

# BNSW MENINGOCOCCAL POLICY



Board of Directors NSW Basketball Association

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Basketball New South Wales continues to work to heighten general public awareness to the need to understand how the Meningococcal Bacteria is passed from one human to another.

Even now many are surprised to learn that this potentially fatal disease is only passed on through the exchange of saliva.

Around 500 Australians contract the disease while up to 4,000,000 can be carriers at any one time. As a carrier one is relatively safe 'from' the disease but we can pass it on to others who may be as fortunate as easily as;

# Sharing a drinking glass or container.

# Intimate kissing.

# Sharing cigarettes.

# Toys that have been placed in the mouth then shared with another child.

In fact any act wherein saliva can be exchanged with another person creates a risk occasion. Sporting participants are in the high-risk transfer category since drink containers are used frequently to replace lost fluids and these containers often touch lips and are often seen to be used in drinking fashion. From tiny tots to professional sporting participants the risk is equally high.

We suggest to all teams – players, coaches administrators, that they consider the consequences of drink containers being shared. It is all too true that this is one risk that ought to be eliminated from every sports arena across Australia.

There would be minimal cost and inconvenience involved in banning the sharing of drinks containers at all levels of sport. Common sense would lead to general acceptance and greater peace of mind.