

POLICY	Supplement Policy
TITLE: Supplement Policy	
AREA: High Performance	
RESPONSIBILITY:	
RELATED POLICIES:	
DRAFTED BY:	
DATE APPROVED:	
APPROVED BY:	Paddle Australia
NEXT REVIEW:	

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Paddle Australia (PA) Supplement Panel acknowledge the wide-spread use of supplements in the general population and are fully aware of the advanced marketing strategies used by companies which may appear enticing for athletes. The PA Supplement Policy provides detail and contextual information including definitions, considerations, risks and responsibilities related to supplement use. It is expected that all athletes, coaches and support staff recognise and understand the importance of the Supplement Policy and the implications of an anti-doping rule violation.

Paddle Australia has no expectation or requirement that any athlete has a need for use of supplements in any form. For the avoidance of any doubt, any risk and/or liability that arises from an athlete's use of any supplements whether documented in this policy or not remains with the athlete. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) applies a strict liability approach when it comes to the use of any supplement (i.e. **you** are solely responsible for any banned substance you use, attempt to use, or is found in your system, regardless of how it got there and whether there was an intention to cheat or not). As such, decisions on supplement use should involve a systematic approach that incorporates consideration of safety, risk, adverse effects and benefits.

Use of any supplement shall be in accordance with this Supplement Policy and inline with the Australian Institute of "Sports Supplement Framework". Any supplement provided (or suggested for use) to **PA Athletes** by **PA** will have been audited via an internationally recognised third-party program for supplements and sports foods such as [HASTA](#) or [Informed Sport](#). The ASADA "Clean for Sport APP "Check a supplement" function lists all supplements sold on Australian shelves which have been screened by HASTA or Informed Sport, and provides a risk analysis for other supplements not screened by these programs.

The following supplements are considered highest risk of containing contaminants from the WADA Prohibited Substances List and as such should be **avoided**:

- Herbal supplements to support immune function, health and well-being
- Weight loss supplements
- Multi-ingredient supplements
- Pre-workouts supplements
- Hormone Modulator supplements

All **PA Athletes** are to be educated on the PA Supplement Policy annually by either the PA Nutrition Lead or Sports Dietitians. Education programs for developing **PA Athletes** will focus on the development of nutrition knowledge and lifestyle skills needed to optimise their dietary intake to promote daily performance, recovery and well-being. Specific education will target competition nutrition strategies to optimise competition performance. For Senior PA athletes, specific education will target the use of performance supplements in daily training and competition.

1. DEFINITIONS

In this Policy, the terms below have the accompanying meaning:

“Medical Officer”	Includes State Institute Medical Officers or appointed PA Medical Officers including the Paddle Australia Chief Medical Officer.
“Sports Dietitian”	Includes State Institute Accredited Sports Dietitians or appointed PA Accredited Sports Dietitians including the PA Nutrition Lead.
“Senior Athlete”	Refers to PA Athletes that have been selected to compete in World Cups or World Championship events.
“Sports Drinks”	Refers to ready-to-drink and powdered bases which is formulated to provide rapid replenishment of fluids, carbohydrate, electrolytes and minerals.

2. FOUNDATION PRINCIPALS OF PADDLE AUSTRALIA SUPPLEMENT POLICY

Paddle Australia has no expectation or requirement that any athlete has a need for supplement use. For the avoidance of any doubt, any risk and/or liability that arises from an athlete’s use of any supplements whether documented in this policy or not remains with the athlete.

Paddle Australia nevertheless acknowledges that athletes use supplements and therefore PA endeavours to establish best practice processes for the use of supplements in the sports for which PA has responsibility for overseeing.

The PA Supplement Policy is based on the core principles of:

- athlete safety;
- evidence-based science which supports the use of supplements to enhance sports performance or assist in maintaining health and well-being; and
- compliance with the World Anti-Doping Agency (**WADA**) Prohibited List.

