



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties report:

Sport Manipulation Treaty

Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions

[September 2026]

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Overview

The Australian Government notes the report by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (the committee) into Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, and this Government Response is in response to Recommendations 2 and 3 of the report, as these are the recommendations related to the Macolin Convention.

Australia has a strong international reputation for sport integrity.¹ This is underpinned by sophisticated approaches to monitoring sport integrity by a number of sports organisations and wagering service providers. However, sport integrity matters are beyond the control of any single stakeholder. They are international and connected, forming a complex threat matrix exposing vulnerabilities that require a robust and nationally coordinated response.

The Macolin Convention is an initiative of the Council of Europe with the purpose of galvanising and harmonising a collective response to 'combat the manipulation of sports competitions in order to protect the integrity of sport and sports ethics in accordance with the principle of the autonomy of sport'.² Australia was one of seven non-Council of Europe States which took part in drafting the Macolin Convention.

The Macolin Convention is the only multilateral treaty promoting cooperation and regulation to prevent the manipulation of sports competitions. It requests public authorities of States Parties to cooperate with sports organisations, betting operators and competition organisers to prevent, detect and sanction the manipulation of sports competitions. It proposes a common legal framework for efficient international cooperation to respond to this increasingly globalised threat.

Ratification of the Macolin Convention and establishment of national match-fixing criminal legislation will further strengthen the global response to international sports integrity matters, acknowledging the transnational nature of competition manipulation and related corruption in sport, and recognising the global quantity of threats to the integrity of sports competitions held in Australia.

The Macolin Convention resolves Australia's present lack of a cohesive national capability to confront and respond to domestic and international competition manipulation and sports betting-related corruption. Australia becoming a party to the Macolin Convention provides a framework for the Commonwealth to enact criminal legislation to prevent and punish corruption in sports and designate a National Platform for information sharing on such activities, supported by the external affairs power.³

Ratification will consolidate Australia's efforts to engage and respond to integrity threats in a formal framework designed to promote information sharing and coordination.

¹ Wood Review definition - protection of corrupt activity within sport, ranging from serious and organised crime related interventions to minor code and ethics breaches.

² Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions, opened for signature 18 September 2014, CETS No. 215 a 1.1, Article 1.1.

³ *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900* (Cth) s 51(xxix).

Australian Government response

The Australian Government's response to Recommendations 2 and 3 of the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions is set out in detail below.

Recommendation 2:

The Committee recommends that Australia seek to encourage the development and be an early adopter of similar treaties beyond Europe aimed at combatting the manipulation of sports.

The Government **notes** this recommendation.

The Committee's recommendation is noted and aligns with Australia's strong commitment to addressing competition manipulation at both domestic and international levels. At present, the Council of Europe's Macolin Convention remains the only international treaty specifically designed to combat the manipulation of sports competitions, and there is considerable benefit in prioritising broader global adoption of this existing framework rather than developing parallel instruments. Universal or near-universal uptake of the Macolin Convention would better enable coordinated international responses to match-fixing and related integrity threats. In this context, Australia's well-established National Platform demonstrates significant capability and provides a practical model for cross-sector collaboration and information sharing.

Australia will continue to support international partners by sharing expertise, assisting with the establishment and operationalisation of national platforms, and actively advocating for Macolin Convention ratification as the most effective means of strengthening the global response to competition manipulation.

Recommendation 3:

The Committee supports the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions and recommends binding treaty action be taken.

The Government **supports** this recommendation.

The Macolin Convention addresses the global, often transnational, threat of competition manipulation and illegal sports betting. The Convention is designed to protect the integrity of sports through encouraging cooperation between public authorities, sport organisations and betting operators.

Australia is committed to ratifying the Macolin Convention and the Government is actively taking steps to ensure our compliance with the Convention. As foreshadowed by the Prime Minister in April 2026, the Government introduced legislation⁴ to amend the *Criminal Code 1995* (Cth) to establish National Sport Integrity Offences to complement existing State, Territory and other Commonwealth laws giving effect to Australia's obligations under the Macolin Convention.

⁴ [ParlInfo - Criminal Code Amendment \(National Sport Integrity Offences\) Bill 2026](#)