

How do regulations around drugs work in Belgium?

You come to enjoy the whole event around Flanders Open Rugby, but what about the drug regulations here?

It's very important to bear in mind that drug legislation in Belgium is somewhat stricter than in most countries. Anything to do with drugs is in no way accepted here.

What exactly can happen if you have drugs in your pocket?

First of all, in all cases your drugs are always taken away, but there are different consequences depending on the situation and the quantity in your possession:

- **OMS procedure** : this is a procedure where, as a possessor, you actually get the chance to have a criminal charge dropped. So if you get this proposal and you just pay this, there will be no further consequences from this. The fine could be up to €300.
- **Criminal prosecution** : suppose you refuse to pay the amount, or you have an excessive amount in your pocket, or have drugs in your pocket where an OMS procedure is not possible, you could face criminal prosecution.

What can happen if you sell drugs?

In this situation, you will be punished more severely, these are possible consequences:

- **Seizure** : not only your drugs, but also appurtenances can be seized.
- **Arrest** : the police may arrest you and deprive you of your freedom for a maximum of 48 hours.
- **Imprisonment** : if you are deprived of your freedom and it is decided to arrest you within 48 hours, you can be sent to prison.

How do the checks work?

- **Drugs in traffic** : the local police of Dendermonde can carry out various checks focused on drug use in traffic. Motorists in Belgium can always be subjected to a saliva test to check whether they still have drugs in their body.
- **Arrival** : the local police of Dendermonde can carry out various checks during the event.
- **Checks at the event itself** : bear in mind that plain-clothes officers will be present on the premises during the event. In case of an offence, they will at least, as explained, propose an amicable settlement.

"The organisation reserves the right to take any measures vv positive control. Cutting access tape and removal from the site is one of them".

If you're coming to Flanders Open Rugby, be sure to abide by these rules so you can party, support and play sports with no worries.