

IMPROPER USE OF DRUGS AND MEDICINE POLICY

1. Policy Intent

The International Tag Federation is dedicated to keeping every participant healthy, safe, and well while offering a clean and secure sports setting. This policy makes sure that only qualified professionals provide medical care, discourages improper use of medications or supplements, prevents illegal drug use, and helps uphold the reputation of the International Tag Federation.

2. Scope

This policy covers everyone involved in International Tag Federation activities—including players, coaches, referees, officials, sports trainers, medical staff, volunteers, administrators, and others. It applies during matches, training sessions, tournaments, travel, and any events related to the International Tag Federation.

3. Key Principles

- Prioritise player health over performance in medical decisions.
- Only registered health professionals may provide treatment or injections.
- Use medications and supplements only when medically justified and evidence based.
- Comply with all Australian laws on medicines, poisons, and illegal drugs.

4. Prohibited Conduct

- **Illegal Drugs:** No use, possession, trafficking, or promotion of illegal drugs in Tag activities.
- **Misuse of Medication:** Unlawful or unsafe use/supply of medication is prohibited.
- **Injections:** Only registered health professionals may administer injections; self-injection requires medical authorisation.
- **Supplements:** Do not promote, provide, or encourage use of unsafe or banned supplements without safety assessment.

5. Permitted Medical Treatment

Injections and other medical treatments are allowed if performed by registered health professionals for legitimate therapeutic reasons, in line with regulations. Vaccinations and necessary treatments are permitted.

6. Reporting and Complaints

Report concerns to the ITF Compliance Officer. Issues will follow the International Tag Federation Disciplinary & Judiciary Procedure. Criminal matters should also be reported to the police.

7. Education

The International Tag Federation is committed to advancing education on safe medication practices, the risks associated with supplements, the dangers of illegal substances, and the importance of ethical standards in sports medicine.

8. Interaction with Anti-Doping Rules

This policy functions in conjunction with relevant anti-doping regulations. In situations where such rules are enforced, they take priority concerning the management of prohibited substances within sports.

9. Confidentiality

Medical information must comply with privacy laws and confidentiality rules.

10. Breaches

Consequences for breaches can include receiving warnings, being suspended, removal from positions, bans on participation, or being reported to regulators or law enforcement.

11. Related Policies

This policy should be read with the Code of Conduct, Member Protection Policy, Child Safeguarding Policy, and Disciplinary & Judiciary Procedure.

12. Policy Review

This policy will undergo periodic review to maintain alignment with best practices in sports medicine, uphold integrity, and comply with legal requirements.