DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

INTRODUCTION:

The Mount Eliza Soccer Club (the **"Club"**) is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment for all members, visitors, and participants. All members of the club have a responsibility to ensure that they take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety and that of others whilst in this environment by not being affected by alcohol or other drugs to the extent that it impacts on their own or another person's recreational enjoyment or safety.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all members, volunteers, staff, visitors, and participants involved with the club including but not limited to players, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators.

DEFINITIONS:

For the purpose of this Policy, the club defines alcohol and drugs as follows:

- "Alcohol" refers to any beverage, containing an alcoholic content that temporarily impairs a person's physical or mental capacity.
- "Drugs" refers to a chemical substance, whether it is legal or illegal, which may have the ability to impair a person's physical or mental capacity. These can include non-prescribed drugs, for example, but not limited to, speed, heroin, amphetamines, LSD, crack, cocaine, ecstasy, marijuana, etc.
- "Member" refers to any playing or social member associated with MESC, whether financial (fee-paying) or not.

PROCEDURES

The effects of intoxication and the regular use of or dependence on alcohol or other drugs are associated with impaired judgement and skills, reduced concentration, erratic behaviour, aggression and violence, absenteeism and increased accidents. These behaviours and activities may seriously affect member safety and ethical standards within the club.

Members who have concerns about playing or associating with any other playing or social member due to possible alcohol or other drug use should consult with the President of the club immediately.

All members of the club are prohibited from selling, distributing, manufacturing, possessing or consuming drugs when on the premises of the club or at any club function. Alcohol will not be consumed by a player whilst they are engaged in a game.

Playing members are prohibited from arriving to a match or returning to a match from any break under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

The right of members to consume alcohol is acknowledged, however it is inappropriate to do so at the club as it places others at risk of harm and brings the club and its family friendly' environment into disrepute. Therefore, the club reserves the right to take action if a member is:

- affected by alcohol or other drugs, so as to endanger their own safety or the safety of any other person in the during the course of a match or club function;
- found in the possession of drugs or unauthorised drug use equipment on the club premises; or
- affected by alcohol or other drugs, so that the member's performance is affected
- known to be acknowledging significant use or involvement in production of illegal drugs or alcohol via friendship groups, social media, playing groups or family.

Should these issues be brought to the attention of any of the Club Committee members or coaching staff, the club may take the following action, enacted by any member of the Committee or coaching staff after appropriate and confidential discussion:

- Immediately approach the member to discuss the issue and its implications
- suspend the player/member from matches or club functions where appropriate until the matter is resolved to the satisfaction of the committee and coaching staff
- remove the member from club functions if they pose a risk to themselves or others.
- Immediately contact emergency services if there is suspicion of a drug overdose at any club function
- counsel the player internally regarding their use of alcohol or drugs
- refer the player to appropriate organisations to address the misuse or abuse of illicit substances;

The club reserves the right to search its premises for illicit drugs and confiscate the substance in question.

MEDICALLY PRESCRIBED DRUGS

In circumstances where a club member is taking medically prescribed drugs to manage a specific condition that may interfere with their playing performance, they are required to notify their coach. The coach, in consultation with the player, may make adjustments to the match requirements of the player concerned.

CLUB FUNCTIONS

It Is recognised that after match and weekend functions organised by the club might involve the consumption of alcohol. It is expected that club members consume alcohol responsibility at these times. Use of drugs at these functions is prohibited by the Club. Should it come to the attention of committee members that drugs are being consumed at these times, action will be taken as previously described.

Should players or members be significantly intoxicated due to alcohol use at club functions, the club reserves the right to remove the member from any club function.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

In accordance with the Liquor Licensing Act and Victorian law, members of the club are not permitted to drive a vehicle, whether their own or not, when that person has consumed alcohol or other drugs. The club will accept no liability for any damage to a vehicle, injury to any person, or damage or injury to any third party, incurred while the driver of a vehicle is in breach of this Act or the law. All liabilities will rest with the driver concerned.

Consequences of Violation:

Violations of this Drug & Alcohol Policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the club, depending on the severity of the offense and at the discretion of club management.

Reporting Violations:

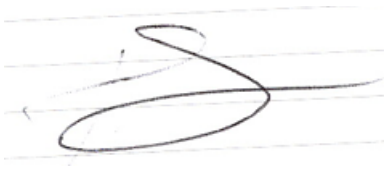
Any member, volunteer, staff, or participant who witnesses or experiences a violation of this policy is encouraged to report it to either the MESC Committee, Football Committee or designated authorities promptly.

Review and Updates:

This Drug & Alcohol Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Amendments or updates may be made as necessary, with notice provided to all relevant parties.

Acknowledgement:

By participating at the club, all members, volunteers, staff, visitors, and participants agree to abide by this Drug & Alcohol Policy and acknowledge their responsibility to uphold its guidelines

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		Review Date:	01 / 05 / 2028
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President Signature:		Name:	Fernando Cortes
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