



## Drug and Alcohol Policy

## 1. Preface

The Nar Nar Goon Football Club is committed to providing a safe, healthy, family friendly and successful sport environment.

All members of the Football Club have a responsibility to ensure that they take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others whilst in this environment by not being affected by alcohol or illicit drugs to the extent that it impacts on their own or another person's recreational enjoyment or safety.

### 1.1 Definitions

For the purpose of this Policy, the Nar Nar Goon Football Club defines alcohol and drugs as follows:

**Alcohol** refers to any beverage, containing an alcoholic content.

**Drugs** refers to illegal drugs, and illicit use of drugs.

**Illicit drug use** refers to illegal drugs, misuse or non-prescribed use of prescription drugs (also called pharmaceuticals), and inappropriate use of other substances (for example inhalants).

<https://www.health.gov.au/topics/drugs/about-drugs/drug-laws-in-australia>

**Member** refers to any playing member, social member, employee, support personnel, coach or official associated with the Nar Nar Goon Football club, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity.

**Club Jurisdiction** extends to the club premises and all activities organised by or for the club at any location or venue.

### 1.2 Code of Conduct Policy

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Nar Nar Goon Football Club '**Code of Conduct**' Policy, and sections therein, 6.8. Alcohol and 6.9 Illicit Drugs.

## 2. Alcohol and Drug Policy

### 2.1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure club members understand the club's position regarding illegal drugs and responsible use of alcohol, and how the club will respond to related incidents within its jurisdiction.

This policy will help to ensure our club and its members:

- Meet its duty of care in relation to the health and safety of our members, volunteers and visitors who attend any club games, special events, functions and other activities where alcohol may be consumed.
- Prevent alcohol and other drug related harm to individuals, property and the reputation of the club.
- Understands the risks associated with alcohol misuse and our role in minimising this risk.
- Promotes a clear message that illicit drug use will not be tolerated at our club
- Meeting legal requirements in relation to alcohol and illegal drugs.
- Encouraging moderation and a responsible attitude to the consumption of alcohol.

## **2.2. Guidelines**

### **2.2.1. Illicit Drug Use**

All members of the Nar Nar Goon Football Club are prohibited from selling, distributing, manufacturing, possessing or consuming illicit drugs when on the premises of the Nar Nar Goon Football Club or at any club function. This equally applies to illicit drug equipment.

The premises of the Nar Nar Goon Football Club, includes but not limited to the buildings, playing arenas or anywhere within the boundaries of any particular reserve where the Nar Nar Goon Football Club players are training or playing.

This policy also applies to any other time or place where a Nar Nar Goon Football Club member, player, or official may, in the specific circumstances of the case, lead a reasonable person to make a direct connection between the possession, supply or use of an illicit drug and the Nar Nar Goon Football Club.

Whilst we understand some members in their personal life, may choose to use illicit drugs, it is however inappropriate to do so at the Nar Nar Goon Football Club. Such actions places others at risk of harm and brings the Nar Nar Goon Football Club and its 'family friendly' environment into disrepute.

### **2.2.2. Alcohol Conduct Expectations**

It is accepted that the sensible and moderate consumption of alcohol, by persons 18 years of age or older, can be an appropriate part of the social culture of a sporting club.

The club's responsibilities in regards to the serving and monitoring of alcohol consumption are governed by the Victorian Liquor Licencing laws, and those requirements are implied as part of this policy.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/liquor-licensing>

Whilst engaging in club activities, members, volunteers and visitors:

- Will accept responsibility for their own behaviour, take a responsible approach and use good judgment when alcohol is available.
- Will encourage and assist others to use good judgment when alcohol is available.
- Will not compete, train, coach or officiate if affected by alcohol.
- Will not provide, encourage or allow people aged under 18 years to consume alcohol.
- Will not participate, pressure anyone or encourage excessive or rapid consumption of alcohol (including drinking competitions).
- Will not post images on social media of themselves or others drinking alcohol irresponsibly at club-related activities.

### **2.2.3. Medically Prescribed Drugs**

In circumstances where a player is taking medically prescribed drugs to manage a specific condition that may interfere with their playing performance, they are required to notify their coach. The coach, in consultation with the player, may make adjustments to the match requirements of the player concerned.

All members, where taking medically prescribed drugs, should understand the risks from their medical practitioner before consuming alcohol.

### **2.2.4. Club Functions**

It is recognised that after match and weekend functions organised by the football club, may involve the consumption of alcohol. It is expected that club members consume alcohol responsibly at these times.

Use or possession of illicit drugs at these functions is prohibited by the Club.

Should players or members be significantly intoxicated due to alcohol use at club functions, the Nar Nar Goon Football Club reserves the right to refuse the service of alcohol in accordance with the Liquor Licensing Act.

