

Policy & Procedures for Drug-Free Sport



We acknowledge World Bowls, WADA and SAIDS for the use of their documents as the basis for Bowls SA to create their Drug Free Sport policy.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Bowls SA is a National Sporting Federation in South Africa and thus automatically accepts and abides by the SA Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS) Anti-Doping Rules (as amended from time to time).
2. In accordance with Article 20.5.1 of the WADC, SAIDS notably has the necessary authority and responsibility to be independent in its operational decisions and activities from sport and government.
3. The Bowls SA Drug-Free Sport Policy shall apply to all Provincial/District Bowls Associations, Associate Members, Bowls Clubs and all Registered Individuals.
4. There are two process which all athletes must abide to:
 - 4.1. Once-off process – includes the completion of the SAIDS Acknowledgement and Compliance Form.
 - 4.2. The ongoing process – includes inter-alia the regular checking of the SAIDS online list of substances for any medications and any supplements you are using.
5. It is, inter-alia, the responsibility of each District to annually apply to SAIDS for the hosting of an Anti-Doping Workshop for all their players.
6. Coaches must ensure that any players for whom they are responsible are aware of compliance requirements and should keep a record of the communication.
7. Prior to every National Competition, the Tournament Convenor or his delegated Tournament Committee representative, is responsible for SAIDS Compliance and must check MDBMS to ensure that all entered players have uploaded their completed Acknowledgment & Compliance forms before accepting the entry.
8. It is also important to know the testing process, SAIDS outcome process and the hearing and appeal processes.
9. The different consequences for players in individual and team events are also important factors to take into consideration.

PREAMBLE

1. Drug-Free Sport programs are founded on the intrinsic value of sport. This intrinsic value is often referred to as "the spirit of sport": the ethical pursuit of human excellence through the dedicated perfection of each Athlete's natural talents.
2. Drug-Free Sport programs seek to protect the health of Athletes and to provide the opportunity for Athletes to pursue human excellence without the Use of Prohibited Substances and Prohibited Methods.

3. Drug-Free Sport programs seek to maintain the integrity of sport in terms of respect for rules, other competitors, fair competition, a level playing field, and the value of clean sport to the world.
4. The spirit of sport is the celebration of the human spirit, body and mind. It is the essence of Olympism and is reflected in the values we find in and through sport, including:
 - 4.1. Health
 - 4.2. Ethics, fair play and honesty
 - 4.3. Athletes' rights as set forth in the Code
 - 4.4. Excellence in performance
 - 4.5. Character and Education
 - 4.6. Fun and joy
 - 4.7. Teamwork
 - 4.8. Dedication and commitment
 - 4.9. Respect for rules and laws
 - 4.10. Respect for self and other Participants
 - 4.11. Courage
 - 4.12. Community and solidarity
5. The spirit of sport is expressed in how we play true.
6. Doping is fundamentally contrary to the spirit of sport.
7. This policy replaces all previous Bowls SA policies pertaining to Drug Free Sport.

INTRODUCTION

1. Bowls SA is a National Sporting Federation in South Africa and thus automatically accepts and abides by the SA Institute for Drug-Free Sport (SAIDS) Anti-Doping Rules (as amended from time to time). The World Anti-Doping Code (WADC) and related International Standards are the core documents produced by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) that provide the framework for the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules.
2. SAIDS was established as a statutory body by the South African Institute for [Drug-Free Sport Act no.14 of 1997](#) as amended by [Act no. 25 of 2006](#) with the objective of acting as the National Anti-Doping Organisation for South Africa.

