

# Tolland Football Club Incorporated

A.B.N. 12 521 354 921

P.O. Box 2026, Wagga Wagga. NSW. 2650

## Tolland Football Club Alcohol Policy

### **Rationale:**

#### **Effects on Reflexes:**

Contrary to popular belief alcohol is a depressant drug that dampens the reflex mechanisms. This results in a calming of hand together with the psychological side effect of boosting confidence by, in some cases, depressing fears and masking inhibitions.

#### **Body Effects:**

The effect of alcohol on the body varies between each person and circumstances. The following immediate effects of alcohol are registered in all people to a varying extent depending on the volume consumed, the physiology and circumstances at the time:

- Loss of inhibitions
- Flushing and dizziness
- General impairment of brain and nervous system functions
- Loss of co-ordination to varying degrees
- Slower reactions
- Aggression

#### **Excess**

Soccer Australia and Tolland Football Club is cognisant of the potential danger of accidental injury in the sport of soccer. In extreme circumstances a soccer player under the influence of excessive alcohol could place other participating players and spectators at risk.

## **Policy**

### **Juniors and Under Eighteens Players:**

Tolland football Club has a strong policy for all junior and under aged registered players drinking alcohol at any club functions, matches or training activities. This is an illegal activity and must not be tolerated. Under aged players registered to the Tolland Football Club drinking alcohol at any activity associated with our club will receive severe penalties and risk being de-registered.

Any under eighteen player registered with our club attending club matches, training sessions, club functions under the influence of alcohol risks severe penalties and possible de-registration. All players should take note of what won't be tolerated at the Tolland Football Club in regard to alcohol consumption (see below).

The club acknowledges that some families might have different values concerning alcohol consumption but our club has a definite zero tolerance to under aged drinking of alcohol at any associated Tolland Football Club activity. The club has a duty of care and legal obligation to enforce this policy.

### **Alcohol and Over Eighteen Registered Players:**

The Tolland Football Club is hopeful that our over eighteen registered players will act responsibly with alcohol before any matches or training sessions. We are also hopeful that all players will be responsible with alcohol consumption at club functions and not cause the club or themselves any unnecessary embarrassment due to excessive consumption of alcohol.

The club respects the privacy and rights of all registered over eighteen players to consume alcohol. The club also expects our over aged registered players to be sensible about alcohol consumption before matches and not let their team mates or club down by consuming excessive amounts. The club does have a firm policy about the following:

- Registered players turning up to matches or training sessions clearly under the influence of alcohol.
- Players consuming alcohol at training sessions or matches that their names appear on the official team sheet.
- Clear evidence of excessive alcohol consumption before training or matches.
- Well below playing performances that can't be explained by; injury, sickness tiredness, personal issues or superior opposition. If the below par playing performance can be conclusively linked to excessive alcohol consumption prior to the game the player involved may risk penalties.
- Extremely late withdrawals from games that players have been selected for that can be conclusively linked to excessive alcohol consumption.

- Excessive alcohol consumption at club functions that result in breaking laws or bringing the club into disrepute. These cases would have to be extreme but players must be aware of possible penalties if they are alcohol related.

## **What Happens If You Breach This Policy?**

It is a breach of this Policy for any person or organisation to which this Policy applies, to do anything contrary to this Policy. The club executive classifies a breach of this policy to be either minor or major. Minor offences always start at step one while a major breach of policy goes straight to step two.

The Club may impose disciplinary sanctions on members, players, officials, volunteers or supporters in accordance with the stated recommendations of this policy not being implemented/followed and may implement the following maximum sanctions:

**Step one:** For minor incidents of breaching this policy the offender concerned is warned and their inappropriate behaviour explained by the Club representatives. This will always involve a clear warning not to repeat a further policy breach. The offender will clearly understand that if further policy breaches occur they will receive some sanctions stated in the Media Policy. The incident is recorded. A written notification will be supplied to the offender.

**Step two:** Following a second incident of any breach of this policy the same offender (name already recorded) the offender will be given one of the sanction/s outlined below.

- (a) the imposition of a fine (maximum \$200);
- (b) suspension up to a maximum of 12 Matches; or
- (c) expulsion from the Tolland Football Club (delisted as a registered player or official)
- (d) ban from attending club matches, training sessions, club events/fund raisers or club outings (maximum 12 weeks/matches).

## **NOTICE AND DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

The Club may enforce the terms of this policy and invoke the sanctions only if it has given the party alleged to have infringed this policy:

- (a) reasonable details of the alleged infringement;
- (b) notice of possible sanctions; and
- (c) the opportunity to be heard in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.

The imposition of a sanction is immediate or as otherwise notified by the

party imposing the sanction.

If a Member disputes the sanction or purported action taken under this policy that party may appeal in accordance with the Grievance Resolution Regulations (outlined in the club constitution) provided that it does so within 7 business days of notice of the sanction.

### **What Can I Do If I'm Issued With Any Of The Above Sanctions?**

Accept the issued sanction or seek advice from club officials, the Club MPIO officer or other sources to lodge an appeal as stated in the grievances procedures written in the club constitution.

TFC Committee  
2017