



Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine

The safe use of medicines, medical practices and supplements is vital to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone in sport. This should be guided by qualified and trusted science and medical personnel. It helps to maintain safe and clean sport environments, and guard against the negative impact of illicit drugs on sport.

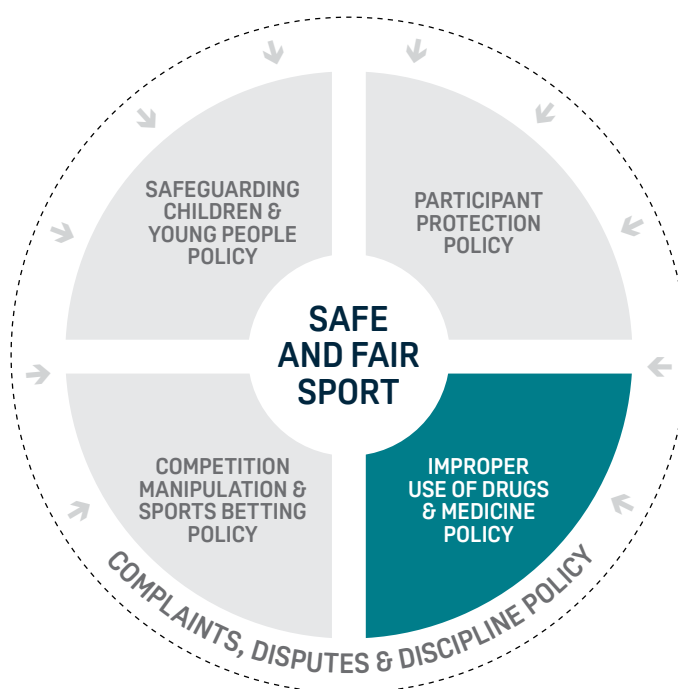
Improper use of drugs and medicine can:

- **cause health problems**
- **increase risks of athletes taking banned substances, even unintentionally**
- **damage the integrity and culture of sport, and the reputation of individuals**
- **be a criminal offence.**

Everyone in sport – including athletes, coaches, medical and sports science staff, officials and employees – should know the risks and banned behaviours (Prohibited Conduct). These are outlined in full detail in your sport's ***Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy***.

Banned behaviours – a summary

- **Unlawfully using or providing prescription or over-the-counter medication:** athletes cannot use or possess medications in an unlawful way. Prescription medications must only be used by the person they're prescribed for.
- **Injecting or possessing injection equipment without authorisation:** Sports should keep a register of approved athletes who can self-inject for known medical conditions. Other than approved self-injection, only authorised health professionals or authorised carers can administer injections for athletes.
- **Using a prohibited supplement:** each sport has its own rules on supplement use, so it's important to know your sport's policy. Remember, no supplement is 100% safe for athletes because they can carry doping risks.
- **Drug offences:** this includes assisting, covering up or failing to report serious drug offences.
- **Failure to report:** all known or suspected banned behaviours relating to drugs or medicines must be reported immediately to your sport.



Reporting and support information

Report all allegations of improper use of drugs and medicines to your sport.

Report to
your sport



Check your sport's national website for the full *Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy*.

Find a Policy overview at
sportintegrity.gov.au.

Learn
more

