



Department
of Sport and
Recreation

positionstatement

Drugs in Sport

The State Government condemns the use of banned performance enhancing substances and other doping and drug taking practices in sport and recreation because:

- They are dangerous to the health of competitors/participants;
- Drug taking is contrary to the ethics of sport, and
- Drug taking is illegal.

The Government's position relates to all levels of sport and recreation, not just the elite and includes the broader issue of recreational drug use.

The Government supports national and international drugs in sport initiatives to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach across Australia.

State sporting associations receiving financial or other assistance from any State Government authority are required to cooperate fully with Australian Sport Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA) for drug testing of their athletes whether they are in training or competition.

State sporting associations are required to abide *Western Australian Sports Drug Testing Act 2001* and the Western Australian Drugs in Sport Policy.

Background

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), established to promote and coordinate the international fight against doping in sport in all its forms, is responsible for establishing and reviewing the banned list.

The World Anti-Doping Code is being implemented globally to eliminate doping practices in sport. National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) through their International Federations are required to comply with the code.

There is national legislation (*Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) Act 1990*) that allows for drug testing of competitors in:

- National teams or squads in any sport;
- Athletes in professional teams such as the Australian Football League, National Rugby League and National Basketball League; and
- Any overseas competitors competing in Australia.

Complementary State legislation has been enacted to support the national legislation and the role of ASADA. This enables ASADA to drug test Western Australian competitors at or near State level representation.

The Government will not impose separate bans nor act as an appeal agency for sanctions imposed by the NSO. Appeals against sanctions may be challenged by lodging an objection with the Court of Arbitration of Sport.

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References

Australian Sports Drug Agency (ASDA) Act 1990.
Western Australian Sports Drug Testing Act 2001.

Resources

Department of Sport and Recreation. (2002). *Western Australian Drugs in Sport Policy*. Perth, Western Australia: Western Australian Government.

Useful Websites

Australian Sports Drug Agency
www.asda.org.au

Sports Medicine Australia, Western Australia Branch
<http://www.smawa.asn.au>