

Rowing Australia Illicit Drugs Policy
[Out of Competition]

Rowing Australia (RA) is committed to protecting the health and well-being of our athletes and participants, along with our integrity and the interests of rowing generally. We are acutely aware of the challenges caused by the use of illicit drugs in the community and we want to ensure the ongoing protection of our members by reinforcing our position on any illicit drug use within the sport.

In conjunction with the Athletes Commission, we have updated our position on illicit drugs to include an Illicit Drugs Policy for out of competition use, which is designed to reduce drug-related harm to athletes, participants, their families and the broader rowing community. This Policy aims to deter the use of illicit drugs through education, and allows for the conduct of random and targeted testing.

Key elements of the Policy include:

- All athletes nominating for National Teams (excluding anyone under 18) can now be tested for illicit drugs.
- Illicit drugs are those generally known as ‘social drugs.’ A full list is in Appendix A of the Policy.
- This testing:
 - Can be targeted or random.
 - Can take place at any time or place.
 - Is separate to ASADA testing.
- Athletes can still be tested for illicit drugs in competition by ASADA and are subject to ASADA’s penalties.
- Illicit drugs can contain traces of substances that can be detected by ASADA, and are banned at all times by ASADA. This would result in ASADA’s penalties being applied.
- There are a range of escalating sanctions for a breach of the Policy:
 - For a First Illicit Drug Breach: illicit drugs counselling, education and/or training program at the individual’s expense; subject to Target Testing; may receive a suspension from Competition; and may be subject to additional Sanctions.
 - For a Second Breach: illicit drugs counselling, education and/or training program at the individual’s expense; subject to Target Testing; must receive a suspension from Competition for not less than sixteen weeks; and may be subject to additional Sanctions.
 - For a Third Breach: termination of Membership of National squads or teams; further drugs counselling, education and/or training program at the individual’s expense; and be subject to additional Sanctions.

Please note that this is not a summary of our Illicit Drugs Policy, and nor should it be relied upon for this purpose. All athletes, coaches and others engaged in the sport should read the full Policy and testing procedures available at <http://www.rowingaustralia.com.au/ra-illicit-drugs-in-sport-education-program-and-policy/>.

Your protection and the continued integrity of our sport relies on all our members promoting and enforcing the Policy throughout the rowing community.

If you have any questions or concerns about this Policy please contact: Jaime Fernandez, General Manager of Sport on jfernandez@rowingaustralia.com.au