

Eastern Harps Drug



and Alcohol Policy

Eastern Harps Gaa Club are committed as part of their overall philosophy to discourage the misuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco that will adversely affect the quality of life of our members.

Developed by: Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Committee : Ross Donovan, Linda Hannon, Des Horan, Ciaran McGovern	Date Approved:
Approved by: Club Executive and Chairperson	Review Date: Annual

Eastern Harps Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention (A.S.A.P) Committee have developed this local policy to work towards creating a safe and healthy environment where members can develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to cope with drug, alcohol and other addictions.

- Definition of Drugs

For the purpose of this policy the term “Drug” will include all mood altering substances, both legal and illegal and involve substances such as:

- ❖ **Alcohol, tobacco and prescribed drugs e.g. Antibiotics, inhalers painkillers**
- ❖ **Volatile substances such as aerosols, glues and petrol**
- ❖ **Products and substances sold online that cause intoxication**
- ❖ **Performance enhancing drugs as outlined by the World Anti Doping Agency**
- ❖ **Over the counter medicines such as paracetamol, anti-histamines and cough medicines**
- ❖ **Controlled drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy and cocaine etc.**

- Aims and Objectives

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

Our Objectives are:

- To develop a consistent approach to drug related issues
- To educate and make members aware of the dangers of addiction
- To make members aware of signs of drug addiction in themselves and in others
- To develop ways to address drug related issues within our club
- To establish clear procedures for managing drug-related incidents

- Guidelines

- ✓ **Cups/Trophies shall not be filled with alcohol during celebrations**
- ✓ **It is advised that any persons transporting club members to matches to refrain from smoking**
- ✓ **Coaches/Officials should not smoke or drink alcohol openly during matches or training sessions**
- ✓ **Coaches/Officials should not bring players under 18 years of age to pubs on way home from matches, training sessions, outings except where restaurant facilities are being used.**
- ✓ **Alcohol shall not be served at club functions for players less than 18 years of age**
- ✓ **It is recommended that underage medal presentations/end of year celebrations take place at activity centres such as Forest Park Boyle, Bowling, Paintballing, Cinema etc.**
- ✓ **Members, officials, coaches and volunteers shall not present themselves at club activities while under the influence of any drug**
- ✓ **Alcohol is not permitted in dressing rooms**
- ✓ **Many solvent based products have the potential to be abused (e.g. deodorants, paints, cleaning fluids etc.) and these solvent based materials should be stored securely away from public access.**
- ✓ **It is envisioned to organise Annual Drug Education Workshops with local professionals to promote awareness within our club**
- ✓ **All players should notify their manager of any underlying medical condition for which they may be taking prescribed drugs (Confidentiality will be maintained at all times)**
- ✓ **All coaches will be aware of the possibility of drug misuse among players and work with the A.S.A.P committee with the aim of preventing harm.**

- **Role of the A.S.A.P Committee**

- The A.S.A.P committee are responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and evaluation of this policy in conjunction with the club Executive committee.
- The A.S.A.P committee will have a good knowledge of local drug, alcohol and health promotion services in order to organise drug prevention, education and response activities as needs arise.
- Notice of relevant information or suspected substances found shall be forwarded to our Club Executive, who shall consult with various parties before taking the relevant action based upon this policy.
- Eastern Harps Club A.S.A.P Officer is Ross Donovan (Phone No: 0876107700).

