



Netball Australia

SPORTS MEDICINE POLICY FOR COMMUNITY NETBALL

8 December 2025

NETBALL AUSTRALIA SPORTS MEDICINE POLICY FOR COMMUNITY NETBALL

In the spirit of Reconciliation, Netball Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this ancient unceded land where we live, work and play netball on.

We honour the continuing cultures, languages, and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose cultural, spiritual, and ancestral connections to the lands, sky, and waters has endured since time immemorial. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and we acknowledge and value the significant and continuing contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make within our community.

Netball Australia is committed to Reconciliation. We acknowledge the need to reflect on our shared history in order to build a vision for a reconciled and prosperous future for all within our sport. One built on mutual respect, equity, authentic collaboration, and genuine truth-telling.

Where relevant, in this Policy – reference to Netball Australia includes Suncorp Super Netball.

Netball Australia acknowledges the guidance of Sport Integrity Australia and template policy documents used in the preparation of this Policy.

This Sports Medicine Policy for Community Netball reflects the standards and requirements outlined in the National Integrity Framework Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy as it relates to Affiliate Persons and Affiliates.

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A. Purpose

Netball Australia (**NA**) has a role to play in providing Affiliates with policies to support a safe and clean environment for Affiliate Persons and Affiliates. Standards and requirements across sports science and sports medicine services ensure that athletes are treated by appropriately qualified and supervised staff, with key focus areas across the use of drugs and medicines in sport, supplements, treatment of concussion as well as other initiatives that focus on the care of an athlete.

There is an increasing concern about the improper use of drugs and medicine in sport. Drugs and medicines distributed and/or administered by persons not qualified to do so puts an athlete's health and safety at risk and also carries anti-doping and integrity risks.

The improper use of drugs, including Illegal Drugs, can have a significant impact on the culture of sporting environments and the performance of individuals.

Illegal Drugs represent a widespread community problem and can pose a serious health issue for individuals. NA and the Netball Organisations are aware of the availability and the prevalence of use of Illegal Drugs in society and seeks to deter Affiliate Persons from the use of such substances.

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a framework to:

- a) address and deter any unlawful distribution and use of Illegal Drugs in connection with Affiliate Persons while participating in Activities;
- b) aim to reduce the harm caused by Illegal Drugs to Affiliate Persons and the broader community;
- c) ensure that appropriately qualified personnel are appointed to provide science and medicine services to athletes; and
- d) ensure that injections are only administered to athletes within netball as part of appropriate medical treatment.

The Australia Institute of Sport (**AIS**) leads the sport sector in best practice for Sport Science and Sport Medicine and works collaboratively with NA and Sport Integrity Australia (**SIA**) in relation to compliance with policy and standards relating to Sport Science and Sport Medicine.

The Sports Medicine Policy for Elite Programs applies to Participants, Netball Organisations and NA.

B. Scope and Exclusions

This Policy applies to Affiliate Persons and Affiliates.

Participants, NA and Netball Organisations are bound by the Sports Medicine Policy for Elite Programs.

C. Definitions

Defined terms not otherwise defined in this Policy have been defined in, and have the meaning given to them in the Netball Integrity Policy Framework, Conduct & Disciplinary Policy.

In this Policy, the following definitions apply:

Activity means a netball contest, Match, competition, event (which for the avoidance of doubt includes any awards presentation, season launch, and other events conducted by NA or a Netball Organisation), or activity, including training, whether on a one-off basis or as part of a series, league or competition, sanctioned or organised by NA or a Netball Organisation, whether that Activity takes place in Australia or overseas.

Affiliate means:

- a) Associations, which means any netball association that is not a Netball Organisation that conducts Activities and is affiliated to a MO;
- b) Clubs, which means any netball club that is not a Netball Organisation that enters a team to participate in an Activity and is affiliated to an Association and/or MO;
- c) Authorised Provider, which means any non-MO authorised to conduct Activities sanctioned by NA or a Netball Organisation;
- d) any other netball organisation who has agreed to be bound by the Policies, and has notified NA or an MO in writing.

