



MANSFIELD FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

Drug Policy

The Mansfield Football Netball Club understands and accepts it has a duty of care to provide a safe and healthy environment, free of illegal drugs. This policy reflects a commitment by the Club to health, safety and welfare of all its members.

The Mansfield Football Netball Club is committed to:-

- Preventing drug (and alcohol) related harm to individuals, property and reputation of the Club
- Ensuring a supportive and inclusive environment for all members
- Providing support to members who wish to address their patterns of illegal drug (and or alcohol) use
- Meeting legal requirements in relation to illegal drugs (and alcohol)

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure club members understand the Club's position regarding illegal drugs and explain how the Club will respond to a drug related incident within its jurisdiction.

Definitions

Illegal Drugs - used by many people in the community, including young adults, so it is likely that some members of the MFNC will have access to them. Currently there are two distinct, but related, illegal drug issues confronting sporting clubs

- *performance enhancing drugs*
- *illegal drugs used for social purposes (eg at parties, festivals, in the home, at the club)*

These two categories are not mutually exclusive. Some illegal drugs used for social purposes (eg amphetamines) may be used to enhance sporting performance.

Club Jurisdiction

The Club jurisdiction extends to the MFNC premises and all activities organised by or for the Club at any location or venue.

Application

This policy applies to all members, employees, supporters and visitors to the MFNC. Members and employees should ensure they do not attend the Club if adversely affected by illegal drugs (and/or alcohol).

Club Confidant

The President will act as the 'Club confidant' and will be responsible for the management of all illegal drug related incidents.

The committee will support the President to carry out duties whenever required.

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 is prohibited.

In the case of an incident involving an illegal drug/s, the initial actions and responses will focus on safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved. All responses and actions will reflect the Club's duty of care to members and visitors.

The Club will 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 drug use to a medical or health service for assistance, or if it is deemed necessary, 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 jurisdiction, the member should pass on this information to the President. Should the need arise, the committee will sanction the individual/s in line with the Club's rules and policies.

The President will:-

- Speak to the individual/s in private, expressing concern about their drug use
- Remind the individual/s of the Club policy and ask that it does 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
- Inform the committee in the event of non-compliance

If an individual/s is under the influence of a legal or illegal drug at the Club, the following actions should occur:-

- Inform the President as soon as possible
- Ensure the health and safety of the individual/s
- Keep the person/s 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)
- If the person/s becomes violent and aggressive contact police to ensure safety of all

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 president will be contacted as soon as possible.

The Club will:-

- Take possession of the drug if safe to do so
- Place the drug in a clean (preferably snap lock) plastic bag
- Seal the bag with tape
- The Club President should sign and date the bag
- Record details in an incident register
- Contact local police and request that they attend the Club to collect the drugs
- Store the plastic bag in a secure place until collected by the police
- Obtain the signature of the attending police for the incident register to show the drugs have been taken into their possession
- If the person suspected of being in possession of drugs denies the claim or refuses to relinquish possession, they should be asked to leave the premises immediately.

Supplying Illegal Drugs

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

- 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 President will contact Crime Stoppers on 1300 333 000
- If it is unable to be verified, the committee will 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 rights to contact police if necessary, the Club will maintain the privacy of those involved where possible
- The Club will act with discretion when absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed

Contacting Parents

In the interests of health and safety, the President will 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 President will inform all members aged under 18 years that parents will be notified if the Club is aware (or strongly believes) that they are using or supplying illegal drugs.

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

Contacting Police

If the Committee is aware that a member is supplying illegal drugs to other members, it will notify Crime Stoppers 1300 333 000 of this activity

In the case of apparent or alleged illegal drug use, the committee may report a person to, or seek the advice of, the police.

Medical Emergency

The Club understands that medical assistance may be required if a person/s has been using drugs. Ambulance 000

Media

The President will be the only Club representative to communicate with the media on behalf of the Club should the need arise.

The Club may seek advice from League/Association prior to communicating with the media

Other Club personnel will not communicate with the media, unless specifically requested by the President.

Non Compliance

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

- suspension for a designated time period
- expulsion from the Club

All committee members will be familiar with and support the enforcement of this policy

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant to Club operations and reflects both community expectations and legal requirements.