

## **Paddle UK World Class & England Talent Programme Position on Prohibited Substances and Illegal Drugs**

This document clarifies that prohibited and illegal substances which include the use of recreational/social drugs are banned at all times by Paddle UK and that any breaches will result in disciplinary action.

Paddle UK is committed to upholding the World Anti Doping Association (WADA) code. Although prohibited substances and illegal drugs are not prohibited at all times under the WADA code, most are illegal to use or possess. Paddle UK wants to prevent the potential damaging consequences to the health and welfare of paddlers and/or of those who regard paddlers as role models, and also to protect the image, integrity and reputation of the sport.

For the avoidance of doubt, prohibited substances and illegal drugs include use or possession of substances such as GHB, marijuana (cannabis), amyl nitrite ('poppers'), nitrous oxide (laughing gas, 'nangs'), heroin ('gear'), benzodiazepines (sedatives or tranquillisers), legal highs and other recreational/social drugs. This is not an exhaustive list which would include many depressants, stimulants and hallucinogens.

Paddle UK acknowledges specifically that recreational/social drugs such as tobacco and alcohol that are legal are not included within this all time ban. However Paddle UK would expect consumption to be in line with UK law, conducive to training and performance and appropriate to the role of being an ambassador of Paddle UK and/or UK Sport/Sport England.

By signing up to be a part of a Paddle UK WCP or England Talent Programme, athletes are agreeing to upholding the boundaries outlined in this policy.

If anyone has any questions or wishes to further discuss this policy, in the first instance you should contact the appropriate Performance Director or Head of Pathways, Competitions and Events

Our position applies to all athletes engaged in the Paddle UK World Class Programmes (WCP) and England Talent Programme, regardless of the location of an individual or team relative to local laws except where substances that may be legal in the UK such as alcohol or tobacco are illegal. All athletes, programme staff and anyone linked with the programme are reminded that under the [11 Anti-doping rule violations](#), section 9 - complicity or attempted complicity applies which is defined as: *Assisting, encouraging, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up or any other type of intentional complicity or attempted complicity involving an ADRV or any attempted ADRV.*

In summary, Paddle UK acknowledges that whilst most prohibited substances and illegal drugs are illegal, many are not fully banned by WADA who differentiate between the status of 'In Competition' and 'Out of competition' but for the avoidance of doubt, Paddle UK operates a zero tolerance policy for the health and wellbeing of athletes and staff and the integrity of the sport.