



Belconnen Magpies Football Club

Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy

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| Purpose: | To set out the Club's responsibility to provide, as far as reasonably practicable, an environment where risks to health and safety of Members are eliminated or minimised with regard to Alcohol and Other Drugs. |
| Applicable to: | Members, as defined in this Policy |
| Policy Statement: | The Club is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for Members as required by the Act. |
| Approved by: | Scott Reid (President) |
| Updated: | March 2021 |

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1. Introduction

The Club is committed to the wellbeing of Members and to enabling them to participate in Club Events in a manner which does not jeopardies their own safety or the safety of others.

Inappropriate behaviour by Members at Club Events from the use and/or abuse of Alcohol or Other Drugs may adversely impact their health and the reputation of the Club as well as increasing the likelihood of OHS risks and incidents.

This Policy provides the Board and Members with guidance in relation to the risks associated with the use and/or abuse of Alcohol or Other Drugs and establishes a framework to deal with inappropriate behaviour by Members in this context.

This Policy came into effect on 1 February 2020 and will continue unless expressly terminated by the Club. It may also be varied from time to time. Any questions, comments or concerns about the contents of this Policy should be directed to the Board.

Members are required to fully understand and comply with this Policy while on Club related duties or at any time while representing the Club, including at Club Events. Members have a responsibility to inform the Board if they believe that this Policy is not being followed.

2. Definitions

“the Act” means the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (ACT)*.

“the Appendix” means Annexure A attached to the Policy and the player registration form which is required to be signed by all Club players prior to the commencement of each home and away season.

BMFC Leadership” means the Board, the Welfare Officer, managers, coaches and players leadership group/s as elected from time-to-time.

“Board” means the Board of the Club as elected from time to time.

“Club” means the Belconnen Magpies Football Club.

“Club Events” means Club functions, meetings, training, games or any other event where the Club is been represented.

“Health Care Provider” means the person or organisation preferred by the Club to provide mental health and other health care support services to Members from time to time or as required under this Policy.

“Members” means any person who is officially affiliated with the Club including players, sponsors, volunteers, parents, managers, coaches and Board members.

“Other Drugs” means legal drugs (prescription or over the counter drugs) not used for the purpose they were intended; and illegal or prohibited drugs.

“President” means the President of the Club as elected from time to time.

“Welfare Officer” means the person/s elected to this role by the Board from time to time.

3. Responsibilities

3.1.1. BMFC Leadership:

Under this Policy, the BMFC Leadership have a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of Members by, as far as reasonably practical:

- taking action to manage inappropriate behaviour where they genuinely believe a Member is affected by Alcohol or Other Drugs at Club Events.
- identifying and managing deteriorating behaviour which may be attributed to the misuse or abuse of Alcohol or Other Drugs;
- providing assistance and support to Members who are seeking or participating in treatment or rehabilitation for misuse or abuse of Alcohol or Other Drug;
- maintaining strict privacy and confidentiality in dealing with information and discussing behaviour with a Member who misuses Alcohol or Other Drugs or otherwise makes a disclosure under this Policy;
- encouraging Members to comply with this Policy; and
- promoting the responsible use of Alcohol or Other Drugs by Members.

3.1.2. Members:

Under this Policy, Members have a responsibility to ensure Club Events are a healthy and safe environment to attend by:

- ensuring the safety of themselves and others by behaving in a safe manner and ensuring they do not render themselves unfit or incapable of maintaining the Clubs values due to the misuse of Alcohol or Other Drugs;
- making appropriate arrangements where their behaviour or conduct may be impaired by Alcohol or Other Drugs and must not attend Club Events until they are fully effective;
- ensuring at Club Events that they do not consume alcohol beyond reasonable limits and that they demonstrate appropriate behaviour;
- seeking assistance from a medical practitioner or external health service provider if there is a pattern of alcohol or substance abuse;
- informing any person within the BMFC Leadership, within a reasonable time, if they are undertaking medical treatment using a prescription drug which may adversely affect their conduct, their safety or the safety of others or would otherwise limit their ability to comply with this Policy; and
- not encouraging other Members at Clubs Events to behave in a manner inconsistent with this Policy or would otherwise bring, or have the potential to bring, the Club into disrepute;
- informing any person within the BMFC leadership, confidentially and without making presumptions, within a reasonable time if they have concerns regarding another Member who may be in breach of this Policy.

4. Sanctions for non-compliance

Members who fail to comply with this Policy due to their conduct will have their conduct addressed by the BMFC Leadership exercising their absolute discretion.

4.4.1. Managing inappropriate behaviour

All Members have a responsibility to take action where they suspect another Member is adversely affected by Alcohol or Other Drugs at Club Events. Care should be exercised as some prescribed medications may cause symptoms resembling intoxication and the BMFC Leadership should be sensitive to this.

