

# Anti-Doping Messages for Community Football Leagues



Australian Government  
Australian Sports  
Anti-Doping Authority

Club players and officials of any Australian Football Competition that is operated and managed under the laws of Australian Football are bound by the AFL Anti-Doping Code (Clause 21)

## The AFL's Stance on Performance Enhancing Drugs

- » The AFL is a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA)
- » WADA is the international organisation responsible for fighting doping in sport.

## The AFL's Anti-Doping Code exists to:

- » Ensure that the AFL Competition is conducted upon the basis of athletic prowess and natural levels of fitness and development and not on any pharmacologically enhanced performance;
- » Protect Players from using substances which may cause acute or long term harm to their bodies;
- » Educate the Players to understand the dangers and consequences of the use of performance enhancing substances; and
- » Set an example for all participants in the sport of Australian Football by condemning the use of performance enhancing substances.

### KEY RESOURCES AVAILABLE

**ASADA Website** has education resources including video clips that provide more information. ASADA online education can be accessed via the ASADA website. [www.asada.gov.au](http://www.asada.gov.au)

**ASADA Hotline** can be contacted on 1300 027 232 – they can advise if a substance is on the prohibited list.

## Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA)

- » All members of community football clubs are bound by the AFL Anti-Doping Code under the laws of Australian Football;
- » ASADA is responsible for implementing the AFL's Anti-Doping Code at all levels of competition;
- » It is possible that ASADA could test players at community level, and if they do attend training or match day, players notified of their requirement for a doping test must comply with the request;
- » ASADA works closely with Australian Customs & Border Protection Services to investigate the trafficking of prohibited drugs, medications and substances;
- » ASADA's responsibilities for investigations extend to community football.

## What this means for community football

- » Any player that purchases a prohibited substance, as defined in the WADA Prohibited List (available on the WADA website or via the WADA Prohibited List App), or a product containing a prohibited substance of any form through any means including online will be investigated by ASADA and sanctioned under the AFL Anti-Doping Code;
- » ASADA does not endorse the use of supplements as they have a high risk of contamination from prohibited substance;
- » Any player purchasing supplements over the internet

risks being identified by Australian Customs and referred to ASADA for investigation with the likely outcome to be a sanction under the AFL Anti-Doping Code;

- » You do not have to be tested to breach the code and receive a sanction;
- » Sanctions under the AFL Anti-Doping Code can be up to four years and prevent a person from performing any role at any sporting club including playing, coaching or being a support staff member. This will include participation in an event, game or activity managed by any sporting organisation with similar obligations under ASADA's requirements.

## Key messages for community football

- » If players are using, purchasing or trafficking prohibited substances they will be caught by ASADA and sanctioned under the AFL Anti-Doping Code;
- » If requested to undertake a doping test by ASADA as a player you are required to complete this test;
- » Do not purchase or use any prohibited substances;
- » Do not purchase supplements over the internet;
- » Before you purchase or use any substances review the ASADA website or contact the ASADA hotline.

## Next steps

- » The AFL will continue to work with State bodies and Community Leagues to develop anti-doping education resources and messages.

