

Illegal Drug Policy

Policy number	18	Version number	1
Drafted by	PFL CEO	Board approval on	March 21 2022
Person Responsible	PFL CEO and Competition Integrity Officer	Scheduled review date	March 2023

Overview

This policy reflects the Perth Football league's commitment to protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of all persons associated with amateur football whether as a player, official, spectator or visitor.

The Perth Football League does not permit the use, distribution or selling of illegal drugs by any official, player or visitor of the club within its jurisdiction.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure club officials, players and visitors understand the Perth Football League position regarding illegal drugs and how it will respond to a drug-related incident within its jurisdiction.

POLICY STATEMENT

What is an illegal drug?

An illegal drug is a substance that is not permitted to be taken or used according to state and federal laws, and substances banned in accordance with AFL's Anti-Doping Code under the Laws of Australian Football. A complete list of banned substances under the WADA code are available on the WADA website.

When does this policy apply?

This policy applies in all areas under the Perth Football League's jurisdiction. This includes matches, events and within club facilities; including social rooms, change rooms and grounds, matches and activities organised or sanctioned by clubs, and behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute.

Who does this policy apply to?

- Officials: Committee members, coaches, team managers, support staff, umpires, volunteers.
- Players: Registered and temporary registered players of the Perth Football League.
- Visitors: People who are within a club's jurisdiction such as patrons, supporters, spectators, trades at work at the club.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Perth Football League will:

- Activate the policy.
- Promote the policy to our network.

- Promote and role model expected standards of behaviours at all times.
- Provide training and support for clubs, as requested
- Respond to violations of this policy discretely and in a timely manner.
- Investigate all apparent, or alleged, breaches of this policy and determine a course of action after all relevant facts and circumstances are known.
- Ensure all responses and actions will reflect a duty of care to officials, players and visitors will be guided by this policy.
- Review this policy every year in consultation with the AFL, WAFC, ASADA and our League and Clubs.

Clubs will:

- Activate and comply with the policy.
- Promote the policy to everyone within the club's jurisdiction.
- Promote and role model expected standards of behaviours at all times.
- Appoint, and provide training and support for, an appropriate person to act as the club confidant and be responsible for the management of all illegal drug-related incidents.
- Respond to violations of this policy discretely and in a timely manner.
- Investigate all apparent, or alleged, breaches of this policy and determine a course of action after all relevant facts and circumstances are known.
- Ensure all responses and actions will reflect the club's duty of care to officials, players and visitors will be guided by this policy.
- Review this policy every year in consultation with the Perth Football League, club members and relevant local services.

Individuals will:

- Comply with the policy.
- Promote and role model expected standards of behaviours at all times.
- Be responsible and accountable for their behaviour.
- Discuss their concerns about their own, or another club members/visitors illegal drug use with the club confidant.
- Honour the Perth Football League's commitment to the health, safety and welfare of all its members.

RESPONDING TO ILLEGAL DRUGS

Initial response

When responding to an illegal drug-related concern or incident, the initial actions and responses by the club will focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved. All responses and actions will reflect the club's duty of care to officials, players and visitors.

All illegal drug-related concerns or incidents should be discussed with a club confidant as soon as possible. The confidant will document the issues using the agreed template/issues register (*Attachment 1*) and investigate the concern/incident further in line with this policy.

If a club confidant is unavailable, the concern or incident should be discussed with a club committee member who will document the issues using the agreed template and pass the details onto the club confidant as soon as possible.

Investigating the concern or incident

The club confidant will investigate all illegal drug-related concerns or incidents in a timely and discrete manner.

Once all relevant facts and circumstances are known and documented using the agreed template, the confidant will make recommendations about appropriate approaches and/or disciplinary measures to the club committee based on the guiding principles outlined in this policy.

Privacy

Where possible, the investigation of illegal drug-related concerns or incidents will maintain the strictest confidentiality.

Illegal drug use by people under 18 years

Where the club identifies (or strongly believes) that a person under the age of 18 years is involved in illegal drug use, the following additional measures must be followed:

- Inform the individual that the club will be informing his parents or legal guardian.
- Notify the parent or legal guardian. An exception may occur if the club believes that to inform the parent or legal guardian would place the individual at risk.
- All players and members under 18 years should be informed through the club's drug policy or code of conduct that parents will be informed if the club is aware (or strongly believes) that they are using or are involved with illicit drugs.

An official, player or visitor appears to be affected by an illegal drug

If an official, player or visitor within a club's jurisdiction appears to be affected by an illegal drug, the initial response will focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved. This may include:

- Aim to minimise harm.
- Express your concerns.
- Assure them you are there to help.
- Refer them to the appropriate health professional (*Attachment 3*).

