

Scenario Five – Health concern

Kelly, an 18-year-old, arrives at her basketball awards night acting very jittery, sweating heavily, and speaking quickly.

The coach/or nominated official present at the function would take Kelly aside to a private, quiet area, out of public view and ask her if she is feeling ok? The best way to frame this question is by telling Kelly what you can see i.e. acting jittery, sweating heavily, and is talking fast. It would also be appropriate to ask if she is on any new medication, especially if you know of a pre-existing medical condition. Remember, Kelly is 18 years old and medical information may not be known by anyone else.

Also, Kelly may be behaving and appearing this way for reasons other than drug use. For example, acting jittery and talking fast may be due to Kelly being extremely excited (adrenalin) and is sweating because it's hot outside and she has just ran from the bus to get to the awards night on time.

Irrespective of whether Kelly tells you she has taken an illegal substance or not, this could be a potential health issue. If you are concerned about her health it is best to monitor her and continue to assess the risk to herself and others.

If Kelly says she has consumed a drug, the coach and/or nominated official may wish for her to leave. They should discuss this with Kelly before calling her next of kin to arrange safe transport home where she can be monitored and supported in a safe environment. In all circumstances follow your club's Good Sports safe transport policy.

In the case of a medical emergency, call '000' and advise Kelly's next of kin/emergency contact. Remember safety first – if Kelly is acting in a violent or aggressive manner, do not approach her, call the police.

The coach and/or nominated official would complete a record in the Incident Register and discuss the matter further with Kelly to discover whether she needs assistance. Remember, it might not be possible to speak to Kelly about her behaviour on the night. Follow-up with her as soon as practical.

If Kelly admitted to taking illegal drugs, the club would refer back to their policy. Kelly would be advised of the penalty/actions to be taken in writing and of further consequences if there were a second breach. The club could refer Kelly to a local health service and appoint a mentor.

The president may choose to hold a compulsory club meeting reminding everyone of the illegal drug policy and club's code of conduct. The club could also invite the local health service to help provide a drug information session or workshop.