
MEDIA RELEASE: 2018 Australian Sikh Games Drug Testing

ANSSACC in partnership with the Sydney Organising Committee conducted a random drug testing program during the 31st Australian Sikh Games held in Sydney. The testing procedures were carried out in accordance with the ANSSACC Drug Policy with the aim of ensuring the safety of all participants, fair competition and the running of a drug-free event.

ANSSACC is pleased to report that the vast majority of clubs and athletes cooperated with and supported the drug testing program. This was the third year of the program and ANSSACC together with the local organising committees in Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane have invested over \$20,000 during the three-year period. The continuation of the program was approved by member clubs at the 2018 Annual General Meeting held on 30 March 2018, reflecting the broad level of support from members and the wider community for ANSSACC's role in running a clean, fair event and protecting the integrity of the Australian Sikh Games.

Summary of Process and Random Selection

All testing was performed by an independent company - Integrity Sampling, in compliance with Section 2 of Australian Standards 4308:2008 - Specimen Collection, Storage, Handling and Dispatch.

- ANSSACC in conjunction with the Sydney Organising Committee selected Kabaddi, Soccer and Hockey as the sports to be tested at the 2018 Sikh Games prior to the event.
- Player numbers were selected using a random number generator application provided by Integrity Sampling. This was overseen by representatives from three independent bodies (ANSSACC, Sydney Games Committee and Integrity Sampling).
- The player numbers were then given to the sport coordinators / head referees to look up the players name in the team sheets as submitted by all participating team managers. Individuals were informed of the need to present for a drug test.

Summary of Drug Testing Results

- In total 37 tests were conducted across the three days (Friday 9 tests, Saturday 18 tests, Sunday 10 tests)
- 36 of the 37 tests were conducted on a random basis and one test was initiated by an opposition team upon lodgement of objection.
- Two players from the total 37 tested positive to the use of prohibited drugs that are outlined in the ANSSACC Drug Policy beyond acceptable levels.
- Additionally, three players refused to participate in the drug testing process – two of those players were selected randomly and one player was initiated by an opposition team upon lodgement of objection.
- Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Sports Club Woolgoolga initiated two tests of opposition players.
- Full testing schedule, results and answers to frequently asked questions are attached.

ANSSACC is committed to drug testing in order to ensure the safety of all participants, fair competition and the running of a drugs free games. It is disappointing and highly concerning that some clubs are failing to educate their players to the serious health risk associated with drugs to player's personal health as well as risk of injury to self or opposition players. These Club Presidents and Managers are failing in their duty of care to their players and it is only a matter of time when a serious health incident occurs on the sporting field.

ANSSACC requests the support of clubs, media and the Australian Sikh community to help achieve a totally drug free Australian Sikh Games. Any request for further information or ways to further improve should be directed to the ANSSACC executive via email to info@anssacc.org.

Regards

ANSSACC Executive Committee

Attachments

A. Drug Testing Details

Table 1: Athletes who tested negative (clean)

Date	Player	Club	City / Region	Sport
30/03/2018	Gurwinder Singh	Malwa Sports Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
30/03/2018	Ranbir Singh	Indoz Sports Club	Brisbane	Kabaddi
30/03/2018	Manpreet Singh	Melbourne Kabaddi Academy	Melbourne	Kabaddi
30/03/2018	Karanbir Singh	West Sydney United	Sydney	Soccer
30/03/2018	Karanvir Chhine	Azaad Kabaddi Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
30/03/2018	Jaspinder Brar	Melbourne United Sports Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
30/03/2018	Jagdeep Singh	Sydney Sikhs Sports Club	Sydney	Kabaddi
30/03/2018	Sukhwinder Sandhu	Shaheed Bhagat Singh Club	Adelaide	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Harmanbir Singh	Singh Sabha Sports Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Harjeet Basrai	Khalsa Lions	Melbourne	Soccer
31/03/2018	Ramanbreet Singh	Azaad Sports and Cultural Club	Melbourne	Soccer
31/03/2018	Amardeep Dhaliwal	Indoz Sports Club	Brisbane	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Amrik Singh	Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Sports Club	Woolgoolga	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Jasvir Singh	Singh Sabha Sports Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Manraj Singh	Matador Malaysia	Malaysia	Hockey
31/03/2018	Amritpal Singh	Azaad Kabaddi Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Balraj Singh	Azaad Kabaddi Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Tarlochan Kular Singh	Melbourne Kabaddi Academy	Melb.	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Gurpal Singh	Melbourne Kabaddi Academy	Melbourne	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Manjit Johal	Shaheed Bhagat Singh Club	Adelaide	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Harpreet Kooner	NSW Singhs	Sydney	Hockey
31/03/2018	Amarjit Singh	Sarbat Khalsa (Sher E Punjab)	Adelaide	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Gurvander Brar	Melbourne United Sports Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Inderjit Singh	Sarbat Khalsa (Sher-e-Punjab)	Adelaide	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Jagdeep Singh	Metro Kabaddi Club	Sydney	Kabaddi
31/03/2018	Parmveer Singh	Metro Kabaddi Club	Sydney	Kabaddi
1/04/2018	Randhir Singh	Young Kabaddi Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
1/04/2018	Simranjit Singh	Young Kabaddi Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
1/04/2018	Tejinder Singh	Sarbat Khalsa (Sher-e-Punjab)	Adelaide	Kabaddi
1/04/2018	Jagroop Singh	Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Sports Club	Woolgoolga	Kabaddi
1/04/2018	Hardeep Singh	Singh Sabha Sports Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
1/04/2018	Ranjit Singh	Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Sports Club	Woolgoolga	Kabaddi
1/04/2018	Harpreet Singh	Bay of Plenty (NZ)	New Zealand	Soccer
1/04/2018	Khushdeep Singh Gill	Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Sports Club	Woolgoolga	Kabaddi
1/04/2018	Navraj Shergill	Punjabi Sports Club Brisbane (New Farm)	Brisbane	Soccer

