**Policy Statement.** The Administration of the University of North Texas (UNT), as well as its health service professional, substance abuse counselors and coaches, strongly believe that the use and/or abuse of the drugs listed late in this policy (excluding those drugs prescribed by a physician to treat a specific medical condition) can:

1. Seriously affect the performance of individuals as students and as athletes;
2. Be detrimental to the physical and mental wellbeing of its student athletes, no matter when such usage should occur during the year;
3. Be dangerous to the athlete and his/her teammates in athletic competition to practice; and
4. Be detrimental to the spirit of fair competition.

**Application of Policy.**
Student Athletes

**Definitions:**
None

**Procedures and Responsibilities.**
The Administration of the University of North Texas (UNT), as well as its health service professional, substance abuse counselors and coaches, strongly believe that the use and/or abuse of the drugs listed late in this policy (excluding those drugs prescribed by a physician to treat a specific medical condition) can:

1. Seriously affect the performance of individuals as students and as athletes;
2. Be detrimental to the physical and mental wellbeing of its student athletes, no matter when such usage should occur during the year;
3. Be dangerous to the athlete and his/her teammates in athletic competition to practice; and
4. Be detrimental to the spirit of fair competition.
Consequently, the use and/or abuse by a student athlete of the drugs listed later in this policy (excluding those drugs prescribed by a physician to treat a specific medical condition when taken in accordance with the prescription), or the failure of a student athlete to participate in alcohol and drug abuse counseling as required under this policy, is deemed a violation of the student athlete's intercollegiate athletic team rules and shall subject the student athlete involved to the sanctions provided later in this policy.

Therefore, UNT is implementing a program of drug education, testing and counseling efforts for its student athletes using many of the resources already available to all University students.

Athletes are free to refuse to consent to drug testing under this program. However, athletes who decline participation in the program, which is designed to protect the health and reputation of the student athlete, will not be eligible for, nor shall be permitted to receive a scholarship or to participate in, intercollegiate athletics for UNT. An athlete who fails to test for drugs as provided in this policy, after initially consenting to drug testing, shall be considered to have made a decision not to participate in the UNT program and to agree to forfeit his/her scholarship immediately.

An athlete who is already in UNT's intercollegiate athletics program and who refuses to participate in this drug education, testing and counseling program will be notified of his/her impending prohibition from the University's intercollegiate athletics program before such prohibition takes effect. He/she will be given the opportunity to meet with the Athletic Director and the student athlete's Head Coach to be heard on the matter of impending prohibition from participation in the intercollegiate athletics program.

It is standard University procedure for coaches and trainers to send student athletes with an apparent medical problem to the team physician or to personnel at the Student Health Center who may have subsequently required a urine sample from the student athlete to test for the presence of drugs or chemicals. This procedure is independent of the program herein described.

Program Purpose.

The purpose of the University's Drug-Testing and Counseling Program is not to interfere unduly with the private lives of student athletes. Its primary purpose is to aid the student athletes directly. Such assistance is consistent with the specific goals of the program which are to:

1. Provide educational counseling concerning the effect of substance abuse on athletic activities;

2. Deter substance abuse by student athletes;

3. Identify in a confidential way any participant in the Program who may be abusing a specific drug;
4. Counsel any participant in this Program so identified regarding such involvement as it may affect him/her and his/her teammates;

5. Encourage the proper treatment of any chronic chemical dependency;

6. Provide reasonable safeguards that every participant in the Program is medically fit to engage in intercollegiate athletic competition; and

7. Encourage discussion at all appropriate levels about usage of controlled substances.

Drug Testing.

1. First Positive Situation
   a. The specimen of an athlete showing a positive test will be retested immediately to ensure no error has occurred.
   b. The Director of Athletics, the athlete’s Head Coach, and the Head Athletic Trainer will be notified.
   c. The athlete will be directed by the Director of Athletics to participate positively in a drug abuse program which may be at the athlete’s own expense.
   d. After notifying the athlete, one or more of the athlete’s parents, legal guardian(s), or spouse may be notified by the Director of Athletics.
   e. The choice of the person(s) notified will be at the discretion of the Director of Athletics and in accordance with the law.
   f. An athlete’s refusal to participate in a drug abuse program as set forth in this policy will be treated as a second positive result.
   g. In addition to the above sanctions, the Director of Athletics or Head Coach may assess other appropriate sanctions.
   h. The athlete will be individually tested at the discretion of the Head Athletic Trainer during a twelve (12) week period immediately following the notification to the athlete of the first positive test.

