



DOPE WILL GET CAUGHT

Drugs in Sport has seen an unprecedented amount of media coverage in recent times with a lot of major sporting bodies increasing their current programs to include an additional policy to address the issue of illicit drugs. This is in response to a number of factors which include not only the health and welfare of the sports person but the expectation of the broader community to a zero tolerance approach to substance abuse, which has now been fully endorsed by the government with the release of its own "Tough on Drugs in Sport" policy.

You may ask what has this all got to do with motor sport?

More. Yes – more than any other sport actually.

Whilst the primary concern for other major sporting bodies is for the welfare of the person taking the drug and its broader social consequences, motor sport has a much bigger issue – safety.

I don't believe this needs much elaboration. We are all well versed with the message: "Don't drink and drive" and the more recent campaign "If you drive on drugs, you're out of your mind". The safety messages for road users (like that used by the TAC and police) to that of motor sport, run in close parallel. The safety of all persons is paramount and driving under the influence of either alcohol or an illicit substance is downright dangerous.

In response to the growing concern amongst the community and our ongoing commitment to safety in motor sport, CAMS has initiated an enhanced drug and breath testing program which saw its introduction earlier this year. This commenced with an increase in the random drug testing which was conducted across all levels of motor sport, in every state for 2007.

To further compliment this commitment, an additional 10 breathalyser units have been purchased and have now been distributed between all of the states for extensive use. These units are of a high calibre and are in fact the same units currently being used by the Police in Victoria and Queensland.

A training program is currently being finalised and will come with full accreditation. The state offices, in the meantime, will be required to submit the names for a core group of people who are interested in carrying out the duty of being a CAMS Accredited Testing Officer (CATO) to carry out this duty at events. So if you are a CAMS Accredited Official, or are involved with motor sport and believe that you would like to take up the challenge, please contact your state office to register your interest. The state office details I will list later in this article.

Driving on a public road at posted speeds, is a very complex task which requires complex decision making and total concentration. It goes without saying that competition driving multiplies this complexity by a factor of many. As Dr Morris Odell¹ quoted, "from the minute someone has their first drink they're affected. The problem is most people feel fine at low blood alcohol levels, so they don't realise they are already at risk".

1 Dr Morris Odell – Forensic Physician at the Vic Institute of Forensic Medicine. He consulted with the TAC on the effect of alcohol on drivers.

We believe one of the issues everyone needs to be mindful of is the amount of alcohol consumed the night before competing which may still be in your system the next morning. If you were approached to be breath tested the next morning, would you blow positive? Whilst we believe the majority of our motor sport participants use a common sense approach, it is a timely reminder that if you are not careful, you may get caught.

It's timely to remind everyone that motor sport has zero tolerance for the presence of alcohol in competition. Effectively, any competitor or official detected with a blood alcohol content above 0.01 milligrams per 100 millilitres (0.01mg/100ml) or "zero point zero one" will be considered to have returned a positive test result and committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation. This will result with the person being excluded from any further participation in the event by the Stewards of the Meeting and will then be subject to sanctions under the terms and conditions of the CAMS Anti-Doping Policy (see the CAMS website for further details).

Whilst no-one disagrees with enjoying a glass or two of wine or beer over dinner the night before competing, we do ask that you use a common sense approach, or you will get caught!!

As for illicit substance use, which is included in the Prohibited List, and which is tested for by ASADA, CAMS are committed to continued drug testing for the remainder of 2007 and into 2008. CAMS are also investigating possible random drug testing, not unlike that of other sports but one which will see immediate results, so relevant action can be undertaken instantly should the need arise. I will let you know as this issue progresses further.

If you are interested in becoming a CAMS Accredited Testing Official (CATO) please get in contact with your state office:

Victoria:	vic@cams.com.au
New South Wales:	nsw@cams.com.au
South Australia:	sa@cams.com.au
Queensland:	qld@cams.com.au
Tasmania:	tas@cams.com.au
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Enjoy the festive season and the remaining motor sport activities.