

# **EAST MALVERN FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB**

## **ALCOHOL & DRUG POLICY**

The East Malvern Football Netball Club (Club) 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 other drugs to the extent that it impacts on their own or another person's recreational enjoyment or safety.

### **Definitions**

For the purpose of this Policy, the Club 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 Club, 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 Club.

Members who have concerns about playing or associating with any other playing or social member due to possible alcohol or other drug use should consult with the President of the Club immediately.

All members of the Club are prohibited from selling, distributing, manufacturing, possessing or consuming drugs when on the premises of the Club or at any club function. Alcohol will not be consumed by a player whilst they are engaged in a game.

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 to consume alcohol or take other drugs socially is acknowledged, however it is inappropriate to do so at the Club as it places

others at risk of harm and brings the Club and its 'family friendly' environment into disrepute. Therefore, the Club reserves the right to take action if a member is:

- affected by alcohol or other drugs, so as to endanger their own safety or the safety of any other person during the course of a match or social club function;
- found in the possession of drugs or unauthorised drug use equipment on the Club premises or at a social club function; or
- affected by alcohol or other drugs, so that the member'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 of any of the Club Committee members or coaching staff, the Club may take the following action, enacted by any member of the Committee or coaching staff after appropriate and confidential discussion:

- Immediately approach the member to discuss the issue and its implications
- suspend the player/member from matches or club functions and/or suspend match payments where appropriate until the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the committee and coaching staff
- remove the member from club functions if they pose a risk to themselves or others.
- 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;

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

## **MEDICALLY PRESCRIBED DRUGS**

In circumstances where an employee 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 make adjustments to the match requirements of the player concerned.

## CLUB FUNCTIONS

It is recognised that after match and weekend functions organised by the Club will 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, the Club reserves the right to refuse the service of alcohol in accordance with the Liquor Licensing Act.

## DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

In accordance with the Liquor Control Reform Act and Victorian law, members of the Club are not permitted to drive a vehicle, whether their own or not, when that person has consumed alcohol or other drugs. The Club will accept no liability for any damage to a vehicle, injury to any person, or damage or injury to any third party, incurred while the driver of a vehicle is in breach of this Act or the law. All liabilities will rest with the driver concerned.

<b>Date first formulated:</b>	2021
<b>Date Ratified by the CEO:</b>	2021
<b>Definitions:</b>	Included in the policy
<b>Policy Contact Person:</b>	President. East Malvern Football Netball Club
<b>Legislation:</b>	Liquor Control Reform Act
<b>Review Date:</b>	2021