



NFL PLAYERS
ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

POLICY ON PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING SUBSTANCES 2026

**as agreed by the
National Football League Players Association
and the
National Football League Management Council**

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
POLICY ON PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING SUBSTANCES**

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NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

POLICY ON PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING SUBSTANCES

1. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The National Football League Management Council and NFL Players Association (“NFLPA”) (collectively, the “Parties”) have jointly developed this Policy on Performance-Enhancing Substances (the “Policy”) to prohibit and prevent the use of anabolic/androgenic steroids (including exogenous testosterone), stimulants, human or animal growth hormones, whether natural or synthetic, and related or similar substances. For convenience, these substances, as well as masking agents or diuretics used to hide their presence, will be referred to as “Prohibited Substances.”¹ These substances have no legitimate place in professional football. This Policy specifically means that:

- **Players**² may not, in the absence of a valid therapeutic use exemption (*see* Appendix I), have Prohibited Substances in their systems or supply or facilitate the distribution of Prohibited Substances to other Players.
- **Coaches, Athletic Trainers, Club Personnel, or Certified Contract Advisors** may not condone, encourage, supply, or otherwise facilitate in any way the use of Prohibited Substances.
- **Team Physicians** may not prescribe, supply, or otherwise facilitate a Player’s use of Prohibited Substances.
- **All Persons**, including Players, are subject to discipline for violation of this Policy.

The Parties are concerned with the use of Prohibited Substances based on three primary factors:

First, these substances threaten the fairness and integrity of the athletic competition on the playing field. Players may use these substances for the purpose of becoming bigger, stronger, and faster than they otherwise would be. As a result, their use threatens to distort the results of games and League standings. Moreover, Players who do not wish to use these substances may feel forced to do so in order to compete effectively with those who do. This is obviously unfair to those Players and provides sufficient reason to prohibit their use.

Second, the Parties are concerned with the adverse health effects of using Prohibited Substances. Although research is continuing, the use of anabolic agents including anabolic/androgenic steroids and selective androgenic receptor modulators (SARMs), human growth hormone and releasing proteins and secretagogues and stimulants has been linked to a number of physiological, psychological, orthopedic, reproductive, and other serious health problems, including heart disease, liver cancer, musculoskeletal growth defects, strokes, and infertility.

Third, the use of Prohibited Substances by Players sends the wrong message to young people who may be tempted to use them. NFL Players should not by their own conduct suggest that such use is either acceptable or safe, whether in the context of sports or otherwise.

¹ The list of Prohibited Substances is attached to this Policy at Appendix A. If the Parties mutually agree to modify the Prohibited Substances under this Policy, the Parties will immediately amend the list at Appendix A.

² Unless specified otherwise herein, the term Player shall include the categories set forth in the Preamble to the Collective Bargaining Agreement as well as Players attending the annual scouting combines.

The NFL Player Contract specifically prohibits the use of drugs in an effort to alter or enhance performance. The NFL Player Contract and the League's Constitution and Bylaws require each Player to avoid conduct detrimental to the NFL and professional football or to public confidence in the game or its Players. The use of Prohibited Substances violates both these provisions. In addition, the Commissioner is authorized to protect the integrity of and public confidence in the game. This authorization includes the authority to forbid use of the substances prohibited by this Policy.

The Parties recognize that maintaining competitive balance among NFL clubs requires that all NFL Players be subject to the same rules and procedures regarding drug testing. The rules and procedures set forth herein are designed to protect the confidentiality of information associated with this Policy and to ensure the accuracy of test results, and the Parties intend that the Policy meets or exceeds all applicable laws and regulations related thereto. The Parties also recognize the importance of clarity in the Policy's procedures, including the scientific methodologies that underlie the Policy, the appeals process and the basis for discipline imposed, and reaffirm their commitment to deterrence, discipline and a fair system of adjudication.

2. ADMINISTRATION OF THE POLICY

The Policy is conducted under the auspices of the NFL Management Council, which shall be responsible for the enforcement of the Policy and prosecution of appeals.

2.1 Independent Administrator

The Policy will be directed by the Independent Administrator on Performance-Enhancing Substances ("Independent Administrator"), a person or entity to be jointly selected by the Parties and for whose compensation (salary) the Parties shall have equal responsibility.

Subject to the terms of this Policy, the Independent Administrator shall have the sole discretion to make determinations, consistent with the terms of this Policy, concerning the:

- (a) method by which Players will be subjected to testing each week;
- (b) selection of Players to be tested each week and the dates on which tests will be administered;
- (c) number and frequency of reasonable cause tests to be administered (subject to a maximum of 24 urine and/or blood tests per Player per year);
- (d) number and timing of off-season tests to be administered (subject to a maximum of six urine and/or blood tests per Player);
- (e) analysis of test results data over time;
- (f) scheduling of medical evaluations associated with the possible use of Prohibited Substances;
- (g) review and approval of "therapeutic use exemptions;"³
- (h) communication with and oversight of the Collection Vendor;
- (i) finding that a Player has failed to cooperate with testing, attempted to dilute, tamper with, or substitute a specimen to defeat testing, or otherwise violated protocols; and
- (j) certification of violations for disciplinary or administrative action.

In addition, the Independent Administrator will be available for consultation with Players and Club physicians; oversee the development of educational materials; participate in anti-doping

³ See Appendix I.

research; and confer with the Chief Forensic Toxicologist.

Neither the NFL, the NFLPA, nor any NFL Member Club shall direct the specific testing schedule, decide which Players will be tested, or influence the Independent Administrator's determination whether a potential violation has occurred and should be referred for further action.

The Independent Administrator (and any persons employed thereby) shall be a neutral party, and shall act in good faith and with equal obligation to the NFLPA and NFL. The Independent Administrator shall report equally, promptly and contemporaneously to both the NFLPA and NFL regarding all correspondence and relevant information, and seek guidance from both parties when exercising responsibilities under the Policy.

See Appendix B for further information on the Policy's personnel.

2.2 Chief Forensic Toxicologist

The Chief Forensic Toxicologist shall be jointly selected by the Parties, and the Parties shall have equal responsibility for his or her compensation (salary).

Consistent with the terms of this Policy, the Chief Forensic Toxicologist shall:

- (a) audit the operation of the testing laboratories, including the implementation of procedures, laboratory analysis of specimens and documentation;
- (b) consult with the Independent Administrator and Collection Vendor as appropriate;
- (c) review and certify laboratory results; and
- (d) provide advice and consultation to the Parties in connection with other matters including existing and proposed analytical methods and anti-doping research.

At the request of either Party, and upon notice to and approval from the other Party, the Chief Forensic Toxicologist may direct laboratory analysis of sports nutrition products or other substances. The Chief Forensic Toxicologist shall ensure that the results of such analysis shall be made known promptly, equally and contemporaneously to both the NFL and NFLPA. The Chief Forensic Toxicologist may also request permission from the Parties to direct laboratory analysis of sports nutrition products or other substances, and upon approval from the Parties, direct such analysis. The Chief Forensic Toxicologist shall ensure that the results of such analysis shall be made known promptly, equally and contemporaneously to both the NFL and NFLPA.

The Chief Forensic Toxicologist (and any persons employed thereby) shall be a neutral party, and shall act in good faith and with equal obligation to the NFLPA and NFL. The Chief Forensic Toxicologist shall report equally, promptly and contemporaneously to both the NFLPA and NFL regarding all correspondence and relevant information, and seek guidance from both parties when exercising responsibilities under the Policy.

See Appendix B for further information on the Policy's personnel.

2.3 Collection Vendor

The NFL and NFLPA shall jointly agree upon a Collection Vendor to be responsible for specimen collection, storage and transportation to the designated laboratory. The Collection Vendor's written protocols and chain-of-custody documents must ensure that best practices are utilized at all times in a manner consistent with generally accepted scientific principles relevant to the collection and storage of the types of substances tested for under this Policy. The collection protocols and chain-of-custody documents, together with any material modifications thereto, shall be reviewed and approved by the Parties with the advice and recommendation of the Chief Forensic Toxicologist and Independent Administrator.

The Collection Vendor shall implement a training and certification process for all employees or agents involved in the collection of any sample under this Policy.

2.4 Accounting

Any service provider whose fees are shared by the Parties shall have an agreement setting forth with specificity the services being provided, the persons providing the services and any related fees or costs. The providers for which the NFLPA will equally share the salary costs are the Independent Administrator and the Chief Forensic Toxicologist. The Parties will equally share the costs and fees of the independent arbitrators. Each provider will periodically furnish the Parties with an itemization of the services provided and fees incurred. In addition, the NFL Management Council will provide on an annual basis documentation verifying that all fines imposed under the Policy were applied to the costs of the Policy.

2.5 Term, Discharge and New Appointments

Unless the Parties mutually determine otherwise, the Independent Administrator and Chief Forensic Toxicologist each shall serve a minimum three-year term. Notwithstanding, either or both may be discharged by either Party at any time provided that written notice is given by the discharging party one year prior to discharge.

As soon as practicable, but no later than six months after issuance of a notice of intent to discharge or notice of intent to resign the appointment by the Independent Administrator or Chief Forensic Toxicologist, the Parties will each identify a minimum of three successor candidates. All timely identified candidates will then promptly be ranked by the Parties, with input from personnel for the Policy and the Policy and Program on Substances of Abuse. Within sixty days, the top three candidates will be interviewed by the Parties, with participation by the Policy personnel if requested. Absent agreement on a successor, the Parties will alternately strike names from said list, with the Party striking first to be determined by the flip of a coin.

Should a Party fail to identify, rank, interview or strike candidates in a timely manner, that Party shall forfeit its rights with respect to that step of the appointment process, including selection of the ultimate successor if that Party fails to participate in alternate striking.

Where necessary, the Parties will endeavor to name an interim appointee for any vacant positions pending selection of a successor.

3. TESTING FOR PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

3.1 Types of Testing

All testing of Players for Prohibited Substances, including any pre-employment testing, is to be conducted pursuant to this Policy. All specimens will be collected by an authorized specimen collector under the authority of the Collection Vendor and analyzed at the appropriate laboratory (see Sections 3.2 and 3.4). As is the case in the employment setting, Players testing positive in a pre-employment setting will be subject to medical evaluation and clinical monitoring as set forth in Sections 3.1 and 4.3, and to the disciplinary steps outlined in Section 6.

Urine testing will take place under the following circumstances:

Pre-Employment: Pre-employment tests may be administered to free agent Players (whether rookies or veterans). In addition, testing will be conducted at the annual scouting combines.

Annual: All Players will be tested for Prohibited Substances at least once per League Year. Such testing will occur at training camp prior to the Club's first preseason game or whenever the

Player reports thereafter, and will be deemed a part of his preseason physical.

Preseason/Regular Season: Each week during the preseason and regular season, ten (10) Players on every Club will be tested. By means of a computer program, the Independent Administrator will randomly select the Players to be tested from the Club's active roster, practice squad list, and reserve list who are not otherwise subject to ongoing reasonable cause testing for performance-enhancing substances. The number of Players selected for testing on a particular day will be determined in advance on a uniform basis. Players will be required to provide a specimen whenever they are selected, without regard to the number of times they have previously been tested consistent with the limits set forth in the Policy.

Postseason: Ten (10) Players on every Club qualifying for the playoffs will be tested weekly so long as the Club remains active in the postseason. Players to be tested during the postseason will be selected on the same basis as during the regular season.

Off-Season: Players under contract who are not otherwise subject to reasonable cause testing may be tested during the off-season months at the discretion of the Independent Administrator, subject to the collectively bargained maximum of six (including blood tests) off-season tests. Players to be tested in the off-season will be selected on the same basis as during the regular season, irrespective of their off-season locations. Any Player selected for testing during the off-season will be required to furnish a urine specimen at a convenient location acceptable to the Independent Administrator, subject to the qualification set forth in Section 3.2 for specimen collections occurring away from the Club facility. Only Players who advise in writing that they have retired from the NFL will be removed from the testing pool. If, however, a Player thereafter signs a contract with a Club, he will be placed back in the testing pool.

Reasonable Cause Testing For Players With Prior Positive Tests Or Under Other Circumstances: Any Player testing positive for a Prohibited Substance, including a Player who tested positive or for whom there is sufficient credible evidence⁴ of steroid involvement up to two football seasons prior to his applicable college draft or at a scouting combine, will be subject to evaluation by the Independent Administrator, after which the Independent Administrator may in his or her discretion place the Player into the reasonable cause testing program. Players placed into the program will be subject to testing both in-season and during the off-season at a frequency and duration determined by the Independent Administrator consistent with this Policy. Reasonable cause testing may also be required when, in the opinion of the Independent Administrator, he receives credible, verifiable documented information providing a reasonable basis to conclude that a Player may have violated the Policy or may have a medical condition that warrants further monitoring. If either Party asks the Independent Administrator for explanation of his/her decision to place a Player on reasonable cause testing based on credible information, he or she will promptly and fully provide the explanation to the Parties.

