

# Bulgarian Cheer Union

## Anti-Doping Policy

### Introduction

The Bulgarian Cheer Union (BCU) is committed to promoting a clean and fair environment for all athletes. This Anti-Doping Policy outlines our commitment to preventing the use of prohibited substances and methods in the sports of cheerleading and baton twirling. It applies to all athletes, coaches, officials, and other members of the BCU.

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect the health and safety of all athletes.
- Ensure fair competition and the integrity of the sport.
- Comply with national and international anti-doping regulations.
- Educate and inform all members about the dangers and consequences of doping.

### 2. Prohibited Substances and Methods

- **Prohibited List:** The BCU adheres to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Prohibited List, which identifies substances and methods banned in competition and out of competition. This list is updated annually and is available on the WADA website.
- **Banned Practices:** The use, possession, trafficking, or administration of any prohibited substances or methods is strictly forbidden.

### 3. Responsibilities

- **Athletes:** Athletes are responsible for ensuring that no prohibited substance enters their bodies. They must be aware of the Prohibited List and avoid any substances or methods that are banned.
- **Coaches and Support Staff:** Coaches and support staff must educate and inform athletes about the dangers of doping. They should promote a clean sport ethos and ensure that athletes adhere to this policy.
- **Medical Personnel:** Medical personnel must avoid prescribing prohibited substances and ensure that any treatment provided complies with anti-doping regulations.

### 4. Testing and Compliance

- **Testing:** Athletes may be subject to random and targeted drug testing by authorized anti-doping organizations. Testing can occur both in and out of competition.

- **Compliance:** All members of the BCU must comply with the testing procedures and cooperate fully with anti-doping officials. Refusal to submit to testing or tampering with the testing process is considered a violation.

## 5. Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs)

- **TUE Application:** Athletes who require the use of a prohibited substance or method for legitimate medical reasons must apply for a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) in advance. The TUE process is governed by WADA guidelines.
- **Approval:** A TUE will only be granted if the athlete's medical condition justifies the use of the prohibited substance or method and there is no reasonable alternative treatment.

## 6. Consequences of Doping

- **Sanctions:** Athletes and support personnel found to have violated this Anti-Doping Policy will face disciplinary action, which may include suspension, fines, and expulsion from the BCU.
- **Results Management:** Any positive test results or violations will be managed according to the procedures outlined by WADA and the relevant national anti-doping organization. Sanctions will be publicly disclosed where appropriate.
- **Appeals:** Individuals have the right to appeal any anti-doping rule violation decision through the appropriate channels as outlined by WADA and the national anti-doping organization.

## 7. Education and Prevention

- **Education Programs:** The BCU will implement ongoing education programs to inform and educate athletes, coaches, and support staff about the dangers of doping and the importance of clean sport.
- **Resources:** Educational materials and resources will be made available to all members, including information on the Prohibited List, the risks of supplements, and the proper use of medications.

## 8. Reporting and Whistleblowing

- **Reporting Violations:** Members are encouraged to report any suspected doping violations to the BCU or relevant anti-doping authorities. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.
- **Whistleblower Protection:** Individuals who report doping violations in good faith will be protected from retaliation. The BCU will take appropriate measures to ensure the safety and anonymity of whistleblowers.

## **Conclusion**

The Bulgarian Cheer Union is dedicated to maintaining a clean and fair sport. By adhering to this Anti-Doping Policy, we can protect the health and integrity of our athletes and the sports of cheerleading and baton twirling. Together, we commit to the values of fairness, respect, and excellence.

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This Anti-Doping Policy is effective as of 12.05.2019 and is subject to periodic review and amendments as deemed necessary by the Bulgarian Cheer Union.