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20 June 2017.

**TO: DISTRICT SECRETARIES  
EXECUTIVE  
MEDIA**

**CC: Participants in Bowls SA Mixed Pairs  
All Coaches (via NSCC)**

**CIRCULAR 32/2017**

**DRUG TESTING & ACCOUNTABILITY**

World Bowls and Bowls SA are signatories of an agreement that supports Drug Free Sport. Through this, agreement, the SASCOC constitution and the Bowls SA constitution (5.6.18), all members are obliged to comply.

The South African Institute for Drug-free Sport (SAIDS) has indicated that they may be visiting a selection of our National Tournaments this year. Testing is becoming more and more a reality to all federations and we need to be aware of the implications and procedures at all times. SAIDS can arrive at any competition venue, at any time, especially at competitions from provincial (district) level upwards.

Any participant taking banned substances under medical supervision, should be in possession of a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE), dated at least 30 days before the event – presenting a doctor's prescription or certificate is of no use at the time of sample collection. Information regarding banned substances and player / coach responsibilities may be found at [www.drugfreesport.org.za](http://www.drugfreesport.org.za). Note that since January 2016, coaches are deemed responsible for their players and can suffer the same penalties as the players unless they can prove otherwise. Should any high-profile player require assistance with this process, please contact the Bowls SA Head Office.

The collection process is an embarrassing one, but has to be followed strictly according to the official's instructions. There may be no excuses or deviations from what they require. They have been trained only to deal with the collecting of the sample and are not interested in what you may have taken – this is outside of their mandate. The samples are then sent away where the process is controlled by another centre. The players have the right to be accompanied by a coach or witness to support them through the collection process.

Links to youtube videos explaining the process are provided below:

**WADA – Process** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iqmfPsZbrs>

**Sample Collection Process** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=388W2sk4I4A>

**The Athletes View** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVoQg-lZ1vE>

**JOHN RAVENSCROFT  
OPERATIONS MANAGER**