If a Player is placed into the reasonable cause testing program, the Independent Administrator in his or her discretion shall determine the type of testing (e.g., urine, blood, or both) and frequency of testing to which the Player will be subject consistent with this Policy. If the Independent Administrator recommends more than one blood test per week, he shall provide the Parties with a written explanation regarding why this frequency of testing is warranted prior to commencement of such testing.

⁴ As used in this Policy, sufficient credible evidence includes but is not limited to: criminal convictions or plea arrangements; admissions, declarations, affidavits, authenticated witness statements, corroborated law enforcement reports or testimony in legal proceedings; authenticated banking, telephone, medical or pharmacy records; or credible information obtained from Players who provide assistance pursuant to Section 10 of the Policy.

Players who are placed into the reasonable cause program based on a violation of the Policy must remain in the program a minimum of one full testing season (first day of training camp to the following first day of training camp), after which the Independent Administrator shall notify the Player in writing (with copies to the Parties) before or during the second training camp either that he has been discharged from the program or that he will remain in the program subject to review at a later date. For avoidance of doubt, a Player in the reasonable cause program remains in that status unless or until he is discharged in writing by the Independent Administrator. Players who enter the program based on other reasons may be discharged at any time but shall be advised in writing during training camp if they are required to remain in the program for all or part of that testing season.

No Club may require any Player to submit to any form of testing not authorized by this Policy. In addition, Players on reasonable cause testing may be removed from their Club's active roster and placed in the category of *Reserve/Non-Football Illness* if, after consultation with the Club physician and NFLPA Medical Director, it is the Independent Administrator's opinion that such a step is medically necessary.

3.2 Notification and Collection Procedures

Urine specimens may be collected on any day of the week. The collection of blood specimens is prohibited on game days prior to or during a game. Urine and/or blood collections may occur following the conclusion of the game. To ensure that specimens are properly collected and accurately attributable to the selected Player, and to prevent evasive techniques, specimens will be collected, stored and transported to the testing laboratory according to the protocols referenced in Section 2.3. Except in specifically authorized circumstances by the Parties, in order to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the process for all stakeholders, any recording or photography of any stage of the collection process via any media (audio or visual), including but not limited to screen shots of testing notifications, video of the collectors or the collection of a specimen, and sharing such information via any social media is not permitted. A player found in violation of the rule prohibiting unauthorized recording of the collection process and sharing such information on social media will be subject to a fine of \$15,000.

Specimen collections occurring at a Club facility, stadium or scouting combine venue will be conducted at the discretion of the Independent Administrator and Collection Vendor without advance notice to the Player. Upon notification that he has been selected for testing, the Player shall furnish a specimen to the authorized specimen collector. If a Player is notified prior to the start of the morning team activities that he was selected for testing, he must complete the sample prior to the start of afternoon team activities. If a player is notified after the start of morning team activities that he was selected for testing, he must complete the sample within 1 hour of the end of afternoon team activities.

Until the specimen is provided, the collector shall maintain specific knowledge of the Player's whereabouts and the Player may not leave the premises for any reason. If the collector reasonably believes that the Player is evading testing, he shall report the matter to the Collection Vendor and/or Independent Administrator for disciplinary review.

For specimen collections occurring away from the Club facility, the Independent Administrator and Collection Vendor may in their discretion contact the Player by telephone, voicemail or text message to notify him that he has been selected and schedule a collection time within twenty-four (24) hours at a site not more than forty-five (45) miles from the Player's location. Players must maintain accurate contact information in the form of a cellphone number, email address, physical address and travel plans for the Independent Administrator on the NFL Drug Policies Contact Information website.

The Parties recognize that the collection protocols, policies and procedures exist for the purpose of

ensuring the accuracy of test results and confidence in the testing methodology and processes.

3.3 Failure or Refusal to Test/Efforts to Manipulate Specimen or Test Result

An unexcused failure or refusal to appear for required testing, or to cooperate fully in the collection process, will warrant disciplinary action. (See Appendix H.) Any effort to substitute, dilute or adulterate a specimen, or to manipulate a test result to evade detection will be considered a violation of the Policy and may result in more severe discipline than would have been imposed for a positive test.

3.4 Testing Laboratories

The Independent Administrator will determine the most appropriate laboratory or laboratories to perform testing under the Policy. Currently, the UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory in Los Angeles and the Sports Medicine Research and Testing Laboratory in Salt Lake City have been approved to analyze specimens collected for Prohibited Substances. These laboratories have been accredited by ISO and the World Anti-Doping Association for anti-doping analysis and perform testing for the NCAA, the United States Anti-Doping Agency and other sports organizations.

Screening and confirmatory tests will be done on state-of-the-art equipment and will principally involve use of GC/MS or LC/MS equipment. In addition, testing will be done for masking agents (including diuretics) as appropriate. The Parties shall, with the advice and consultation of the Chief Forensic Toxicologist and/or other advisors, endeavor to review the analytical methods to be utilized and make modifications as necessary in furtherance of the Policy.

Either Party will have the right to discharge a testing laboratory provided that written notice is provided by the discharging party six months prior to discharge. Upon issuance of a discharge notice, the Chief Forensic Toxicologist and/or Independent Administrator will recommend one or more potential successor laboratories after which the Management Council, with appropriate consultation with and reasonable approval of the NFLPA, will promptly select and engage the successor laboratory.

3.5 Unknowning Administration of Prohibited Substances

Players are responsible for what is in their bodies and a positive test will not be excused because a Player was unaware that he was taking a Prohibited Substance. Questions concerning dietary supplements should be directed to the Independent Administrator and/or the NFL Players Association's Director of Drug Policies at (800)-372-2000. **Having a Player's or Club's medical or athletic training staff member approve or indicate that a supplement's list of ingredients does not appear to contain a Prohibited Substance will not excuse a positive test result.**

4. PROCEDURES IN RESPONSE TO POSITIVE TESTS OR OTHER EVALUATION

4.1 Notice to Player

Once a positive result is confirmed, the Independent Administrator will match the control identification number with the Player's name, notify the Player in writing via electronic or overnight delivery of the positive result and request that the Player contact him to discuss the result.

4.2 "B" Bottle Analysis

The NFLPA shall maintain a non-exclusive list of approved, independent board-certified forensic toxicologists ("Observing Toxicologists"), which shall be compiled in consultation with the Chief Forensic Toxicologist and which may not include any person affiliated with a commercial laboratory. If the Player wishes to have an independent toxicologist who is not on the NFLPA list

observe the “B” bottle analysis, the independent toxicologist must sign an appropriate nondisclosure and confidentiality agreement with the applicable testing laboratory prior to scheduling the “B” bottle analysis. Any Player who receives written notification of an “A” positive may either accept the result and discipline, await the results of the scheduled “B” bottle analysis, or have an Observing Toxicologist witness the “B” bottle analysis if he makes a written request to the Independent Administrator within five (5) business days of receiving the notification.

If timely observation is requested, the Independent Administrator will coordinate with the laboratory and designated Observing Toxicologist to schedule the “B” bottle analysis to occur within seven (7) business days of the Player’s request. If observation is not requested, the laboratory will conduct the analysis as soon as is practicable.

The “B” bottle analysis will be performed at the same laboratory that did the “A” bottle analysis according to established analytical procedures. The results will be reported to the Independent Administrator, who may review them with the Chief Forensic Toxicologist and the laboratory director as appropriate.

If the “B” bottle analysis generates a positive result, and the Chief Forensic Toxicologist certifies that result, the Independent Administrator will provide written notice, together with appropriate supporting documentation, to the Parties. (If the “B” bottle test does not confirm a positive result, only the Player will be notified.) If the Player is subject to disciplinary action, the Management Council will notify him in writing via electronic or overnight delivery with a copy to the NFLPA.

With respect to Pre-Employment Testing, the procedure set forth above shall apply, except that: (a) the “B” test will be performed as soon as possible with no Observing Toxicologist permitted; and (b) upon confirmation of the positive test result, the Independent Administrator shall promptly notify the NFL Management Council and: (i) all Clubs in the case of a Combine test, or (ii) the requesting Club(s) in the case of a Free Agent test.

4.3 Medical Examination

The Independent Administrator may, in his or her sole discretion, require a medical examination such as outlined in Appendix C of any Player who tests positive. The Independent Administrator will arrange for the examination, and the results will be reported to the Player, the Independent Administrator and the Club physician. If medical treatment (including counseling or psychological treatment) is indicated, it may be offered to the Player. Players with a confirmed positive test result will also be placed on reasonable cause testing at a frequency and duration to be determined by the Independent Administrator consistent with this Policy.

The Player is responsible for seeing that he complies with the arrangements of the Independent Administrator for a medical examination as soon as practicable after notification of a positive test. This requirement is in effect throughout the year.

5. VIOLATIONS OF LAW AND OTHER DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE-BASED VIOLATIONS

Players or other persons within the NFL who: are convicted of or otherwise admit to a violation of law (including within the context of a diversionary program, deferred adjudication, disposition of supervision, or similar arrangement) relating to use, possession, acquisition, sale, or distribution of steroids, growth hormones, stimulants or related substances, or conspiring to do so; or are found through sufficient credible documented evidence (see footnote 4) to have used, possessed or distributed performance-enhancing substances, are subject to discipline at the discretion of the Commissioner, including suspension up to six games for a first violation or, if appropriate, termination of the individual’s affiliation with an NFL Club.

Any suspension shall be without pay and served pursuant to the rules set forth below. Longer suspensions may be imposed for repeat offenders. In addition, Players violating this Policy under this Section will be appropriately placed or advanced to the next disciplinary step. In this respect, Players are reminded of federal legislation which criminalizes possession and distribution of steroids. (See Appendix F.)

6. SUSPENSION AND RELATED DISCIPLINE

Players

Players who violate the Policy will be subject to discipline by the Commissioner as outlined below.

Step One: The first time a Player violates this Policy by testing positive for a Prohibited Substance; attempting to substitute, dilute or adulterate a specimen; or manipulating a test result, he will be suspended without pay pursuant to the following schedule:

Positive Test Result for Stimulant, Diuretic or Masking Agent -- *two* regular and/or postseason games.

Positive Test Result for Anabolic Agent -- *six* regular and/or postseason games.

Positive Test Result for Prohibited Substance plus Diuretic or Masking Agent / Attempt to Substitute, Dilute or Adulterate Specimen / Attempt to Manipulate Test Result / Violation of Section 5 -- *eight* regular and/or postseason games.

In addition, the Player may be subject to evaluation and counseling if, in the opinion of the Independent Administrator, such assistance is warranted.

Step Two: The second time a Player violates this Policy by testing positive for an Anabolic Agent; attempting to substitute, dilute or adulterate a specimen; manipulating a test result; or by violation of Section 5, he will be suspended without pay for *seventeen* regular and/or postseason games. The second time a Player violates this Policy by testing positive for a Stimulant, Diuretic or Masking Agent, he will be suspended without pay for *five* regular and/or postseason games.

Step Three: The third time a Player violates the Policy by testing positive for a Prohibited Substance; attempting to substitute, dilute or adulterate a specimen; manipulating a test result; or by violation of Section 5, he will be banished from the NFL for a period of at least *two* seasons, subject to any appeal. Such a Player may petition the Commissioner for reinstatement after 24 months. Reinstatement, and any terms and conditions thereof, shall be matters solely within the Commissioner's sound discretion.

All suspensions under this Policy will begin when the Player accepts discipline or the decision on appeal becomes final. If a player chooses to waive his right to appeal, or withdraws his appeal, such notice must be communicated to the Management Council no later than three days before the player's next game, by 12:00 PM Eastern Time, in order for the suspension to begin during that same week. For example, to have a Sunday game count as the first game of the suspension, the player must waive his right to appeal, or withdrawal his appeal, by 12:00 PM Eastern Time on Thursday of the same week. Any decision upholding a suspension shall be enforced according to the above timeline. A Free Agent must communicate their acceptance of a suspension to the Management Council no later than Friday at 5:00 PM Eastern Time for the suspension to take effect within the same week. If fewer than the imposed number of games remains in the season, including any postseason games for which the Club qualifies, the suspension will carry over to the next regular season until the total number of games has been missed.

If the imposition of a suspension occurs prior to or during the preseason, the Player will be permitted to engage in all preseason activities. Upon the posting of final rosters, however, he will be suspended for the imposed number of regular-season games.

Players who are suspended under this Policy will be placed on the *Reserve/Commissioner Suspension* list. During the suspension period the Player will not be paid. Before a Player is reinstated following a suspension, he must test negative for all Prohibited Substances under this Policy in order to be approved for return to play by the Independent Administrator. However, in any case where a Player tests positive for the same Prohibited Substance(s), during the reinstatement process, the Independent Administrator, in his sole discretion and opinion, may determine that the continued presence of a substance(s) provides no performance enhancing effect, and the Independent Administrator may approve the Player to return to play and Player will be reinstated immediately.