Affiliate Person means any Individual Member that is not a Participant and is registered with an Affiliate.

ANPA means Australia Netball Players' Association.

Athlete includes any person who:

- a) holds any playing Contract with NA as a member of an Australian Representative Squad);
- b) holds a playing Contract with an SSN Club;
- c) holds a playing Contract with an SSN Club or MO (including any Contract with NA) to participate in the SN Reserves and/or NNC; and
- d) holds a playing Contract to participate in any other Activity that is sanctioned and/or controlled by NA.

Athlete Support Personnel includes any coach, trainer, team manager, player agent, selector, team staff, official, doctor, physiotherapist, dietitian or other health related advisor and any other person employed by, contracted to, representing or otherwise affiliated to a team or squad that is chosen to represent NA or a Netball Organisation in an Elite Program, including any match in that Elite Program.

Ban is a prohibition from participating in certain activities for a specified period. The Participant remains subject to all policies and rules of NA during the Ban.

Business Day means a day on which banks are open for general banking business in the state or territory where the Relevant Organisation is located, excluding Saturdays and Sundays and gazetted public holidays.

CMO means the Chief Medical Officer appointed by NA from time to time.

Contractor means any person or organisation engaged to provide services for or on behalf of NA or a Netball Organisation, who is not an Athlete Support Personnel, and includes agents, advisors and subcontractors of NA or a Netball Organisation and employees, officers and agents of a contractor or subcontractor.

Contract includes the Standard Player Contract, Standard Training Partner Contract, Replacement Player Contract, Employment Agreement, Contractor Agreement, Participation Agreement or any other agreement between the Participant and NA or Netball Organisation.

Director means each member of the NA Board and each member of any Netball Organisation Board as the case may be.

Elite Program means the following:

- a) Australian representative squads (Australia Netball Diamonds squad, Australian Development Squad, Australian 21/U squad and any other Australian program determined by NA from time to time, the Australian Representative Squads);
- b) SSN competition, including pre-season matches and training programs;
- c) SN Reserves, including pre-season matches and training programs;
- d) NNC, including pre-season matches and training programs;
- e) competition or tournament played by a MO team, SSN Club team or invitational representative Australian team against a touring international team in Australia that is sanctioned and/or controlled by NA.

Employee means a person employed by NA or a Netball Organisation who is not an Athlete Support Personnel.

Illegal Drugs means any substance listed under Schedule 9 and 10 of the current Commonwealth Poisons Standard, as well as any substance listed in [Schedule 1 of the Criminal Code Regulations 2019 \(CT\)](#), as well as those substances howsoever proscribed under relevant state or territory legislation, as amended from time to time.

Match means a netball match of any format and duration in length in which two netball teams compete against each other, played anywhere in the world.

Match Delegate/Technical Official/Match Official means any person holding that role, from time to time, in respect of any Match.

Medical Practitioner means a person registered in the medical doctor category by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency with no restrictions on practice.

Medication includes substances that are classified by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) as a therapeutic good (listed under Schedules 1-8 of the current Commonwealth Poisons Standard), which are ingested, infused, inhaled, injected, inserted or absorbed by the human body. They may take the form of pills, tablets, capsules, liquids, creams, gels, injectable liquids, sprays, adhesive patches, infusions, inhaled powders, vapours or liquids, pessaries, or suppositories.

Member means a member of NA or a MO under its constitution, including:

- a) each MO;
- b) any Affiliate that is a member of an MO;
- c) **Individual Members**, which means individuals who are registered with an MO.

MO means each of the NA member organisations, being:

- a) ACT Netball Association Incorporated;
- b) The New South Wales Netball Association Limited;
- c) Netball NT Incorporated;
- d) Netball Queensland Limited;
- e) South Australia Netball Association Incorporated;

- f) Tasmania Netball Association Incorporated;
- g) Victoria Netball Association Incorporated; and
- h) Netball WA (Incorporated).

