



# BC RUGBY DRUG-FREE POLICY

**BOARD APPROVED: FEBRUARY 8, 2020**



## Contents

1. Background
2. Policy Objective
3. Definition
4. Policy Statement
5. Policy Application
6. Supporting Policies
7. Review



## 1. Background

1.1 In accordance with the World Rugby [Regulation 21](#), British Columbia Rugby Union (BC Rugby) seeks to eradicate the use of prohibited substances in our sport. A list of prohibited substances can be [viewed here](#).

1.2 The provincial and federal governments have endorsed an Anti-Doping program for all BC athletes.

1.3 The government of Canada legalized cannabis on October 17, 2018. Athletes must be aware that this does not affect the status of cannabis in rugby. Cannabis continues to be a prohibited substance and a positive test can still result in a sanction. ([Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport](#))

## 2. Policy Objective

2.1 The purpose of this document is to clearly inform all BC Rugby athletes, coaches, staff, and members about the BC Rugby Drug-Free Policy.

## 3. Definition

3.1 BC Rugby accepts and adopts the World Rugby violations definition of 'doping' from Section 21. 2 of Regulation 21. Doping is recognized as the intentional or inadvertent use, by whatever means, by an athlete of a substance or procedure which can enhance athletic performance before or during a competition.

## 4. Policy Statement

4.1 BC Rugby is opposed on ethical, medical, and legal grounds, to the practice of 'doping' in sport and fully supports the position of Sport Canada, the Canadian Olympic Association, the International Olympic Committee, World Rugby and Rugby Canada regarding the use of prohibited substances.



**4.2** The use, possession or trafficking of prohibited substances or procedures; the encouragement or counseling to use prohibited substances or procedures; or taking measures to mask detection of prohibited substances or procedures by any member of, or person associated with, BC Rugby is unacceptable and constitutes a doping violation.

**4.3** It is each player's personal duty to ensure that no prohibited substance enters his or her body. Players are responsible for any prohibited substance or its metabolites or markers found to be present in their samples. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, fault, negligence or knowing use on the player's part be demonstrated in order to establish an anti-doping rule violation.

**4.4** If for therapeutic reasons any player is on medically prescribed drugs that are prohibited substances, the player must obtain, complete, and submit a therapeutic use exemption (TUE) application form from the World Anti-Doping Agency website as soon as the need arises (the application form can be viewed here). The application form must be submitted to, and approved by, BC Rugby before any player using medically prescribed drugs that are prohibited substances can participate in any game or other BC Rugby event.

## **5. Policy Application**

**5.1** This policy applies to all BC Rugby owned and sanctioned events, competitions, programs and teams.

**5.2** This policy applies to all BC Rugby Team members, coaching staff, administration staff, medical support personnel and others associated with the BC Rugby Teams' operations.

## **6. Supporting Policies**

**6.1** This policy is supported by the following BC Rugby Internal policies:

- (a) BC Rugby Code of Conduct
- (b) BC Rugby Team Selection Policies

**6.2** This policy is supported by the following BC Rugby External policies:

- (a) [World Anti-Doping Agency – Therapeutic Use Exemptions](#)



- (b) [WADA TUE Application Form](#)
- (c) [World Rugby Regulation 21 \(Anti-Doping Policy\)](#)
- (d) [Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport – Cannabis in Sport](#)

## 7. Review

7.1 This policy shall be reviewed annually, as required and appropriate, by the Governance Committee, who shall recommend revisions to the BC Rugby Board of Directors for their consideration.