoothly. The following summarizes the responses to the survey.

Graph Chart Available (Appendix A).

Open-ended responses

#3 How many student-athletes were selected for testing at your school?

The average, 14 students per school were tested.

Question 7: Were the representatives from Drug Free Sport professional and courteous in administering the test?

100% of the respondents answered yes.

Question 8: Did the selected student-athletes express any anxiety prior to being tested? (If yes, please add comments.)

Comments included the following:

- They were anxious due to the fact that we just called them out of class and did not give them any warning as to what they were going to do.
- They were not told until after they arrived in the locker room that they were being tested. They all seemed very calm.
- Nervous because they did not know what was going until they were taken to testing site
- They were nervous not knowing what they were being called to the office for.

Question 9: Did the selected student-athletes express any anxiety during the testing process? (If yes, please add comments.)

- Very little though. We only brought in four students at a time and I think that cut down on the anxiety and they seem to produce rather quickly.
- Bladder shyness.
- Just the ones that took a long time to give a sample. They were kind of perplexed in that our school was being tested and not some of the powerhouse football programs in Orlando.
- Only expected trouble providing a complete sample.
- Several had to try several times to give a sample
- There was some difficulty meeting the minimum requirement of the sample.
- [DFS] Reps were very helpful in easing the students.
- Mainly due to not being able to urinate than anything else.
- Couldn't fill the cup up.

Question 14: What, if anything, would you change about the testing process? (Ex. prior notification, time of testing, number of student-athletes selected, etc.)

- Nothing (29 Responses)
- I felt that the process especially for the first time was excellent. For time sake a smaller that is being tested might be considered. I think that we should be able to give the students 24 hour notice that they are being tested. These are High School kids and in my opinion will not have the resources or money to alter their testing samples in 24 hours.
- I thought it was run efficiently.
- We should test for drugs also.
- I think it would be helpful to have a 12 hour notice. Even in college they have at least 12 hours. This would help to ease some of the tension and allow us to contact the parents ahead of time.

- Make it shorter. It took six hours. If a student was not at school (example: out of town during the testing) - why not let his local Doctor test them after they return instead of them missing 90 days?
- Test more athletes and for different drugs.
- WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SHARE WITH THE TEAM THE DAY BEFORE THAT THEY WERE GOING TO BE TESTED
- We were lucky no students were absent or on field trips which could cause some problem. Change how absent students are handled.
- Everything was professional. We are ok with the current process.
- By the time we get the results, the season is over.
- Please note that in question 11, above, the student athletes called their parents to inform them of the test immediately after it was completed.
- Please let the schools know when there is a change in the testing process.
- Reporting a violation of playing ineligible jv football players. I was doing the right thing by asking, had I not asked, the reps clearly stated that they NEVER SEE OR ASK FOR THE CONSENT TO TEST FORMS. Out of all these schools and all these players, I refuse to believe that we are the only school that has not had every consent form on file reporting a violation of playing ineligible jv football players. I was doing the right thing by asking, had I not asked, the reps clearly stated that they NEVER SEE OR ASK FOR THE CONSENT TO TEST FORMS. Out of all these schools and all these players, I refuse to believe that we are the only school that has not had every consent form on file...
- I would not change a thing, great program and it is needed.
- I don't know enough yet of the procedures but it was done quietly, quickly and professionally
- Test champs
- Would like to see a presentation done at school by the people administering the test, if the school is chosen to be tested they should be given a presentation to educate the student-athletes on steroid use
- The amount of sample that needed to be collected. The process took a bit longer than anticipated due to the fact that the students had a difficult time fulfilling the amount of sample requirement.
- The testing was administered in a professional manner.
- I thought everything went well and everything was very professional.
- I would change nothing, it was conducted in a timely manner and the Drug Free Representatives were professional, they took the time to explain everything to the athletes making them feel very comfortable with the entire process.
- the process went smoothly and was very professional and secure
- Everything ran very smoothly,
- I just do not understand the back-up list. We had one student-athlete not at school because he was sick at home. We went to the back-up list and then I found out that the other student could not participate in his last JV game if he did not take the test, therefore his mother had to leave work and bring him up to the school.
- The amount of sample required.
- More specific time that the agents would arrive.
- I think you should use testing for championship teams and compare the results

- Process if students are out of school on official school business.
- Test earlier in the season with the results coming at a time it may make an impact
- I do not believe that the additional testing is needed in high school. I do agree with drug testing, but if we are going to add steroid testing, I would do at the same time as when we do drug testing. It would be easier on the schools rather than testing at a separate time.
- # of students tested and earlier in the morning
- I suggest either testing everyone or none at all.
- Do testing after school
- I wish we could test more kids
- Being able to add a student that I as an athletic director may have a concern about
- I would probably let them know at least 24 hours before the testing so that they do not urinate before they test.
- More notification prior to testing selection process of schools tested
- I feel it is absurd and a waste of funds!
- Test was too long 4hrs
- The program needs more money to be effective. The number of kids tested is so small.

Survey summary

School representatives who responded were generally satisfied with the process and suggested no changes to the process or program as implemented. During the introduction of the program, numerous school representatives expressed dissatisfaction regarding the implementation of the testing program as it related to students who may not have been on campus for testing -- dual-enrolled students, home schooled students, and students on field trips. Some comments showed support for the concept of testing but reflected dissatisfaction regarding the funding for testing by saying more students should have been tested or not test at all.

Appendix A

Post-testing Questionnaire Results Overview



Date: 8/27/2008 7:09 AM PST
Responses: Completes
Filter: No filter applied

1. What is your professional title?

Principal		17	24%
Athletic Director		47	66%
Athletic Trainer		1	1%
School Nurse		0	0%
Other		6	8%
Total		71	100%

2. Were you or a school representative present at all times during testing?

Yes		68	96%
No		3	4%
Total		71	100%

4. Before a representative of Drug Free Sport arrived at your school, were you contacted by FHSAA or Drug Free Sport?

Yes		70	99%
No		1	1%
Total		71	100%

5. Did you ask to see the Drug Free Sport collector's background clearance badge?

Yes		44	62%
No		27	38%
Total		71	100%

6. If you answered yes to the question above, was the Drug Free Sport collector's background clearance badge visible?

Yes		52	98%
No		1	2%
Total		53	100%

7. Were the representatives from Drug Free Sport professional and courteous in administering the test?

Yes		70	99%
No		1	1%
Total		71	100%
18 Responses			

8. Did the selected student-athletes express any anxiety prior to being tested?

Yes		15	21%
No		56	79%
Total		71	100%
5 Responses			

9. Did the selected student-athletes express any anxiety during the testing process?

Yes		18	25%
No		53	75%
Total		71	100%
10 Responses			

10. Were there any athletes unwilling to comply with the collector's instructions?

Yes		2	3%
No		69	97%
Total		71	100%
1 Responses			

11. Did you notify the parents of the selected student-athletes after the testing?

Yes		36	51%
No		35	49%
Total		71	100%

12. Were there any home education students selected for testing at your school? If yes, how many?

Yes		1	1%
No		70	99%
Total		71	100%
1 Responses			

13. Were any dual-enrolled students selected for testing at your school? If yes, how many?

Yes		9	13%
No		62	87%
Total		71	100%
5 Responses			

15. Would you be willing to continue with this program for future years?

Yes		68	96%
No		3	4%
Total		71	100%
12 Responses			

16. Overall, how would you rate the testing process?

Poor		0	0%
Below Average		0	0%
Average		8	11%
Good		33	46%
Excellent		30	42%
Total		71	100%