In addition, the Player must be examined and approved as fit to play by the Club physician before he may participate in contact drills or in a game.

In addition to the suspension imposed on him, any Player suspended for a violation of the Policy will be ineligible for selection to the Pro Bowl, or to receive any other honors or awards from the League or the Players Association,⁵ for the season in which the violation is upheld (*i.e.*, following any appeals) and in which the suspension is served.

Other Violators

Any coach, athletic trainer, Club physician or Club employee who uses, condones, encourages, supplies, or otherwise facilitates the improper use of Prohibited Substances shall be subject to discipline by the Commissioner. Any NFLPA Certified Contract Advisor or other person within the NFLPA's authority who engages in such conduct shall be subject to discipline by the NFLPA Executive Director.

7. PROCEDURES REGARDING TESTOSTERONE, OFF-SEASON STIMULANTS, BLOOD TESTING

Testosterone

The Independent Administrator is authorized to subject a percentage of all specimens (not to exceed 15%) to Carbon Isotope Ratio (CIR) testing to detect the use of exogenous steroids. Confirmation of the exogenous administration of testosterone shall be governed by the currently-applicable WADA Technical Document or Guideline governing the detection of endogenous anabolic androgenic steroids.

If the introduction of testosterone or the use or manipulation of any other substance results in increasing the ratio of the total concentration of testosterone to that of epitestosterone in the urine to greater than 4:1, the test will be considered presumptively positive and will be subjected to CIR analysis. If CIR testing confirms the presence of an exogenous steroid, the result will be referred for discipline. In addition, if a Player's epitestosterone level exceeds 200 ng/mL, it will be considered a positive test result regardless of the Player's T:E ratio.

Notwithstanding, when information available to the Independent Administrator suggests but is not conclusive of steroid use, the Independent Administrator may require the Player to submit to ongoing reasonable cause testing and shall order other medical procedures including CIR testing or other diagnostic tests to confirm whether an exogenous steroid has been used in violation of the Policy. The Independent Administrator must inform the Parties if he/she intends to place a Player on reasonable cause testing on this basis prior to commencement of the reasonable cause testing. In addition, the Independent Administrator will be entitled to review any available past and/or current medical or testing records.

⁵ Awards and honors for which a suspended Player is ineligible shall include Super Bowl MVP, Most Valuable Player, Offensive/Defensive Player of the Year and Offensive/Defensive Rookie of the Year, as well as the Walter Payton Man of the Year, Art Rooney Sportsmanship, Salute to Service, Comeback Player of the Year and Alan Page Community Service awards.

Such discipline may be imposed within the season of the year in which the positive test occurred, or, if the Independent Administrator prescribes follow-up measures that entail delay in the final determination, in a subsequent season.

Off-Season Stimulants

If a test administered to a Player outside of the Playing Season generates a positive result for a stimulant listed on Appendix A, the Player will not be subject to discipline under this Policy, but will instead be referred and processed under the Policy and Program on Substances of Abuse as if the test had been administered pursuant to that policy, including any disciplinary consequences if applicable. The Playing Season shall be defined as the period beginning with the Player's first preseason game of the season and ending the week following his final regular or post-season game. For free agents, the Playing Season shall run from the League's first preseason game and end upon the conclusion of the Super Bowl.

Blood Testing

All Players shall be eligible to be tested for growth hormones through dried blood spot analysis.

Players who are not in reasonable cause testing shall not be subject to more than six blood tests per calendar year.

Blood testing will take place under the following circumstances:

Annual: The Independent Administrator will, by means of a computer program, randomly assign twenty percent (20%) of each Club's Players selected for Annual Testing under Section 3.1 to receive bloodtesting in addition to urine testing.

Preseason/Regular Season: Each week during the preseason and regular season, by means of a computer program, two (2) Players from each Club who are selected for Preseason/Regular Season Testing under Section 3.1 will receive bloodtesting in addition to urine testing. Players will be required to submit to testing whenever they are selected, without regard to the number of times they have previously been tested consistent with the limits set in this Policy.

Postseason: Five (5) of the ten (10) Players selected for testing under Section 3.1 on every Club qualifying for the playoffs will receive bloodtesting in addition to urine testing as long as the Club remains active in the postseason.

Off-Season: By means of a computer program, the Independent Administrator will randomly assign ten percent (10%) of each Club's Players selected for Off-Season Testing under Section 3.1 to receive bloodtesting. Such testing may be in lieu of urine testing at the Independent Administrator's discretion.

Pre-Employment: Pre-employment tests may be administered to free agent Players (whether rookies or veterans). In addition, blood testing (in addition to urine testing) will be conducted at the League's annual scouting combines.

Reasonable Cause Testing: Any Player subject to Reasonable Cause Testing pursuant to Section 3.1 shall be eligible for blood testing at the discretion of the Independent Administrator (subject to the collectively-bargained maximum of 24 urine and/or blood tests per Player per year).

Players who test positive under this Section will be subject to discipline as set forth in Sections 3, 6 and 12 of the Policy.

Before discipline is imposed, Players will have the appeal rights set forth in Sections 10 and 11 of the Policy.

8. MASKING AGENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS

The use of so-called “blocking” or “masking” agents is prohibited by this Policy. These include diuretics or water pills, which have been used in the past by some Players to reach an assigned weight.

In addition, a positive test will not be excused because it results from the use of a dietary supplement, rather than from the intentional use of a Prohibited Substance. Players are responsible for what is in their bodies. For more information concerning dietary supplements, see Appendices D and E.

9. ARBITRATION PANEL; APPEALS SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

All appeals under Section 6 of this Policy shall be heard by third-party arbitrators not affiliated with the NFL, NFLPA or Clubs.

The Parties shall jointly select and be equally responsible for compensating one or more arbitrators to act as hearing officers for appeals under Section 6 of this Policy. Selected arbitrators shall have appropriate expertise in matters under this Policy and shall be active members in good standing of a state bar. Unless the Parties mutually determine otherwise, each arbitrator shall serve a minimum two-year term, after which he or she may be discharged by either Party upon written notice to the arbitrator and other Party. The arbitrators’ fees and expenses shall be shared equally by the Parties.

The Parties shall designate a Notice Arbitrator, who also will be responsible for assignment of the appeals. Prior to the first preseason game, the Notice Arbitrator will ensure that at least one arbitrator is assigned to cover every Tuesday of the Playing Season through the Super Bowl. Appeals will automatically be assigned to the arbitrator assigned to cover the fourth Tuesday following the date on which the Player is notified of discipline. During the off-season, the Parties will coordinate with the Notice Arbitrator to ensure that an arbitrator is available on at least two dates each month between February and June, and on five dates each month in July and August. Off-season hearings will be scheduled within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the notice of discipline unless the Parties agree otherwise.

An Appeals Settlement Committee consisting of the NFL Commissioner and the NFLPA Executive Director or their respective designees shall have authority to resolve any appeal under this Policy, which resolution shall be final and binding. Should the NFLPA believe that “extraordinary circumstances” exist which warrant reduced or vacated discipline, the Executive Director may raise them with the Commissioner. Consideration of an appeal by the Appeals Settlement Committee shall not in any way delay the appeals procedures outlined in this Policy, and no appeal may be resolved by the Appeals Settlement Committee once a decision on the appeal has been issued.

10. APPEALS

Except as expressly set forth elsewhere in this Policy, any dispute concerning the application, interpretation or administration of this Policy shall be resolved exclusively and finally through the following procedures:

Section 5 Appeals. Except as noted below, appeals under this section will be subject to the procedures applicable to Section 6 appeals.

Appeals of discipline issued pursuant to Section 5 of this Policy shall be heard by the Commissioner or his designee.

For such appeals, a Player shall have a right to appeal a decision affirming discipline to a member of the Appeals Panel established under Article 15 of the CBA, subject to the provisions of this Section.

This right of appeal (“Due Process Appeal”) is limited to claims only in the following circumstances:

- (a) The conduct of the appeal or hearing did not comport with one or more of the following established principles of industrial due process: (i) the Player was not provided with notice of the basis for the discipline; (ii) the Player was improperly denied an opportunity to present evidence or testimony in support of his appeal; (iii) the Player was improperly denied the opportunity to cross-examine a witness whose testimony was offered in the Section 5 appeal hearing in support of the discipline imposed; or (iv) the Player was improperly denied access to documents or other evidence in the possession of the League or a Club and unavailable to the Player or his representatives indicating that he did not violate the Policy or that a witness whose testimony was offered in the Section 5 appeal hearing was untruthful; or
- (b) The decision affirming the discipline subjected the Player to an increased and disparate sanction when compared to other similarly situated Players and the Hearing Officer failed to reasonably set forth the basis for the variation. Any discipline imposed that falls within a specified numerical limit set forth in the Policy shall have a rebuttable presumption that it is not disparate.

Procedure: A Due Process Appeal must be noticed within three (3) business days of the appeal decision, and must be initiated in writing to the Appeals Panel with a copy of the hearing transcript by overnight or electronic mail with copies of the notice to the Management Council and NFLPA. The Appeals Panel shall appoint one of its members to preside over the Due Process Appeal. The notice must set forth the specific basis of appeal under (a) or (b) above, with citations to the hearing transcript identifying the challenged decision or ruling. Within two (2) business days following the receipt of the notice, the Management Council and/or NFLPA may submit a responding letter brief. Absent instruction from the appointed Appeals Panel member, no other submissions will be permitted.

The appointed Appeals Panel member shall promptly determine whether to schedule a hearing or decide the Due Process Appeal based on the written submissions. If a hearing is directed, it shall take place via telephone conference call on the first Tuesday following receipt of the responding submissions (or the second Tuesday if the first Tuesday would be impracticable) and shall not include the introduction of any documentary evidence or testimony beyond the record and proffers made in the Section 5 appeal and any proffer of documents or other information alleged to be improperly denied under (a) above. The appointed Appeals Panel member shall render a decision within three (3) business days following receipt of the parties' written submissions or the hearing, whichever is later. The decision may be a summary ruling followed by a formal decision.

Standard of Review; Scope of Relief: To prevail on a Due Process Appeal, the Player must demonstrate that the challenged decision or ruling was clearly erroneous and in manifest disregard of the principles of the Policy and the Player's rights thereunder. The Player's Due Process Appeal right will be deemed waived if no objection regarding the challenged decision or ruling was raised during the Section 5 appeal hearing. If the Due Process Appeal is premised on a matter that: (i) first appeared in the decision itself; or (ii) was discovered after the Section 5 appeal hearing and was unknown, and could not reasonably have been known, by the Player and his representatives at that time, the new information and the circumstances surrounding its discovery must be set forth in the notice of appeal or the appeal right will be deemed waived. In any Section 5 appeal or Due Process Appeal, all court records shall be fully admissible and any finding or judgment of a court shall be binding and not subject to challenge.

If the Player establishes his claim as set forth above, the appointed Appeals Panel member shall stay the discipline and remand the matter to the third-party Notice Arbitrator with instructions for further proceedings. The appointed Appeals Panel member shall have no authority to make substantive rulings on any matter addressed by the Policy including, without limitation, issues related to the administration of the Policy, identification of banned substances, a Player's status under the Policy, confidentiality, specimen collection, laboratory procedures and protocols, medical care or clinical assistance, the imposition of sanctions or discipline other than as provided in subsection (b) above and/or the

disciplinary authority of the Commissioner or his designee as hearing officer.

On remand, the Notice Arbitrator or appointed third-party arbitrator shall decide the Player's claim and any discipline based on the record in the Section 5 appeal and any documents or other information determined to have been improperly denied. Such appeal shall not be *de novo*: the third-party arbitrator shall consider new evidence or testimony only if so directed by the appointed Appeals

Panel member. In the event new testimony must be considered by the third-party arbitrator, such testimony must be presented by the first Tuesday immediately following remand (or the second Tuesday if the first Tuesday would be impracticable).

The decision of the appointed Appeals Panel member, and any subsequent decision by a third-party arbitrator on remand, will constitute full, final and complete disposition of the Due Process Appeal under this Section and will be binding upon the parties.

Section 6 Appeals. Any Player who is notified by the NFL Management Council that he is subject to a fine or suspension for violation of the terms of this Policy may appeal such discipline in writing within five (5) business days of receiving notice via electronic or overnight delivery from the NFL that he is subject to discipline.

During the Playing Season, appeal hearings will be scheduled to take place on the fourth Tuesday following issuance of the notice of discipline. Upon agreement of the Parties, the hearing may be rescheduled to another date. In the absence of an agreement, a party may request a conference call to move for a new date based on extenuating circumstances. In such case, should the arbitrator conclude that a new date is warranted, a new date may be scheduled, but in no instance shall the rescheduled date fall more than one week after the originally scheduled date unless otherwise ordered by the arbitrator.

