
DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY

PURPOSE

Murray United FC (MUFC) is committed to providing a safe, healthy, family friendly and successful sport environment. All members of the Club have a responsibility to ensure that they take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others whilst in this environment by not being affected by alcohol or drugs to the extent that it impacts on their own or another person's recreational enjoyment or safety.

DEFINITIONS

To this Policy, MUFC defines alcohol and drugs as follows:

- "Alcohol" refers to any beverage, containing an alcoholic content that temporarily impairs a person's physical or mental capacity.
- "Drugs" refers to a chemical substance, whether it is legal or illegal, which may have the ability to impair a person's physical or mental capacity. These can include non-prescribed drugs, for example, but not limited to, speed, heroin, amphetamines, LSD, crack, cocaine, ecstasy, marijuana, etc.
- "Member" refers to any playing or social member associated with the Murray United FC, whether financial (fee-paying) or not.

PROCEDURES

The effects of intoxication and the regular use of or dependence on alcohol or other drugs are associated with impaired judgement and skills, reduced concentration, erratic behaviour, aggression and violence, absenteeism, and increased accidents. These behaviours and activities may seriously affect member safety and ethical standards within the Murray United FC.

Members who have concerns about playing or associating with any other playing or social member due to possible alcohol or other drug use should contact the club's Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) or email grievance@murrayunitedfc.com.au immediately.

All members of MUFC are prohibited from selling, distributing, manufacturing, possessing or consuming drugs/alcohol when on the premises of the Murray United FC or at any club function. Alcohol will not be consumed by any person at Junior Game days.

Playing members are prohibited from arriving to a match or returning to a match from any break under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

The right of members/visitors to consume alcohol is acknowledged, however it is inappropriate to do so at MUFC as it places others at risk of harm and brings the MUFC and its 'family friendly' environment into disrepute.

Therefore, MUFC reserves the right to act if a member/visitor is:

- affected by alcohol or other drugs;
- found in the possession of drugs or unauthorised drug use equipment on the MUFC premises; or
- affected by alcohol or other drugs, so that the member/visitor's performance is affected
- known to be acknowledging significant use or involvement in production of illegal drugs or alcohol via friendship groups, social media, playing groups or family.

Should these issues be brought to the attention any of the Murray United FC Board or Operations Committee member MUFC may take the following action after appropriate and confidential discussion:

- Immediately approach the member/visitor to discuss the issue and its implications
- suspend the player/member/visitor from matches or club functions where appropriate until the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of MUFC
- Immediately contact emergency services if there is suspicion of a drug overdose at any club function
- counsel the player internally regarding their use of alcohol or drugs
- refer the player to appropriate organisations to address the misuse or abuse of illicit substances.

MUFC reserves the right to search its premises for illicit drugs and confiscate the substance in question.

MEDICALLY PRESCRIBED DRUGS

In circumstances where a club member is taking medically prescribed drugs to manage a specific condition that may interfere with their playing performance, they are required to notify their Coach. The Coach, in consultation with the player, may adjust the match requirements of the player concerned.

CLUB FUNCTIONS

It is recognised that after match and weekend functions organised by the club might involve the consumption of alcohol. It is expected that club members consume alcohol responsibly at these times. Use of drugs at these functions is prohibited by the Club. Should it come to the attention of committee members that drugs are being consumed at these times, action will be taken as previously described.

Should players or members be significantly intoxicated due to alcohol use at club functions, MUFC reserves the right to remove the member from any club function.

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