

North Petherton Rugby Football Club LTD

Affiliated to the Rugby Football Union and the Somerset County Rugby Football Union

CASC REG. 04941



North Petherton Rugby Club Drug & Alcohol Policy

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

General Statement

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Member clubs recognise that the use of illicit drugs and the misuse of alcohol present a threat to the health of both individuals and the game itself. North Petherton Rugby Club (The Club) operates a very strict zero-tolerance policy with respect to the misuse and supply of drugs and alcohol on club premises. The club does not believe there is any inherent problem with drug or alcohol 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:

1. Protecting the health and welfare of players and other members.
2. Protecting and promoting the image and reputation of the Club and rugby as a game.

These principal objectives shall be affected by:

- Providing an effective and measured deterrent to the misuse of drugs and alcohol by players and others at the Club.
- Providing a positive example for young players and others in the community.
- Educating players about the dangers of misuse of drugs and alcohol.
- Providing, or giving guidance on, drug and alcohol counselling, treatment, and rehabilitation services to members who are found to be using illicit drugs or misusing alcohol 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 the attention of management any activities or suspected activities related to the misuse of drugs or alcohol.
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:** North Petherton Rugby Club
- **Club Premises:** Includes the buildings and environs at The Clubhouse, 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 hands or to a friend, is legally regarded as supplying.
- **Alcohol Misuse:** Consumption of alcohol in a manner that leads to intoxication, inappropriate behaviour, or any action that brings the Club into disrepute.

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.
4. Misuse of alcohol leading to intoxication, inappropriate behaviour, or any action that brings the Club into disrepute.

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 or alcohol issues:

- FRANK: <https://www.talktofrank.com/>
- NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: <https://ukna.org/>
- DRUG ADDICTION-GETTING HELP: <https://www.nhs.uk/livewell/healthy-body/drug-addiction-getting-help/>
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/>
- RFU ILLICIT DRUG INFO: <https://www.englandrugby.com/governance/anti-doping-and-illicit-drugs/illicitdrugs-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' or 'Help with alcohol' programme (e.g., 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.

Definitions and Abbreviations

Term	Definition for Policy
The club	North Petherton RFC
Club Committee	The general management committee of the club or the Mini & Junior Committee. Any approval of the committee refers to a majority vote of a quorate meeting. 4 executive members on a majority vote may also give approval.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years

A. Redman July 2025