



MENINGOCOCCAL NOTICE

'THE DANGERS OF SHARING DRINK BOTTLES'

The sharing of drink bottles has been identified as an area of high risk in relation to the transfer of saliva and increased possibility of contracting Meningococcal Disease.

Seasonal conditions at this time of the year are also ideal for the spread of the bacteria and every caution should be taken to ensure that **DRINK BOTTLES ARE NOT SHARED** between players at any time.

Soccer NSW endorses the following official notice from The Meningococcal Association of Australia:

OFFICIAL MENINGOCOCCAL ASSOCIATION NOTICE

The Meningococcal Association 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 people 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 not be as fortunate:

How can this life threatening bacteria be spread?

Sharing a drink bottle - Sharing a drinking glass - Intimate kissing - Sharing cigarettes
- Toys that have been placed in the mouth and then shared with another child -

In fact any act wherein saliva can be exchanged with another person creates a risk.

SPORTING PARTICIPANTS ARE IN THE HIGH RISK TRANSFER CATEGORY since drink bottles are used frequently to replace lost fluids and these containers often touch the lips and are then shared between players.

From tiny tots to professional participants in all sports the risk is equally high.

All sporting groups should consider the risks associated with the sharing of drink bottles. It is all too true that this is one risk that should be eliminated from every sports arena across Australia. Compared to the cost of a life, the banning of sharing drink bottles at all levels of sport is minimal.

Further Information can be obtained by visiting: www.meningococcal.org.au

"Help save lives and reduce amputations as a result of this disease"