Table2: Athletes who tested positive or refused to take the test

Date	Player	Club	City / Region	Sport
30/03/2018	Khushdeep Singh Gill	Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Sports Club	Woolgoolga	Kabaddi
1/04/2018	Balvir Dulla	Young Kabaddi Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
1/4/2018	Balvir Singh	Shaheed Baba Deep Singh Sports Club	Woolgoolga	Kabaddi
1/4/2018	Mangat Singh	Singh Sabha Sports Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi
1/4/2018	Gurwinder Singh	Singh Sabha Sports Club	Melbourne	Kabaddi

What drugs did players test positive for?

The players that who tested positive were found to have levels beyond the acceptable levels for either or both Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - Cannabis and Opioids. The acceptable levels are shown in the table below:

Table 3: Target concentration levels per AS/NZ 4308:2008

Substance	Threshold (µg/L)
Amphetamines	150
Benzodiazepines	200
Cannabinoids	15
Cocaine Metabolites	150
Opiates	300

B. Disciplinary Actions to be Taken

In accordance with the ANSSACC Drug Policy the following actions will be applied by ANSSACC:

Player that has tested positive the following will apply as per section 6.3.1 of ANSSACC Drug Policy:

- The player’s club will pay \$200 per test;
- The club will be fined \$500 for every positive test and lose demerit points as per ANSSACC’s disciplinary policy;
- The player will be banned for 15 months (effective immediately) which means the player will miss the next Australian Sikh Games

Player that has refused a drug test the following will apply as per section 6.2 of ANSSACC Drug Policy:

- Failing this compliance, a \$500 fine will apply. The player will be banned for a period of 15 months (effective immediately) which means the player will miss the next Australian Sikh Games.

C. Answers to frequently asked question

1. Are clubs, team managers and players made aware of ANSSACC policies and procedures prior to participating?

Yes. All policies are available online and are sent to clubs via email periodically. Additionally, all team managers must agree to terms and conditions as part of team registration process which specifically notes that they agree to abide by the ANSSACC Drug Policy.

It is clear that some Club Presidents and Managers are failing in their duty of care to their players and it is only a matter of time before a serious health incident occurs on the sporting field.

2. What drugs does the ANSSACC Drug policy cover?

- a. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - Cannabis;
- b. Cocaine;
- c. Methamphetamines;
- d. Amphetamines;
- e. Opioids;
- f. Benzos (Valium type of drugs);
- g. K2 (synthetic cannabis);
- h. Alcohol (legal limit is 0.05) - any persons found to be above this limit will be immediately expelled and ejected from the venue.

3. Why was the testing was not done one day before the games?

If the testing was done a day before the games then a person who will take instant drug immediately before the match won't be able to test for that drug. Few players take performance enhancing drugs immediately before the match and wash out quickly within few hours from their system. So, it was decided that players who are chosen randomly will be asked to appear for drug testing within five minutes after that match finished. One player who may be found positive on day one after the match and he can be negative on second day or third day after that test.

4. Why are there so many tests for Kabaddi?

A higher number of tests were conducted for Kabaddi due to past drug issues in this sport. High risk sports will undergo a greater level of testing as per the ANSSACC Drug Policy.

5. What is the punishment for a player who tests positive?

In accordance with the ANSSACC Drug Policy, the following actions will be applied by ANSSACC:

Player that has tested positive the following will apply as per section 6.3.1 of ANSSACC Drug Policy:

- The player's club will pay \$200 per test;
- The club will be fined \$500 for every positive test and lose demerit points pursuant to the ANSSACC Disciplinary Policy; and
- The player will be banned for 15 months (effective immediately) which means the player will miss the next Australian Sikh Games.

Player that has refused a drug test the following will apply as per section 6.2 of ANSSACC Drug Policy:

- Failing this compliance, a \$500 fine will apply and the player will be banned for a period of 15 months (effective immediately) which means the player will miss the next Australian Sikh Games.

6. Will players who tested positive be banned from other tournaments?

ANSSACC jurisdiction only covers the Australian Sikh Games. Other federations, clubs and tournament organisers will need to apply their own rules as they deem appropriate. ANSSACC recommends all tournaments should be aiming to provide a drug free environment.

7. Have any players tested positive in previous years / tournaments?

Yes. Four players tested positive during the 2017 Australian Sikh Games held in Adelaide. The above mentioned disciplinary actions were applied to the clubs and players in question. Those players **did not** participate in the 2018 Australian Sikh Games held in Sydney.

8. Has the attitude of clubs, team managers and players towards testing improved from previous years?

When we compare behaviour of clubs and results from the 2017 Australian Sikh Games held in Adelaide, we have seen a significant positive change in clubs cooperating with the drug testing procedure. This is a major achievement for us, highlighting that most clubs are supportive and serious about ensuring a drug-free competition.

9. Does the drug testing pick up substances such as Panadol, Red Bull, Pre-workout?

The drug testers ask each athlete prior to the testing if they are taking any medications, painkillers and/or supplements. The testing will determine if the levels detected are consistent with any medical use that has been declared by the athlete.

10. Why does ANSSACC's drug testing not test for steroids?

Testing for steroids, human growth hormones and other performance enhancing drugs is currently cost and time prohibitive for ANSSACC. The long-term vision of ANSSACC is to introduce this type of testing to the Australian Sikh Games.