3. As such, and in accordance with Article 20.5.1 of the WADC, SAIDS notably has the necessary authority and responsibility to be independent in its operational decisions and activities from sport and government. Without limitation, this includes the prohibition of any involvement in its operational decisions or activities by any Person who is at the same time involved in the management or operations of any International Federation, National Federation, Major Event Organisation, National Olympic Committee, National Paralympic Committee, or government department with responsibility for sport or anti-doping.
4. It should be noted that an anti-doping rule violation is not solely related to the use of Prohibited Substances and/Methods. There are 11 anti-doping rule violations. Please refer to “Article 2 - Anti-Doping Rule Violations” of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules.
5. The aim of this policy is to:
 - 5.1. Provide members with information regarding their and Bowls SA's obligations and responsibilities regarding participating in a Drug Free Sport.
 - 5.2. Describe the Bowls SA documents and processes in support of the principles of Drug-Free Sport.
 - 5.3. To describe the realities of the testing process of SAIDS and the possible outcomes.
6. This policy should be read in conjunction with the:
 - 6.1. 2021 SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules (<https://drugfreesport.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/SAIDS-ANTI-DOPING-RULES-2021.pdf>),
 - 6.2. 2021 World Bowls Anti-Doping Rules (<https://www.worldbowls.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2021-World-Bowls-Anti-Doping-Regulations-adopted-7Oct20.pdf>), and
 - 6.3. 2021 WADC (<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/what-we-do/world-anti-doping-code>) and related applicable International Standards.

WHO DOES THE POLICY APPLY TO?

7. The Bowls SA Drug-Free Sport Policy shall apply to:
 - 7.1. Bowls SA, including its Executive Committee members, National Standing Committees, other committees, who are involved in any aspect of Doping Control;
 - 7.2. Provincial/District Bowls Associations, Bowls SA Associate Members and Clubs, including their Executive Committee members, employees, and Delegated Third Parties and their employees, who are involved in any aspect of Doping Control;

7.3. The following Athletes, Athlete Support Personnel and other Persons (including Protected Persons), in each case, whether or not such Person is a national or resident of South Africa:

7.3.1. All Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who are Registered Individuals of Bowls SA, or of any Provincial/District Bowls Association, Associate Member of Bowls SA or Club;

7.3.2. All Athletes and Athlete Support Personnel who participate in such a capacity in Events, Competitions, and other activities organised, convened, authorised or recognized by Bowls SA, or of any Provincial/District Bowls Association, Associate Member of Bowls SA or Club, wherever held; and

7.3.3. Recreational Athletes, i.e. any Person who engages or participates in the Sport of Bowls as a “hobby” and does not compete in provincial, district, national or international level Competitions. Recreational Athletes do not include any Person who, within the five years prior to committing any anti-doping rule violation, has been an International-Level Athlete or National-Level Athlete, has represented South Africa or any country in an International Event in an **Open Category**¹ or has been included within any Registered Testing Pool or other whereabouts information pool maintained by any International Federation, SAIDS or other National Anti-Doping Organization.

8. Within the overall pool of Athletes set out above who are bound by and required to comply with the Bowls SA Drug-Free Sport Policy, the following Athletes shall be considered to be National-Level Athletes for the purposes of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules, and, therefore, the specific provisions in the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules applicable to National Level Athletes (e.g., Testing, TUEs, whereabouts, and Results Management) shall apply to such Athletes. While the below mentioned may be used as a guide as to which players are classified as national players, SAIDS shall have sole discretion to determine who will be classified as such:

8.1. Athletes included in the SAIDS Registered Testing Pool, Testing Pool or other pool, if any;

8.2. Athletes that participate in National Competitions or Events or in selection events for National Competitions or Events in identified sport codes. Although Bowls is not an identified sport code (according to the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules) the following events would be deemed to be the “selection events” for Bowls SA:

8.2.1. SA Open Nationals (Men & Ladies) (**Singles Event Only**);

¹ The term “open category” is meant to exclude competitions that are limited to junior or age group categories.

8.2.2. Bowls SA **Open Category** Inter-Districts Tournament (Men & Ladies);

8.2.3. Bowls SA Mixed Pairs Tournament;

8.2.4. Bowls SA **Open Category** Masters.

8.2.5. Bowls for Disabled SA Nationals

8.3. Athletes that represent South Africa internationally but are not included in World Bowls' Registered Testing Pool;

9. However, if any such Athletes are classified by World Bowls as International-Level Athletes then they shall be considered to be International-Level Athletes (and not National-Level Athletes) for purposes of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules.

