

# Banned Substances and Supplement Information

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The following three areas are of critical importance to protecting health and eligibility of student-athletes.

1. **NCAA Banned Drugs:** The NCAA lists banned drugs by class, and any substance that is chemically related to the class is banned (unless specifically exempted.) When the NCAA originally developed the banned drug classes, many examples were listed under each class, though the list was never an exhaustive list of all banned drugs. From the beginning, any stimulant and anabolic steroid was banned, even if it was not named as an example under the banned drug class. **THERE HAS NEVER BEEN PUBLISHED A COMPLETE LIST OF BANNED DRUGS.** This concept is critically important to compliance with NCAA banned drug regulations. In recent years, it has become clear that the list of examples, instead of providing some clarification, have actually created a false sense of security to student-athletes who believe that if the ingredients on a product are not found on "the list" in the same manner the product manufacture names them, they are not banned, when in actuality the ingredient is or is likely *banned*. As explained below, with the many new supplements and designer drugs appearing on the market annually, creating a complete list is impossible.

2. **Nutritional Dietary Supplements:** Since 1994, with the enactment of the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act, DSHEA, the number of supplement products, and particularly products targeted to body building and athletic performance, has exploded. The stated intent of DSHEA was to provide health products that consumer could easily access; but the reality of DSHEA is that **many stimulants, anabolic steroids, diuretics and other non-essential nutrients are included in supplement products** promoted to the public and our student-athletes as a quick route to enhanced performance –sexual, athletic and even cognitive. DSHEA allows supplement products to go on the market without first proving effectiveness, safety and purity, creating a real drug problem for our student-athletes and for consumers in general. Manufacturers add designer drugs and proprietary ingredients, and many of these products are spiked or contaminated with banned ingredients that are not listed on the labels. And some supplement products change formulas without changing the name of the product. This lack of premarket review and the ever-changing product formulas create real risks to eligibility, health and safety. **Student-athletes need to be aware of these real risks and understand that these products are NOT necessary for their health and performance and most are a waste of money. Student-athletes should be advised that the most effective and safest way to enhance their performance is to avoid these questionable products and rely on a combination of a healthy diet, appropriate conditioning, rest and recovery, and avoiding substance abuse.**

3. **Advising Student-Athletes who want to use supplements:** Even with the above stated concern, many student-athletes insist on using dietary supplements. In most cases, members of the sports medicine staff are assigned the responsibility to educate student-athletes about banned drugs and to advise about and review supplement products that student-athletes intend to use. The burden of this awesome responsibility can be dramatically reduced by student-athletes bringing all supplement products to the appropriate athletic training staff member before using, and then checking all supplements through **DRUG FREE SPORT AXIS** (formerly the Resource Exchange Center, REC) staffed by the National Center for Drug Free Sport, the NCAA third party drug testing administrator. *Axis is the only authoritative resource for questions related to whether listed ingredients on nutritional supplement product labels or if medications contain NCAA banned substances.* Because of the changing nature of the dietary supplement industry and the manner in which manufacturers use proprietary names and rename products to suit their purposes, there is no way to create a reliable database of reviewed products. Institutional staff will submit each time a student-athlete brings forth a dietary supplement product, *as last year's review may no longer apply to the this year's newly formulated product by the same name.* To get to the AXIS website go to: <http://www.drugfreesport.com/services/rec-overview.asp>, select NCAA, and insert password "*ncaa2*". For login help, call 816-474-8655, Ext. 129. Through the AXIS™ online portal ([www.drugfreesport.com/axis](http://www.drugfreesport.com/axis)), athletes and athletic department staff can submit questions about supplements for guidance on the presence or absence of banned substances.