

Welcome to the 14th edition of Speedway Australia's Speed eNews, your weekly update on the sport, tips and points to remember. Over the previous weeks we have covered a wide range of topics and have received some positive feedback from several you.

It is our intention to continue this weekly form of communication and we look forward to providing you this support in the weeks to come. Just a quick reminder that if any of the information in here needs to find it's way to social media, we will do so via our Speedway Australia channels only.

With the National Forum and Australian Speedway Awards tomorrow, enjoy today's slightly smaller issue at your leisure!

Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or require a copy of one of the previous editions.

Therapeutic Use Exemptions

Speedway Australia has a zero tolerance for performance altering drugs in the sport. However, medication is a fact of life for a proportion of the population and competitors can generally race on their prescription medication using a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE).

This is a common practice in most sports around the world and the relevant Speedway Australia rule explains the process succinctly: -

- 6.3.2. Licence Holders are required to present to Speedway Australia a written request from a qualified medical practitioner for the use of Prohibited Substances. Speedway Australia will then be the sole authority, in conjunction with their Medical Assessor, to approve the use of the Prohibited Substance. Such approval may only be given if use of the Prohibited Substance is for a therapeutic purpose and will not affect the Licence Holder's judgement.

Once a TUE is approved, the Licence holder keeps a copy of approval letter with logbook. This means that if they are drug tested at the race track and will still be able to race on the night, with a B-Sample sent to lab to confirm dosage within their allowable limits.

In summary, we often hear reports that competitors don't take their medication on the day of a race meeting, so they are in the clear if tested. This is the wrong approach! It's far better for people to keep taking the medication they are supposed to and get a therapeutic use exemption so they can enjoy their racing and look after their wellbeing.

In preparation for this article we've gone through the last few years of applications and have noted that not one request for a TUE has been declined. So we encourage all administrators to make sure that competitors are doing the right thing by themselves and their fellow racers, and following the correct process if they are on restricted substances.

One other point to note: Our medical assessor is a volunteer who sometimes takes a little bit of time to get back to us when he's busy with his day job as an A&E surgeon. It's best to allow as much time as possible for him to consider an application, as this sometimes also involves speaking with the competitor's own doctor.

