

LANDS'END  
PROUD SUPPORTERS OF



President: Mr Chris Burton  
Oakham Rugby Football Club  
Ground: The Showground, Showground Way, Oakham, Rutland. LE15 7TW

## **OAKHAM RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB DRUGS POLICY**

This policy sets out the requirements and expectations of the Club in relation to the use, possession etc. of drugs by club members and anyone attending the club premises.

*V1 01.12.21*

*Review Date 01.12.23*

### **General Statement**

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Member clubs, recognise that the use of Illicit Drugs presents a threat to the health of both individuals and the Game itself. Oakham Rugby football Club (The Club) operates a very strict zero tolerance policy with respect to the misuse and supply of Drugs on club premises. The club does not believe there is any inherent problem with drug use/abuse among the membership but wants the position to be clear to all members and visitors.

### **Aims**

The Club has developed this policy with the two equally important principal objectives of:

- (a) protecting the health and welfare of Players and other members; and (b) protecting and promoting the image and reputation of the Club and rugby as a game. These principal objectives shall be affected by
- (c) providing an effective and measured deterrent to the misuse of drugs by players and others at the Club.
- (d) providing a positive example for young players and others in the community.
- (c) educating Players about the dangers of misuse of drugs, and
- d) providing, or giving guidance on, drug counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services to members who are found to be using Illicit Drugs or may otherwise be susceptible to such use.

### **Responsibilities**

1. The club can only involve itself in dealing with matters involving club members that arise on club premises and/or at club events - e.g. away matches and tours.
2. All Club members have a responsibility to bring to attention of management any activities or suspected activities, related to the misuse of drugs.

Registered with the Friendly Societies. Number IP28753R  
Community Amateur Sport Club Charities Reference Number CH8544

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3. Responsibility for dealing with incidents reported to management will lie with the club Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
4. Incidents which in any way involve anyone aged under 18 will also be notified to the Club Safeguarding Officer.
5. For the benefit of doubt, a person is responsible for anything that they take into their own body, including inhaled, taken by mouth, absorbed, or injected. The “he told me to do it” defence is not acceptable.

### **Definitions**

**The Club** – Oakham Rugby Football Club

**Club Premises** – includes the buildings and environs at The Clubhouse, The Showground, Showground Way, Oakham, Rutland. LE15 7TW as well as any other premises occupied or visited by members of the Club engaged in Club activities.

**Drugs** – any performance enhancing or classified drugs

**Classified and controlled drugs** – as defined by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

**Supply** - Passing drugs even with no money changing hand or to a friend is legally regarded as supplying.

### **Details of Policy**

a) This policy should be read in conjunction with the following existing Club policies:

1. The Club Disciplinary Policy
2. The Club Safeguarding Policy

b) The Club will not tolerate:

1. Possession or storing of controlled drugs on Club premises
2. Supply of controlled drugs on Club premises
3. Presence at any Club premises or events whilst under the influence of controlled drugs

Any breaches of the policy will normally be dealt with by way of the procedures and sanctions below. However, the Club also recognises its responsibilities to help members and so attention is drawn to the following lines of support for those who may be affected by drug issues:

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- **FRANK:** <https://www.talktofrank.com/>
- **NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** <https://ukna.org/>
- **DRUG ADDICTION-GETTING HELP:** <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/drug-addiction-getting-help/>
- **RFU ILLICIT DRUG INFO:**  
<https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/anti-doping-and-illicit-drugs/illicit-drugs-programme>

### **Procedures and Sanctions**

Anyone found possessing, using, or supplying / selling performance enhancing or recreational drugs on club premises or at club events will be dealt with by the club Disciplinary Sub-Committee.

The matter will be referred to the police by the Disciplinary Sub-Committee in order that criminal matters can be considered.

The criminal justice system will consider the individual circumstances of each case, applying threshold and gravity testing to the evidence before considering cautions or charges. The Club disciplinary outcome will take into account the degree of criminality proven when determining the club sanction.

- a. The default outcome will normally be for the member to be barred from the club and club events for life. This would be particularly the case if the member was a responsible adult, and a police conviction or caution has been received.
- b. At the other end of the scale, if the member was an under 18 player and if it was a first occurrence and if they had only received a police caution or less formal outcome then a measure of leniency and education would be more appropriate. An outcome would be a ban from playing matches for a period of time and a mandatory requirement to participate in a 'Help with drugs' programme (eg local authority managed)
- c. It is the task of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee to determine an appropriate outcome for offences lying between these two ends of the scale.
- d. If the person involved is a non-member attending a club function / club event, then they will be subject to a life ban from attending the club or any club functions and the matter will be referred to the Police.

### **Oakham Rugby Football Club Committee December 2021**

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