

## Royal Life Saving Society – Australia

### Drug Policy

#### 1. BACKGROUND

RLSSA accepts that it occupies a community leadership position in setting standards for a wide range of social and sporting behaviours and believes that all people involved in its activities, whether or not in the public arena, should be treated with dignity and respect.

This Drug Policy aims to promote responsible attitudes and practices towards drugs use. Individuals covered by this Drug Policy have a role to play to help promote responsible decisions regarding the use of drugs in society.

#### 2. RLSSA'S ADOPTION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CODES AND POLICIES

The RLSSA has adopted the [Australian National Anti-Doping Policy](#) as outlined by [Sport Integrity Australia](#) in alignment with the [World Anti-Doping Code](#) as amended from time to time.

**Athletes, coaches, managers and parents must ensure they are fully aware of banned substances and the requirements of the Code.**

#### 3. RLSSA DRUG POLICY

The use of drugs and substances illegal in Australia is strictly prohibited at all RLSSA functions, national and international training camps, events and travel. The use of illegal drugs and substances includes, but is not limited to, cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamines, ecstasy and opioids.

Prescription drugs may be used only as directed by a physician and with prior approval from the team physician or management. The misuse or abuse of prescription drugs is strictly prohibited.

The use of any other recreational drug, including those that are legal in the countries being visited while on tour, is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, legal highs, designer drugs, and herbal supplements.

##### **Drug Testing**

If an athlete needs to use a prohibited medication and/or method to treat a legitimate medical condition, the athlete may need to apply for a [Therapeutic Use Exemption](#). All Therapeutic Exemptions are administered by the Australian Sport Drug Medical Advisory Committee (ASDMAC).

If the athlete is required to apply for a Therapeutic Exemption:

- i. Complete the application process by filling in the [Therapeutic Use Exemption \(TUE\) Application Form](#).
- ii. The form must be completed in full by the athlete and your doctor/specialist.
- iii. The form must be **forwarded directly to ASDMAC** for assessment.
- iv. A copy of the application and the results must be forwarded to RLSSA via email ([sport@rlssa.org.au](mailto:sport@rlssa.org.au)) for our records.

If an athlete is selected to provide a sample for testing by Sport Integrity Australia, **immediately inform the Team Manager**, who will arrange for a medically qualified chaperone to accompany the athlete during the test to ensure that the athlete's rights are not infringed and that the test is carried out properly.

#### 4. WHAT ARE THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS POLICY?

- i. RLSSA will play its part by:
  - a. Not allowing individuals to participate in any sporting activities expressly sanctioned by RLSSA if they are consuming drugs or under the influence of drugs;
  - b. Providing a drug-free environment for athletes and team personnel.
- ii. Individual Responsibilities:

RLSSA expects that individuals covered by this Policy and undertaking activities associated with Pool Lifesaving shall at all times:

  - a. Refrain from using drugs as substances as outlined in this Policy;
  - b. Use prescription medication responsibly as outlined in this Policy;
  - c. Accept that they are responsible and accountable for the choices they make and the consequences of these choices.
- iii. All *persons* who fail to comply with this Policy will have committed a *drug offence*.
- iv. All *persons* may be subject to investigation and/or be disciplined under this Policy.

#### 5. WHO DOES THIS POLICY APPLY TO?

This policy applies to following individuals whether in a paid or voluntary capacity:

- Registered athletes of RLSSA participating in teams or competitions conducted by or on behalf of RLSSA, Commonwealth Lifesaving or International Lifesaving;
- Accredited coaches and assistant coaches of teams organised by or on behalf of RLSSA;
- Support personnel with whom the RLSSA has a formal relationship;
- Registered referees and other officials of RLSSA; and
- Office bearers or other officials of RLSSA.

## **6. NON-COMPLIANCE**

RLSSA will take action for breaches of behaviour and responsibilities outlined in this policy. If this agreement is breached at any stage during the event, travel and time nominated by RLSSA, the following may be actioned by RLSSA:

- i. reprimand the person/s (for all individuals associated with the event). This may include suspension from team activities or removal of the athlete from the team / tour);
- ii. if the person is a coach or official, recommend to RLSSA that their position be terminated; and/or
- iii. any other sanctions that it considers appropriate in the circumstances.