

Basketball Australia Illicit Drugs Policy – Q & A

What is Basketball Australia's position on Illicit drugs?

Illicit drugs are harmful and there is no place for them in basketball.

The use of illicit drugs by participants can bring basketball into disrepute and sets a poor example for other members of the community who view participants as role models.

Basketball Australia and its Member Organisations are committed to the health, safety and well-being of all our participants. Basketball Australia is dedicated to providing a safe, drug-free environment for participating in the sport of basketball throughout Australia.

What is Basketball Australia doing to prevent illicit drugs in basketball?

Basketball Australia has established The National Integrity Framework – a suite of policies, educational materials and other resources that safeguard basketball against corruption. The Framework applies to all competitions and events conducted under the auspices of Basketball Australia or a member state/territory association, including the National Basketball League.

The Framework includes a policy regarding illicit drugs. It sets the broad expectations for the conduct of all Participants, but also incorporates detailed policies to regulate behaviour and ensure action can be taken against those who fail to adhere to behavioural standards and expose the sport to undue risk.

Who does this policy apply to?

This policy applies to all Participants, including athletes, coaches, referees and officials and Clubs involved with the following Competitions or Events:

- National Basketball League • Women's National Basketball League • National Wheelchair Basketball League
- Women's National Wheelchair Basketball League • South East Australian Basketball League • Big V State Championship • Queensland Basketball League • Warratah League Championship • State Basketball League (Western Australia) • State Basketball League (Tasmania) • Premier League (South Australia) • Premier League (ACT) • Premier League (NT)

What drugs are considered 'illicit' by Basketball Australia?

The Illicit Drugs prohibited under this Illicit Drugs Policy are those Drugs considered illegal under legislation of the state or territory where a breach occurs, as well as those listed in Schedule 3 of the Criminal Code Regulations 2002 (Cth) as amended from time to time.

This includes illegal drugs (such as cannabis), pharmaceutical drugs (such as pain-killers, tranquillisers) when used for non-medical purposes (strictly an illicit behaviour), and other substances used inappropriately (such as inhalants). Illicit drugs fall into three main categories: stimulants (amphetamines, cocaine), depressants (opiates including heroin) and hallucinogens (LSD, Magic Mushrooms).

What if I have been medically prescribed an illicit substance, such as medicinal marijuana?

If the substance or drug has been lawfully and properly prescribed by a medical practitioner for a legitimate therapeutic purpose and evidence can be provided to that effect, then the use or Possession of the Illicit Drug may be exempt from prosecution under this Policy.

What's the difference between illicit drugs and anti-doping?

The Illicit Drugs policy focuses on addressing the out-of-competition use of Illicit Drugs, as opposed to those which enhance in-competition performance.

Basketball Australia has adopted and implemented an anti-doping policy and rules which conform to the World Anti-Doping Code. The World Anti-Doping Code Prohibited List includes illicit drugs which are prohibited in competition. See the full list here: <http://basketball.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Appendix-3-Illicit-Drugs-Policy-Effective-1-July-2017.pdf>

Can I be tested for Illicit Drugs?

Basketball Australia does not conduct illicit drug testing. However, your competition or club may conduct their own testing and a positive sample would constitute a breach of the Illicit Drugs Policy.

Many illicit drugs are also prohibited in-competition under the World Anti-Doping Code. If you test positive for an illicit substance in-competition you will be subject to an Anti-Doping Policy sanction.

I don't use drugs – so what do I need to do to comply with the illicit-drugs policy?

You need to know and follow the policy. Everyone has a role to play to ensure illicit drugs are kept out of basketball. This includes:

- Understanding what constitutes an illicit drug;
- Not possessing, using, administering or trafficking any illicit drugs;
- Talking to your friends and fellow participants about Basketball Australia's education messages regarding illicit drugs; and
- Acting in a discreet and confidential manner in discharging your obligations under this policy in reporting issues.

Everyone goes out and gets high sometimes. It's got nothing to do with our on-court behaviour.

Illicit drug use is harmful and can affect your performance; it can also damage the reputation of you and your team. Participants possessing, using, trafficking or administering any illicit substances, at any time, are breaching the Illicit Drugs Policy.

Illicit drugs also jeopardise the integrity of the sport through criminal influence, potential compromise of participants, criminal charges, breach of anti-doping rules, as well as damage to the reputation of participants and Australian basketball.

Some members of teams in my competition smoke marijuana pretty regularly. I'm not involved and it's got nothing to do with me, right?

Wrong. The illicit Drugs policy is not just about using and trafficking illicit drugs, but also the reporting of illicit drug use. Failure to promptly disclose that you know or reasonably suspect that any current or former participant has engaged in Prohibited Conduct, or been approached to engage in Prohibited Conduct under this policy is a breach of the Illicit Drugs policy.

How do I report a breach of the Illicit Drugs policy?

Speak up! We all have a duty to speak up when we see something that is a breach of this policy.

There are six ways that a participant or other concerned stakeholder can contact the Basketball Australia Reporting Service:

- **Online:** <http://basketball.stoplinereport.com/>
- **Smartphone app:** Search for STOPline in the iTunes App Store or Google Play
- **Telephone:** 1300 30 45 50 – Australia +61 3 9811 3275 – Overseas (reverse charges)
- **Fax:** Attention: Case Manager C/O The Stopline +61 3 9882 4480
- **Email:** basketball@stopline.com.au
- **Post:** C/O The Stopline Locked Bag 8 Hawthorn Vic Australia 3122

When making a report you will need to include as much information as possible about the suspected misconduct as possible. All reports are kept confidential.

What will Basketball Australia do to support those involved with illicit drugs?

Basketball Australia will focus on working with qualified providers on educating and counselling those involved in the use of illicit drugs.

However, for serious cases or in instances of repeated use where counselling and education have not been effective, BA may refer the matter to a hearing panel who may consider playing or other sanctions against those involved.

We know about anti-doping, but this is the first we've heard about illicit drugs. How is Basketball Australia seeking to educate participants about illicit drugs?

Basketball Australia's education strategy is consistent with the Australian Government Illicit Drugs in Sport program. Key messages of this education focus on:

- illicit drug use is harmful;
- illicit drug use can affect your sporting performance – in or out of competition, during the off-season or on the weekend;
- illicit drug use can affect your reputation and sporting career;
- illicit drug use can affect your sports team;
- illicit drug use can impact on the community who support you; and
- participating in sport supports a healthy lifestyle.

Are there any free e-learning courses available?

Basketball Australia encourages participants to complete a free online e-learning course:
<https://idis.ausport.gov.au/auth/login/?returnUrl=%2F>

For more information on Basketball Australia's Illicit Drugs Policy see:

- <http://basketball.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Appendix-3-Illicit-Drugs-Policy-Effective-1-July-2017.pdf>
- <http://basketball.net.au/integrity/>

This publication is intended to provide a summary of some of the key messages of the National Framework for Ethical Behaviour and Integrity in Basketball only and must not be relied on in place of the National Framework for Ethical Behaviour and Integrity in Basketball. The National Framework for Ethical Behaviour and Integrity in Basketball must be read in full. BA is not liable to users of this publication for any loss or damage however caused resulting from the use of this publication. BA reserves all of its rights.