PA Athletes:

- should focus on a well-planned training program that develops good technique, skill and fitness, supported by performance focused nutrition practices.
- should use supplements selectively, with advice from appropriately qualified health professionals such as a sports dietitian or medical officer. Prior to using any supplement **PA Athletes** should consider:
 - Is it safe?
 - Is it permitted in sport?
 - Is there evidence that it works (improves performance, assists recovery)?

The use of supplements is **NOT** an essential part of an athlete’s daily intake or performance plan. The majority of supplements have **NO** health or performance benefits and have potential health and inadvertent doping risks associated with their use. Supplements are not controlled in the same rigorous way as prescription or over the counter medicines.

IMPORTANT:

Each athlete is solely responsible for any substance on the World Anti-Doping Code Prohibited List (or traces of them) found to be present in their body or possession and for their use, attempted use, trafficking or attempted trafficking of the substances or methods on the World Anti-Doping Code Prohibited List.

3. PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS AND INJECTIONS

The PA Supplement Policy does not include prescription medications. **As for supplements, you are ultimately responsible for what prescription medications you take.** Ideally, prescription medications **should** be reported to the PA Chief Medical Officer (CMO) **or the designated state PA Sports Physician.**

Paddle Australia athletes (or parents) and PA performance support staff can use [Global DRO](#) (online search tool) via the Australian Sport Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA) APP or website to find out whether the most commonly prescribed and over-the-counter **medicines** in Australia are permitted or prohibited in sport.

It is **not** possible to check the status of **supplements on Global DRO.**

The **Global DRO** online search tool does not contain information on, or that applies to, any supplement which includes protein supplements, pre-workouts, homeopathic products, traditional medicines, herbals, and probiotics.

There is no role for injection of athletes as part of a supplementation program unless it is discussed with the PA CMO in advance and approved in writing.

4. SUPPLEMENT DEFINITION

A supplement is defined as any synthetic or natural chemical in the form of a formulated supplementary food, a tablet, capsule, gummy, liquid, or powder that is consumed orally for the purpose of enhancing health, recovery and function including athletic performance. Specifically, for the terms of this policy supplements are categorised as:

4.1 SPORTS FOODS AND FLUIDS

Specialised supplements used to provide a practical source of nutrients when it's impractical to consume everyday foods and fluids. These include sports bars, sports drinks, sports gels, liquid meal supplements including protein concentrates and isolates, sports confectionary, electrolyte rehydration formulas and drinks.

4.2 MEDICAL SUPPLEMENTS

These supplements are used to treat a known clinical issue including a nutrient deficiency. These include calcium supplements, iron supplements, vitamin D supplements, multivitamin and mineral supplements, and probiotics.

4.3 PERFORMANCE SUPPLEMENTS

Promoted to improve performance, assist in health maintenance and recovery and promote desirable changes in body composition. This category of supplements is broad ranging and includes a select group of supplements that warrant use within sport.

5. PADDLE AUSTRALIA ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES

The 2015 World Anti-Doping Code, 10.5.1.2 – Contaminated Products states that:

'In cases where the athlete or other person can establish no significant fault or negligence and that the detected prohibited substance came from a contaminated product, then the period of ineligibility shall be, at a minimum, a reprimand and no period of ineligibility, and at a maximum, two years ineligibility, depending on the athlete's or other person's degree of fault.'

Paddle Australia athletes before using a supplement should (in no particular order):

- Consult with a Sports Dietitian or Medical Officer
- Use the ASADA “Clean for Sport” App “Check a supplement” function to minimise the risk of an anti-doping rule violation
- Keep a record of all supplements consumed (**including batch numbers**).

Paddle Australia athletes will register all supplements consumed within the Supplement Register on the Athlete Management System (AMS).

Paddle Australia athletes will be required to make a declaration twice per year with their Sports Dietitian that the supplements on their ‘PA Supplement Register’ reflect the supplements they’re consuming. Failure to comply with the above is in breach of their athlete agreement and will be referred to the National Performance Director.

