



Drugs & Alcohol Policy

Purpose

The SWVFA is committed to providing a healthy, safe, and family friendly environment. All members (whether financial paying members or otherwise) of the SWVFA have a responsibility to protect their own health and safety, and that of others, to ensure they are not being affected by drugs or alcohol to the extent that it impacts their own, or another person's safety or enjoyment.

This policy applies to all members of the SWVFA, whether playing or social, and financial (fee-paying) members or not, as well as general visitors to the SWVFA.

Policy Statements

Drugs refer to any chemical substance, whether that be legal or illegal, which may be able to alter an individual's behaviour or impair their mental or physical capacity. This can include prescription or "over the counter" drugs and medications, as well as non-prescribed illegal substances, such as (but not limited too) marijuana, ecstasy, cocaine, amphetamines, heroin, etc.

Alcohol refers to any beverage containing alcoholic content that has the ability to alter an individual's behaviour or impair their mental or physical capacity. This can include (but is not limited too) straight liquor, factory made, pre-mixed, home-made or any other beverages (Eg. Beer, Cider, Wine, Vodka, etc). Alcohol will not be consumed by any player whilst they are engaged in a game.

It is illegal to serve alcohol to any individual who is intoxicated and to allow a drunken or disorderly individual to be on the premises. Our SWVFA encourages the responsible consumption of alcohol and will take appropriate action for any inappropriate behaviour that results from excessive drinking or the unacceptable use of legal or illegal drugs.

All members and visitors of the SWVFA are strictly prohibited from possessing, distributing, selling, or consuming drugs when on the premises of the SWVFA or at any SWVFA event, function or activity.

The effects and behaviours associated with the regular use of, or dependence on, drugs and alcohol may include but are not limited to the following:



- 1) Impaired speech, judgement, and coordination
- 2) Reduced concentration or absenteeism
- 3) Erratic, aggressive, or violent behaviour

These behaviours may negatively impact the safety of the SWVFA members. Any member with concerns about interacting with another member or individual due to possible drug use or excessive alcohol consumption should consult with the President or a Committee Member immediately.

The misuse of alcohol or drug use may lead to increased risk taking, unsafe, unacceptable, and/or illegal behaviour. The use of drugs or excessive consumption of alcohol will not be an excuse for unacceptable behaviour, specifically behaviour that endangers others or breaches the law, this policy, or any other policy of the SWVFA.

Procedures

The SWVFA acknowledges our members and visitors right to consume alcohol in a safe and responsible manner. However, when this consumption becomes inappropriate or causes interruption, issue or offence, the SWVFA reserves the right to take appropriate action if a member is:

- 1) Adversely affected by alcohol or other drugs, endangering their own safety or the safety of others during a match, event, or SWVFA function.
- 2) Found to be in the possession of drugs or drug use equipment on SWVFA premises.
- 3) Compromised by alcohol and/or other drugs, so that the member's mental or physical state is affected.
- 4) Known to be acknowledging significant use of illegal drugs or alcohol via social media, friendship or playing groups, etc.

Whilst engaging in SWVFA activities or attending SWVFA events, all players, volunteers, members, and visitors will:

- 1) Accept full responsibility for their own behaviour and actions at both home and away events.
- 2) Use good judgement and a responsible approach when alcohol is available.
- 3) Assist and encourage others to use good judgment when alcohol is available.
- 4) Not train, play, coach or officiate if affected by alcohol or drug use.



- 5) Not encourage, allow, or provide people under 18 years old alcohol to consume.
- 6) Not participate, peer pressure or encourage excessive consumption of alcohol (including drinking games).
- 7) Not post or circulate video or images of themselves or others drinking alcohol irresponsibly at SWVFA activities or events on the internet, on social media or via other channels.

In the instance of these issues being brought to the attention any of the SWVFA Committee or coaching staff, the SWVFA may take any combination of the following actions, as enacted by any member of the Committee or coaching staff after appropriate and confidential discussion:

- 1) Immediately approach the member/s to discuss the issue, its implications and the immediate steps that need to be taken to resolve the complaint.
- 2) Explanation of the SWVFA policy to the individuals concerned.
- 3) Immediately contact emergency services if there is suspicion of a drug overdose at any SWVFA function.
- 4) Remove the member from the event or function if they pose a risk to themselves or others.
- 5) Contact Security or Victoria Police if required.
- 6) Suspend the individual from matches or SWVFA functions where appropriate until the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the Committee.
- 7) Engage and counsel the player internally regarding their use of alcohol and/or drugs.
- 8) Refer the player to appropriate external organisations to address the misuse or abuse of alcohol and/or illicit substances.

Multiple cases of intoxication or drug use will result in a breach of our Codes of Conduct and can trigger disciplinary action such as the suspension or termination of SWVFA Membership.

SWVFA Functions

The SWVFA recognizes that post match and weekend functions organised by the SWVFA may involve the consumption of alcohol. It is expected that SWVFA members consume alcohol responsibly at these times. Use of drugs at these functions is strictly prohibited by the SWVFA. Should it come to the attention of committee members that drugs are being consumed at these times, action will be taken as previously described.



Drink Spiking

Drink Spiking is a serious criminal offence that can be reported to police, leading to serious police charges being laid against the offender/s. Separate action may be taken as a breach of FV's, and our own Member Protection Policy to provide for the protection, safety and welfare of members.

Underage Drinking

Alcohol will not be served to persons aged under 18. Servers and committee members will ask for proof of age whenever necessary or whenever in doubt, and only photo ID's will be accepted.

Driving Under the Influence

In accordance with the Liquor Licensing Act and Victorian Law, members or visitors of our SWVFA are not permitted to drive any vehicle (whether their own or not) when that person has consumed alcohol or other drugs. The SWVFA will accept no liability for any damage to a vehicle or property, injury to any person, or damage/injury to any third party or property, incurred while the driver of a vehicle is in breach of this policy or the law. Any, and all liabilities will rest solely with the driver concerned.

The SWVFA reserves the right to search its premises for illicit drugs and confiscate the substance in question. The SWVFA also reserves the right to refuse entry and/or remove any patron from its premises should they fail to adhere to this or any other policy.

Any member or visitor found to have failed to comply with this, or any other SWVFA policy, or behaved inappropriately (Eg. Sexual harassment, physical assault, verbal abuse) because of drug use or over-consumption of alcohol will face disciplinary action as outlined in our Complaints & Grievance Policy, Codes of Conduct, and/or Member Protection Policy.

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