Somerton Rugby Football Club

'Working together for Somerton through Rugby'

Everyone Welcome

Drug and Alcohol Policy

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The aim of this policy is to provide guidance to SRFC members, Coaches, Spectators and Volunteers regarding the use of illicit drugs including performance enhancing, alcohol within the activities and area of SRFC.

1.2 SRFC believes there is no abuse of illicit drugs including performance enhancing or alcohol with this members and its visitors. However, SRFC must make their members and those participating within club activities on drugs and alcohol. The policy is designed to underpin the current RFU policy and disciplinary guidance.

1.3 SRFC aims that this policy will also prevent the damaging consequences to the health and safety to its members and personnel. SRFC believes these issues are held under the Safeguarding and any concerns must be highlighted to the Club Safeguarding Officer or Rugby Safe and Player Welfare Lead.

2.0 STRICT LIABILITY

2.1 All players have the right to compete in rugby knowing that they and their opponents are clean. The RFU believes in clean sport and work in partnership with UK Anti-Doping, (UKAD) and World Rugby to ensure the integrity of our sport is protected.

2.2 A player is responsible for anything found in their system, regardless of how it got there or whether there is any intention to cheat. All players and player support personnel should make themselves aware of the risks, so they don't receive an unintentional ban from sport.

2.3 SRFC follows the RFU's Illicit Drugs Policy and its programme. It states a two-strike policy meaning that for a first positive test (or first admission of use) with a second violation where the player fails to comply is liable to suspension, these matters will be kept confidential.

3.0 CURRENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

3.1 Following a notification to the Club Safeguarding Officer, SRFC will appoint a Disciplinary Committee as laid out in the SRFC Disciplinary Policy. Following a breach of the Drug and Alcohol Policy the follow will be initiated:

3.1.1 SRFC will form a committee as per the disciplinary policy
3.1.2 The player, member, supporter will be notified of meeting place, time and agenda.
3.1.3 The player, member, support etc will be invited to provide a statement
3.1.4 Witness (es) statement(s) will be given if required and stated for the meeting
3.1.5 Members of the Disciplinary Committee may question the actions and statement provided by all parties
3.1.6 Concluding the meeting, SRFC will decided on appropriate action either at the end of the meeting or will re-convene. If necessary notify the RFC, CB or Police.

3.1 SRFC fully endorses the Illicit Drugs Policy in 2.3 set by the RFU. However, if the club is notified or has evidence brought to the club regarding any breach of the policy as set out, this is considered the first offence. Following a second related non compliance, disciplinary or sanction action will be set. SRFC reserves the right to change the disciplinary process on a case by case basis depending on the incident. If the player has been sanction for previous breached which are not related to the Drug and Alcohol Policy this may be used as accompanying evidence.

4.0 DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE AT SRFC AND CLUB RELATED EVENTS

4.1 SRFC would continue to highlight section 1.0 and 2.0. SRFC can only be involved for those matters relating to Drug, Alcohol and performance enhancing drugs within club grounds or club events.

4.2 Anyone found supplying or selling performance enhance or recreation drugs on club premises or at club events will be dealt with by SRFC Disciplinary Committee

4.3 Given drugs or performance enhancing either of remuneration or free is considered supplying regardless of being a friend.

4.4 It is clear that the individual is responsible to ingesting any substance known or unknown into their body.

4.5 It is unacceptable for anyone person to be near or in contact within children certainly within the age grade section to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Those holding a role such as coach or in a position of trust will be subject to immediate removal and pending a decision from the SRFC Disciplinary Committee

4.6 SRFC reserves the right to transfer the case to CB, RFU and Police. If the choice has been referred to an external party the club will not have any outcome with regards to the degree of penalty or criminal conviction.

4.7 SRFC reserves the right to deny membership with a drug related conviction. Those who hold a DBS with evidence of conviction may be subject refusal or denied positions within the club, such as age grade roles.

4.8 SRFC understands that the use of drugs, alcohol and even performance enhancing are addictive in nature. As such the Club would refer the individual to the appropriate company for help through a drug or alcohol related support programme

4.9 If the club suspects substance abuse prior to entering club events or roles, SRFC reserves the right stop that individual attending and return may be pending on a drugs test.

4.10 The club understands the grounds are in the public domain, as such it can not be responsible for members of the public committing substance abuse, if necessary local authorities will be notified

4.11 SRFC understands that due to medical conditions either temporary or permanent banned substances may need to be taken. As such it is the responsibility of the individual to have this on GMS and notify the CSO.

4.12 In all cases, SRFC and its disciplinary committee may apply the Standard of Proof, ‘beyond all reasonable doubt’