At the appeal hearing the Player may be accompanied by counsel and may present relevant evidence or testimony in support of his appeal of the charged violation and/or a permissible defense. Additionally, the NFLPA may attend and participate notwithstanding the Player's use of other representation. Hearings will be conducted by conference call unless either Party requests to appear in person.

The decision of the arbitrator will constitute a full, final, and complete disposition of the appeal and will be binding on all parties. The arbitrator shall not, however, have authority to: (1) reduce a sanction below the minimums established under the Policy; or (2) vacate a disciplinary decision unless the arbitrator finds that the charged violation could not be established.

Pending completion of the appeal, the suspension or other discipline will not take effect.

The NFL Management Council may, prior to the conclusion of a Player's appeal, reduce the length of the suspension and corresponding bonus forfeiture by up to 50% when the Player has provided full and complete assistance (including hearing testimony if required) to the Management Council which results in the finding of an additional violation of the Policy by another Player, coach, trainer or other person subject to this Policy.

Other Appeals. Any Player who has a grievance over any aspect of the Policy other than discipline under Sections 5 or 6, including but not limited to suspensions and fines for failure to appear for testing (see Appendix H), must present such grievance to the Players Association (with a copy to the Management Council) within five (5) business days of when he knew or should have known of the grievance. The NFLPA will endeavor to resolve the grievance in consultation with the Management Council. Thereafter, the NFLPA may, if it determines the circumstances warrant, present such grievance to: (i) the designated third party arbitrator selected pursuant to Section 9 for final resolution for any disciplinary action; or (ii) the Commissioner for any other matter. Such appeal must be presented no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the Player's presentment of the grievance to the NFLPA.

11. **BURDENS AND STANDARDS OF PROOF; DISCOVERY**

Burden of Proving the Violation. In any case involving an alleged violation due to a Positive Test, the Management Council shall have the burden of establishing the Positive Test Result and that it was obtained pursuant to a test authorized under the Policy and was conducted in accordance with the Collection Vendor's specimen collection procedures ("Collection Procedures") and the Testing Laboratory's testing and analytical protocols ("Laboratory Procedures"). The Management Council is not required to otherwise establish intent, negligence or knowing use of a Prohibited Substance on the Player's part.

The Management Council may satisfy its burden by introducing analytical findings provided by the testing laboratory and verified by the Chief Forensic Toxicologist, and by demonstrating that the test result was for a Prohibited Substance as identified in Appendix A of the Policy at the level required by the Laboratory Procedures. The specimen collectors, Independent Administrator, Chief Forensic Toxicologist and testing laboratories will be presumed to have collected and analyzed the Player's specimen in accordance with the Policy. The Management Council may rely solely on the information contained in the standard laboratory documentation package (see Appendix G) provided to the Parties, which shall be admissible without regard to hearsay challenge, to demonstrate that the specimen was obtained in accordance with the Collection Procedures and that the test was conducted in accordance with the Laboratory Procedures, including, without limitation, that the chain of custody of the specimen was maintained.

Challenges to the Proof of the Violation. The Player may challenge the Management Council's showing by alleging that: (a) the result was not "positive;" (b) the specimen was not obtained pursuant to a test authorized under the Policy; or (c) the specimen was not obtained and analyzed in accordance with the Collection Procedures and Laboratory Procedures. The Player must offer credible evidence in support of any allegation of a deviation from the Collection Procedures or Laboratory Procedures: if done, the Management Council will carry its burden by demonstrating that:

(a) there was no deviation; (b) the deviation was authorized by the Parties; or (c) the deviation did not materially affect the accuracy or reliability of the test result.

In any case involving a positive test result for hGH, the Player has a right to challenge any aspect of the science of the isoforms test, including but not limited to challenges to the decision limits and any population studies used to establish them, but neither the absence of a joint NFLPA/NFL population study nor the election to forgo such a study shall be relevant or admissible for any purpose or imposed as a remedy by the hearing officer in any appeal.

A Player is not in violation of the Policy if the presence of the Prohibited Substance in his test result was due to no fault or negligence on his part (e.g., despite all due care, he was sabotaged by a competitor or was administered a Prohibited Substance during an emergency procedure without the opportunity to give consent). The Player has the burden of establishing this defense and must offer objective evidence in support of his claim. For example, a Player cannot satisfy his burden merely by arguing that he: (i) did not intentionally use a Prohibited Substance; (ii) was given the substance by a Player, doctor, trainer, family member or other representative; (iii) took a mislabeled or contaminated product; or (iv) took steps to investigate whether a product contained a Prohibited Substance.

A Player may challenge a positive test result at any time on the basis of newly-discovered scientific evidence that questions the accuracy or reliability of the result. Such a challenge may be brought even if the result previously has been upheld on appeal. Such a challenge may not be based on a decision by the Parties to employ a different testing technology at a later time. Should such a challenge be upheld, the arbitrator may direct a payment to a Player to make him whole for lost salary at the time the suspension was served. Any such payment will count against the total Player Cost for the year in which the payment is made.

Pre-Hearing Discovery. Within seven (7) business days of issuing a notice of discipline, the League

shall provide the Player with an indexed binder containing the relevant correspondence and documentation relevant to the charged violation. Within four (4) business days of receipt of the binder, the Player and League shall make any written requests for additional discovery relevant to the charged violation and/or a permissible defense. Within this period, the Player must also advise if he seeks the testimony of any Policy Personnel at the appeal hearing. If there is no objection to the request, documents will be provided within five (5) business days or as soon as the documents are obtained, and the requested witnesses will be made available for the hearing. Objections will be promptly submitted via conference call to the arbitrator for decision.

No later than four (4) business days prior to the hearing, the Player will complete and submit a statement setting forth the specific grounds upon which the appeal is based with supporting facts in the form of proffered testimony or documentary evidence (“Basis of Appeal”). Once submitted, evidence on issues outside the scope of the Basis of Appeal shall not be permitted absent a showing by the requesting party of extraordinary circumstances justifying its inclusion. The Parties shall also be permitted to seek preclusion of evidence or other permissible relief on any issue for which insufficient supporting facts are alleged or for which arbitral precedent previously has been established.

No later than four (4) business days prior to the hearing, the League and Player’s representative will exchange copies of any exhibits upon which they intend to rely and a list of witnesses expected to provide testimony. The failure to do so shall preclude the introduction of the late or non-produced exhibits barring extraordinary circumstances as determined by the arbitrator. (This shall not preclude the introduction of rebuttal evidence in response to the Basis of Appeal.) Following the exchange, the arbitrator may permit the parties to provide further supplementation as appropriate.

Policy Information on Appeal. Only the Management Council and NFLPA may request information from the Policy’s Personnel. In addition, when presenting an appeal under this Policy a Player is not entitled to production of or access to records, reports or other information concerning other Players or the Policy’s bargaining history. Notwithstanding, this provision does not limit the Players Association’s access to appropriate information concerning all violations under this Policy.

Decision; Post-Hearing Briefs. Within three (3) business days after the hearing or the receipt of the transcript (whichever is later), the arbitrator will evaluate the evidence and issue a summary ruling. A formal written opinion shall be issued within ten (10) business days after the hearing or the receipt of the transcript (whichever is later). The failure of the arbitrator to timely issue the ruling and opinion will result in the arbitrator’s preclusion from handling further appeals for the remainder of the season in question. Post-hearing briefs will not be permitted, except that an arbitrator may request briefing on a specific issue or issues. If the arbitrator requests such briefing, he/she will set a submission deadline of not more than five (5) business days after the hearing or receipt of the transcript and a page limit of no more than ten (10) pages.

12. CONFIDENTIALITY

12.1 Scope

All Players (including authorized representatives), NFL employees, Club employees, NFLPA employees, Certified Contract Advisors, and persons involved in the administration of the Policy are subject to the confidentiality provisions of this Policy. The confidentiality of the matters under this Policy shall be protected. Except as allowed in this Policy or otherwise agreed to by the Parties, public disclosure, directly or indirectly, of information concerning positive tests, appeals or other violations of this Policy is not permitted.

The Management Council may publicly announce or acknowledge disciplinary action against a Player when a suspension is upheld or if the allegations relating to a Player’s violation of the Policy previously are made public through a source other than the Management Council or a Club (or their respective

employees or agents).

In addition, the Parties jointly may publicly disclose information relating to a Player to maintain confidence in the credibility of the Policy and Policy Personnel or to correct inaccurate public claims made by that Player or his representatives about the operation of the Policy, discipline, underlying facts or appeals process.

Finally, the Parties and Independent Administrator will prepare and disseminate an Annual Report, which will provide de-identified, aggregated information (including the nature of violations and/or substances involved) and address other issues relevant to the administration of the Policy.

12.2 Discipline for Breach

The Parties may, in appropriate cases, agree to retain an independent investigator to investigate and report on alleged breaches of confidentiality.

Any Player, Club or Club employee who breaches the confidentiality provisions of this Policy shall be subject to a fine of up to \$500,000 by the Commissioner.

Any NFLPA employee or other person subject to the Executive Director's authority who breaches these provisions shall be subject to a fine of up to \$500,000 by the Executive Director. Any Certified Contract Advisor who breaches these provisions shall be subject to discipline under the NFLPA Regulations for Certified Contract Advisors.

Any other person involved in the administration of this Policy who breaches these provisions shall be subject to termination of services or other appropriate action.

The provisions of this Section shall be the sole remedy available to a Player or other party aggrieved by an alleged violation of the Policy's confidentiality provisions.

13. FINE MONEY

Fines will be collected in accordance with Article 46, Section 6 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

14. BONUS FORFEITURE

Players who are suspended pursuant to this Policy shall be required to forfeit any applicable bonus amounts in accordance with Article 4, Section 9 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The Parties acknowledge the inapplicability of "facial invalidity" claims on forfeitures based on violations of the Policy.

15. PLAYERS SUSPENDED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS; PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

Any person who has been suspended from competition by a recognized sports testing organization based on: (a) a positive test result reported by a World Anti-Doping Agency accredited laboratory for a substance banned under this Policy; (b) an effort to substitute, manipulate or otherwise fail to cooperate fully with testing; or (c) a violation of law or admission involving the use of steroids or other performance-enhancing substances, shall be permitted to enter into an NFL Player Contract or Practice Contract. Such person, however, will be placed on reasonable cause testing.

Players suspended pursuant to this Policy may engage in activities during the suspension period as set forth in Appendix J.

16. RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION OF SPECIMENS

Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the testing laboratories will ensure the destruction of negative specimens 90 days following analysis and positive specimens 30 days following final adjudication of a Player's discipline. Blood specimens may not be used for any purpose other than the testing delineated

in this Policy. Certification of destruction of blood samples (dried blood spots) in compliance with the Policy must be sent to the Parties semi-annually. Any confirmed or suspected failures to adhere to the retention and destruction procedures shall be promptly reported to the Parties for review and action as appropriate.

