

Scenario Two – Rumours

Angelo is a member of the local sports club. The president of the club has heard stories about Angelo sharing drugs with other players in the car park.

Due to the fact that it is just a rumour, the president would ask Angelo (at an appropriate time – not in front of other players) if he would like to sit down and have a catch-up, perhaps over a coffee. The president would mention that he has heard rumours about drug use at the club and that Angelo has been named as being involved (note – the president is not accusing him, just providing Angelo with the facts he has available to him). He would ask Angelo if that was true and remind him of the club's duty of care to all members and the expected behaviours. He would also ask Angelo if his life is ok at present.

If Angelo were under the age of 18, the president would ask Angelo if it would be ok to invite one or both of his parents/guardians to join the conversation.

Should Angelo admit to using and sharing drugs on club premises, the club would refer back to their illegal drugs policy. In this instance, it is unlikely you would inform the police about Angelo – the event occurred in the past and therefore there is no physical evidence and at this stage it is best to focus on Angelo's health. The club would offer support to Angelo by recommending him or his family (if he's under 18) to attend a local health service (note – the club should have a list of local services). The club could also provide Angelo with drug information factsheets.

Whether the rumour is verified, unverified or false, the president may wish to send out a reminder to all club members reminding them of the club's illegal drugs policy or hold a drug information session or workshop (note – this should be an ongoing process, whereby the coaches, senior players and president send out and discuss the policy on a regular basis).

Always remember to maintain privacy and discretion to protect people from stigma and malicious rumour.