6. MINIMISING INADVERTENT SUPPLEMENT CONTAMINATION

- a. Any supplement provided (or suggested for use) to **PA athletes** by **PA** will have been audited via an internationally recognised third-party program for supplements and sports foods such as [HASTA](#) or [Informed Sport](#). These programs are designed to test for a specific range of common contaminants from the WADA Prohibited Substances List and will, in turn, minimise the risk of anti-doping rule violations. To avoid doubt, these third-party auditing programs are only a way of mitigating risk and do not remove the risk of anti-doping rule violations completely.
- b. It is recommended that any supplement that **PA athletes** are intending on using be audited via an internationally recognised third-party program for supplements and sports foods such as [HASTA](#) or [Informed Sport](#).

The following supplements are not required to be audited in accordance with 6a:

- i. Medical supplements prescribed by a medical officer as per the supplement policy, provided that:
 - a) there is no auditing program available to satisfy the requirements of 6.a;
 - b) they are subject to Therapeutic Goods Administration regulations;
 - c) they have an AUST L or AUST R on the product label (legislative labelling protocols)
 - d) they have been manufactured in Australia; and
 - e) they contain no herbal additives
 - f) been approved by the PA Nutrition Lead or Chief Medical Officer.
- ii. Sports drinks, provided that:
 - a) they have been manufactured by a major company (i.e. Gatorade, Powerade)
 - b) they meet [Food Standards Australia New Zealand 2.6.2 Standard](#)
- iii. Liquid Meal Supplements, provided that:
 - a) they have been manufactured within Australia (i.e. Sustagen Sport)
 - b) they meet [Food Standards Australia New Zealand 2.9.3 Standard](#)

The ASADA “Clean for Sport APP “Check a supplement” function lists all supplements sold on Australian shelves which have been screened by HASTA or Informed Sport, and provides a risk analysis for other supplements not screened by these programs.

The following supplements are considered highest risk of containing contaminants from the WADA Prohibited Substances List and as such should be **avoided**:

- Herbal supplements to support immune function, health and well-being
- Weight loss supplements
- Multi-ingredient supplements
- Pre-workouts supplements
- Hormone Modulator supplements

7. SUPPLEMENT CLASSIFICATION AND USE RECOMMENDATIONS

The PA Supplement Policy uses the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), “Sports Supplement Framework” as its foundation which can be found at the following website: <https://ais.gov.au/nutrition/supplements>.

<p>Group A Supplements Are supported for use to PA athletes in specific evidence-based situations. This group of supplements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide a useful and timely source of energy and nutrients in the athlete’s diet; or ● Are used to treat a known nutritional deficiency; or ● Have been shown in scientific trials to benefit exercise performance, health or recovery when used according to a specific situation in sport. <p>PA athlete considerations:</p>	
<p>Sports Foods and Fluids should be used following consultation with a Sports Dietitian</p>	<p>Sports drink (carbohydrate-electrolyte drinks) Sports gel (highly concentrated form of carbohydrate) Sports confectionary Sports bar Electrolyte supplement Isolated protein supplement Mixed macronutrient supplement (bar, powder, liquid meal supplement)</p>
<p>Medical supplements should ONLY be used following consultation with a Medical Officer or Sports Dietitian</p>	<p>Iron and calcium supplements Multivitamin supplement Calcium supplement Vitamin D supplement Probiotics</p>
<p>Performance supplements are ONLY recommended for use by senior athletes following consultation with a Sports Dietitian</p>	<p>Caffeine B-alanine Bicarbonate Beta-alanine Beetroot Juice/Nitrate Creatine Glycerol</p>