- **Protocol for dealing with Drug Misuse**

- ✓ The A.S.A.P committee will endeavour to respond to all drug related incidents in a firm but fair manner.
- ✓ Confidentiality will be maintained at all times in dealing with these sensitive issues
- ✓ The misuse or supply of drugs is viewed as unacceptable by Eastern Harps Gaa Club and breaches of our guidelines are dealt with in the following order, or as deemed necessary
 1. Warnings
 2. Suspensions
 3. Expulsions
- ✓ Information regarding alleged or confirmed incidents in breach of this policy shall be recorded in writing. Only in confirmed cases shall names of individuals be recorded.
- ✓ Incidents involving any person under 18 years of age will require their parents/guardians to be informed. Parents/guardians will be invited to discuss what has happened and shall be informed of any course of action to be taken by the A.S.A.P committee and the Club Executive. The Club Chairperson shall nominate a person to inform parents/guardians in each case.
- ✓ Incidents that involve the illegal supply or misuse of drugs will require Garda Siochana involvement, however in all other incidents each case will be considered in an individual basis and the decision will rest the Club Chairperson as to whether the Garda siochana become involved.
- ✓ The Club Chairperson retains the right to direct a search of any property under the jurisdiction of Eastern Harps Gaa Club if there is reasonable cause to believe a substance in breach of this policy is contained therein. Officials are not allowed to search an individual or their personal property. Where there is reasonable belief a person has in their possession a substance in breach of this policy they shall be asked

to volunteer the substance. If this request is refused the garda siochana may be asked to conduct a search.

- ✓ If a suspected illegal substance is found on a property under the jurisdiction of Eastern Harps Gaa Club it will be brought to the attention of the Club Chairperson and the Club A.S.A.P officer. The substance shall be temporarily stored securely and the Club Chairman will then decide if the Garda Siochana will be called to collect it. 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 the property without the knowledge of the Garda Siochana.

This policy is in force at all times and during all activities conducted under the aegis of Cumann Luthchleas Gael. This Policy will be evaluated annually and after every drug related incident. This policy will come into effect on / / and will be reviewed annually thereafter by the A.S.A.P committee in conjunction with the club executive.

Signed _____ (Chairperson) Signed _____ (A.S.A.P Officer)

Date _____/_____/_____ Date _____/_____/_____

USEFUL CONTACTS: (Sligo Area)

- **HSE Alcohol and Substance Counselling Service**

Services: Outpatient | Aftercare | Counselling | Advice & information | Employee Assistance Programme | Treats alcohol, drugs & prescription drug addiction in teens and adults | Covers Co. Sligo and Co. Leitrim

Address: Day Centre, The Rock, Ballymote, Co. Sligo, Sligo

Phone: 071 918 3002

- **HSE Alcohol and Substance Misuse Counselling Service**

Services: Comprehensive Assessment | Care planned counseling | Motivational Interviewing | Some group work | Shared care liaison work with General Practitioners | Referral to residential treatment | Support services for concerned persons of alcohol/drug users

Address: Tubbercurry Health Centre, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo, Sligo

Phone: 071 918 5966

- **HSE West Alcohol & Substance Misuse Counselling Service**

Services: Comprehensive Assessment | Care planned counseling | Motivational Interviewing | Some group work | Shared care liaison work with General Practitioners | Referral to residential treatment | Support services for concerned persons of alcohol/drug users

Address: Charter House, Old Market Street, Sligo

Phone: 071 9143316

- **HSE West Young Persons Alcohol & Substance Counselling Service**

Services: Comprehensive Assessment | Care planned counseling | Motivational Interviewing | Shared care liaison work with General Practitioners | Referral to residential treatment | Support services for concerned persons of alcohol/drug users | Drug education program

Address: Charter House, Old Market Street, Sligo

Phone: 071 9143316

- **Al-Anon Family & Friends Support Group**

Services: Understanding and support for families and friends of problem drinkers (check their website for meeting times and locations)

Address: Various Locations, Sligo

Phone: 01 873 2699

Website: www.al-anon-ireland.org

- **Alcoholics Anonymous (Nationwide Service)**

Services: Self-help support group for people with alcohol related problems

Address: Various Locations, Sligo

Phone: 01 842 0700

Fax: 01 842 0703

Email: gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie

Website: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

Fas Le Cheile Parenting Programmes

Services: The aim of the Le Cheile programme is to promote positive relationships between parents and children | Two courses include issues related to drugs and alcohol.

Address: Health Promotion HSE West, JFK House, JFK Parade, Sligo

- **Phone:** 071 9135061

Fax: 071 91 35068

- ***Sligo Smoking Cessation Officer: Pauline Kent***

Phone No: 071 91 74548

Email: Pauline.kent@hse.ie