

22 January 2007

MEDIA RELEASE

Blitz the League computer game Refused Classification

The Classification Board has classified the computer game *Blitz the League* Refused Classification (RC).

Refused Classification (RC) means the computer game cannot be made available for sale or hire, or be demonstrated in Australia.

"The Classification Board made this decision on the basis that *Blitz the League* contains drug use related to incentives or rewards," said Director the Classification Board, Des Clark. "Under the Guidelines for the Classification of Films and Computer Games, this is a general rule that means this type of content is Refused Classification."

Specifically, in the course of the game, the player may access what are purported to be both legal and illegal performance-enhancing drugs for the members of their team. Choosing to use these drugs, which each have different characteristics, will have effects on team-members, such as improving their speed while also making them more susceptible to injury. Fake urine samples may also be acquired for avoiding positive drug tests.

While the game-player can choose not to use the drugs, in the Board's view there is an incentive to use them. By using them judiciously, the player can improve the performance of their football team (while managing the negative effects) and have a better chance of winning games, thereby winning bets and climbing the league table.

The Classification Board is an independent statutory body responsible for the classification of films, computer games and some publications. The Board has representatives drawn from communities across Australia.

Media contact:

Brinsley Marlay 02 9289 7187 or 0438 889 759