



[www.VSAtrackclub.org](http://www.VSAtrackclub.org)

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## POSITION STATEMENT ON PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

**The coaching staff of the VS Athletics Track Club opposes the use of banned drugs to enhance athletic performance and will not tolerate their use by our members.**

We believe the use of banned substances such as anabolic steroids, testosterone, human growth hormone, stimulants, EPO and other blood-doping techniques, ephedrine, pain-killers, and methods to avoid their detection such as masking agents and diuretics, is a moral, ethical issue on which the credibility of every sport is grounded.

This issue is neither complicated nor controversial. The governing bodies and international federations for every Olympic and professional sport consider athletes who use banned drugs as "CHEATERS"—as well as the coaches, doctors, pharmacists, and others who make banned substances available to them.

Most of us learned the meaning of *fair play* and a code of ethical conduct that we call *sportsmanship* at an early age as a direct result of our participation in sports. Sports are important to us, and to enthusiasts around the world, because they have moral significance. That begins with abiding by rules that establish a level playing field for all competitors.

There is no question that banned drugs work, or that the public perception of Track & Field as a *Drug Sport* has damaged its popularity and threatens its future. This, despite the fact that drug testing was begun by Track & Field, that Track & Field was the first sport to test athletes in and out of competition, and that Track & Field continues to test more athletes more often than all other summer Olympic Sports combined.

**The VS Athletics Track Club wants a drug-free sport and supports USA Track & Field's "Zero Tolerance" policies on illegal doping.**

The Coaching Staff of the VS Athletics Track Club:

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