Once the risk of immediate harm to everyone has been reduced, the club confidant will investigate the incident and make recommendations to the club committee about disciplinary measures based on the guidelines in this policy.

If illegal drugs are being distributed or sold within the club's jurisdiction

If an individual is distributing or selling illegal drugs within the club's jurisdiction, the initial response and process will focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved. This may include:

- Speaking directly to any person who is suspected of supplying drugs to ascertain if this is happening (assuming it is safe to do so)?
- Monitor the individual in question.
- Consider contacting Crime Stoppers on 1300 333 000.

Once the risk of immediate harm to anyone has been reduced, the club confidant will investigate the incident and make recommendations to the club committee about disciplinary measures based on the guidelines in this policy.

Handling illegal drugs that are found within the club's jurisdiction

If illegal drugs are found in a club's facilities or in the possession of an individual within the club's jurisdiction, the club confidant and President will be contacted as soon as possible and the club will:

- Contact police and if they are unable to attend.
- Photograph the drug/s in situ.
- Take possession of the drug using gloves.
- Place the drug in a clean plastic bag.
- Seal the plastic bag with masking tape.
- The finder and President should sign and date the bag.

- Details should be written in the Incident Report (*Attachment 1*).
- Contact the local police and request they attend and remove the drug (the plastic bag should be stored in a secure place until the police arrive).
- Attending police should sign the Incident Report (*Attachment 1*).
- If the person suspected to be in possession of illegal drugs will not give them to the club, they should be asked to leave the premises immediately (assuming it is safe to do so).
- Remind all participants of the Perth Football League Illicit Drug Policy.
- Consider Contacting Crime Stoppers on 1300 333 000.

Disciplinary measures

The Perth Football League or club will respond to all violations of this policy and to individual who have made false or malicious allegations. Any disciplinary measures imposed under the policy must:

- Be fair and reasonable.
- Focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved.
- Be based on the evidence and information gathered and the impact on the club, officials, players, visitors and local community.
- Take into account the age of the people involved.
- Take into account whether the incident involved personal use of an illegal drug or the supply of an illegal drug to other people.
- Take into account whether this is a person's first violation of this policy or if there have been multiple incidents.

Possible measures that may be taken include:

- Being reminded of the club policy and receive a warning that further violation of this policy may result in disciplinary actions.
- A referral to a health or alcohol and other drug service for support and counselling.
- Suspension or termination of club membership, player deregistration, and/or being banned from club sanctioned activities and facilities.
- The matter being referred to the police.

Managing media

All contact with the media related to a drug-related allegation or incident within its jurisdiction must abide by the Perth Football League By-laws relating media comment and use of social media.

PROMOTING THIS POLICY

Perth Football League and clubs will inform officials, players and visitors about this policy regularly. This will include using a range of different communication channels, including but not limited to:

- Perth Football League/Club Manuals
- Membership applications
- Information sessions
- Websites and social media
- Signage
- A pre-season email to all registered players

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by the Board as scheduled to ensure it remains relevant to club operations and reflects both community expectations and legal requirements.

ATTACHMENT 1: REPORTING FORM

Record of incident

Person managing the concern/allegation/incident	Name: Role in the club: Date record made:
Person who raised the concerns/allegations or witnessed the incident	Name: Under 18 or 18 and over? Phone: Email: Role in the club: Date concerns/allegations made:
Person to whom the concerns/allegations refer	Name: Under 18 or 18 and over? Phone: Email: Role in the club:
Details of the concerns or alleged incident	Date: Location: Specific concerns or what was witnessed:
Initial actions taken	Date: Location: Details:
Investigative steps taken:	Date: Location: Details:
Recommendations from club confidant to the club committee	Date: Details:
Club committee decision	Date: Details:
Resolution and/or actions taken by the club	Date: Details:

ATTACHMENT 2: REFERRAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Health, alcohol and other drug services to which people may be referred in the event of an illegal drug-related concern or incident may include:

NATIONAL

Counselling Online

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Free alcohol and drug counselling online

Cannabis Information and Helpline

1800 30 40 50

11am–7pm, Monday to Friday (including public holidays)

Family Drug Help

1300 660 068

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Family Drug Support

1300 368 186

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Support for families faced with problematic drug use

Quitline

13 78 48

8am–8pm, Monday to Friday

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parent Drug Information Service (PDIS)

Perth: 08 9442 5050

Regional: 1800 653 203

Alcohol & Drug Information Service (ADIS)

Perth: 08 9442 5000

Regional WA: 1800 198 024

A 24-hour, confidential telephone service that provides information, counselling, referral and advice