

Drug Policy

Inverness Highland Games is a family friendly / friendly event. We welcome attendees to our event to have an enjoyable time. The safety, health and wellbeing of attendees are paramount to us. One way to ensure this is to encourage a drug free environment, which complies to all relevant legislation, including the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) and the Psychoactive Substances Act (2016). Drug enforcement laws are as applicable on site as anywhere else in the country. The term 'drug' applies to drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) and the Psychoactive Substances Act (2016), prescribed drugs, over the counter (OTC) medication, and solvents. Our staff and volunteers must present for work free from the effects of drugs during working hours. Employees / volunteers using prescription or OTC drugs which may affect their behaviour and or work have a responsibility to inform their line manager.

The dealing in or use of drugs and New Psychoactive Substances is not permitted by Inverness Highland Games. New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) (previously known as legal highs) are not to be taken in to or consumed at the event. No drugs, other than prescription drugs used as per medical instruction, are allowed at Inverness Highland Games.

Police officers may be on site and will deal with drug offences in accordance with national guidelines. If you deal in drugs, it is likely that you will be arrested. When there is a strong suspicion of drug dealing, Inverness Highland Games will inform and assist Police Scotland. Security Scotland will take an active role monitoring the any supply of drugs and will work in full co-operation with Police Scotland.

Neither anti-social nor illegal behaviour will be tolerated. If attendees behave in such a manner they will leave themselves liable to eviction from the site.

The Highland Council reserve the right to conduct security searches and confiscate any item which is not permitted on the event site and eject (without refund) any person refusing to be searched.

If drugs of particular concern are identified as being in circulation at the event we will communicate this risk with our attendees to protect their safety, health and wellbeing. This communication will be guided by the suggestions within the Welfare Requirements '**Example statement to share if potent drugs are in circulation at event**' and on site professionals, e.g. Police Scotland.

MERT Highland are trained in emergency first aid. The [Stimulant Overdose Awareness e-learning](#) has been communicated to the welfare / first aid services.

We accept that despite our policy, and indeed the law, some attendees will choose to use drugs. We also accept we have a duty to try to keep attendees safe, regardless of choices they make. Therefore, we note that using drugs can lead to adverse reactions. Content cannot be guaranteed by appearance and therefore

reactions may differ from expectation. In an altered state of mind, the crowds and the nature of the event can be very frightening and disorientating.

If attendees do take drugs and then become ill, depressed or frightened we encourage them to go to a welfare / first aid area or ask a steward to direct to one of these facilities where they will receive help and support required.

If an attendee is being evicted from the site for not abiding by the event ethos / standards by being intoxicated through alcohol or drug use then Inverness Highland Games will endeavour to encourage the attendee to remain with welfare / first aid until they can leave in a safe manner.

We will communicate our drug policy and drug messaging, as provided by NHS Highland Health Improvement team, in the following ways:

- Inverness Highland Games official website
- Signage at the event