



**SECONDARY SCHOOL SPORT SA / SAPSASA BANNED SUBSTANCES POLICY**  
**(to be read in conjunction with the School Sport Australia Anti Doping Policy, the School Sport Australia Codes of Behaviour, and “Intervention matters”)**

**Position Statement**

- Secondary School Sport SA and SAPSASA are accountable to the Department of Education and Children's Services, as well as being member bodies of School Sport Australia (the umbrella body for school sport in Australia).
- The policy is consistent with *DECS Intervention matters: A policy statement and procedural framework for the management of suspected drug-related incidents in schools*.
- Secondary School Sport SA and SAPSASA are committed to maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment for students who engage in sport in the educational context.
- To ensure continuous improvement, these procedures will be reviewed after every drug-related incident, whilst the policy will be reviewed at least every two (2) years.
- Secondary School Sport SA and SAPSASA condemn the use of any prohibited substances and methods in sport by students participating in their programs as it is contrary to the ethics of sport and potentially harmful to the health of athletes. The unsanctioned use of illegal and / or performance altering substances, or the distribution of drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs is not accepted.
- Secondary School Sport SA and SAPSASA acknowledge that all students involved in its programs at the elite level (ie representing both associations at the School Sport Australia level) should be knowledgeable of and comply with all anti-doping policies and rules applicable to them and will use their best efforts to assist these athletes to fulfil their responsibilities. (A list of all prohibited substances and other information is available on the Australian Sports Drug Agency website at [www.asda.org.au](http://www.asda.org.au). Anti-doping policies for relevant sports are available on the relevant national sporting association's website).
- Should any school age athlete be banned under the anti-doping policy of any sport and seek to compete in the activities of School Sport Australia, (and School Sport Australia is formally advised of this ban) then School Sport Australia would apply the terms of that ban to its own competitions for that athlete. SSSSA and SAPSASA would be obliged to consider the eligibility of the athlete for state championships and other events.
- In the case of illicit drugs being suspected: SSSSA / SAPSASA, the police, the school and the district director must be notified

**Principles and Rationale**

- It is most unlikely that students competing in School Sport Australia events will be subject to drugtesting.  
(Pacific School Games Swimming and Track and Field are the possible exceptions).
- Many students who are selected to represent SSSSA at the national level will have received information and education about anti-doping from their own relevant state or national sporting association or from the South Australian Sports Institute.
- Secondary School Sport SA and SAPSASA Interstate Team Managers and Coaches should make themselves familiar with the relevant sport's anti-doping policy, and also refer to the ASDA website for other important information. *(It would be advisable for ASDA to provide a brief talk to coaches and managers every couple of years at the Officials' meeting in March)*
- Interstate Team Managers and Coaches should allow for some discussion relating to anti-doping at a training session prior to the students participating at the national event. This education should also involve discussion relating to the use / misuse of substances such as Sudafed, caffeine, alcohol, marihuana and tobacco and their performance altering effects.
- Substances such as alcohol and tobacco are banned at all times.
- IN ALL INCIDENTS COACHES / MANAGERS SHOULD TAKE A “WELFARE FIRST” APPROACH. Each case should be viewed in its own context.

## **MANAGEMENT OF INCIDENT**

### **Initial Procedures**

- Calmly but firmly intervene ensuring the safety and health of student/s and particularly utilising OHS&W principles in caring for yourself.
- Consider calling on other staff. If intervening staff member is not a teacher, a teacher should be called to the scene.
- Inform student/s of suspicion and seek their cooperation.
- Make a first aid assessment (and if necessary seek medical support)
- Note incident details – who, what, when and where
- Safely, collect and suspected drugs and drug paraphernalia
- Have the student(s) wait under adult supervision in as private a place as possible

### **Initial interview**

- Continue to monitor the health and safety of the student/s
- Secure the evidence
- Make an initial assessment of the seriousness of the incident
- Inform the student/s of the form of the proceedings and their rights
- Ensure all participants understand proceedings and their roles
- Interview student/s to collect and document facts about the incident
- Record any information collected on the incident report form (Appendix A)

### **Further Actions**

- If an assessment has been made that the student(s) is under the influence of illegal drugs or that legal drugs are being used in an unsanctioned way, then the Coach/ Manager must immediately contact the School Sport Unit (appropriate School Sport Officer).
- The School Sport Officer will, as soon as possible, inform the parents / carers and school Principals of student(s) involved
- The Principal and School Sport Officer should in discussion, use their professional judgement in determining when and whom to notify (This could be the Police). The seriousness of the incident will influence the decision of who to contact and what kind of penalty will be imposed (and by whom)
- The School Sport Officer is to also make a decision regarding consequences, including educative, punitive and deterrent after consultation with the School Principal, and the Chair of Secondary School Sport SA/SAPSASA. (This could mean not being eligible to participate in further school sport events)

**APPENDIX A: Incident Management Roles and Documentation**  
**Incident management checklist – suspected drug-related incident**

**Check box**

- Has First Aid/Emergency Care been attended to?
- Are the basic facts to ensure safety of student/s known?
- Has the safety and welfare of all students involved been attended to?  
(Are there other students who have taken the substance?)
- If appropriate, has the student been escorted to a safe, confidential place where the state of health can be closely observed?
- Is the student assessed as “well” to continue the interview?
- Is there a presumption of innocence until proven otherwise?
- Is there any evidence?
- If yes, has the evidence (drugs/drug paraphernalia) been secured?

Witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

- Has the student/s been informed as to:-
  - Steps of process that will now occur
  - Right to representation by advocate of choice
  - Right to be heard, including the right to remain silent
  - Right to question evidence
  - Right to hear what is alleged and to know reasons for determinations
- Have you discussed informing the parents/ carers/ Principals/ School Sport Officer with the student and ascertained any issues of concern with engaging these people.
- Has the student admitted to using, possessing or distributing the drug?
- Do you know what the substance is?  
If yes, is it:-
  - Legal but unsanctioned (tobacco, alcohol)
  - Legal to possess, but illegal to supply (eg supplying prescription medicine to others) – do you need to call police as collaborative partners or to clarify legality issues?
  - Illicit – call police and suspend further school/ School Sport Unit investigations
- Has the School Sport Officer been informed?