



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

VFAFA ILLEGAL DRUG POLICY

The VFAFA understands and accepts it has a duty of care to provide a safe and healthy environment, free of illegal drugs.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure VFAFA clubs understand the VFAFA's position regarding illegal drugs and explains how clubs should respond to a drug-related incident within its premises.

For the purpose of this policy, illegal drugs are classified as performance enhancing drugs and/or illegal drugs used for social purposes (such as amphetamine, e.g. speed).

Illegal Drug Use

The possession, use, distribution or selling of illegal drugs for any purposes on club premises or at any function or activity organised by the club should be prohibited.

In the case of an incident involving an illegal drug, the initial actions and responses should focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved.

- All responses and actions should reflect the club's duty of care to members, visitors and all other people.
- The club should investigate all apparent or alleged breaches of this policy and determine a course of action after all relevant facts and circumstances are known.
- The club may refer a member who is involved in illegal drug use to a medical or health service for assistance or, if the club deems it necessary in the circumstances, to the police.

Managing illegal drug incidents

Where a club member becomes aware that illegal drug use is occurring at the club or within its premises, the member should pass on this information to the club President. Should the need arise, the club should sanction the individual(s) in line with the club's rules and policies.

Upon receiving notification that illegal drug use is occurring at the club, the club President should:

- Speak to the individual(s) in private, expressing concern about their drug use
- Remind the individual(s) of the club policy and ask for a commitment that it will not happen again
- Offer options for support and referral for counselling or other help
- Leave the door open for further communication with the individual(s) concerned.

Updated: September 2020
Review Date: Annually

If an individual(s) is under the influence of a legal or illegal drug at the club, the club should:

- Ensure the health and safety of the individual(s)
- Keep the individual under supervision and monitor them at regular intervals
- Call for medical assistance if required
- Arrange safe transport to take them home, unless this involves further risk
- Take control of any remaining drugs in their possession, unless this involves further risk
- If the person becomes violent or aggressive, contact police to ensure the safety of all
- Inform the club President as soon as possible

Drugs found at the club or in the possession of an individual

If illegal drugs are found at the club or in the possession of an individual, the club President should be contacted as soon as possible.

The club should:

- Take possession of the drug if safe to do so
- Place the drug in a clean (preferably “snap lock”) plastic bag
- Seal the plastic bag with masking tape to ensure it stays closed
- The finder and/or club President should sign and date the tape/bag
- Record details in an incident register
- Contact local police and request they attend the club to collect the drugs
- Store the plastic bag in a secure place until collected by police
- Obtain the signature of attending police for the incident register to show the drugs have been taken into their possession
- Ask the person suspected to be in possession of the drugs to leave the premises immediately (assuming it is safe for them to do so), if they deny possessing drugs or refuse to relinquish possession of the drugs to the club

Supplying illegal drugs

If it is suspected or known that a member is supplying illegal drugs to other members of the club, the club President should:

- Speak to the individual to determine if they are supplying illegal drugs to others
- If this is verified, or there is a strong belief this is occurring, the club should contact local police
- If it is unable to be verified, the club should monitor the situation and warn the individual that the matter will be reported to the police if the club has continued concerns

Privacy

Subject to its right to contact the police if necessary, the club should maintain the privacy of those involved where possible. The club should act with discretion when absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Club personnel should be informed on a need to know basis only

Contacting parents

In the interests of health and safety, the club should contact the parents or guardian of a minor where apparent or suspected illegal drug use has occurred (unless by doing so it will place the safety of the individual at risk of greater harm).

The club should inform all members aged under 18 years that parents will be notified if the club is aware (or strongly believes) they are using or supplying illegal drugs.

If the member is aged over 18 years, the club should determine each case on its merits and decide whether contacting parents or guardian is in the best interests of the individual.

Medical emergency

The club understands that medical assistance may be required if a person has been using drugs.

Media

The club should designate the club President to communicate with the media on behalf of the club should the need arise. The club should seek advice from the VAFA prior to communicating with the media. No other member of the club should communicate with the media on this issue, unless specifically requested by the club President.

Non-compliance

All club committee members should enforce the illegal drug policy and any non-compliance should be handled according to the following process:

- The club President should be informed of the breach of policy
- The individual(s) concerned should be reminded of the club policy
- Issue a warning of future sanctions for continued non-compliance

The club President should use their discretion as to the action taken for non-compliance, based on:

- Whether it involved use or supply
- Whether the use or supply takes place within the club's jurisdiction or in private
- Age of the persons involved

In general, and depending on any other rules of the club, should an individual(s) continue non-compliance with this policy, the following should occur:

- Suspension for a designated time period
- Expulsion from the club.

The VAFA Board appoints an Independent Integrity Division whose role it is to investigate and report on any matter that may undermine the integrity of the competition including drugs in sport. Any person can confidentially report an alleged breach or a matter that adversely affects the VAFA's integrity by completing the form on the VAFA website (the form can be found in the Integrity Tip-Offs section under the 'VAFA HQ' tab).