



RESPONDING TO ILLEGAL DRUGS AT YOUR CLUB

Reference for Club Officials – Rovers Cricket Club

1. Initial response

- Always focus on the safety and welfare of those involved
- Follow the club's duty of care procedures
- Seek medical attention when required
- Contact and include relevant club officials as soon as possible

Safety first

- Make an assessment of the situation
- If there is a risk of the person being aggressive or violent to others or themselves, you need to ensure their and other's safety:
 - Stay calm.
 - Reassure them if they are distressed that the effects will wear off.
 - Ask others around you for help, you don't need to do this on your own.
 - You might wish to call the police and you might need to contact the person's emergency contact or parent or guardian to advise them of the situation and/or arrange safe transport home.
 - Call an ambulance if the person is having chest pains, difficulty breathing, or is unconscious (non-responsive).

If there are drugs present, secure them in a zip-lock bag, advise police and ask for advice, and record details in your incident register.

2. Investigating a concern or incident

- Only once the safety and welfare of everyone involved has been established should club officials begin exploring the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident
- This process should be conducted fairly and privately
- Those investigating, should recommend an appropriate action based on the context of the situation and the guiding principles set out in the club's illegal drugs policy

The aim of the investigation is to provide the club committee with a thorough understanding of the event and the meaning it has for the people involved.

Depending on what is learned in this process, the club may decide to take further actions.

Get the facts

- Establish your own understanding of what has happened.
- If the matter is about a particular substance, inform yourself about its effects and risks to aid in the discussion with the person(s) subject to an investigation.

Have the conversation at an appropriate time

Make a time to speak to all individuals involved in the incident reasonably quickly. Depending on the nature of the incident this may be on the same day, or sometime later.

Speak to individuals one-on-one, to reduce embarrassment, peer pressure, and to respect privacy as much as possible.



Have this conversation when you are both calm, sober, and in a friendly or neutral environment. It is critical that you:

- Never converse with someone in the heat of the moment.
- Find a quiet and private space and time to talk.
- If the person is under 18 years you should ensure a parent or guardian is present.

Ask questions

Let the person know that as a club official you want to make sure they are alright and to work out if they need some help or support.

Also explain you will make a report on the incident to the club committee so the committee is fully informed before deciding on further action.

Use open ended prompts to encourage the other person to engage in the conversation; e.g. *tell me, explain, describe, etc.*

- First, check in with the person's overall sense of wellbeing:
 - Are you ok? Is there anything in your life that is causing you worry or stress?
 - Is there anything I can help you with?
- Explain that you want to find out what happened when the drug incident occurred. If it is not clear that drugs were involved ask the person:
 - Can you tell me what happened?
 - What do you think caused the incident?
 - Could it have been a result of medication or other drugs?
 - Were drugs involved in this event?
- When it is known that the incident involved drug use, explain that you need to have a clear understanding of the drug use:
 - Which drug was it that you used on this occasion?
 - How much did you take?
 - How often do you use this drug?
 - Have you experienced problems or been harmed in any way due to drug use?
 - Do you have any concerns about your use of the drug?
 - Has anyone ever expressed concern over the effect the drug has on you? Have you ever sought help related to your drug use?
 - How did you come to use this drug (or be affected) at the club/club event?
 - Would you like some help or advice regarding your drug use?

Ask the person whether there is another person (e.g. partner, friend or parent) who could provide additional information that is relevant to understand the incident.

3. Taking action

1. If a member **sells or distributes illegal drugs** in the club's jurisdiction, the following will occur:
 - The club will contact the local police to seek their advice.
 - Consequences for the individual (s) will depend on the circumstances or severity.
 - Where applicable, the individual (s) may be referred to a local health service provider.
 - The club will appoint a senior person to act as a mentor to a suspended individual (s) for a nominated period of time and to assist them to reintegrate with the club, if applicable.



- If the individual (s) concerned is/are under 18, their parent or guardian would be informed immediately of the incident and of the consequences, unless informing the parent or guardian would put the individual at risk of greater harm.
 - In the case of a visitor, the club will inform the visiting club.
2. If a member is found **in possession of an illegal drug**, the following will occur:
- The individual (s) will be asked to hand-over the substance and the club will follow the procedures for handling illegal drugs in its jurisdiction.
 - The club will contact the local police to seek their advice.
 - Consequences for the individual (s) will depend on the circumstances or severity.
 - Where applicable, the individual (s) may be referred to a local health service provider.
 - The club will appoint a senior person to act as a mentor to a suspended individual(s) for a nominated period of time and to assist them to reintegrate with the club, if applicable.
 - If the individual(s) concerned is/are under 18, their parent or guardian would be informed immediately of the incident and of the consequences, unless informing the parent or guardian would put the individual at risk of greater harm.
 - In the case of a visitor, the club will inform the visiting club.
3. If a member is found **using drugs, or is affected by the use of illegal drugs** under the club's jurisdiction:
- The club would ensure the safety and wellbeing of the individual is the first priority.
 - Seek out medical assistance, if required.
 - If required, contact next of kin.
 - If the individual (s) concerned is/are under 18, their parent or guardian would be informed immediately of the incident and of the consequences, unless informing the parent or guardian would put the individual at risk of greater harm.
 - Ensure individual is safely transported to their home.
 - When the individual's health has returned to a normal state, the club president/committee members may investigate and take appropriate action.
 - Where applicable, the individual (s) may be referred to a local health service provider.
 - In the case of a visitor, the club will inform the visiting club.

Offer support and follow-up

Once the facts have been established and the incident has been resolved remember to follow up with the individual:

- Offer the person(s) the name and contact details for a local doctor, health service or counselling service in case they want further advice.
- Agree to check in with the person(s) after a nominated time.
- If the club does decide to suspend the person(s), ensure to appoint a senior member at the club for a nominated period of time as a mentor for this person to assist them to reintegrate into the club.



For assistance contact your local Good Sports representative or call our national office 1300 883 817, goodsports@adf.org.au

4. Discretion

When responding to any incident, it's important to use discretion. Incidents will often involve personal circumstances that must remain confidential. Involve only the appropriate people with the investigation and never raise the issue in a public space. The club should play a trusting role and never share personal details unnecessarily.

Remember, the Good Sports team is here to help you along the way. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The [Good Sports website](#) and the [Alcohol and Drug Foundation](#) websites are full of resources to help you along.