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**Web site provides parents, coaches and student-athletes
crucial information on steroids and other banned substances**

***NJSIAA offers access to Resource Exchange Center
service regarding performance-enhancing drugs***

Information available at www.drugfreesport.com/rec/

ROBBINSVILLE, NJ (August 25, 2014) -- Parents, coaches, and student-athletes alike now have access to clear, accurate information on whether or not their athletic supplements contain steroids and other ingredients not approved by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA).

The NJSIAA -- a non-profit organization of 428 public, private, and parochial high schools that conducts tournaments and crowns champions in 32 sports -- is providing its membership with direct access to the Resource Exchange Center (REC), a leading information source on dietary supplements, prescription, and over-the-counter medications. A National Center for Drug Free Sport division, REC gives users the ability to check online -- at www.drugfreesport.com/rec/ -- to receive a timely evaluation of any substance they've purchased.

After accessing the site, visitors may select the NJSIAA logo, then enter the password "njsports." Once an inquiry is submitted, a response typically is provided within 48 business hours. The site's assessment of supplements is specifically intended to help prevent a student-athlete from being suspended for unknowingly consuming a banned substance.

"With thousands of energy and muscle-enhancing products on the market, it can be incredibly difficult for athletes and their families to know which are safe and which contain banned chemicals," says Steve Timko, NJSIAA executive director. "The Resource Exchange Center alleviates the pressure to know each ingredient of every substance and allows athletes to make better decisions related to competitive integrity."

The majority of athletes and coaches are aware of the more prominent banned substances. Yet there are supplements readily available from various popular retailer outlets that contain performance-enhancing ingredients not permitted by the NJSIAA. Of note, many products containing steroids feature intentionally vague lists of ingredients, which leave consumers unaware of exactly what they're dealing with.

The complete list of substances banned by the NJSIAA is available online at www.njsiaa.org/documents/banned-substance-list.

Under the current NJSIAA program -- which was instituted in 2006 -- any student testing positive for steroids or other banned substances included on a list patterned after the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) list, automatically forfeits a year of athletic eligibility. Athletes randomly designated for testing -- all of whom are participants in championship tournaments -- are selected by the National Center for Drug-Free Sport computer system. The tests, which can identify more than 80 banned substances, are analyzed by the University of California, Los Angeles Olympic Analytical Laboratory.