



BALLYROAN COMMUNITY CHESS CLUB

“THE KNIGHTS OF ÉANNA”

Substance Abuse Policy

Rationale: The hallmark of our Club is care, especially for those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged in any way. As a community, we aim to nurture mutual respect among all members in a safe environment. The personal and social, development of all is promoted.

The Club is committed to providing an ordered environment which encourages the Club community to realise its full potential. The Club’s Mission Statement reinforces this goal.

The use of prohibited substances that are known to injurious to health and wellbeing will not be tolerated. The Club will treat any violation of this Substance Abuse Policy to be a very serious breach of discipline. Those who violate our Policy on Substance Abuse, may face harsh sanctions, but in keeping with our ethos of care will be offered any support and advice at the Club’s disposal.

This Policy recognises the seriousness of the threat posed to the healthy, social, physical and intellectual development of young people by the use and misuse of legal and illegal drugs, including tobacco and alcohol. This policy recognises the prevalence and accessibility of damaging substances to our young people and seeks to work in partnership with parents/ guardians and the wider community to promote good health and lifestyle.

The promotion of good health and lifestyle will be taught through workshops funded and supported by Foróige youth services. In keeping with our ethos of partnership, the parents/guardians generally will be informed of such positive health promotion events.

The Club sees parents and home as essential partners to informing and educating their children regarding substance abuse. The Club expects parents/ guardians to be fully supportive of the Club policy and approach in relation to substance abuse.

This Policy is aware of and is informed by the legislative requirements of: The children first act 2015. This Substance Abuse Policy is part of the Club’s Whole Development Planning and intersects, links and overlaps with elements of the, Anti-bullying, Code of Behaviour and Child Protection, Policies. .

1. Definitions

1.1 Prohibited Substances refers to all banned or prohibited substances at The Club and includes all substances covered under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1984, or any prescribed medication not validated by a current medical prescription, and any volatile substance and any alcohol and any tobacco. This also includes solvents, contraband cigarettes or alcohol for the purposes of sale.

Examples of prohibited substance may include; Benzylpiperazine ;Cannabis and Cannabis resin (hashish) ;Cocaine; Heroin etc. This is not an exhaustive list.

1.2 The Club refers to anywhere within the precincts of the Club to include Club rooms and grounds. The Club also refers to any activity situated away from the Club precincts wherein an activity or function, sporting or otherwise organised by the Club takes place, an example would be Club field trips, sporting or other ECA functions etc. The Club also refers to public property, road and pathways within the immediate vicinity of the Club's locality.

1.3 Drug paraphernalia refers any item that may be deemed to be used for the taking of prohibited substances such as hash pipes, 'bongs', syringes etc. It also refers to literature or any material promoting the use of Prohibited Substances.

2. Use of Prohibited Substances.

2.1 When dealing with any allegation of misconduct involving a prohibited substance, all of the factors relating to the allegation need to be taken into consideration, including the type of substance involved.

2.2 Tobacco. Smoking cigarettes (hand rolled or manufactured), electronic cigarettes, pipes and cigars, or the possession of cigarettes are prohibited in the Club for Junior members. The sanction for smoking by a junior in the Club is the immediate withdrawal of privileges such as selection onto teams, trips, ect..

2.3 Alcohol. The consumption of alcohol in the Club is prohibited. The possession of alcohol is prohibited. The sanction for consumption or possession is Suspension from the club and its activities for an appropriate period of time.

2.4 Drug paraphernalia The possession or use of any item which may be deemed to be used in the consumption of illicit and illegal substances may result in a period of Suspension being imposed. The distribution of literature or any material with the deliberate intention of promoting the use of illicit or illegal substances may result in a period of suspension being imposed.

The disciplinary committee, in consultation with the (DDL), may consider it appropriate to refer to the Management committee to request a longer Suspension, depending on the seriousness of the offences. The (DLP) may refer such incidents to An Gardaí Siochána. And or TUSLA.

3 The use of Prohibited Substances.

3.1 The possession of illicit and illegal drugs by a member within the Club will be referred directly to An Gardaí Siochána. Any member found in possession of Prohibited Substances, whether for personal use or with the intention to distribute or sell such substances, may be immediately Suspended by the (DLP) in accordance with the spirit of this policy, pending an investigation into the matter. Following an investigation at Section 4 of this policy the Club Management committee may decide to suspend the member up to 20 days or permanently exclude the member from the Club. In

the case of a member being allowed by the committee to return to Club following a drug or alcohol related incident, the committee reserves its right to make whatever conditions it deems necessary. These conditions may include external counselling, ongoing testing for drug abuse and ongoing consultations with external agencies such as Juvenile Liaison Officer, other Gardaí, Health Board etc.

3.2 Any prohibited substances will be confiscated by the Club authorities and kept in a safe place until the investigation is completed or the Club is advised by an outside authority.

4. Breaches of the Substance Abuse Policy.

4.1 All allegations of breaches of this substance Abuse Policy should be reported to the (DLP) or the (DDL) as soon as possible. A thorough and fair investigation will be conducted by the (DLP), or the (DDL) or another person designated by the (DLP, DDL).

Written accounts of this investigation will be kept. The member's parents / guardians where applicable will be informed of this investigation process as soon as is practicable.

4.2 In any breach of this Substance Abuse Policy, the Club will endeavour to strike a balance between the welfare of the member involved and the welfare of the Club community and the reputation of the Club. To ensure the safety of all concerned and to facilitate dealing effectively with the situation any or all of the following steps may be taken:

- Removal of the individual or individuals (and belongings) to a supervised and secure area away from the main Club room/rooms.
- Search any area where the Club suspects that prohibited substances may have been secreted, The Club reserves the right to hold any personal belongings or other property until such time as the necessary authorization has been received to search them. In its duty of care to the whole Club community, the Club may be obliged to contact or make certain disclosures to outside authorities such as An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive, or Officers of the Courts.

4.3 The Club may need to engage the expert assistance of an appropriate third party to investigate a substance abuse incident.

4.4 A member involved in a breach of this Substance Abuse Policy will be referred to the Club's external counselling service provider (YODA) youth drug and alcohol services Tallaght, with the **intention** of offering support and or advice concerning the Substance Abuse issue. The Club's external counselling provider will **not** have any direct role in the investigation or the imposition of sanctions.

4.5 Mentors and committee members may need to be informed of incidents of breaches of this Substance Abuse Policy, where appropriate, and in circumstances where a member may be considered to be in danger of harming himself or others.

This Substance Abuse Policy was ratified by the AGM. Held on _____

Signed..... (DLP)

Signed..... (DDL)

Review: This Substance Abuse Policy will be subject to review by the management committee.