### **2.2.5. Matches**

Alcohol will not be consumed by a player member whilst a he is engaged in a game.

Playing members are prohibited from arriving to a match or returning to a match from any break under the influence of alcohol or other illicit drugs.

## **2.3. Procedures**

### **2.3.1. Incident Notification**

Where a club member becomes aware of illegal drug activity or an alcohol related incident, that is occurring at the club or within its' jurisdiction, the member should pass on this information to the President and/or designated Club confidant. This includes persons who are:

- Affected by alcohol or illicit drugs, so as to endanger their own safety or the safety of any other person during the course of a match, social club function or acting in an official capacity of the club.
- Seen to be using or found in the possession of illicit drugs or unauthorised drug use equipment on the Nar Nar Goon Football Club premises or at official club functions
- Known to be acknowledging significant use or involvement in production of illegal drugs or alcohol via friendship groups, social media, playing groups or family.

Members who have concerns about playing or associating with any other playing or social member due to possible alcohol or illicit drug use, should consult with the President and/or designated Club confidant.

### **2.3.2. Incident Management**

Where an incident is brought to the attention of the Club, any of the following actions may take place:

- Assess whether there is any immediate medical risk to any person, and contact emergency services if required
- Take into account the age of the person involved or alleged to be involved. Parent/guardian contact may be required, and assess if the club's Child Safety Officer needs to be involved.
- Where a player member is involved, assess if appropriate for the Player Welfare Officer to participate in the conversations.
- At the appropriate time, approach the member to confidentially discuss the issue and its implications.
- Remove the member from club functions if they pose a risk to themselves or others.
- Arrange safe transport to take them home, unless this involves further risk.
- Take control of any remaining drugs in their possession, unless this involves further risk.
- Offer options for support and referral to appropriate organisations to address the misuse or abuse of alcohol and illicit drugs.

### **2.3.3. Non-Compliance**

Non-compliance with this Alcohol and Drug Policy, may necessitate disciplinary measures, which will be governed by the “Code of Conduct” policy guidelines.

Depending on the circumstances and nature of the incident, the following actions may occur:

- The individual(s) concerned will be reminded of the club policy.
- Issue of a warning of future sanctions for continued non-compliance.
- Suspension for a designated time period
- Expulsion from the club

### **2.3.4. Privacy**

Subject to its right to contact the police if necessary, the Club will maintain the privacy of those involved where possible.

The Club will act with discretion when absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

### **2.3.5. Contacting Parents**

In the interests of health and safety, the Club will contact the parents or guardian of a minor where apparent or suspected illegal drug use has occurred (unless by doing so it will place the safety of the individual at risk of greater harm).

The Club will inform all members aged under 18 years that parents/guardians will be notified if the club is aware (or strongly believes) they are using or supplying illegal drugs.

### **2.3.6. Media**

The Club will designate a club official to communicate with the media on behalf of the club should the need arise.

The Club may seek advice from the league/association prior to communicating with the media.

No other member of the club will communicate with the media on this issue, unless specifically requested by the club official.

## **2.4. Driving under the influence**

In accordance with the Liquor Licensing Act and Victorian State law, members of the Nar Nar Goon Football Club are not permitted to drive a vehicle, whether their own or not, when that person is affected by or has consumed alcohol beyond the prescribed limit or has used illicit drugs.

We ask that all attendees at our club functions plan their transport requirements to ensure they arrive home safely and prevent driving under the influence of alcohol.

The Nar Nar Goon Football Club will accept no liability for any damage to a vehicle, injury to any person, or damage or injury to any third party, incurred while the driver of a vehicle is in breach of this Act or the law. All liabilities will rest with the driver concerned.

### **3. Alcohol and Other Drugs Support Services**

- National Alcohol and Other Drug Hotline: **1800 250 015** free, anonymous 24-hour support
- Family Drug and Gambling Help (Victoria): **1300 660 068**
- Emergency Services: call 000 for ambulance or police attendance in an emergency
- Police: call 131 444 for police attendance (not an emergency)

### **4. Promoting and Maintaining this Policy**

#### **4.1. Policy Promotion**

Our club will:

- Ensure this policy is easily accessible and will promote it via our website, social media and announcements during club events and functions.
- Actively demonstrate its attitude relating to the responsible use of alcohol and dangers of illicit drug use, and promote positive messages through its social media platforms.

#### **4.2. Policy Commencement**

This Policy was passed by Club Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

This policy will take effect from 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

#### **4.3. Policy Review**

The policy will be reviewed in line with Liquor Licencing changes, and other related requirements.

It is recommended to be reviewed annually.