RESPONSIBILITIES

10. Athletes/Individuals

10.1. Athletes/Individuals are to take note that “there is a lack of legislation and governance in the supplement industry locally and abroad – products can be advertised and sold with misleading claims, incorrect labelling, and lack of scientific-grade evidence of efficacy and safety. Despite the marketing hype and product claims, the fact remains that the majority of supplements on the market have not been tested according to proper scientific and objective standards, and their claims of superiority, efficacy and safety cannot be guaranteed.” Please see the SAIDS website for more information in this regard: <https://drugfreesport.org.za/supplements-and-their-risks/>

10.2. The once-off process to comply is as follows:

10.2.1. Complete and sign the SAIDS Acknowledgement and Compliance Form (See Attached).

10.2.2. The member needs to follow the Membership Data Base Management System (MDBMS) User Guidelines to enter details on and upload Drug-Free Sport compliance document to MDBMS.

10.3. The ongoing process to comply is as follows:

10.3.1. Check SAIDS online list of substances for any medications and any supplements you are using – make sure you check the names AND the ingredients. Only medications registered with the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) are listed. Checking the SAIDS medication list is only ONE step in the process. There are numerous other steps that need to be taken, hence when using medication an athlete MUST ALSO:

10.3.1.1. read the label of the product used (or otherwise ascertain the ingredients).

- 10.3.1.2. cross-check all the ingredients on the label with the list of prohibited substances.
- 10.3.1.3. make an internet search of the product.
- 10.3.1.4. ensure the product is reliably sourced.
- 10.3.1.5. consult appropriate experts in these matters and instruct them diligently before consuming the product.

Note: The online website is <http://www.drugfreesport.org.za/online-medication-check/> Mobile phone app: <http://drugfreesport.org.za/app/> Do not use any of the free app downloads. You must use the app from the Drug-free Sport website's home page.

- 10.3.2. If any substance(s) is/are on the in-competition or out-of-competition prohibited list, the member's Specialist Doctor (not a General Practitioner) needs to be consulted at the next appointment, with regard to finding an alternative product which is not on the prohibited list.
- 10.3.3. If use of an acceptable alternative is not available or is ineffective for the member's treatment, the Specialist Doctor needs to maintain a detailed record of the process used to illustrate that acceptable alternatives are unavailable or unacceptable for the member's use. This will be needed if the member is tested and a **retroactive** Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) application is made – see par 10.3.3.1 – 10.3.3.2 below. According to Article 4.1 of WADA's International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE) (https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/international_standard_for_therapeutic_use_exemptions_istue_2023.pdf), an Athlete, may be granted a TUE if (and only if) he/she can show, by a balance of probability, that each of the following conditions is met:
 - 10.3.3.1. The Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method in question is needed to treat a diagnosed medical condition supported by relevant clinical evidence.
 - 10.3.3.2. The Therapeutic Use of the Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method will not, on the balance of probabilities, 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 medical condition.

10.3.3.3. The Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method is an indicated treatment for the medical condition, and there is no reasonable permitted Therapeutic alternative.

10.3.3.4. 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.

Note: The WADA documents titled “TUE Physician Guidelines”, published on the [WADA Website](#) should be used to assist in the application of these criteria in relation to particular medical conditions.

10.3.4. Repeat steps as per par 10.3.1 to 10.3.3 regularly or with any change / addition to medication and/or supplements, to ensure that you remain compliant. The post-testing process to comply is as follows, if prohibited substances are found:

10.3.4.1. Download and complete the required Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) application, with supporting documents from the Specialist Doctor (<http://www.drugfreesport.org.za/tue-application-form-contacts/>).

10.3.4.2. Follow the instructions on the website to submit this completed application within the timeframe provided to the member by SAIDS.

10.3.5. According to the SAIDS TUE Policy, no TUE application may be submitted directly to SAIDS at all until **AFTER** the member has been tested, as for Bowls SA members, this process is retroactive – i.e. after the member has been tested positive for prohibited substances. (This does not mean an athlete cannot contact SAIDS for assistance or guidance beforehand). Please note that any adverse effects experienced by a member undergoing the above process is not the responsibility or liability of Bowls SA or World Bowls Inc.

