

Scenario Three – Visiting Team

The captain of the visiting team is found smoking a pipe with some team members from both teams in the change rooms after the match.

First and foremost, smoking is not permitted in the club's change rooms and on that basis alone it would be appropriate to ask those smoking to stop. If you do not feel comfortable to do so, go and advise the president or other senior club official.

It may not be obvious what is being smoked and unless you are able to clearly detect what it is then it is best not to assume it is an illegal substance. Instead, focus on the health risk of smoking. However, if after being asked the captain admits to smoking an illegal drug, such as cannabis, then you can refer to the appropriate policy responses for a breach of policy.

Your policy response should reflect that using and sharing an illegal substance is not permitted and in this case the captain may lose the captaincy for a period of time. You might also require that he writes a letter of apology to the committee which outlines the potential harms he may be doing to himself and the other players he shared the drugs with (note – drug information can be accessed via the ADF website and your local health services).

At the time of the incident, the club might choose to inform the police and ask whether or not to confiscate the remainder of the suspected illegal drug, and then record incident in the Incident Register. Where applicable, have an attending police officer sign the register to indicate the substance has been collected by police.

Inform the appropriate officials from the opposing team and the League/Association, if applicable. (Note - seek guidance from your League/Association during policy development).

Good Sports recommends as a minimum that an official letter be sent to those involved advising of the action/penalty and explain that a second breach would result in more serious consequences (note – policy should spell out points of escalation e.g. first infringement of the policy – warning letter; second infringement – suspension from club.) Players would be advised that following a suspension they would need to meet with the club committee prior to being permitted to play again. The players involved could also be referred to a local drug treatment service.

If the club has suitably qualified mentors at the club, the players could be assigned a mentor for a nominated period of time to assist them to reintegrate back into the club.

The president may choose to hold a compulsory club meeting reminding everyone of the illegal drugs 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.