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28 February 2018

**TO: DISTRICT SECRETARIES
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS
MEDIA
ALL MEMBERS**

District Secretaries are required forward a copy of this circular together with attachments to all clubs. Clubs are required to bring the content and attachments to the notice of their members.

CIRCULAR 07/2018

SAIDS: Updated Information for All Members

After lengthy Executive consultation with SAIDS the following is now of importance to all members.

As a signatory to SAIDS and WADA our National Federation, Districts and Clubs must abide and comply with their requirements and support their program. No relaxation of any clause can be made for Lawn Bowls even if our average age is above most other sporting codes.

This circular is in addition to 2017 Circulars 68, 69 & 70.

The main **focus** of SAIDS is on **current and potential** International players **this being by implication members of our Gold Squad and Commonwealth Games team. This does not mean that other affiliated players may not be subject to their testing protocol.**

The UPDATED protocol of compliance for players to follow is:

1. Check medication / supplements / etc. for prohibited substances, using the website: (Ctrl-Click the link to access or copy the address to the browser): <http://www.drugfreesport.org.za/online-medication-check/>.
2. Complete & sign the *Bowls SA SAIDS Acknowledgement & Compliance* document (attached again for quick access).
3. Ensure that an electronic (scanned) copy of this document is uploaded under your Bowls SA number on the Membership Database (no login required, but if the name does not appear, ask the Club Database Administrator to change the record's SAIDS field to *Required* on the database and the member will then be able to upload the document or send the electronic copy to the Club Database Administrator to do this on behalf of the member).
4. IF found that the prescribed medication contains a prohibited substance (red/orange on the website or App), you need to follow the following process with a Physician:
 - a. Consult regarding changing to a safer alternative *if available*. If no safer alternatives available, continue with the medication containing the prohibited substance, provided that there is documented proof that this medication is necessary. **The physician should record that alternative medication has been considered but deemed unsuitable.**
 - b. **If a safer alternative is found but as a consequence thereof there are adverse reactions, the person should return to the original medication containing the prohibited substance, but retain all proof of the change attempt(s) and the consequences of the attempt(s).**
5. ONLY IF tested and the results indicate the presence of a prohibited substance:
 - a. Gather all documentation from 4. above and apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). Note that SAIDS has requested that outside of the Gold Squad, **players apply for this retroactively rather than before the event, as previously stated in 2017 Circular 70.**
 - b. If TUE granted, follow a similar process to 3. above to upload the TUE certificate. **NOTE:** An Athlete may be granted a TUE if (**and only if**) s/he can show, by a balance of probability, that each of the following conditions is met:
 - i. The Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method in question is needed to treat an acute or chronic medical condition, such that the Athlete would experience a significant impairment to health if the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method were to be withheld.

- ii. The Therapeutic Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is highly unlikely to produce any additional enhancement of performance beyond what might be anticipated by a return to the Athlete's normal state of health following the treatment of the acute or chronic medical condition.
 - iii. There is no reasonable Therapeutic alternative to the Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method.
 - iv. The necessity for the Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is not a consequence, wholly or in part, of the prior Use (without a TUE) of a substance or method which was prohibited at the time of such use. There is a legitimate reason to use the medication and there is no permitted alternative and the person has all the available medical history to provide.
- c. If TUE not granted, a hearing will be convened by SAIDS and the member needs to be prepared for the consequences. Provided the above process has been followed, Bowls SA will provide support at the hearing, but if not, Bowls SA will not be in a position to provide support for the player at any hearing that will occur.

The **second area of focus from SAIDS** is in ensuring that Districts apply for and host workshops for their players – SAIDS covers all the costs of their facilitators, but Districts must organise these workshops on **Drug-Free Sport Education every year** – see 2017 Circular 69. The attached updated document – *SAIDS Education Request form – General 2018.doc* – is provided to assist Districts in organising an annual Anti-Doping Workshop for their players.

A comprehensive Drug-Free Sport Policy is in the process of being developed which will encompass all SAIDS requirements.

Please Note; No player should send any TUE application directly to SAIDS and the TUE documents should firstly be sent to Trevor Davis that any item not covered can be rectified before submission. Also note that the TUE Commissions decisions are ***independent of SAIDS*** and this commission/panel will assess all the information provided to them and will be measured against the four (i, ii, iii and iv) criteria above.

Should there be any queries regarding this process, please contact Trevor Davis at Trevor.Davis@bowlssa.co.za.



**JOHN RAVENSCROFT
OPERATIONS MANAGER**