

## **PFA POLICY 305 | SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**Section 1.** Purpose. The use of drugs and alcohol in youth sports is strictly prohibited. Pelada Football Academy (PFA) youth members have the right to participate in an environment free of alcohol and controlled substances (including marijuana and tobacco products).

**Section 2.** Intention. The intent of this policy is not to exclude players from access to Pelada FA programs, but to establish expectations and inclusion requirements that promote and incentivise positive decision making amongst all youth members. This is based on Pelada FA's belief that:

- A. Children who experiment with drugs and alcohol are often the ones most in need of the benefits that youth sports provide.
- B. Prohibiting a child who is caught using drugs or alcohol from participating in youth sports may worsen the problem.
- C. Active participation in youth sports is often an effective method of keeping kids away from drugs and alcohol.

### **Section 2.** Prohibited Activities

- A. PFA youth and adult members are not to possess, distribute, or be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances including (but not limited) to narcotics, inhalants, marijuana or other dangerous drugs before, during or after any PFA program activity.
- B. PFA youth members are prohibited from using or being in possession of any tobacco products before, during, or after any PFA program activity. Traveling to and from PFA program activities are included as the "before" and "after" PFA activities.

**Section 4.** Player/Parent Conference. In the event that a PFA youth member is found to be using or displaying the use of drugs or alcohol, PFA officials (director, coaches, and/or board members) will have a conference with the player and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

- A. The purpose of the conference will be to make all parties aware of the issue.
- B. The PFA youth member will be required to develop a written action plan stating how they are going to continue participating in the academy in a drug and alcohol free manner.
- C. The PFA youth member will meet a second time with parents and appropriate Academy personnel to present the plan and discuss its implementation as well as repercussions for failure to uphold the plan.

**Section 5.** Discipline. Apart from the required player/parent conference, PFA will not take punitive action against the youth member for a first time offense unless their actions directly affect another PFA youth member. If disciplinary action is required, it will be at the discretion of the PFA Executive Director and the PFA Risk Manager (Board of Directors).

**Section 6.** PFA Coaches and Administrators. Adult representatives of the Academy are strictly prohibited from:

- A. Using alcohol or drugs (including tobacco and marijuana products) before and during PFA activities and while working with PFA athletes.

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- B. Displaying the use of drugs (including tobacco and marijuana) publicly or while also displaying affiliation with Pelada Football Academy.
- C. Supplying youth members with drugs or alcohol (including tobacco and marijuana). PFA Coaches found violating this rule will be terminated and referred to law enforcement.