

**POLICY RE:  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF ILLICIT DRUGS POLICIES BY SPORTING ORGANISATIONS**

AAA has adopted the following policy position in relation to the issue of illicit drug policy development in sport:

1. The AAA supports the rights and interests of sporting organisations, in partnership with their athletes, to introduce strategies and policies to discourage and respond to illicit drug use within their sports. These may involve out of competition testing for illicit drugs.
2. The AAA considers that a one-size-fits-all policy response to the issue of illicit drug use fails to recognise the complexity of both this issue and the nature of the Australian sporting industry.
3. The AAA advocates that any strategies or policies developed by sporting organisations and their athletes should focus on the issue of illicit drug use from an athlete welfare (as opposed to punitive) perspective. Appropriate deterrents may be built into a policy provided an athlete is firstly afforded access to education, counselling, rehabilitation and expert medical based interventions.
4. Sporting rules should always be subject to athletes' civil rights which must be preserved at all times.
5. Legislative protections should be introduced to penalise persons or organisations in breach of security protocols protecting athlete's personal records or seek to publish the same.
6. Athletes should be treated equally in the context of testing pools and responses – regardless of talent, experience, salary or team.
7. Sports should only consider introducing an illicit drugs policy where they have the expertise and resources to effectively implement a comprehensive policy. At a minimum, this requires the ability to resource not only testing, but also:
  - education programs;
  - counselling and rehabilitation services;
  - expert medical care and intervention; and
  - to protect and enforce security and confidentiality.
8. Government funding of illicit drug policy should not be at the expense of the core funding of sports.