<p>Group B Supplements Are supported for use to PA athletes within research or clinical monitoring situations. This group of supplements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has an emerging level of evidence to indicate that they enhance performance, aid recovery or maintain health. <p>PA athlete considerations:</p>		
<p>Group B supplements should ONLY be used as part of a study or in clinical monitoring situations. Group B supplements are ONLY recommended for use by senior athletes following consultation with a Sports Dietitian</p>	<p>Food polyphenols</p>	<p>Cherries, berries and black currant extracts/concentrates Quercetin, ECGC Epicatechins and others</p>
	<p>Other</p>	<p>Collagen support Carnitine HMB Ketone supplements Fish Oils Phosphate Curcumin</p>
	<p>Sick Pack</p>	<p>Zinc lozenges and Vitamin C</p>
	<p>Amino Acids</p>	<p>BCAA/Leucine Tyrosine</p>
	<p>Anti-oxidants</p>	<p>Vitamin C & E N-acetyl cysteine</p>
<p>Group C Supplements The AIS Framework no longer names Group C supplements or supplement ingredients to avoid the perception that these supplements are special (2019 Update).</p> <p>Group C supplements include all supplements that are not listed in Groups A, B or D. This group of supplements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have little proof of beneficial effects pose a greater risk of contamination <p>PA athlete considerations: Group C supplements are NOT recommended for use.</p> <p>Athletes should be fully aware that many of these supplements have been produced using unknown quality control measures and therefore have an unknown risk.</p>		

<p>Group D Supplements Group D supplements are banned or are at high risk of being contaminated with substances that may lead to an anti-doping rule violation. PA athlete considerations: Group D supplements should NOT be used.</p>	<p>Stimulants</p>	<p>Ephedrine Strychnine Sibutramine Methylhexanamine (DMAA) 1,3-dimethylbutylamine (DMBA) Other herbal stimulants</p>
	<p>Pro-hormones & hormone boosters</p>	<p>DHEA Androstenedione 19-norandrostenedione/ol Other pro-hormones Tribulus terrestris and other testosterone boosters* Maca root powder*</p>
	<p>Growth Hormone releasers and 'peptides'</p>	<p>Consult WADA list for all examples: https://www.wada-ama.org</p>
	<p>Beta-2 agonists</p>	<p>Higenamine Consult WADA list for all examples: https://www.wada-ama.org</p>
	<p>Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators (SARMS)</p>	<p>Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators (SARMS)</p>
	<p>Metabolic Modulators</p>	<p>GW1516 (Cardarine)</p>
	<p>Other</p>	<p>Colostrum – not recommended due to the inclusion of growth factors within its composition</p>

8. PADDLE AUSTRALIA SUPPLEMENT PROVISION

Goals for the provision of supplements to PA athletes:

- Allow PA athletes to focus on the sound use of supplements including sports foods and fluids as part of their daily nutrient intake.
- Ensure that supplements, including sports foods and fluids are used correctly and appropriately to optimise daily training and competition performance, promote desired adaptations to daily training, and deliver maximum benefits to the immune system and recovery.
- Give PA athletes the confidence that they receive 'cutting edge' advice and achieve 'state of the art' nutrition practice.
- Minimise the risk of anti-doping rule violations by PA Athletes when using supplements.

Medical and performance supplements categorised as **Group A and B supplements** within the AIS Supplement Framework may be provided or advised for use to **PA athletes** in the following ways:

8.1 INDIVIDUALISED NUTRITION PROGRAM

- PA supplement provision is based on individual athlete requirements. It is acknowledged that these requirements change over time and as such supplement prescription will change accordingly.
- Before any supplement is prescribed or provided to a **PA athlete**, the athlete must have undertaken an initial nutritional assessment to establish the reason for use with a Sports Dietitian. Athletes will be educated on the appropriate use, potential benefits and any possible side effects of the supplement prior to provision.
- Any sports foods provided or prescribed to a **PA athlete** by a Sports Dietitian for use in daily training must adhere to the PA Supplement Policy and subsequently be entered into the PA Supplement Register within the Athlete Management System (AMS).
- PA will provide product or financial support to purchase Group A and Group B supplements for Senior National Team athletes during overseas training camps and racing assuming these supplements have been scheduled within their annual training plan by their Sports Dietitian.
- PA will provide product or financial support up to an approved amount to purchase Group A and Group B supplements for Senior National Team athletes in an Olympic year.
- Provision of Group A and B Supplements to a **PA athlete** within daily training is the responsibility of the State Institute or Academy or athlete.

8.2 MEDICAL PLAN TO ADDRESS A DIAGNOSED NUTRITION DEFICIENCY

- Prescription is based on results obtained via appropriate testing as directed by the PA Chief Medical Officer or treating medical officer.
- Medical supplements can be prescribed by the treating medical officer and/or by the PA Nutrition Lead or the athlete's respective Sports Dietitian following consultation with the treating medical officer.