Where it is reasonably suspected that a Member is intoxicated or adversely affected by Alcohol and Other Drugs and they are disruptive or pose a risk to their own or the safety of others, the BMFC Leadership should deal with the situation immediately. The following steps should be observed by the BMFC Leadership as a guide when dealing with an incident of this nature:

- advise the Member that they are not to remain at the premises or Club Event due to the possibility of them becoming a risk to health and safety;
- call for medical assistance if required;
- where feasible, contact the Member's emergency contact to arrange safe transport home. The BMFC Leadership and Members are not permitted to transport ill or injured Members home.
- If a Member refuses to leave the premises, encourage them to do so. If this is not effective, escalate the issues to a more senior executive member for assistance.
- In exceptional circumstances, if the Member becomes violent or threatening, it may be necessary to request police assistance in removing the Member.
- While waiting to be transported from the premises the Member should be removed to avoid further disruption or risk to others. The Member must be accompanied at all times until they are within the care of their emergency contact or medical professional.
- The BMFC Leadership should discuss the incident and any repercussions with the Member as soon as possible, and document the conversation for both the BMFC Leadership and the Member. The BMFC Leadership should also provide the Member with support and information about treatment and counselling at this time.
- Report the incident to the Welfare Officer.
- Where the BMFC leadership considers this Policy or the Club values may have been breached by the Member, formal action should be taken, including but not limited to the imposition of a sanction under this Policy by the Welfare Officer.

4.4.2. Managing deteriorating behaviour

The Welfare Officer has a responsibility to address deteriorating behaviour due to misuse or abuse of Alcohol or Other Drugs once reported. Behavioural issues should be discussed with the Member giving them the opportunity to respond and to provide information about contributing factors.

If a Member discloses that they misuse or abuse Alcohol or Other Drugs, the Welfare Officer should provide support by suggesting the Member seek the assistance of an external service provider, or their medical practitioner. A strategy to improve behaviour should be discussed and agreed. The Welfare Officer should also bear in mind that alcoholism or substance abuse is an illness and Members are entitled to the same consideration and treatment that would be accorded to any other illness.

Reasonable efforts should be made to assist a Member with Alcohol or Other Drug abuse. However, where the Member does not accept that their behaviour has been adversely affected or their behaviour continues to deteriorate, the behaviour issues should be dealt with through a formal process.

The Welfare Officer may be required to manage a Member who is undertaking medical treatment using a prescription drug that may adversely affect their behaviour, their safety or the safety of others. In this situation, the Welfare Officer should consider any medical advice the Member presents before discussing whether there is a requirement for appropriate strategies.

5. Privacy and Confidentiality

A Member's privacy must be protected by strict confidentiality. Discussions with a Member regarding their misuse and/or abuse of Alcohol or Other Drugs, and behaviour must be carried out in private and any information the BMFC Leadership receives in the course of these discussions must remain confidential, or as otherwise consented to by the Member.

Formal documentation should address behavioural issues only and should not detail the Member's personal issues or treatment being undertaken. Where it is necessary to refer to their circumstances in the context of modifying behaviour expectations, reference may be made to their condition as an illness and appropriate treatment being undertaken for that illness. Records of conversations regarding the Member's condition should be kept separately in strict confidence.

The information must be maintained and only used and disclosed in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* and Australian Privacy Principles.

6. Consequences of actions

Following the immediate actions of addressing a Member that is intoxicated or affected by Alcohol or Other Drugs, the Welfare Officer will enforce sanctions at their absolute discretion.

For guidance only, sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- players being deemed ineligible for game selection;
- a direction to participate in Club volunteering activities;
- a direction to participate in a compulsory session with counsellor or similar medical practitioner at the players expense before being eligible for game selection. Refer the relevant Member to the Health Care Provider; and/or
- expulsion from the Club.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Welfare Officer reserve the right to use their discretion when enforcing sanctions following the misuse and/or abuse of Alcohol or Other Drugs. This also applies to sanctions for 'non-playing' Members.

7. Review of decisions or actions

A Member who is dissatisfied with a decision made or an action taken under this Policy in relation to their conduct may seek a review of the decision (the **Reviewable Decision**).

Any notice of review must be made in writing and provided to the Welfare Officer within 7 days of the Reviewable Decision being handed down.

Any review under this clause will be undertaken by the President and a final decision will be made subject to the President exercising his or her complete discretion (the **Final Decision**).

The Final Decision is final and is not subject to any further review under this Policy.

Appendix A - Declaration and Registration Attachment

Drug and Alcohol Policy – Player Acceptance

I _____ acknowledge that I have read and understood the BMFC Drug and Alcohol Policy including the potential sanctions for breach set out in Section 6 of the Policy.

BMFC Drug and Alcohol Policy:

The Belconnen Magpies Football Club (**BMFC**) is committed to the wellbeing of its Members and to enabling Members to participate in Club activities in a manner which does not jeopardies their own safety or the safety of others.

Inappropriate behaviour by Members at Club Events from the use and/or abuse of Alcohol or Other Drugs may have a negative influence of Member health and the reputation of the Club as well as increasing the likelihood of OHS risks and incidents.

By registering with BMFC and signing this document, I agree to abide by the BMFC Drug and Alcohol Policy

Date: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Signature of Guardian (If Under 18): _____