

Comparison of all Sports on Drugs in Sport

What do Australian sporting organisations do to combat the use of steroids and other performance enhancing drugs?

All major Australian sports comply with the WADA Code

Under WADA, drug testing consists of:

- In competition (match day) testing for performance-enhancing drugs and illicit drugs.
- Out of competition (365 days a year) testing ONLY for performance-enhancing drugs. There is no WADA testing for illicit drugs outside of competition.

What do sporting organisations do to combat illicit drug use?

- Match Day or In Competition: The AFL has joined with other major sporting codes in adopting the WADA Code for testing and sanctioning for match day use of illicit drugs (e.g. ecstasy, cocaine, marijuana). Any player in any major sport who tested positive for cocaine on match day would be automatically suspended for two years.
- Out of Competition: The AFL is the only Australian national sporting organisation to have a system to detect illicit drug users and provide help and counselling to change their behaviour. The system also allows for the players to be sanctioned (i.e. suspended, as well as counselled.)

The AFL is the only sporting competition in Australia that has a policy of testing and sanctioning players for illicit drug use outside of competition.

SPORTS CODE	TYPES OF DRUG	IN COMPETITION (match day testing) All major Australian Sports comply with the WADA Code	OUT OF COMPETITION
AFL	Illicit Drugs	2 years	Tested for illicit drugs. A third positive test results in ban of up to 12 matches.
	Steroids and other performance enhancing drugs	2 years	2 years
Other Football Codes – eg NRL, ARU, FFA	Illicit drugs	2 years	No Testing*
	Steroids and other performance enhancing drugs	2 years	2 years
Olympic Sports – eg swimming, athletics, cycling	Illicit Drugs	2 Years	No Testing
	Steroids and other performance enhancing drugs	2 years	2 years

- Illicit Drugs include cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamine, marijuana etc.
- Steroids include all performance enhancing drugs and masking agents etc.
- Some NRL Clubs conduct in-house tests. NRL currently considering adopting an Illicit Drug policy. (Updated March 26, 2007)