8.2A SPORTS FOODS AND FLUIDS PROVIDED FOR GROUP USE

- Only **Group A** Sports Foods and Fluids are to be provided through Group Supplement Orders.
- Approved sports foods and fluids (including sports drinks, liquid meal supplements, sports gels, sports bars and sports confectionary) may be available for use to **PA athletes** for daily training within their daily training environment, during PA supported camps (domestic and international), selected World Cup events and World Championships.
- For overseas, group supplement orders (sports foods and fluids) are to be placed by the PA Nutrition Lead who will order these through the PA approved supplier.

9. SUPPLEMENT EDUCATION

All **PA athletes** are to be educated on the PA Supplement Policy annually by either the PA Nutrition Lead or Sports Dietitians.

- The PA Supplement Policy is available on the PA website and all athletes will receive a copy once Athlete Agreements are signed.
- **PA athletes** must sign a register to ensure they have sighted, read and fully understand the PA Supplement Policy.
- Education programs for developing **PA athletes** will focus on the development of nutrition knowledge and lifestyle skills needed to optimise their dietary intake to promote daily performance, recovery and well-being. Specific education will target competition nutrition strategies to optimise competition performance. For Senior PA athletes, specific education will target the use of performance supplements in daily training and competition.
- All PA high performance employees, contracted staff and State Institute and Academy staff (coaches and support staff) must be educated on the PA Supplement Policy as part of their induction process and annual national team orientation.
- All PA high performance employees, contracted staff and State Institute and Academy staff (coaches and support staff) must complete ASADA Level 1 and 2 Anti-doping courses: [ASADA Anti-doping Courses](#)

10. VIOLATION OF THE PADDLE AUSTRALIA SUPPLEMENT POLICY

Failure to comply with the PA Supplement Policy may incur sanctions in accordance with the PA Disciplinary By-law.

This Disciplinary By-Law sets out the procedures for dealing with disciplinary actions and matters under Rule 7 of the PA Constitution.

Depending on the nature of the breach, PA may apply a range of sanctions/penalties available for first or subsequent offences, as outlined in the PA Disciplinary Bylaw.

11. INDIVIDUAL SUPPLEMENT SPONSORSHIPS

PA athletes and staff that have individual supplement sponsors should not associate or promote PA alongside their supplement sponsor. In the case the athlete wants to label PA purchased equipment or uniform with supplement sponsor logos, permission should be granted from the National Performance Director in writing.

12. SUPPLEMENT COMPANY AFFILIATIONS

- All PA high performance employees, contracted staff and State Institute and Academy staff (coaches and support staff) working with **PA athletes** are not permitted to sell network marketed supplements or recommend their use.
- All PA high performance employees, contracted staff and State Institute and Academy staff (coaches and support staff) working with **PA athletes** must disclose any commercial affiliations or interest they have with supplement companies.
- Any affiliations with supplement companies should be reported to the PA Supplement Panel (Email: peta.carige@paddle.org.au).

13. PADDLE AUSTRALIA SUPPLEMENT PANEL

The PA Supplement Policy is governed by the PA Supplement Panel. The PA Supplement Panel is to be comprised of appropriately qualified stakeholders, including an independent member, and the following PA staff and support personnel:

- National Performance Director
- Chief Medical Officer
- Nutrition Lead
- Performance Support Manager

The PA Supplement Panel is to review the PA Supplement Policy documentation and provision protocols at least twice within an Olympic cycle. No alterations to the PA Supplement Provision Protocol are to be permitted except by agreement with the PA Supplement Panel.

The panel's purpose is to assist PA to ensure **PA athletes** use supplements to optimise performance and recovery in a safe and ethical manner.

Any questions (from an athlete or staff member) regarding a supplement that falls outside of Groups A or B within the AIS Sports Supplement Framework should first be directed to the PA Nutrition Lead who will disseminate information to the PA Supplement Panel for consideration.