

Northern Territory Sport Integrity Action Plan



2020-2021

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Acronyms

The following acronyms appear in this document.

| Acronyms | Full Form |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| SIA | Sport Integrity Australia |
| PBTR | Play By The Rules |
| PSB | Peak Sporting Body |
| NSO | National Sporting Organisation |

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Introduction

Maintaining integrity within the sport sector is a multi-layered and complex issue. It requires a collaborative approach across sport, Territory, State and Federal governments, law enforcement agencies and commercial organisations.

Commonwealth bodies such as the Sport Integrity Australia, Australian Border Force and other law enforcement agencies interact at a national level to maintain a regulatory network. They also work with National Sports Organisations (NSOs) and state-based agencies such as the Northern Territory Police.

Match fixing, corrupt gambling practices, performance enhancing drugs and illicit drugs pose a real threat to the integrity of sports, impacting their reputation and their ability to attract participants, partners and commercial opportunities. Inappropriate behaviour, by sports' members and spectators, also undermine sport's reputation and its value to the community.

Athletes competing at a national and international level are increasingly exposed to higher performance pressures. Sub-elite and younger, more vulnerable athletes, are soft targets for organised crime, looking to influence the contingencies and outcomes of sporting contests as well as distribute illicit, performance and image enhancing drugs.

Locally, ongoing evidence-based consultation and surveys with Territory Peak Sporting Bodies (PSBs) confirms the prevalence of illicit drug activity, court-siding (an illegal gambling practice) and poor on and off-field behaviour in Territory sport. These present illegal, corrupt and anti-social threats, provide strong justification to respond decisively and be proactively working towards their elimination.

A robust and refined approach to drive sport integrity, from the grass-roots to the all-of-Territory level, is required to address these issues in concert with national regulatory arrangements. This action plan sets out practical steps the Territory government will be taking to strengthen integrity arrangements in Territory sport.

Key actions to address sport integrity issues

The plan identifies six key action areas to proactively build the capability of sports in the Territory. They aim to mitigate integrity risks through raising awareness, and developing the capacity of sports to respond quickly and effectively when threats arise.

Action 1 - “Drugs in sport” education strategy

Key feedback from consultation with PSBs identified that drugs in sport education needs to be flexible, to reach a range of audiences, across a combination of differing timeframes.

The “Drugs in sport” education strategy addresses these needs with a multi layered approach, providing a range of touch points and delivery options, for a variety of audiences in the Territory sport community.

- 1) Delivery of face-to-face drugs in sport education sessions for doping, illicit drug and sport supplement information to local clubs, sports, players, parents, coaches and administrators. These sessions will be staggered across different evenings, weeks and months throughout the year. This will provide optimum opportunities for people and sports with competing priorities to attend.
- 2) Promotion and support of the Good Sports “Tackling illegal drugs” program. This program assists sporting clubs to develop their illegal drugs policy in collaboration with their membership. This is a crucial long-term sustainability component to positively drive the drug-free culture among sporting clubs and their members.
- 3) Communication and promotion of the “Illegal Drugs In Sport” (IDIS) online education program, from SIA. This is a free flexible online resource available for athletes, coaches and club administrators.
- 4) Communication and promotion of the SIA Clean Sport App, which has been designed with athletes in mind. The free App gives a complete list of all supplements sold in Australia that have been screened for prohibited substances by an independent laboratory. The App can also be used to report doping, to check if a medication is banned in sport, give ASADA feedback on testing missions and complete online education modules.
- 5) Communication and promotion of the ASADA eLearning platform, which offers both a level one and level two online course to prevent doping in Australian sport. This is free and available for athletes and support personnel.
- 6) Communication and promotion of the online ASADA Global DRO substance search tool. This website provides a quick and easy public search of any substance and determines whether it constitutes an anti-doping rule violation, specific to each sport, both in and out of competition.

Action 2 - Member Protection Information Officers

Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs) play an important role in Territory sport. They provide information and guidance on complaints and procedures, as well as promoting proactive education around positive behavioural and cultural expectations at all levels of the sport. Further training, registration and support of more MPIOs is an ongoing priority, to reduce inappropriate on and off-field behaviours.

This is promoted in concert with Play by the Rules (PBTR). PBTR provides information, resources, tools and free online training to increase the capacity and capability of administrators, coaches, officials, players, parents and spectators to assist them in preventing and dealing with discrimination, harassment, child safety, inclusion and integrity issues in sport.

Action 3 - NT Sport Integrity Network

The continued growth of the NT Sport Integrity Network is a critical strategic component, developing viable communication and connection points from within and outside the Territory sport sector.

The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (the department), along with law enforcement agencies and key sport service providers, work with delegates from NT PSBs. They collectively build knowledge of integrity issues, jointly address integrity threats and coordinate educational messages and responses.

This occurs formally three times per year at programmed NT Sport Integrity Network meetings, as well as provision for extra working group meetings.

The platform for cooperation continues through individual annual meetings with each PSB and NT sport sector stakeholders. This ongoing information exchange provides assessment of each individual sport's policy framework, identification of prevalent integrity threats, the measures that are currently in place and which capabilities need further development.

Action 4 - Regional support

Addressing sport integrity issues requires a whole-of-Territory approach, by engaging with the major regional centres, developing effective networks with key personnel and tailoring support and education to the broader sport community.

The Sport Integrity Officer will visit the major regional Territory centres of Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs to conduct community Sport Integrity forums. They will also forge relationships with local sports stakeholders, through one-on-one meetings, to consult on contextual sport integrity issues and work together to identify the best means of support to address them.

Action 5 - Online Sport Integrity toolkit

The online Sport Integrity toolkit has been developed to provide key information about integrity issues to PSBs, clubs, sports administrators, players, parents, coaches and support personnel. The platform can be accessed via: nt.gov.au/sport-integrity

The Sport Integrity toolkit contains educational resources and links for athletes, parents, coaches, officials, administrators and committees in relation to:

- Member protection and safeguarding children;
- Drugs in sport;
- Gambling in sport; and
- Sport Integrity eBook.
- Sports governance principles

It also includes specific links to:

- SAFENT, for the acquisition, renewal and status of working with children checks (ochre cards) in the Territory;
- Play By The Rules;
- NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect);
- National Sports Tribunal
- The national principles for child safe organisations; and
- A calendar for upcoming events.

Action 6 - Sport Integrity symposium

A Sport Integrity symposium will be held in 2020. It will bring together the Sport Integrity Network, Sport Integrity Australia, Play By The Rules, Northern Territory Police and representatives from Peak Sporting Organisations. It will continue to build connections and drive awareness of integrity risks across the sector.

Implementation

The department will lead the implementation of these six actions, working closely with sector partners, national sporting organisations, PSBs, local clubs, regional centres and law enforcement agencies.

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Available at: nt.gov.au/sport-integrity