NA means Netball Australia Limited.

NA Board means the NA Board of Directors.

Netball means the sport of netball, as governed by NA and WN from time to time, and a reference to Netball means collectively NA, Netball Organisations and Affiliates.

Netball Organisation means each MO and SSN Club.

Netball Organisation Board means each Board of Directors of the Netball Organisation.

NNC means the National Netball Championships and any subsequent or successor competition substantially similar to the National Netball Championships that is conducted by NA.

NA CEO means the person holding that position at NA from time to time, including any person acting in that position.

NA General Manager – Legal & Integrity means the person holding that position at NA from time to time, including any person acting in that position.

Non Member Person means:

- a) any parent or guardian of an Individual Member or Participant; and/or
- b) any person attending or associated with an Activity.

Participant means an Athlete, Athlete Support Personnel, Contractor, Employee, Director, Match Delegate/Technical Official/Match Official, Umpire or Umpire Support Personnel.

Player Contract means a contract entered into by an Athlete with NA, an SSN Club or MO (as the case may be), in accordance with the CPA or other agreement as agreed between NA, ANPA and the SSN Clubs/MOs.

Possession means the actual, physical Possession, or the constructive Possession of an Illegal Drug.

Constructive possession refers to a situation where a Participant has no hands-on custody of Illegal Drugs but has knowledge of the location of Illegal Drugs and the ability to exercise control/or a degree of control over them. For example, if the Participant has stored drugs in a safety deposit box. Whilst the Participant does not have actual physical custody of the Illegal Drugs, they have knowledge of the location of the Illegal Drugs and the ability to exercise control over them. Thus, under the legal doctrine of constructive possession, the Participant is still considered in possession of the Illegal Drug.

Prohibited Conduct means the conduct proscribed at clause 6 of this Policy.

Relevant Organisation means any of the following organisations:

- a) NA;
- b) Netball Organisations;
- c) Affiliates.

Relevant Person means any of the following persons:

- a) **Affiliate Person;**
- b) **Participant;**
- c) **Volunteer**, which means any person engaged by NA or Netball Organisation in any capacity who is not otherwise a Participant;
- d) **Non-Member Person;**
- e) any other person who has agreed to be bound by the Policies, and has notified NA.

SN Reserves means the reserves competition for the Suncorp Super Netball (SSN) or other name given to that competition by NA, with each of the SSN Clubs and/or MOs participating in the competition.

SSN means the Suncorp Super Netball competition or such other name given to that competition by NA.

SSN Clubs means the Australia Netball teams owned by Team Owners that have been granted licences to participate in the SSN competition by NA in accordance with the terms of a Team Participation Agreement which, as at the date of this Policy, are:

- a) NSW Swifts;
- b) Giants Netball;
- c) Queensland Firebirds;
- d) Adelaide Thunderbirds;
- e) Melbourne Vixens;
- f) West Coast Fever;
- g) Sunshine Coast Lightning; and
- h) Melbourne Mavericks

Team means any team of a Netball Organisation that is participating in an Activity and/or that Contracts a Participant.

Traffic/Trafficking means selling, giving, transporting, sending, delivering or distributing (or Possessing for any such purpose) an Illegal Drug (either physically or by any electronic or other means) by a Relevant Person to any third party; provided, however, this definition shall not include the actions of a “bona fide” Medical Practitioner involving an Illegal Drug used for genuine and legal therapeutic purposes or other acceptable justification.

TUE or Therapeutic Use Exemption means an exemption that allows an athlete to use, for therapeutic purposes only, an otherwise prohibited substance or method (of administering a substance).

Umpires includes any person who:

- a) holds an umpire contract (permanent or casual) with NA; or
- b) enters into a participation agreement with NA in respect of a Pathways Program.

Umpires Support Personnel includes any person who is appointed by NA to support the role of Umpires in the Elite Programs.

