

**Chorley Panthers Illegal Substances Policy**

Chorley Panthers Rugby League Club (‘The Club’). has a duty of care to provide a safe and healthy environment to all its members and visitors.

The aims of this policy are to promote a safe, healthy and responsible Club environment, free from illegal substances. This policy applies to all members, their guests, visitors and those responsible for and attending private hires (by both members and non-members.

 **Purpose of this document**

This document is designed to provide guidance to members on the club’s stance on illegal substance use and the possible sanctions for anyone who does not abide by the club rules.

The club does not believe there is an inherent problem with drug use/abuse among the membership but wants the position to be clear to all members and visitors. Therefore the Club has a “Zero Tolerance” towards the use, distributing or preparing of illegal substances at the Club.

**Chorley Panthers RLFC and at Club related activities**

The Club jurisdiction includes the Club premises as well as all activities organized by or for the Club at any location or venue. Club jurisdiction extends to all members wearing club colours or representing the Club in public at any location and includes formal, casual or playing kit.

If the person involved is a non-member attending a club function/club event, then they will be subject to a life ban from attending the club or any club functions and the matter will be referred to the Police.

A player or member may face immediate suspension from all club activity if they are found or caught using or supplying or preparing illegal substances at the Club or at any club occasion or event.

Cases may (probably will) be referred to the Police by the Committee in order that criminal matters can be considered.

A club member convicted of drugs offences outside the club may still be subject to club disciplinary proceedings.

The Club Chair or their representative will be responsible for the management of all illicit drug related incidents. The Club Committee including the Safeguarding / Welfare Officer will support the Chairman as required.

All incidents involving illegal substances will be referred to the Club Committee for the relevant sanction to be applied.

Each case will be determined on its own merits.

All levels of sanction can be considered in drug use and/or supply cases up to an including a lifetime ban from the Club and Club grounds.

Standard of Proof: The Committee will apply the civil standard of proof at the hearing (Balance of probability).

If the person involved is a non-member attending a Club function/Club event, then they will be subject to a life ban from attending the Club or any Club functions and the matter will be referred to the Police.

The Committee decision will be final. The individual(s) may be permitted to address the Committee at the hearing.

The Club may occasionally run drugs awareness education sessions for all age-grade players age groups U16 to senior. This will cover performance enhancing and recreational drugs and will be delivered by a consultant. This training will be appropriate to the age of the persons attending and Parents may be invited to attend. See list below of help groups.

**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

Club personnel will be informed on a restricted basis only 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 will be notified if the Club is aware (or strongly believes) they are using or supplying illegal drugs.

If the member is aged over 18 years, the Club will decide whether contacting parents or guardian is in the best interests of the individual.

**Publicity**

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

**Managing illegal substance incidents**

Where a Club member becomes aware that illicit drug use is occurring at the Club or within its jurisdiction, the member should pass on this information to a coach, team manager or member of the Committee.

Should the need arise, the Club will sanction the individual(s) in line with the Club’s rules and policies.

The Club Chair or their representative will:

* Speak confidentially with the individual(s), expressing concern about their drug use;
* Remind the individual(s) of the club policy and ask for a commitment that it will not happen again;
* Offer options for support and referral for counselling or other help;
* Leave the door open for further communication with the individual(s) concerned;
* Inform the Club Committee in the event of non-compliance.

If an individual(s) is found to be under the influence of either *legal* or illegal drugs at the Club, at a Club function or whilst representing the Club, the Club has a responsibility to:

* Ensure the health and safety of the individual(s);
* Keep the individual under supervision and monitor them at regular intervals until fully recovered;
* Seek medical assistance if necessary;
* Arrange safe transport to take them home, to a hospital or a place of safety.
* Confiscate any remaining drugs unless this involves risk;
* Contact police. if the individual(s) becomes violent or aggressive,
* Inform the Club Chair or club officer as soon as possible.

**Policy review**

The policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant to club operations and reflects both community expectations and legal requirements.

**Recreational drugs, alcohol and addiction**

List of organisations who offer support for recreational drug and alcohol addiction.

* Mind - [Home - Mind](https://www.mind.org.uk/)

#### Change Grow Live - [changegrowlive.org](https://www.changegrowlive.org/)Find information and local support services for alcohol and drug use. Also offers support for mental wellbeing, and issues like housing and work.

#### FRANK - 0300 123 6600 - [talktofrank.com](https://www.talktofrank.com/)Confidential advice and information about drugs, their effects and the law.

* **Cocaine Anonymous UK -** 0800 612 0225 - helpline@cauk.org.uk - cauk.org.uk

Help and support for anyone who wants to stop using cocaine.

* **We Are With You -** wearewithyou.org.uk

Supports people with drug, alcohol or mental health problems, and their friends and family.

***Chorley Panthers RLFC Committee – 13th May 2024***