10.3.6. An Athlete should not assume that their application for the grant or recognition of a TUE (or for renewal of a TUE) will be granted. Any Use or Possession or Administration of a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method before an application has been granted is entirely at the Athlete’s own risk. Please remember, just because an Athlete CAN apply for a TUE does not mean it will be granted.

11. District

11.1. To support the player-compliance process, it is the responsibility of each District to annually apply to SAIDS for the hosting of an Anti-Doping Workshop

for all their players. There is no cost involved – SAIDS provides the facilitator and any hand-out material required – the District needs to provide the venue and ensure maximum player attendance. <http://drugfreesport.org.za/anti-doping-education-workshop-request-form/>

- 11.2. Once a workshop has been arranged and held within a District, information regarding date, venue, facilitator name and registration list should be entered into the MDBMS for compliance recordkeeping purposes. Note: The workshop must be held annually to ensure that on-going education is provided for players entering the arena.

12. Coaches

- 12.1. Coaches must ensure that any players for whom they are responsible are aware of compliance requirements and should keep a record of the communication. The purpose of this is to protect the coaches as well as inform the players, as in reality, the coaches cannot prevent players from not complying and the coaches need to protect themselves from being jointly implicated, should the player test positive for a prohibited substance. Coaches can only be jointly implicated if they are complicit to an Anti-Doping Rule Violation or they themselves commit an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

13. Bowls SA SAIDS Compliance Portfolio

- 13.1. Prior to every National Competition, the Tournament Convenor or his delegated Tournament Committee representative, is responsible for SAIDS Compliance and must check MDBMS to ensure that all entered players have uploaded their completed Acknowledgment & Compliance forms before accepting the entry. This check must also be done by the National Academy for all members of the Gold Squad members and all selections for International competitions, prior to publication.
- 13.2. Should SAIDS-appointed Sample Collection Personnel (SCP) arrive at any of the National competitions, the Tournament Convenor or his delegated Tournament Committee representative, is obliged to comply with all requests and should download any pre-existing TUE certificates stored online for any of the tested players.

SAIDS TESTING PROCESS

14. Article 5 of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules – 2021 spells out the testing process:
 - 14.1. Who - “SAIDS shall determine the number of finishing placement tests, random tests and target tests to be performed in accordance with the criteria established by the International Standard for Testing and Investigations.”

- 14.2. When - “SAIDS may require any Athlete over whom it has Testing authority to provide a sample at any time and at any place.” This includes in-competition testing at any BSA event as well as out-of-competition tests.
- 14.3. Players should familiarise themselves with the details of the current testing process on the WADA website (https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/isti_2023_w_annex_k_final_clean.pdf) in order to ensure that they know their rights, obligations and their responsibilities - Please refer to Part Two: Standards for Testing. Note: A player may nominate a coach/manager to accompany him/her during the testing process.

SAIDS OUTCOME PROCESS

15. Once the sample has been tested by a WADA-accredited laboratory, the results are reviewed by the SAIDS appointed Doping Control Review Commission (Article 7 of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules – 2021). If the results include the presence of a prohibited substance, SAIDS will contact the member and allow for a retroactive TUE application to be submitted with all the necessary specialist history, check whether an approved TUE certificate can be granted and not to proceed with an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

HEARING & APPEAL PROCESS

16. If the result is adverse – i.e. the presence of a prohibited substance without an approved TUE certificate have been found – the athlete, the athlete’s National and International Federations and WADA are informed of the basis for the finding. The athlete can request a Provisional Hearing, as per Article 7.4.3 of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules – 2021, after receiving the notification and may or may not be suspended from playing until the final outcome is published or may waive the right to a hearing and accept the consequences. An athlete will be mandatorily provisionally suspended if it is a non-Specified Substance and if it is a Specified Substance, they will be presented an opportunity to accept a voluntary provisional suspension. A player can apply for a provisional hearing for the upliftment of a suspension only if they comply with the criteria. The right to a provisional hearing is NOT absolute. A provisional hearing is also different to an expedited hearing.