List of Prohibited Substances

[last update: August 8, 2022]

The following substances and methods are prohibited by the National Football League:

I. ANABOLIC AGENTS

A. ANABOLIC/ANDROGENIC STEROIDS

Generic Name	Brand Names (Examples)
Androstenediol	Androstederm
Androstenedione	Androstan, Androtex
Androsterone	---
1-Androstenediol	1-AD
1-Androstenedione	---
5 α -androst-2-ene-17-one	---
Bolandirol	---
Bolasterone	Myagen
Boldenone	Equipoise, Parenabol
Boldione	---
Calusterone	---
Clostebol	Turinabol, Steranabol
Danazol	Cyclomen, Danatrol
Dehydrochloromethyltestosterone^	Oral-Turinabol
Dehydroepiandrosterone	DHEA, Prasterone
Desoxymethyltestosterone	DMT, Madol
Dihydrotestosterone	DHT, Stanolone
Drostanolone	Drolban
Epiandrosterone	---
1-Epiandrosterone	---
Epi-dihydrotestosterone	---
Epitestosterone	---
Ethylestrenol	Maxibolin, Orabolin
Etiocholanolone	---
Fluoxymesterone	Halotestin
Formebolone	Esiclone, Hubernol
Furazabol	Miotolon
Gestrinone	Tridomose
17-Hydroxypregnenedione	---
17-Hydroxyprogesterone	---
Hydroxytestosterone	---
4-Hydroxytestosterone	---
7-Keto DHEA	---
Mestanolone	---
Methasterone	---
Mesterolone	Proviron
Methandienone	Danabol, Dianabol
Methandriol	Androdiol
Methandrostenolone	Dianabol
Methenolone	Primobolan
Methylclostebol	---

Methyldienolone	---
Methylstenbolone	---
Methyltestosterone	Metandren
Methyl-1-testosterone	MIT
7 α -Methyl-19-nortestosterone	MENT
Methylnortestosterone	---
Methyltrienolone	---
Mibolone	Testorex
Nandrolone	---
19-Norandrostenediol	19-Diol
19-Norandrostenedione	19 Nora Force
19-Norandrosterone	---
Norboletone	Genabol
Norclostebol	---
Norethandrolone	Nilevar
19-Noretiocholanolone	---
Normethandrolone	---
Oxabolone	---
Oxandrolone	Anavar, Lonovar
6-Oxoandrostenedione (4-androstene-3,6,17 trione)	6-Oxo
Oxymesterone	Oranabol
Oxymetholone	Anadrol
Prostanozol	---
Quinbolone	Anabolicum Vister
Progesterone	---
Stanozolol	Stromba, Winstrol
Stenbolone	---
Testosterone	Andronate
1-Testosterone	---
Tetrahydrogestrinone	THG
Trenbolone	Finaject

and other substances with a similar chemical structure and similar biological effect(s)

B. PROTEIN AND PEPTIDE HORMONES

Generic Name	Brand Names (Examples)
Human Growth Hormone (hGH)	Saizen, Humatrope, Nutropin AQ
Animal Growth Hormones	---
Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (hCG)	Novarel, Menotropins
Insulin Growth Factor (IGF-1)	---
Erythropoietin (EPO)	---
Growth Hormone Releasing Hormones (GHRH)	CJC 1293, CJC-1295, Sermorelin, Tesamorelin
Growth Hormone Secretagogues (GHS)	Ghrelin, Ghrelin mimetics (Anamorelin, Ipamorelin), Ibutamoren, Macimorelin, Tabimorelin
Growth Hormone Releasing Peptides (GHRP)	Alexamorelin, GHRP-6, Hexarelin, Pralmorelin (GHRP-2), GHRP-1, GHRP-3, GHRP-4, GHRP-5
BPC-157	---

C. OTHER ANABOLIC AGENTS (INCLUDING BETA-2-AGONISTS)	
Generic Name	Brand Names (Examples)
Clenbuterol [^]	---
Clomiphene	Clomid
Tibolone	---
D. ANTI-ESTROGENIC AGENTS	
Generic Name	Brand Names (Examples)
Aminoglutethimide	Cytadren
Anastrozole	Arimidex
Androsta-3,5-diene-7,17-dione	Arimistane
Bazedoxifene	---
Cyclofenil	---
Exemestane	Aromastin
Fadrozole	Afema
Formestane	Lentarone
Fulvestrant	Faslodex
17 β -hydroxy-androst-1,4,6-trien-3-one	Androstatrienedione
Letrozole	Femara
Ospemifene	---
Raloxifene	Evista
Tamoxifen	---
Testolactone	Teslac
Toremifene	Acapodene
Vorazole	Rivizor
E. SELECTIVE ANDROGEN RECEPTOR MODULATORS (SARMs)	
Developmental Code	Brand Names (Examples)
Enobosarm	Ostarine
GTx-007, S-4	Andarine, S-4
LGD-4033	Ligandrol
RAD-140	Testolone
<i>and other substances with a similar chemical structure and similar biological effect(s)</i>	
II. MASKING AGENTS	
DIURETICS	
Generic Name	Brand Names (Examples)
Acetazolamide	Amilco
Amiloride	Midamor
Bendroflumethiazide	Aprinox
Benzthiazide	Aquatag
Bumetanide	Burine
Canrenone	---
Chlorothiazide	Diuril
Chlorthalidone	---
Cyclothiazide	Anhydron
Ethacrynic Acid	Edecrin
Flumethiazide	---
Furosemide	Lasix

Hydrochlorothiazide	Aprozide
Hydroflumethiazide	Leodrine
Indapamide	Lozol, Natrilix
Methyclothiazide	Aquatensen
Metolazone	Zaroxolyn
Polythiazide	Renese
Probenecid	Benemid
Quinethazone	Hydromox
Spironolactone	Aldactone
Triamterene	Jatropur, Dytac
Trichlormethiazide	Anatran

and other substances with a similar chemical structure and similar biological effect(s)

III. STIMULANTS

Generic Name	Brand Names (Examples)
Adrafinil	---
Adrenaline	---
Amfepramone	---
Amiphenazole	---
Amphetamine^	Greenies, Speed, Adderall
Amphetaminil	---
Armodafinil	Nuvigil
Benfluorex	---
Benzphetamine	---
Benzylpiperazine	---
Bromantan	---
Cathine	---
Clobenzorex	---
Cropropamide	---
Crotetamide	---
Dimethylamphetamine	---
Ephedrine^	Ma Huang, Chi Powder
Etamivan	---
Etilamphetamine	---
Etilefrine	---
Famprofazone	---
Fenbutrazate	---
Fencamfamin	---
Fencamine	---
Fenetylline	---
Fenfluramine	Phen-Fen, Redux Fenetylline
Fenproporex	---
Furfenorex	---
Heptaminol	---
Isometheptene	---
Levmetamfetamine	---
Lisdexamfetamine	Vyvanse
Meclofenoxate	---
Mefenorex	---
Mephentermine	---

Mesocarb	---
Methamphetamine^	---
2-amino-6-methylheptane	Octodrine
P-Methylamphetamine	---
Methylephedrine	---
Methylhexanamine (Dimethylpentylamine)	---
3-Methylhexan-2-amine (1,2-Dimethylpentylamine)	---
4-Methylhexan-2-amine (1,3 Dimethylpentylamine)	---
5-Methylhexan-2-amine (1,4 Dimethylpentylamine)	---
Methylphenidate	Ritalin, Daytrana, Metadate, Methylin
Modafinil	Provigil
Nikethamide	---
Norfenefrine	---
Norfenfluramine	---
Octopamine	---
Oxilofrine	---
Parahydroxyamphetamine	---
Pemoline	---
Pentetrazol	---
Phendimetrazine	---
Phenmetrazine	---
Phenpromethamine	---
Phentermine	Fastin, Adipex, Ionamin Prenylamine
4-Phenylpiracetam	Carphedon
Prenylamine	---
Prolintane	---
Propylhexedrine	---
Pseudoephedrine^*	Sudafed, Actifed
Selegiline	---
Sibutramine	---
Strychnine	---
Tuaminoheptane	---
^ subject to minimum analytical thresholds as determined by the Parties	
* except as properly prescribed by Club medical personnel	

IV. DOPING METHODS

A. GENERAL

Introduction of a Prohibited Substance into the body by any means, including but not limited to the introduction of a Prohibited Substance, or the ingestion or injection of a supplement or other product containing a Prohibited Substance.

Pharmacological, chemical or physical manipulation by, for example, catheterization, urine substitution, tampering, or inhibition or renal excretion by, for example, probenecid and related compounds.

B. ENHANCEMENT OF OXYGEN TRANSFER

The following are prohibited:

1. Blood doping, including the use of autologous, homologous, or heterologous blood or red blood cell products of any origin. (This prohibition is not intended to prohibit the use of platelet replacement procedures, except as they involve the use of a Prohibited Substance.)
2. Artificially enhancing the uptake, transport, or delivery of oxygen, including, but not limited to, perfluorochemicals, efaproxiral (RSR13) and modified haemoglobin products (e.g. haemoglobin-based blood substitutes, microencapsulated haemoglobin products), excluding supplemental oxygen.

C. CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL MANIPULATION

The following are prohibited:

1. Any effort to substitute, dilute or adulterate or otherwise tamper with a specimen, or to manipulate a test result to evade detection will be considered a violation of this Policy. These include but are not limited to catheterization and urine substitution.
2. Intravenous infusions are prohibited except for those legitimately received, medically indicated and administered under the supervision of a licensed physician (MD/DO)s. Any other use of intravenous infusions requires a TUE.
3. Sequential withdrawal, manipulation, and reinfusion of whole blood into the circulatory system is prohibited.

D. GENE DOPING

The following, with the potential to enhance sport performance, are prohibited:

1. The transfer of nucleic acids or nucleic acid sequences;
2. The use of normal or genetically modified cells;
3. The use of agents that directly or indirectly affect functions known to influence performance by altering gene expression. For example, Peroxisome Proliferator Activated Receptor δ (PPAR δ) agonists (e.g. GW 1516) and PPAR δ -AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) axis agonists (e.g. AICAR) are prohibited.

Personnel

The Independent Administrator of the NFL Policy on Performance-Enhancing Substances is Dr. John Lombardo, who was previously Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the Ohio State University College of Medicine, Medical Director of Ohio State University Sports Medicine, and Head Team Physician for the Ohio State University Athletic Department. He is a past member of the World Anti-Doping Agency Therapeutic Use Exemption Expert Group. He also was previously a member of the faculty at the Sports Medicine Center of the Cleveland Clinic and has served as team physician to the Cleveland Cavaliers of the NBA and as an advisor on steroid issues to both the NCAA and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The function and designated responsibilities of the Chief Forensic Toxicologist shall be performed by Sarah Urfer, M.S., D-ABFT-FT.

The Parties agree that the roles and responsibilities of the Independent Administrator and Chief Forensic Toxicologist are intended to provide expert medical and scientific oversight of testing procedures to ensure that NFL Players receive the highest level of protection permitted in the administration of the Policy.

Examples of Medical Evaluations

A. Initial Positive Test

History and Physical

Emphasize:

Cardiovascular
Abdominal
Genitourinary (testicle, prostate, impotence, sterility)
Psychological (aggressiveness, paranoia, dependency, mental status)
Immune system (masses, infections, lymphadenopathy)

Testing

CBC with Differential
General chemistry panel
 Electrolytes, BUN/Creatinine, Glucose, Liver enzymes
Lipid Assay
 Triglycerides/cholesterol, HDL-C, LDL-C
Urinalysis
Cardiovascular
 EKG
 Chest X-ray
 Stress test
 Echocardiogram
Semen analysis
Endocrine Profile
 TSH, LH, FSH, T4, TBG, Testosterone, SHBG (TBG), Cortisol, ACTH, Serum, Beta hCG
Liver scan (either MRI or CT or Ultrasound or liver/spleen Scan)
CT scan of chest/abdomen
MRI of brain (with attention to pituitary gland)
Ultrasound of testes

B. Repeat Positive Test Evaluation+

History and Physical - as above

Testing - Lab as above

CV	}	As indicated by time since last test and
Liver scan	}	by history and physical

POLICY ON PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING SUBSTANCES

-Use of Supplements-

Over the past several years, we have made a special effort to educate and warn Players about the risks involved in the use of “nutritional supplements.” Despite these efforts, several Players have been suspended even though their positive test result may have been due to the use of a supplement. Subject to your right of appeal, **if you test positive or otherwise violate the Policy, you *will* be suspended.** You and you alone are responsible for what goes into your body. Claiming that you used only legally available nutritional supplements will not help you in an appeal.

As the Policy clearly warns, supplements are not regulated or monitored by the government. This means that, even if they are bought over-the-counter from a known establishment, there is currently no way to be sure that they:

- (a) contain the ingredients listed on the packaging;
- (b) have not been tainted with prohibited substances; or
- (c) have the properties or effects claimed by the manufacturer or salesperson.

Therefore, if you take these products, you do so AT YOUR OWN RISK! For your own health and success in the League, we strongly encourage you to avoid the use of supplements altogether, or at the very least to be extremely careful about what you choose to take.

Take care and good luck this season.

Supplements

Dietary supplements are marketed as products that will enhance your health, your stamina, your performance, etc. **Dietary supplements are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) as to effectiveness, adverse effects or label accuracy.** When supplements combine multiple ingredients, there has been no research as to the benefits or risks of these mixtures of ingredients.

The NFL Policy on Performance-Enhancing Substances (the “Policy”) is a strict liability policy – **you are responsible for what is in your body.**

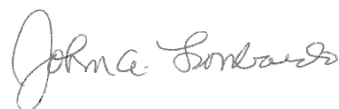
Since the ingredients of supplements are not tested by the FDA or any independent agency, you cannot be certain that the supplement you take contains the ingredients listed on the label. **Prohibited substances have been found in supplements that were not listed on the label in many research studies.**

I encourage you to avoid these products. No person, organization or third-party supplement certification can “100 percent” guarantee that a supplement is free of prohibited substances. If you are considering taking a supplement the following resources are available to gain further information before making your decision:

1. Your Team Dietitian
2. Third Party Supplement Certifications that test for ingredients and prohibited substances (be sure to confirm product lot number has been tested):
 - [NSF Certified for Sport](#)
 - [Informed Sport](#)
 - [BSCG](#)
3. [USADA Supplement Website](#)
4. Independent Administrator, John Lombardo, MD (jlombardo@drjalombardo.com)

Remember, you are responsible for what is in your body. It is important to remember that under the Policy, the player is responsible for what is in his body and a positive test will not be excused because he claims it was caused by a supplement – even if the supplement was prescribed by a Club Physician, recommended by Team Personnel or obtained through a Third-Party Supplement Certification program. To be clear, use of a supplement that has been tested by a third-party, was not listed on the USADA website, prescribed by a Team Physician or recommended by a Team Dietitian is not an effective defense to a Policy violation.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email at jlombardo@drjalombardo.com or via phone/text message at 614-620-6052.



