



## The Edinburgh Academical Football Club

### Misuse of Prohibited Substances Policy

The Club has a zero-tolerance policy regards the use of performance enhancing or recreational drugs in any form.

Playing members are made aware of the current regulations and that it is their responsibility to check whether anything they take is on the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List and that they are solely responsible for any prohibited substance found in their system, whether there was an intention to cheat or not.

The Club default stance on finding a member -

- *Using* prohibited substances - is to help and support them, subject to the guidelines supplied by Scottish Rugby.
- *Supplying* prohibited substances on Club premises or at Club games or events - is a life ban from the Club and the possibility that we will report them to outside organisations.

Anyone found at any time to be in possession of, or using, substances on the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List, will be dealt with by the club Disciplinary Committee as a **Serious Misconduct or Gross Misconduct** case, which would lead to the following actions-

- For playing members the outcome may involve a ban from playing matches for a period of time and a mandatory requirement to participate in a 'Help with Drugs' programme if recreational drugs are involved. The player may also be required to show they are 'clean' by taking a drug test before being readmitted to play for the Club. If the player is under 18 their parent/guardian will be informed and would be able to attend the Disciplinary Committee hearing.
- For non-playing members the outcome may involve a ban from the Club facilities, matches and events for a period of time and a recommendation to participate in a 'Help with Drugs' programme if recreational drugs are involved.
- For a non-member attending the Club facilities, matches or events, then they will be subject to a ban for a period of time from attending the Club facilities, matches and events.

Anyone found supplying prohibited substances, either on Club premises or at events organised by the Club, will be referred to the police and /or Scottish Rugby by the Club. For the benefit of doubt, passing prohibited substances to a friend is legally regarded as supplying and will be referred to the authorities as above.

Anyone reported to outside authorities will be suspended from entering the Club or attending any Club matches or events until any outside organisation decides what to do and takes action or not.

After that process is completed the Club Disciplinary Committee will then meet and take into account the degree of criminality proven when determining the appropriate final Club sanction. For Club members sanctions would lie between these two ends of the scale -

- The member being barred from the Club and Club events for life. This would be particularly the case if the member was a responsible adult and if a police conviction has been received.
- And if the member was an under 18 player and if this was a first occurrence and if they had *only* received a police caution 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.

If the person involved in supplying was a non-member, then they will be subject to a life ban from attending the Club or any Club matches or functions.

The club will run prohibited substances awareness education sessions for age groups U16 to senior on a regular basis. This will cover performance enhancing and recreational drugs and will be delivered by a doctor or an expert.

End