

T.A.P.

Youth Basketball League

Drug Policy and Guidelines

The T.A.P. Youth Basketball League wants to help define and clarify for coaches, players and parents what is appropriate behavior and conduct for themselves regarding drug and alcohol usage in, around or during basketball related activities.

PHILOSOPHY

One of the goals of the T.A.P. Youth Basketball Program is to provide a safe, orderly and drug free program for the participants. The T.A.P. program is committed to protect the participants from any external influences of drugs and alcohol, uphold the law and enforce the school principles of zero tolerance. As such, T.A.P. adheres to a zero tolerance environment and reinforces the school principles of alcohol, drug and tobacco free zones in the school facilities where the T.A.P. League games are played. The T.A.P. Youth Basketball league demands a drug; alcohol and tobacco free sports environment at all youth basketball events and related activities.

CLASSIFICATIONS OF DRUGS

Since “drugs” is and all encompassing word and different drugs affect our lives in different ways, T.A.P. defines drugs according to the following two categories:

Category A Drugs: mood, behavior or personality altering drugs that are illegal substances as defined in Massachusetts Statutes. Examples include – cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana.

Category B Drugs: mood altering drugs that are Status Offense Drugs (Drugs that are illegal for minors to possess or use). Examples include – alcohol, or any tobacco products.

DETERMINING DRUG USAGE

1. A program director or coach may identify a player suspected to be under the influence by observing physical symptoms such as: staggering, increased or decreased reaction time, smelling of alcohol or marijuana, vomiting, glassy bloodshot eyes, slurred speech. They may ask the player if they have consumed drugs and/or a controlled substance. Other indirect signs of possible drug usage or abuse include defiance of rules, wearing of dark glasses indoors, verbal and physical abuse or others, hyperactivity, or nervousness.
2. Even if the player denies using drugs, if drugs or drug paraphernalia are found, or there are symptoms indicative of drug usage, or statements from a witness, then the program director or coach has reasonable cause to believe that drug usage is present.
3. A player arrested by law enforcement personnel for usage, possession, or sale of drugs will be determined to be a violation of this policy and is subject to the disciplinary process as specified.
4. The T.A.P. Youth Basketball League will not engage in drug testing of the player if drug usage is suspected, but will notify the parents and/or legal guardian of the program director or coach’s suspicions and the player’s actions or behaviors. Parents may elect to conduct drug testing if they feel it is appropriate.

SUSPECTED DRUG ABUSE PROTOCOL

1. Once “reasonable cause” that drug usage or possession has occurred by a player, the program director or coach shall initiate the protocol listed in this policy. Reasonable cause is defined as if the available facts were conveyed to a reasonable person unfamiliar with the player, that person would conclude that there is factual basis (more than a hunch) that the player is using a prohibited or controlled drug or substance. If a program director or coach suspects drug or

- substance abuse symptoms they should attempt to contact another coach, referee or league official to review and witness concerns before taking formal action in accordance with this policy.
2. A program director or coach who is made aware of a player's violation of this policy, but does not act on or report the violation to league officials on the day of the suspected violation, is also committing a violation of this policy and is also subject to disciplinary actions as determined by the T.A.P. Board of Directors.
 3. Whenever a violation of this policy occurs, the following should occur.
 - **A)** The program director or coach should contact the parents/guardians of the player and league officials as soon as the incident occurs. The program director or coach will explain the circumstances and together with the Board of Directors will decide whether there is sufficient evidence to constitute a violation of the policy.
 - **B)** Any game suspensions take place immediately; the suspected player will not be allowed to begin or continue play from the point that reasonable cause is determined.
 - **C)** The player will be advised by the program director or coach witnessing the policy violation to remain at the school facility where the suspected violation has taken place until transportation can be arranged from the facility by a parent/guardian of the suspected player.
 - **D)** It is up to the discretion of the program director or coach witnessing the policy violation to make a decision to request the presence of law enforcement officials at the school facility were the suspected policy violation has been witnessed.
 - **E)** The player, parents or legal guardian, and representatives from the Board of Directors, including the League President, shall meet and outline any disciplinary action taken as a result of the violation. This initial meeting should take place on the same day that the policy violation was incurred or as soon as all parties are available.
 - **F)** This process will be documented by filling out the Drug Usage Incident Report. (Attachment to this policy).
 4. A key consideration whenever this policy is enforced shall be to maintain confidentiality to the player and his/her parents or legal guardians.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION OF POLICY

The T.A.P. Youth Basketball League has adopted a general policy for drug usage and substance abuse that is conducive to the type of drugs, substances or materials that may be involved. Any and all cases of suspected substance abuse or drug usage shall be reviewed with the appropriate player, parents, legal guardian, Board of Director members and League President before any disciplinary action is taken in addition to the suspension from league activities. Once a formal review has been held, disciplinary actions as outlined below will be applied as required.

Sanctions may be modified by the League President in extraordinary circumstances.

- A player suspected by a coach or program director of drug usage or possession will be immediately suspended from participation in all related League activities.
- A meeting to review the circumstances of the alleged policy violation will be convened with the player, parents, legal guardian, representatives from the Board of Directors and the League President.
- During the course of this formal review a determination will be made if there is reasonable cause to believe that drug usage was present at the time of the suspected violation.
- If the decision that reasonable cause exists to support a drug policy violation than the player suspension will be upheld and the player will be removed from the team roster and not allowed to participate in any related T.A.P. activities for the remainder of the season and playoffs.
- The player will be allowed to return to the team and participate in T.A.P related activities, if the parents or legal guardian of the player, at their own expense, have a professional drug evaluation conducted and the results of the test are negative for any of the chemical effects associated with the use of illegal substances.
- The player will not be allowed to officially be reinstated to the team roster until written proof of the negative results of the drug evaluation are supplied to the League President and a formal review is held with the player and parents, legal guardian to discuss expectations and clarify actions moving forward.
- A player expelled from the League for a drug policy violation is allowed to sign up and participate in the League during the following season only after a meeting has been completed with the League President to ensure expectations of League rules are properly understood and expectations set appropriately with the player moving forward.