John A. Lombardo, M.D.
Independent Administrator
NFL Policy on Performance-Enhancing Substances

APPENDIX F



U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration

Office of the Administrator

Washington, D.C. 20537

July 15, 2008

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

Thank you for your concern regarding the policies of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in enforcing the Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 1990, as amended in 2004, and the National Football League's (NFL) policies to eliminate the use of anabolic steroids in the NFL.

Your program of random and reasonable cause testing for steroids reinforces the provisions of the Anabolic Steroid Control Act. Under this law, DEA has the responsibility to regulate all aspects of the legitimate steroid industry, including doctors and pharmacists.

To those who use anabolic steroids, including professional athletes, I should emphasize that under the Act, possession of even personal use quantities not validly prescribed by a doctor is a federal crime. The maximum penalty for simple possession (possession not for sale), is one year in a federal prison and a minimum \$1,000 fine.

DEA will also investigate and prosecute violations involving the unlawful manufacture, distribution, and importation of anabolic steroids. Doctors who prescribe anabolic steroids for other than legitimate purposes will be prosecuted. Pharmacists who dispense anabolic steroids without a doctor's prescription or with one that they know is fraudulent or not issued for a legitimate medical purpose will also be prosecuted.

While DEA's primary focus is law enforcement, we also recognize the importance of public education on matters such as these. I would thus appreciate it if you would make this letter directly available to each NFL team, its players, physicians, trainers, and other personnel.

Sincerely,


Michele M. Leonhardt
Acting Administrator

Standard Form of Documentation Package

<u>Tab</u>	<u>Item(s)</u>
1.	Cover Sheet
2.	Table of Contents
3.	General Overview of Laboratory Procedures
4.	Custody and Control Forms a. External Chain of Custody Form b. Specimen Chain of Custody (Bottle and Aliquot)
5.	Initial Test Information (A-Bottle)
6.	Confirmation Test Information a. Confirmation Test Description b. Chain of Custody Documents c. Confirmation Aliquot Chain of Custody Log d. Specimen ID Verification Report e. Analytical Data
7.	Certification Information a. Pending Positive Report (Certifying Scientist Worksheet) b. Laboratory Report
8.	Re-Test Information (B-Bottle) a. Chain of Custody Pull List b. Confirmation Aliquot Chain of Custody Log c. Specimen ID Verification Report d. Analytical Data
9.	Re-Test Certification Information a. Pending Positive Report (Certifying Scientist Worksheet) b. Laboratory Report

Procedures for Failure to Appear for Testing

Players who are selected for Testing must present and provide a specimen within the time periods set forth in Section 3.2 of this Policy. Players who fail to do so without a valid reason as determined by the Independent Administrator will be subject to discipline as set forth below.

When a Player fails to appear for testing, and that failure is not excused by the Independent Administrator, the Parties shall confer with the Independent Administrator via email or phone to assess the nature of the failure within ten business days of being notified of the failure. If the Parties agree that the failure to appear should be excused, the player will not be subject to discipline. If the Parties do not agree, and the NFL determines the failure to appear to have been a deliberate effort to evade or avoid testing, the failure will be treated as a Positive Test Result for an Anabolic Agent under Section 6, subject to appeal. For all other cases where the Parties do not agree that the missed test should be excused, the missed test will be considered a failure to appear and will be treated as follows, subject to appeal:

Unless a warning is issued, the *first* time a Player fails to appear for testing, he will be fined up to \$25,000 under his NFL Player Contract and will be placed into the reasonable cause testing program.

A *second* failure to appear for testing will result in a fine of 2 weeks' pay.

A *third* violation will result in a 2-game suspension without pay.

For purposes of determining discipline under this Policy, a player will be considered to have no previously missed tests if: 1) 365 days have elapsed since his most recent unexcused missed test; or 2) 180 days after the player is no longer subject to reasonable cause testing, whichever is shorter.

In any case where the NFLPA fails to confer within 10 business days of its receipt of the notice of the failure to appear, the NFL may proceed as if the Parties did not agree on the nature of the failure. In any case where the NFL fails to confer within 10 business days of its receipt of the notice of the failure to appear, the failure shall be excused.

All disputes in connection with these procedures may only be reviewed pursuant to the Other Appeals procedures set forth in Section 10 of the Policy.

Nothing in these procedures shall be meant to include failures to cooperate with testing other than the failure to appear for testing within the applicable time period. Any failure determined by the NFL to be a deliberate effort to substitute or adulterate a specimen, alter a Test Result, evade testing, or engage in prohibited doping methods will be considered a Positive Test and will be subject to the discipline set forth in Section 6 of the Policy.

Therapeutic Use Exemptions

The NFL recognizes that within the list of prohibited substances there are medications that are appropriate for the treatment of specific medical conditions. For athletes who require the use of a prohibited substance to treat an appropriately diagnosed medical problem, a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) may be requested. In reviewing a TUE request, the Independent Administrator of the NFL Policy on Performance- Enhancing Substances and the Medical Advisor for the Policy and Program for Substances of Abuse have sole discretion to require medical evidence beyond that normally necessary to initiate treatment by the medical community.

TUEs may be granted by the Independent Administrator and/or Medical Advisor after review of a player's TUE application. The TUE application should be filled out and submitted by the player's treating physician and should include all pertinent medical records documenting the diagnosis. After review of each case, the advisors may require further diagnostic testing or previous medical records, and/or may utilize the services of expert consultants. The advisors will have the final decision whether to grant a TUE.

The following general requirements apply to all TUE requests:

1. The medication must be necessary and indicated for treatment of the specific medical problem for which it has been requested;
2. Acceptable alternative treatments with medications that are not prohibited were attempted but failed, or reasons for not prescribing these alternative treatments have been presented;
3. Appropriate evaluation has been completed and all medical records documenting the diagnosis have been submitted for review; and
4. The applicant may not begin use of the prohibited substance until after the TUE is granted.

All players granted a TUE for prohibited substances may be subject to expanded testing under the Policy during the year.

A TUE may be granted retroactively only if emergency use of the prohibited substance is necessary to avoid morbidity or mortality of disease or disorder. TUEs for draft-eligible players will continue to be reviewed and granted prior to or following pre-employment tests at Combine or during visits to individual team facilities.

In addition, specific requirements have been established and must be satisfied in order to obtain a TUE for the following conditions:

- ADHD
- hypertension
- hypogonadism

Any player who is being treated by a licensed MD or DO physician for a condition requiring a medication containing a prohibited substance must have the physician file a TUE application with the Independent Administrator via the NFL TUE Portal. The TUE must be approved prior to beginning the medication. If a player tests positive for a prohibited substance without an approved TUE, this positive test will constitute a violation of the Policy and will be referred to the NFL/NFLPA for administrative action.

Required Documentation – Initial Application NFL Therapeutic Use Exemptions

All TUE Applications are reviewed by a physician. The physician must be able to make the diagnosis from the available documentation and there must be evidence to support the treatment with a prohibited substance. The required documentation serves as a guide. Please add any additional laboratory testing, diagnostic imaging and/or clinical information/documentation that was used to make the diagnosis under Additional Documentation when completing the application on the NFL TUE Portal. All documents must be uploaded as PDF (.pdf) files.

Please note email addresses for both the physician and athlete are required to complete the TUE application. All communication regarding TUE's will be sent directly to the physician and athlete from admin@nfltue.com.

Required Documents for Initial TUE Submission by Diagnosis Category

Diagnosis Category	Required Documents
ADHD – Attention Hyperactivity Deficit Disorder <i>For draft eligible/college athletes only</i> All active NFL players or free agent players must complete an evaluation with a psychiatrist certified to complete NFL ADHD evaluations – contact your team's head athletic trainer or Dr. Lombardo.	(1) Initial Evaluation and Testing (i.e. Neuropsych) performed to make the diagnosis (2) Initial Medical Note when medication was prescribed (3) Most Recent Medical Note (4) Copy of Most Recent Prescription
Altitude Illness	(1) Medical Note
Growth Hormone Deficiency	(1) Medical Evaluation (2) Laboratory Results (3) Diagnostic Testing
Hypertension	(1) Medical Evaluation (2) Laboratory Results
Hypogonadism Prior to undergoing an evaluation for hypogonadism contact Dr. Lombardo. The evaluation and laboratory result requirements are very specific. During the evaluation process, drug testing must be scheduled and completed.	(1) Medical Evaluation (2) Laboratory Results
Infertility	(1) Medical Evaluation & Medical Notes (2) Laboratory Results
Obesity	(1) Medical Evaluation & Medical Notes (2) Laboratory Results
Sleep Disorders	(1) Medical Evaluation (2) Sleep Studies
Other	Check with Dr. Lombardo. This will require submission of all documentation to make the diagnosis.

If you have any questions, please contact John Lombardo, MD, Independent Administrator of the NFL Policy on Performance-Enhancing Substances via email at jlombardo@drjalombardo.com.

Required Documentation – Renewal Application NFL Therapeutic Use Exemptions

If an active NFL Player or Free Agent Player has been previously granted a TUE for use of a prohibited substance, use the below table as a guide for required documentation for renewal of the TUE. All TUE Applications are reviewed by a physician. The physician must be able to follow the treatment plan from the available documentation and there must be evidence for treatment with the medication. Please add any additional laboratory testing, diagnostic imaging and/or clinical information/documentation that was done since the previous TUE approval under Additional Documentation when completing the application on the NFL TUE Portal. All documents must be uploaded as PDF (.pdf) files.

Required Documents for Renewal TUE Submission by Diagnosis Category

Diagnosis Category	Required Documents
ADHD – Attention Hyperactivity Deficit Disorder	(1) 2 Medical Notes at least 90 days apart with the most recent within 60 days of submission (2) ASRS Completed with each of the 2 required Medical Notes (3) Submission of all Medical Notes related to ADHD care
Altitude Illness	Not eligible for renewal, submit a new application.
Growth Hormone Deficiency	(1) Medical Notes (2) Laboratory Results
Hypertension	(1) Medical Notes
Hypogonadism	(1) Medical Notes (2) Laboratory Results
Infertility	Not eligible for renewal, submit a new application.
Obesity	(1) Medical Notes
Sleep Disorders	(1) Medical Notes
Other	Not eligible for renewal, submit a new application.

If you have any questions, please contact John Lombardo, MD, Independent Administrator of the NFL Policy on Performance-Enhancing Substances via email at jlombardo@drjalombardo.com.

Using the NFL TUE Portal to Submit a TUE Application to the NFL Policy on Performance-Enhancing Substances

All Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) applications for active NFL players, Free Agent players and Draft Eligible/College Players must be submitted through the NFL TUE Portal for Review. As a reminder, **if an athlete tests positive for a prohibited substance prior to being granted a TUE, the positive test will constitute a violation of the Policy with all the ramifications of a violation.**

Review the TUE General Requirements, specific requirements by diagnosis and this document prior to starting the application on the NFL TUE Portal. You must complete the application in one sitting. If you have any questions on TUE requirements, contact John Lombardo, MD, Independent Administrator, NFL Policy on Performance-Enhancing Substances at jlombardo@drjalombardo.com prior to starting an application.