Use means the utilisation, ingestion, injection, or consumption by any means whatsoever of any Illegal Drug.

WN, or **World Netball**, formally the International Netball Federation, means the international federation recognised by the International Olympic Committee or the General Assembly of International Sports Federations as the entity responsible for governing netball internationally.

WN Rules & Regulations means the Rules and Regulations of WN.

D. Other Related Policies and Documents

The following policies and documents also apply to the application of this Policy and must be adhered to at all times:

- a) Netball Integrity Policies;
- b) Complaint & Disciplinary Policy; and
- c) National Anti-Doping Policy.

The Sports Medicine Policy for Elite Programs applies to Participants, NA and Netball Organisations.

Also see:

- [AIS Sports Supplement ABCD Classification System](#)
- [WADA's List of Prohibited Substances and Methods](#)
- [Resources | Sport Integrity Australia](#)
- <https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/what-we-do/anti-doping/supplements-sport>
- <https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/resources/therapeutic-use-exemption/regulation-and-anti-doping-risk-of-supplements>
- [GlobalDRO](#)
- The Sport Integrity Australia App (includes a database of supplements sold in Australia and a tool to assist users in determining if a substance is prohibited)

1. Illegal Drugs & Alcohol

- 1.1 Affiliate Persons must not Use, Possess or Traffic Illegal Drugs while participating in Activities.
- 1.2 Affiliate Persons must not participate in a Match while under the influence of alcohol.

2. Legitimate therapeutic purpose

- 2.1 If an Illegal Drug has been lawfully and properly prescribed by a Medical Practitioner for a legitimate therapeutic purpose and evidence can be provided to that effect, then neither the act of prescribing the Illegal Drug by the Medical Practitioner nor the Use or Possession of the Illegal Drug by an Affiliate Person in accordance with that prescription will constitute a breach of this Policy.

3. Concussion

- 3.1 Affiliates are referred to the NA Guidelines for the Management of Sports-Related Concussion in Netball - NA Pathways, Youth & Community Netball.

Affiliates are also encouraged to follow the community advice provided below to educate Affiliate Persons in their netball programs about concussion and its safe management:

[Coaches/Support Staff | Concussion in Sport Australia](#)

[Parents/Teachers | Concussion in Sport Australia](#)

[Athletes | Concussion in Sport Australia](#)

4. Reporting

- 4.1 Affiliate Persons and Affiliates must report immediately upon becoming aware of any criminal activity or conduct (including suspected criminal activity or conduct) that may amount to a breach of this Policy to the relevant Netball Organisation and to any other entity as required by law.

5. No publishing or transmitting certain Illegal Drug content

- 5.1 Affiliate Persons must not publish or transmit any content (eg a video showing Illegal Drugs being used) that advocates, condones, or encourages the involvement in or the Use of Illegal Drugs connected with the Affiliate, Netball Organisation, NA or netball in general.

6. Prohibited Conduct

- 6.1 An Affiliate Person commits a breach of this Policy when they:

6.1.1 breach clauses 1 and/or 5 of this Policy;

6.1.2 subject to clause 2:

6.1.2.1 are convicted of any breach of a relevant state or territory or Commonwealth law relating to or involving an Illegal Drug;

6.1.2.2 facilitate, administer, assist, aide, abet, encourage, induct, cover up or are in any way complicit in a breach of this Policy;

6.1.3 fail to report the matters outlined in clause 4.

- 6.2 An Affiliate commits a breach of this Policy when they:

6.2.1 fail to report the matters outlined in clause 4; or

6.2.2 facilitate, assist, aide, abet, encourage, cover up or are in any way complicit in a breach of clause 6.1.

7. Netball Australia Complaint & Disciplinary Policy

- 7.1 The Complaint & Disciplinary Policy applies to any alleged Prohibited Conduct, including reports of breaches, under this Policy.

- 7.2 When interpreting this Policy, any provisions inconsistent with the Complaint & Disciplinary Policy apply to the extent of that inconsistency.

END

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