



NORTHEND UNITED YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB BALLYMENA Established 2003

Northend United Youth Football Drug and Alcohol Policy

NEUFC – DS01

Northend United Youth Football Club (hereinafter known as the Club) believe that we need to work towards creating a safe, healthy club environment where we can develop the skills and attitudes necessary to cope with drug and alcohol related issues. All Club members, officials, team managers coaches and volunteers shall follow the law when it comes to illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco and shall display leadership and good example.

1.0) Definition of Drugs

For the purpose of this policy the term “drug” shall include all mood altering substances, both legal and illegal and involved substances.

2.0) Aims and Objectives

The aim of this policy is to ensure that all club members are kept safe from drug-related harm when involved in club activities.

- 2.1) To develop a consistent approach to drug-related issues to be adopted by all club members.
- 2.2) To develop procedures and protocols that address drug-related issues in the Club.
- 2.3) To establish clear procedures for managing specific incidents of suspected drug misuse.

3.0) List of Recommended Actions

The Club shall take the following actions to counteract Drug and Alcohol Abuse:

- Coaches and Club Officials shall not drink alcohol while representing their club at matches or training sessions.
- Awards Nights shall not be held in pubs, unless all children/young persons are supervised by a parent/guardian
- Under 18's shall not be brought to pubs on the way home from matches, outings or training sessions.
- No alcohol sponsorship shall be allowed on Club jerseys.

All persons associated with the Club can help prevent drug-related harm from occurring during club activities as follows:

Club Members

All members are to be made aware of and adhere to the Club policy in relation to drugs.

Parents and Guardians

Support the Club in the development and implementation of this policy including procedures for handling incidents of suspected drug misuse.

Coaches

Be aware of the possibility of drug misuse among players and pass on concerns with the aim of preventing harm.

Club Chairperson and Executive

All relevant information or suspected substances found or received shall be forwarded to the Club Chairperson who shall consult with the necessary parties before taking relevant action based on this policy. In the event of the Chairperson not being available to discharge these duties this responsibility will then automatically fall to the Vice Chairperson or Secretary.

4.0) Education Programme about Drugs and Alcohol Abuse

The Club shall arrange for a drug education programme for members, players and parents as appropriate. This drug education programme may include the promotion of this club policy, provision of literature, workshops or information sessions.

The Club Chairperson and Executive Committee shall arrange to provide age appropriate drug education every 2nd year for young people associated with the Club.

5.0) Protocol for Dealing with Drug Misuse

The Club shall endeavour to respond to all drug-related incidents in a firm but fair manner, with due respect for the safety and welfare of individuals involved, other members of the club and the wider community. We shall also fulfil any legal obligations that might apply.

5.1) Outline of Restrictions

The misuse or supply of drugs is viewed as unacceptable by the Club and is punishable by warnings, suspensions and expulsions as deemed appropriate. It is also unacceptable for members or officials to present for club duties while under the influence of a drug.

5.2) Reporting of Incidents

Alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy shall be referred to the Club Chairperson or nominee, using the Disciplinary Guidelines contained in NEUFC – EQ01 Equality Policy

5.3) Recording of Information

Information regarding alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy shall be recorded in writing. The recording of factual information is preferable and all opinions

shall be stated as such. Responses to cases shall also be recorded in this way. Only in confirmed cases shall names of individuals be recorded.

5.4) Confidentiality

While every effort shall be made to respect confidentiality, it may not be always be possible to guarantee confidentiality in relation to drug-related incidents. Involving Parents/Guardians Incidents involving any person under 18 years of age will require their parents/guardians to be informed. Parents/guardians shall be invited to discuss what has happened and shall be informed of any course of action to be taken by the club. The Club Chairperson or nominee shall form parents/guardians on a case by case basis.

5.5) PSNI Involvement

Incidents that involve the illegal supply of drugs shall require PSNI involvement. In all other drug- related incidents, each case shall be considered on an individual basis and the decision shall rest with the Club Chairperson as to whether or not the police are involved.

5.6) Searching Policy

The Club Chairperson retain the right to direct a search of any part of club property if there is reasonable cause to believe a substance in breach of this policy is contained therein. Two officials of the club shall be present during any form of search. Club Officials are not allowed to search an individual or their personal property. Where there is reasonable cause to believe a person has in their possession a substance in breach of this policy, they shall be asked to volunteer the substance. If they refuse, the PSNI may be called in to conduct a search.

5.7) Disposing of Suspected Illegal Substances

If a suspected illegal substance is found on club property it shall be brought to the attention of the Club Chairperson. The substance shall be stored securely and the Club Chairperson shall then decide whether the PSNI should be called to collect it, or whether it should be disposed of. Any disposal of suspected illegal substances shall be recorded and witnessed by two officials. At no time shall a suspected illegal substance be removed from club property by anyone other than the PSNI.

6.0) Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy is in force at all times and during all activities conducted by the Club. This policy shall be evaluated annually and after every drug-related incident. This policy shall come into effect and shall be reviewed annually thereafter by the Club Development Officer in conjunction with the Club Chairperson.