

SOCIAL DRUGS TESTING

FOR PLAYERS



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WHAT?

- Social drugs are banned at all times by The FA.
- Social drugs testing will take place separately and in addition to Anti-Doping testing from the 21/22 season.



HOW?



Testing will take place at training grounds and at home addresses.



An FA Supervising Officer (FASO) will arrive along with officials from the appointed agency (Abbott Toxicology).



Hair samples will be the primary method of collection, with urine also collected where necessary – you **do not** have a choice of which sample to provide.



WHY?



Social drugs can be damaging to a player's health as well as to the reputation of the game.



There will be an increased focus on providing courses of education, counselling and treatment to rehabilitate players who have become involved with social drugs.



Hair testing allows for a quicker, less intrusive process and an increased detection window.

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REMEMBER

- Always follow the instructions of the officials.
- Report promptly to the drug testing station when required.
- Do not refuse or evade a social drugs test.

FAQ'S

What are Social Drugs?

Social drugs include the following; Amphetamine, cannabis, cocaine, heroin, ketamine, LSD, mephedrone, methadone, methylamphetamine, MDEA, MDMA/ecstasy.



What if I have very short hair or shave my head?

If it is not possible to cut a hair sample from a single location on the head, it can be taken from multiple locations. If you have very short hair or shave your head, a sample of hair can be collected from another site on the body. Failing this, a urine sample may be taken.

What if a player refuses to provide a sample or evades a social drugs test?

The sanction will be more severe than a positive test with a suspension in the range of 4 - 12 months for a first offence.

What is the sanction if a player tests positive?

For a first offence a player will receive a warning and be required to complete a course of education and/or counselling. In addition a fine may be imposed. For any subsequent breach, the starting point will be a 3 month suspension.

Will I be chaperoned throughout the process?

When tested for social drugs you will not be chaperoned from the point of being notified through to providing a sample. However, you must ensure you listen to the officials and provide a sample when requested to.

FAQ'S

What else do I need to know about sample collection?

You will be asked to provide some form of photo ID, such as a passport or driver's licence so it can be verified that the sample has been taken from the correct person. If you do not have ID available, you can be identified by a 3rd party e.g. a club official. You will also be required to document any medications and supplements you have taken recently.

What happens to a sample once it is taken?

Once a sample has been taken and packaged correctly it is returned to the laboratory for testing. Ordinarily, any positive results will be reported within 10 days from sample collection.



Who do I ask if I have any questions or wish to provide any feedback at a social drugs test?

Any questions or feedback should be raised with the FASO present at the test.

Will players still undergo anti-doping tests?

Yes, there will still be routine anti-doping testing conducted by UK Anti-Doping where they will collect urine and/or blood samples. You can be tested at anytime, including at training, at a fixture and at your home address. Remember, on an anti-doping test you will be chaperoned from the point of notification until they complete the process.