1. Go to <https://nfltue.com>

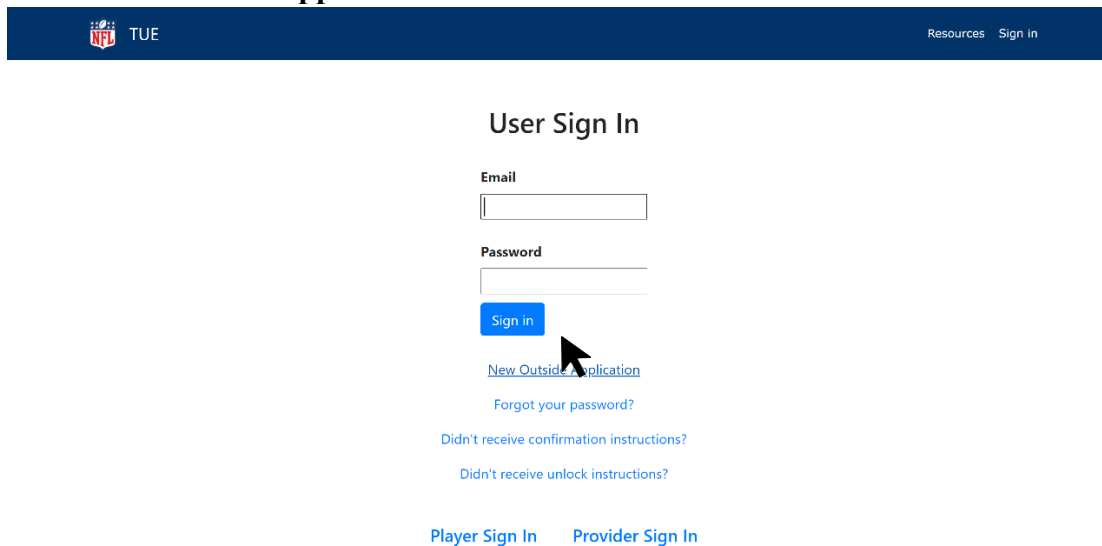
2. Click on **Sign In**



Therapeutic Use Exemptions



3. Select **New Outside Application**



User Sign In

Email

Password

[Sign in](#)

[New Outside Application](#)

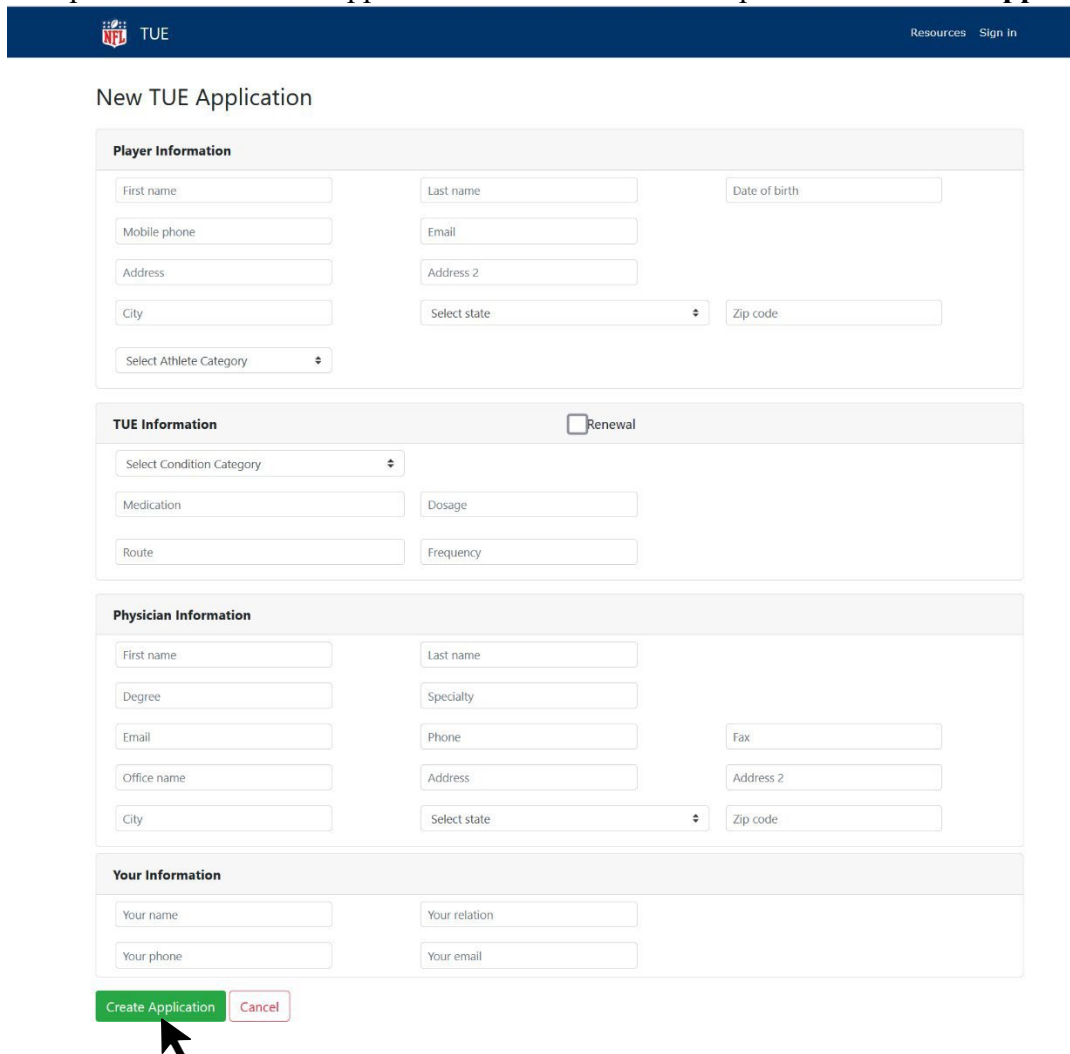
[Forgot your password?](#)

[Didn't receive confirmation instructions?](#)

[Didn't receive unlock instructions?](#)

[Player Sign In](#) [Provider Sign In](#)

4. Complete the New TUE Application form and when complete click **Create Application**



New TUE Application

Player Information

First name Last name Date of birth

Mobile phone Email

Address Address 2

City Select state Zip code

Select Athlete Category

TUE Information ☐ Renewal

Select Condition Category

Medication Dosage

Route Frequency

Physician Information

First name Last name

Degree Specialty

Email Phone Fax

Office name Address Address 2

City Select state Zip code

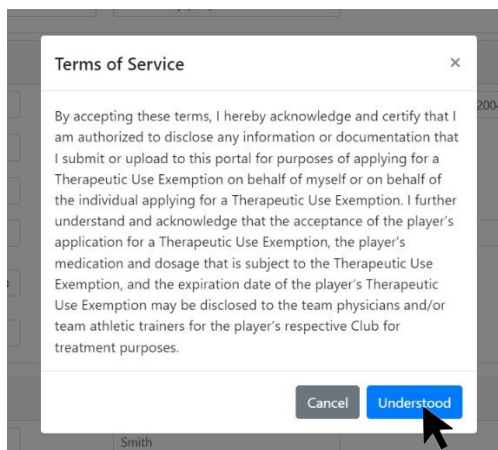
Your Information

Your name Your relation

Your phone Your email

[Create Application](#) [Cancel](#)

5. Review Terms of Services and click **Understood** to proceed.



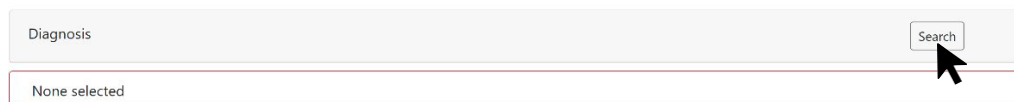
Terms of Service [X]

By accepting these terms, I hereby acknowledge and certify that I am authorized to disclose any information or documentation that I submit or upload to this portal for purposes of applying for a Therapeutic Use Exemption on behalf of myself or on behalf of the individual applying for a Therapeutic Use Exemption. I further understand and acknowledge that the acceptance of the player's application for a Therapeutic Use Exemption, the player's medication and dosage that is subject to the Therapeutic Use Exemption, and the expiration date of the player's Therapeutic Use Exemption may be disclosed to the team physicians and/or team athletic trainers for the player's respective Club for treatment purposes.

[Cancel] [Understood]

Smith

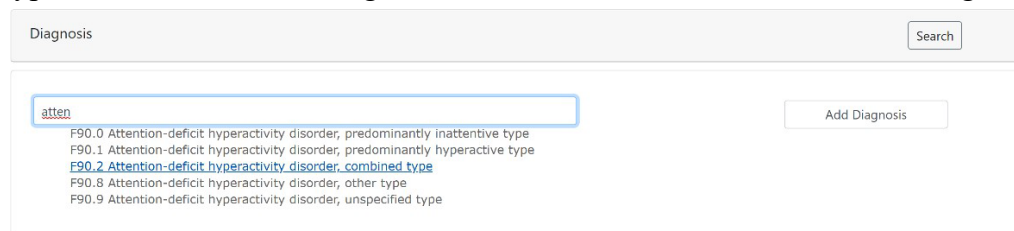
6. On the next form, first you will need to add the official medical diagnosis.
- a. Click on **Search** and then type the official medical diagnosis in the blue bar. Select the correct diagnosis.



Diagnosis [Search]

None selected

- b. Type the official medical diagnosis in the blue bar and select the correct diagnosis.



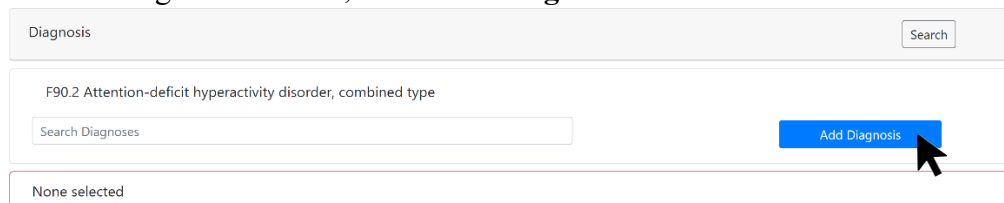
Diagnosis [Search]

atten

F90.0 Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, predominantly inattentive type
F90.1 Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, predominantly hyperactive type
[F90.2 Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, combined type](#)
F90.8 Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, other type
F90.9 Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, unspecified type

[Add Diagnosis]

- c. Once the diagnosis is listed, click **Add Diagnosis**.



Diagnosis [Search]

F90.2 Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, combined type

[Search Diagnoses] [Add Diagnosis]

None selected

- d. This will add the diagnosis to the application.

Diagnosis	
Search	
Search Diagnoses	
Add Diagnosis	
ICD10 Code: F90.2	Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, combined type

7. Next, you will need to add the medication the athlete is requesting a TUE to take.

- a. Click on **Add Medication**, enter the required information (medication name, dosage and frequency).

Medications		
Add Medication		
Name	Dosage	Frequency
None selected		

- b. Click **Submit**.

Medications		
Add Medication		
Name	Dosage	Frequency
Adderall XR	10 mg	once a day (AM)
Submit		
None selected		

- c. This will add the medication to the application.

Medications		
Add Medication		
Name	Dosage	Frequency
Adderall XR	10 mg	once a day (AM)
X		

- d. If you enter the medication incorrectly, delete the medication by clicking on the red X.

Medications		
Add Medication		
Name	Dosage	Frequency
Adderall XR	10 mg	once a day (AM)
X		

- e. If there are multiple medications, repeat this step to add all medications to the application. Remember medications that need to be entered are medications that contain substances banned under the NFL Drug Policies.

8. Next, go to the required documents section. The required documents based on the diagnosis selected will be circled in red. Each document must be uploaded as a PDF (.pdf). For each document entered, you will need the date of evaluation. The date of evaluation is the date the player was seen by the physician or the date the prescription was written.

- a. Select the Date of Evaluation by clicking on **Date of Evaluation** and use the calendar to select the date.

The screenshot shows a form titled "Required Supporting Documents". The first row is "Evaluation and Testing (i.e. NeuroPsych) performed to make the diagnosis:". It has an "Evaluation Date" field with a calendar overlay, a "Choose file" button, a "Browse" button, and an "Upload File" button. The calendar shows February 2022, with the 8th selected. The other rows are "Initial Medical Note when medication was prescribed:", "Most Recent Medical Note:", "Copy of Most Recent Prescription:", and "Additional Documents", each with similar fields and buttons.

- b. Select the file by clicking **Browse**. Choose the correct file from your computer.

The screenshot shows the same form as before, but now the "Evaluation Date" field contains the date "02/01/2022". The "Choose file" button is disabled and says "Please select a file.". The "Browse" button is highlighted with a mouse cursor. The other rows are the same.

- c. Once the correct Date of Evaluation and File have been added, click **Upload File**.

The screenshot shows the same form as before, but now the "Choose file" button is disabled and says "Please select a file.". The "Browse" button is highlighted with a mouse cursor. The "Upload File" button is highlighted with a mouse cursor. The other rows are the same.

- d. Complete this for all required documents along with any additional documents, laboratory results or diagnostic testing.

9. Once you have completed the second form, review the information and when complete click **Submit Application**.

Application Information		
Condition Category: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)		
Diagnosis		Search
ICD10 Code: F90.2	Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, combined type	
Medications		Add Medication
Name	Dosage	Frequency
Adderall XR	20 mg	once a day (AM) 
Physician Information		
Required Supporting Documents		
Evaluation and Testing (i.e. NeuroPsych) performed to make the diagnosis: Medical Evaluatio...	Evaluation Date: 02/01/2022	
Initial Medical Note when medication was prescribed: Medical Note.pdf	Evaluation Date: 02/01/2022	
Most Recent Medical Note: Medical Note.pdf	Evaluation Date: 02/01/2022	
Copy of Most Recent Prescription: Medical Note.pdf	Evaluation Date: 02/01/2022	
Additional Documents	Evaluation Date	Choose file Browse Upload File
Submit Application		

10. Once you have submitted the application, you will see the following screen.

	Resources Sign In
Thank you!	
The TUE application you submitted has been received. Communication regarding the TUE application will be sent to the physician and athlete.	
If you have any questions regarding your TUE application, contact Dr. Lombardo at drl@nfltue.com	

As a reminder, prior to taking medication banned under the NFL Drug Policies, the TUE Application must be reviewed and **if an athlete tests positive for a prohibited substance prior to being granted a TUE, the positive test will constitute a violation of the Policy with all the ramifications of a violation.** Dr. Lombardo will communicate directly with the athlete and physician regarding the TUE application. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lombardo via email at jlombardo@drjalombardo.com.

