

Illegal Drugs Policy

This policy was approved by the Management Committee of the Goodwood Saints Football Club Incorporated at its meeting on Monday 3 July 2017.

Introduction

The Goodwood Saints Football Club does not allow the use, distribution or selling of illegal drugs by any club member or any visitors within our club's jurisdiction. This policy reflects our club's commitment to protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of all people associated with the club and all people in attendance at club activities.

Purpose of this policy

This policy is to ensure the club committee and club members understand the club's position regarding illegal drugs and how the club will respond to a drug-related incident within its jurisdiction.

Extent of this policy

This policy refers to illegal drugs only, which are defined as "a substance that is not permitted to be taken or used according to state or national laws such as cannabis (marijuana), amphetamines (speed and ice), ecstasy, cocaine, heroin, and a range of new psycho-active substances known as synthetic drugs."

This policy does not apply to pharmaceutical drugs or performance enhancing drugs (unless they are captured in the above definition).

This policy should be read and understood in conjunction with the club's code of conduct.

When does this policy apply?

This policy applies whenever the individual is taking part in activities under the club's jurisdiction. This includes our club's:

- facilities
- games
- matches / training
- events (including team events)
- trips organised by the club.

While private behaviour of members is not included in this policy as the club cannot be responsible for the behaviour of its members outside our club's jurisdiction; it should be noted that this policy will apply whenever an individual is wearing a part of the official club uniform which would identify them as being a representative of the club.

Further, it should be noted private behaviour that is shared in a public domain, such as on social media, will be deemed to be public behaviour and where the behaviour breaches this policy, will be reviewed in accordance with this policy. Private behaviour that breaches this policy that is filmed and/or photographed will be reviewed according to this policy.

When does this policy apply?

All club members and visitors to our club.

Responsibilities

Our club will:

- Activate and comply with the policy.
- Have the policy available to everyone within our club by placing the policy on our club website. Promote and role model expected standards of behaviour at all times.
- Appoint and support appropriate persons such as the Welfare Officer or a person appointed by the management committee, to lead the initial response, investigation, and action for all illegal drug-related incidents.
- Respond to breaches of this policy discreetly and in a timely manner.
- Investigate all apparent, or alleged, breaches of this policy and take action after all relevant facts and circumstances are known.
- Ensure all responses and actions will reflect the club's duty of care to members and visitors.
- Review this policy every year.
- Educate members on illegal drugs.

Individuals will:

- Comply with the policy.
- Promote and role model expected standards of behaviour at all times.
- Be responsible and accountable for their behaviour.
- Alert club officials or the Welfare Officer with any concern about illegal drug use within the club.
- Honour our commitment to the health, safety, and welfare of all of our members.
- Uphold the club's values.

Responding to illegal drugs

Privacy

Where possible, the investigation of illegal drug-related concerns or incidents will remain confidential in line with our club's privacy policy.

The Privacy Policy of the Goodwood Saints Football Club is as follows:

- The Goodwood Saints Football Club will always act with discretion.
- Subject to its right to contact the Police, if necessary, the Goodwood Saints Football Club will maintain the privacy of those involved as far as possible.
- Club members will be informed about the incident on a need-to-know basis only.

Investigating the concern or incident

The Welfare Officer will investigate all illegal drug-related concerns or incidents in a timely and discreet manner.

Once all relevant facts and circumstances are known, the Welfare Officer will recommend an appropriate response and/or disciplinary measures to the club's management committee based on the guiding principles outlined in this policy.

Response

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

to members and visitors.

All illegal drug-related concerns or incidents should be discussed with a Welfare Officer as soon as possible. The Welfare Officer will document the issue using the incident register and will investigate the concern/incident further. In the event that a Welfare Officer is not available, a club official may substitute for them.

If illegal drugs are being distributed or sold on our club's premises by a member or visitor of any age, the Welfare Officer or President will contact the local police to seek their advice depending on the circumstances. The President and/or Welfare Officer have the authority to contact the police immediately based on an assessment of the situation, with the decision to be ratified by the management committee within 24 hours

If illegal drugs are found within our club's jurisdiction the Welfare Officer or President will contact local police to seek their advice and so they can be disposed of safely.

Illegal drug use by a member under 18 years

Where the club identifies that a person under the age of 18 years is involved in illegal drug use - the Goodwood Saints Football Club will:

Inform the individual that a Welfare Officer will contact the parent or guardian to discuss the incident if it is appropriate and safe to do so.

Contact the parent or guardian to discuss, unless informing the parent or guardian would put the individual at risk of greater harm.

In the case of a visitor in this instance, the Goodwood Saints Football Club will inform the visiting club.

Non-compliance with policy

Our club will respond to all breaches of this policy. Any disciplinary measures imposed under our policy must:

- Be fair and reasonable and will 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, other members, players, patrons, visitors, and the community.
- Take into account the age and personal circumstances of the people involved.
- Take into account whether the incident involved personal use of an illegal drug and/or the supply of an illegal drug to other people.

Examples of breaches of policy:

If a member sells or distributes illegal drugs in the club's jurisdiction, the following will occur:

- The alleged incident will be investigated as above.
- The Police will be contacted depending on the circumstances. The President and/or Player Welfare Officer have the authority to contact the police immediately based on an assessment of the situation, with the decision to be ratified by the management committee within 24 hours. 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 and to assist them to reintegrate with the club, if applicable.
- If the individual (s) concerned is/are under 18, their parent or guardian will be informed as soon as possible 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 Goodwood Saints Football Club will inform the visiting club.

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 Goodwood Saints Football Club will contact the police depending on the circumstances. The President and/or Player Welfare Officer have the authority to contact the police immediately based on an assessment of the situation, with the decision to be ratified by the management committee within 24 hours.
- 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 Goodwood Saints Football Club will inform the visiting club.

If a member is found to be using drugs, or is affected by the use of illegal drugs under the club's jurisdiction:

- The Goodwood Saints Football Club will ensure the safety and wellbeing of the individual is the 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 will be informed as soon as possible of the incident and of the consequences, unless informing the parent or guardian would put the individual at risk of greater harm.
- Ensure the individual is safely transported to their home.
- When the individual's health has returned to a normal state, the Welfare Officer will 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 Goodwood Saints Football Club will inform the visiting club.

Managing media


Any contact with the media related to a drug-related allegation or incident within its jurisdiction will be managed by the club's official spokesperson.

Policy activated

This Policy will be implemented as of 19th May 2022 and will be included in our player induction documents.

Signed: 
Club President: **Craig Scott**

Date: 29/07/2022

Signed: 
Club Secretary: **Prisca Harrison**

Date: Jul 29, 2022

Next policy review date is February 2023.