2. Second Positive Situation
   a. The specimen of an athlete showing a second positive test will be retested immediately to ensure no error has occurred.
b. The Director of Athletics, the athlete’s Head Coach, and the Head Athletic Trainer will be notified if the athlete is actually or constructively found to have a second positive situation during his or her UNT athletic career.

c. The athlete will be directed by the Director of Athletics to participate positively in a drug abuse program which may be at the athlete’s own expense.

d. The athlete shall be suspended from not less than ten percent of one full season of intercollegiate contests for which he or she would have otherwise been eligible.

   a. The exact number will be determined by the Director of Athletics.

   b. Practice contests or other non-championship, non-intercollegiate activities would not satisfy this suspension.

e. In addition to the above sanctions, the Director of Athletics or Head Coach may assess other appropriate sanctions.

f. Prior to implementation of the suspension period, the athlete will be notified of the proposed suspension and the reasons for the proposed action and will have an opportunity to discuss the matter fully with the Director of Athletics and to present evidence of any rebuttal or mitigating circumstances which he or she feels pertinent.

g. Reinstatement of the athlete to intercollegiate athletic competition at the completion of the suspension period shall occur only after the Director of Athletics receives a statement from an approved counselor of the athlete’s positive participation in a drug abuse program as specified by the Director of Athletics.

h. An athlete’s refusal to participate in a drug abuse program as set forth in this policy will be treated as a third positive result.

i. After notifying the athlete, one or more of the athlete’s parents, legal guardian(s), or spouse may be notified by the Director of Athletics.

j. The choice of the person(s) notified will be at the discretion of the Director of Athletics.

k. The athlete may be individually tested at the discretion of the athletic trainer periodically throughout the suspension period.
3. Third Positive Situation

a. The specimen of an athlete found to have a third positive result by reason of a positive laboratory test subsequent to a finding of a second positive situation will be retested immediately to ensure no error has occurred.

b. If the athlete is actually or constructively found to have a third positive situation, the Director of Athletics, Head coach, and Head Trainer will be notified that a positive result was obtained for the participant.

c. The athlete’s parents, legal guardian(s), or spouse may be informed as deemed appropriate by the Director of Athletics and in accordance with the law.

d. An athlete who is actually or constructively found to be in a third positive situation will be suspended from all athletic participation (practice and competition) until completion of a required rehabilitation program and a negative retest following completion of that program. Upon the occasion of a negative retest following completion of that program. Upon the occasion of a negative retest, the Head Athletic Trainer, in consultation with the Director of Athletics and the Head Coach shall determine whether the athlete will be allowed to resume practice and competition participation in the current semester. The Athletic Director, in consultation with the Head Coach, shall recommend whether the athlete shall receive financial aid in any subsequent semester.

4. Fourth Positive Situation

a. The specimen of an athlete found to have a fourth positive result by reason of a positive laboratory test subsequent to a finding of a third positive situation will be retested immediately to ensure no error has occurred.

b. If the athlete is actually or constructively found to have a fourth positive situation, the Director of Athletics, Head Coach, Head Trainer, and the Executive Officer will be notified that a positive result was obtained for the participant.

c. The athlete’s parents, legal guardian(s), or spouse may be informed as deemed appropriate by the Director of Athletics and in accordance with the law of the positive result.

d. An athlete who is actually or constructively found to be in a fourth positive situation will be dismissed from his or her team with immediate loss of any remaining scholarship funds.

e. Prior to dismissal, the athlete will be notified of the proposed dismissal and the reasons for this proposed action and will have an opportunity to discuss the
matter fully with the Director of Athletics and to present evidence of any rebuttal of mitigating circumstances which he or she feels important and/or constraining.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF DRUG TESTING PROGRAM AT UNT AND AGREEMENT TO ABIDE BY THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

To: Athletic Director, UNT
   University of North Texas
   Denton, TX 76203

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the UNT Intercollegiate Athletics Drug Education, Testing, and Counseling Program. I further acknowledge that I have read said program, that it has been outlined to me, and that I fully understand the provisions of this program and agree to abide by the terms and conditions contained therein a condition for participating in intercollegiate athletics at UNT.

____________________________________________
Print Name (Student Athlete)

____________________________________________
Signature (Student Athlete) Date

____________________________________________
Signature of parent, legal guardian Date
or spouse (if applicable)

At the beginning of each academic year and before the athlete is allowed to train or compete, he/she will be expected to sign the following document:

CONSENT TO TESTING OF URINE SAMPLE AND AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION

To: Athletic Director, UNT
   University of North Texas
   Denton, TX 76203

I hereby consent to have samples of my urine collected and tested for the presence of certain drugs or substances in accordance with the provisions of the UNT Intercollegiate Athletics Drug Education, Testing, and Counseling Program. I further authorize this information to be released under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

The University of North Texas, its Board of Regents, its officers, employees and agents are hereby released from legal responsibility or liability for the release of such information and records as authorized by this form.
Print Name (Student Athlete)

____________________________________________

Signature (Student Athlete) Date

____________________________________________

Signature of parent, legal guardian Date
or spouse (if applicable)


**Responsible Party:** Director of Athletics

**References and Cross-references.**
None

Approved: 8/1/1986
Effective:
Revised: 8/95; 4/00*; 11/04
*Policy reviewed with no changes made
5/11 format only