NFL REQUIREMENTS FOR THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTION(TUE):
Attention Deficit and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD)

ADHD is a neurobehavioral disorder characterized by a persistent pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity. To determine the diagnosis of ADHD, the medical evaluation must include:

1. Evaluation for co-morbidities, including laboratory tests, neurocognitive testing and appropriate screening tests (there is no one specific test which is diagnostic for ADHD) to determine the diagnosis and treatment plan; and
2. Complete history, including interviews with player and preferably with family member;
3. Establishment of DSM-V criteria met by player for the diagnosis of ADHD through complete evaluation and use of Adult ADHD Clinician Diagnostic Scale (ACDS) v1.2 and Barkley Functional Impairment Scales (BFIS);

Initial TUE Application

As a reminder, all TUE applications must be sent to the Independent Administrator prior to the initiation of treatment.

The following specific requirements must be satisfied in order to grant a TUE for ADHD:

1. Evaluation by a NFL certified psychiatrist.
2. Pertinent and current history, physical examination and testing, which must be reported including:
 - a. Complete history and physical examination, which must include a thorough neurological evaluation, including a thorough and complete concussion history with appropriate brain imaging if indicated and any neuropsychological testing performed to distinguish between post concussive symptoms and ADHD;
 - b. The presence or absence of other mental health disorders should be established via longitudinal clinical psychiatric history
 - c. Any evaluation or testing for medical and mental health co-morbidities (hypothyroidism, depression, etc.), including laboratory tests, imaging studies or neuropsychological testing (does not replace longitudinal psychiatric or concussion history);
 - d. ADHD comprehensive diagnostic scale must be completed and submitted assessing symptoms and impairment used to support the diagnosis of ADHD, including:
 - i. Adult ADHD Clinician Diagnostic Scale (ACDS) v1.2; and
 - ii. Barkley Functional Impairment Scales (BFIS) from player and other individual (parental report is highly recommended if available and if parent not available then other family member) in addition; BFIS are required if needed to document impairments;
 - e. Neurocognitive testing as indicated:
 - i. Intelligence test;
 - ii. Cognitive ability test;
 - iii. Specific tests of executive function and impulse control; and
 - iv. Appropriate testing to assess learning disabilities as indicated in clinical history.
3. All available records from previous evaluations that document diagnosis, including any previous test results, previous treatments that have been attempted (include doses and duration of treatment) and the results of such treatment trials;
4. Specification of the DSM-V criteria that are present to diagnose ADHD; and
5. Management plan, to include:
 - a. Medication prescribed, including dosage and frequency of medication; Treatment with

non-prohibited substances should be included; extended release preparations, e.g Adderall XR, Vyvanse, Concerta, Focalin XR, Methylphenidate LA, Ritalin LA must be utilized unless there is a pressing clinical indication for immediate release medication.

- b. Mechanism to be used to document treatment effectiveness (e.g., you may use rating scales, such as the World Health Organization's Adult ADHD Self Report Scale (ASRS v1.1). Symptom Checklist can be given before beginning treatment and at follow-up visits). **These symptom scales can be used for documentation of treatment but not for diagnosis.**
 - c. Further testing or treatment of co-morbidities; and
 - d. Plans for follow-up visits.
6. Submit a NFL TUE application via the NFL TUE Portal.

Annual Review

All TUEs for ADHD require an annual renewal. The following must be submitted annually prior to July 1:

1. Documentation of all follow-up visits (minimum of 2 with the most recent follow-up visit taking place within 60 days of the TUE renewal application) documenting:
 - a. Symptoms as related to ADHD and adverse effects which may occur with the treatment;
 - b. Efficacy of treatment;
 - c. Pertinent history from previous year - especially related to head injury, other mental health disorders, i.e. anxiety, depression and treatment of co-morbid conditions;
 - d. Physical exam with emphasis of blood pressure and cardiovascular system, neurological system.
2. Results of any pertinent testing that was completed during the previous year (may include the mechanism used to document treatment effectiveness (e.g., rating scales such as the World Health Organization's Adult ADHD Self Report Scale (ASRS v1.1)); and
3. Documentation of adequate medication adherence (should include player report, pharmacy records (state medication reporting system should be utilized)
4. Treatment plan for the coming year, including medication(s) prescribed, tests ordered and plans for follow-up visits.
5. Submit a NFL TUE application via the NFL TUE Portal

**NFL REQUIREMENTS FOR THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTION (TUE):
Diuretics in the Treatment of Hypertension**

Systemic hypertension is the most common cardiovascular condition observed in competitive athletes and is defined as a having a blood pressure measurement above 140/90 on two separate occasions. There are many factors or conditions which affect blood pressure including excess body weight, excess sodium intake, renal disease, sleep apnea and other diseases. In addition, certain medications and foods can cause elevated blood pressure including, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication, stimulants, corticosteroids, anti-depressant medication and alcohol. Lifestyle, medications and presence of causative diseases should be included in the evaluation and treatment of an individual with hypertension. The use of diuretics as part of the treatment of NFL players with hypertension requires a TUE.

Initial TUE Application

As a reminder, all TUE applications must be sent to the Independent Administrator prior to the initiation of treatment.

The following specific requirements must be satisfied in order to grant a TUE for the use of diuretics for hypertension:

1. History and physical examination with blood pressure measured on at least two independent occasions with an adequate sized cuff;
2. Laboratory testing must include:
 - a. 12 lead electrocardiogram
 - b. Urinalysis
 - c. Electrolytes including Calcium
 - d. BUN/Creatinine
 - e. Urinalysis
3. Testing as indicated including:
 - a. 24 hour urine for protein and creatinine
 - b. Renal imaging
 - c. Echocardiography
 - d. EKG stress testing
4. Management plan including:
 - a. Treatments previously attempted including lifestyle modification and medication (including dose, frequency and duration of trial of treatment). Trial with a non-prohibited substance (e.g. ACE-I, ARB, calcium channel blocker, etc) is required before the use of a diuretic will be approved.
 - b. Medication suggested with dose, route and frequency
 - c. Plan for monitoring including frequency of visits and follow-up testing
 - d. Submit a NFL TUE Application via the NFL TUE Portal

Annual Renewal

All TUEs for hypertension require annual renewal. The following must be submitted prior to July 1:

1. Documentation of all follow-up visits including effect of treatment, adverse effects and results of all laboratory tests. The latest visit should be within 60 days of renewal; and
2. Management plan for the year, including:
 - a. Medication suggested with dose, route and frequency
 - b. Plan for monitoring including frequency of visits and follow-up testing.
3. Submit a NFL TUE Application via the NFL TUE Portal

NFL REQUIREMENTS FOR THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTION (TUE):
Hypogonadism

Hypogonadism is the absent or decreased function of the testes resulting in decreased production of testosterone and/or decreased production of spermatozoa. Hypogonadism can be primary, a problem in the testes with etiologies such as Klinefelter's syndrome, Leydig cell aplasia, bilateral anorchia, testicular infection, trauma, etc. Hypogonadism can also be secondary with normal testes but lack of the stimulatory signals (gonadatropic hormones LH and/or FSH). Examples of the medical conditions or treatments that may cause hypogonadotropic hypogonadism include isolated LH deficiency, hypopituitarism due to tumor, infection or trauma, medications, etc. The etiology of the hypogonadism is either organic with a pathological change in the structure of an organ or within the hypothalamic-pituitary-testicular axis or functional in which there is no observable pathological change in the structure of an organ or within the hypothalamic-pituitary-testicular axis. TUEs will be granted for organic etiologies of hypogonadism.

Previous use of exogenous androgens may result in decreased pituitary and/or gonadal function and TUE is not indicated for this condition. Additionally, low normal levels of gonadal hormones and/or gonadotropins are not indications for granting a TUE for hypogonadism.

Initial TUE Application

As a reminder, all TUE applications must be sent to the Independent Administrator prior to the initiation of treatment. Additionally because expanded drug testing is required during evaluation process (see below), the Independent Administrator should be notified when diagnosis is being considered.

The following specific requirements must be satisfied in order to grant a TUE for hypogonadism:

1. History and physical examination performed by an endocrinologist and all medical records which document the diagnosis;
2. Laboratory testing must include:
 - a. Free (dialysis method) and Total testosterone drawn before 10 AM – repeated 3 times over 4 weeks
 - b. LH and FSH – drawn with testosterone each time
 - c. Sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG)
 - d. TSH and free T4
 - e. Estradiol
 - f. Prolactin
 - g. IGF-1
3. If clinically indicated, testing must include:
 - a. Testicular imaging
 - b. Semen analysis
4. If hypogonadotropic hypogonadism is the presumptive diagnosis, then stimulation testing and imaging must be performed including:
 - a. Glucagon stimulation test or GHRH for HGH
 - b. HCG stimulation test
 - c. MRI of brain with pituitary (sella) cuts with and without contrast
5. Drug testing under the NFL Policy on Performance Enhancing Substances to coincide with the administration of repeated tests for testosterone (to be arranged through the Independent Administrator)
6. Management plan including:
 - a. Medication suggested with dose, route and frequency and who will be administering medication
 - b. Regular testing of serum hormone levels (Total testosterone) with levels not exceeding

- therapeutic range. Results must be sent to Independent Administrator who may at his sole discretion require additional testing of the player's hormonal level on 24-hour notice; and
- c. Regular visits and plans for re-evaluation (e.g. trial off medication with testing)
7. Submit a NFL TUE Application via the NFL TUE Portal

All players granted a TUE for hypogonadism will be subject to expanded testing under the Policy during the year.

Annual Renewal

All TUEs for hypogonadism require annual renewal. The following must be submitted prior to July 1:

1. Documentation of all follow-up visits including effect of treatment, adverse effects and results of all laboratory tests (latest test must be within 60 days of application);
2. Results of a re-evaluation following removal from the medication with adequate washout period (4-6 weeks) or medical justification why re-evaluation need not be performed.
3. Management plan for the year to include:
 - a. Medication suggested with dose, route and frequency and who will be administering medication
 - b. Regular testing of hormone levels (Total testosterone)
 - c. Regular visits and plans for re-evaluation (e.g. trial off medication with testing)
4. Submit a NFL TUE Application via the NFL TUE Portal

Permitted Activities for Suspended Players

For the first half of any suspension period, Players suspended under this Policy will be prohibited from attending the club facility, engaging in any club activities, or having any contact with club personnel, except for the Team Clinician(s). Suspended Players may communicate and meet with their Team Clinician(s) at any time for the sole purpose of seeking and receiving mental health support and resources during that time. However, suspended Players still may not meet with the Team Clinician(s) at the Club facility during the first half of any suspension period unless otherwise permitted under this Appendix J.

During the remainder of the suspension period, suspended Players will be permitted to engage in the following activities:

- Receive on-site rehabilitation and treatment with medical and athletic training staff.
- Meet with player engagement staff, mental health consultants, team chaplain, treating clinicians, and other professional resources.
- Attend team meetings.
- Meet individually with the head coach, coordinator and position coach.
- Participate in individual workouts with the strength and conditioning coach.
- Take meals in the cafeteria and use team facilities on an individual basis.

In order to be eligible to participate in these permitted activities while suspended, a Player must request permission from his club, and the club must agree to the Player's participation. The Player may decline to make such request of his club and the club may decline the Player's request. Either party may revoke its agreement at any time.

The Player must be medically cleared by the advisors before he may petition his club for approval to participate in permitted activities. If, for example, the Player has been directed to inpatient treatment for substance abuse, he must satisfactorily complete that treatment before he will be eligible to participate in activities at the club facility.

The Player must be under contract to the club in order to petition for permission to participate in permitted activities.

If the Player is allowed to participate in permitted activities, he is expected to comply with all generally-applicable club rules and policies and is subject to discipline for failure to do so under the club discipline schedule and Article 42 of the CBA.

While suspended, Players will continue to be prohibited from: attending or participating in group workouts; attending, observing, or participating in practices; attending home or away games; and attending club-sponsored community events, press conferences or other media appearances.

If the Player participates in activities that are not permitted, both the Player and club will be subject to disciplinary action. A Player may not be disciplined unless discipline is also imposed on the club for the same infraction. The Player may assert as a defense that he did not know that the activities were not permitted when he engaged in them.

The Commissioner retains his authority to permit a Player to participate in practices or other football activities for up to two weeks prior to the conclusion of the suspension.