17. The Hearing process is described in Article 8 of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules – 2021 with the Doping Hearing Panel observing the principles of natural justice. The results of the Panel will be to issue a written, dated decision and must be publicly published if a violation was committed; otherwise, this will only be publicly disclosed with the consent of the athlete. Furthermore, in terms of Article 14.3.4 of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules – 2021, the fact that there was no Anti-Doping Rule Violation WILL be disclosed, only the decision will not be disclosed.

18. See Article 13 of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules – 2021 for information pertaining to the Appeals Procedure.

BOWLS SA RESPONSIBILITIES TO AN ANTI_DOPING RULE VIOLATION

19. This process must be followed once the post-testing process of submission of the retroactive TUE application, hearing and subsequent sanction has been officially reported to Bowls SA by SAIDS.

19.1. Publication of Result. A circular must be published with the name and violation of the player / team and the consequences, no later than 20 days after receiving the notice of consequences from SAIDS, as determined in the first instance hearing of the Independent Doping Hearing Panel and/or the appeal has been waived.

19.2. Player Consequences

19.2.1. Singles - An anti-doping rule violation in Singles in connection with an In-Competition test automatically leads to Disqualification of the result obtained in that Competition with all resulting Consequences, including forfeiture of any medals, points and prizes.

19.2.2. Team Events – If two (2) or more members of a team in a Team Sport are found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation during an Event Period, the ruling body of the Event shall impose an appropriate sanction on the team (e.g., loss of points, Disqualification from a Competition or Event, or other sanction) in addition to any Consequences imposed upon the individual Athletes committing the anti-doping rule violation. (See Article 11 of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules – 2021 for further information to additional consequences).

19.2.3. Additional Consequences for the Individual Player – See Article 10 – Sanctions on Individuals of the SAIDS Anti-Doping Rules – 2021 for full details in this regard.

19.3. Coach or Manager Consequences. If it is determined via his/her own hearing process that a Coach or Manager committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation the member may not operate in any capacity at any level for the duration of the sanction/suspension. In addition SAIDS may charge the Coach/Manager and/or Athlete Support Personnel with an anti-doping rule violation.

Drug-Free-Sport: Acknowledgement and Compliance



Player's Information

First Name(s): Click to enter your first name(s).		Surname: Click to enter your surname.
ID No / Passport No	Click here to enter	Bowls SA No: Click to enter your number
District: Click on down-arrow to select.		Club: Click to enter your club's name.
Mobile No: Click to enter your mobile no.		Email Address: Click to enter your email address.
Physical Home Address: Click to enter your address.		
Do you have any medical condition that we need to be aware of? (click on appropriate box to select) If YES, please list condition(s) Click to enter your condition(s)		Yes ☐ /No ☐
Do you take any prescribed / off-the-shelf medication or supplements on a regular or intermittent basis? If YES, have you checked whether the <u>individual ingredients</u> of each substance is on the CURRENT banned substance list? If YES, please list medication(s) and/or supplements Click to enter your medication(s)/supplement(s)		Yes ☐ /No ☐ Yes ☐ /No ☐
If YES to the any of the above, have you complied with the SAIDS requirements?		Yes ☐ /No ☐

Player's Acknowledgement of Obligations

- I hereby confirm that the above information is correct. - I hereby acknowledge my responsibility to ensure that the above information as well as contact information recorded on the Bowls SA Membership Database, are kept up to date at all times. - I hereby acknowledge that I have read Bowls SA Drug-Free Sport Policy (available on www.bowlssa.co.za) and understand the content. - I hereby acknowledge that it is my responsibility to monitor all substances consumed to ensure that I remain in compliance with WADA, SAIDS & Bowls SA requirements to maintain the sport of Lawn Bowls as a Drug-Free-Sport.		
Signature of Player	Signature of Witness	Date: Click to select today's date.
Witness First Name(s): Click to enter the Witness's first name(s).	Witness Surname: Click to enter the Witness's surname.	Witness Contact Details: Click to enter phone no & email address.

FOR ADMIN USE ONLY

Entered by:	Date: 20__/__/__
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