

SECTION 6

DRUGS POLICY

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NZ Masters Swimming (NZMS) has adopted the Sports Anti-Doping Rules which are compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code. NZMS strongly recommends that all Masters athletes taking part in National Championships or any other sanctioned meet become familiar with their rights and responsibilities in relation to anti-doping programmes and act according.

NZMS condemns the use of banned substances and unethical methods to improve the performance of athletes in sport. We support a fair and equitable competition environment and doping does not promote the good health and safe welfare of athletes.

We believe that any illegal substances and methods are against the spirit of sport and will bring the Sport of Swimming into disrepute and accordingly have zero tolerance for such practices.

Anti-doping rules applied from the first sanctioned meet (the National Championships) in Auckland in March 2006. From this point on competitors taking part in the National Championships and any other sanctioned meet who may be taking a substance thought to be banned, or who propose taking such a substance, should apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption. Forms may be obtained from the website of Drug Free Sport New Zealand at: www.drugfreesport.org.nz, or by email request to: info@drugfreesport.org.nz.

Any testing will be undertaken by Drug Free Sport New Zealand and any proceedings arising from testing would, depending on results, be referred to the Sports Disputes Tribunal for hearing. All competitors competing in sanctioned Meets will be required on the entry form to sign an acknowledgment that they are aware of the anti-doping provisions and will abide in all respects by them.

. At an Executive Meeting of NZMS held on 6 June 2007 Resolutions were passed adopting the Sports Anti-Doping Rules. These Rules may be made available on request from NZMS and they contain lengthy and detailed provisions regarding violations, proof of doping, prohibited list of substances, testing, analysis of samples and various provisions relating to hearings, sanctions, appeals and otherwise.

NZMS has never had any reason to believe that members are taking performance-enhancing drugs but bringing in an Anti-Doping Policy and putting us on consistent basis with other National Sporting Organisations enhances our good reputation in this sector of the sport and puts in place a method of dealing with the problem which has plagued some sports and been to the detriment of others. It shows that we have transparent systems in place and that we wish Masters swimming to stay drug-free, no matter the age of the competitor.

It is the responsibility of each swimmer to ensure that he or she is not taking any prohibited substance. The list of prohibited substances is constantly being added to and amended. Swimmers should:

(a) Take advice from their professional practitioner;

(b) Check the website of the Drug Free Sport New Zealand, or contact them at info@drugfreesport.org.nz, to see if any substance being taken is on the prohibited list and take advice so far as possible from Drug Free Sport New Zealand.

(c) Be aware of the Prohibited List available on the website of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) at www.wada-ama.org.

(d) If a substance is being taken which is on the prohibited list, an application for therapeutic use exemption form should be completed (see website) and sent; and

Contact NZMS if you have doubts about your obligations and responsibilities in respect to drugs and swimming and NZMS will do its best to help.