



SPORT INTEGRITY
AUSTRALIA

National Integrity Framework

Companion Guide: Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy



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Purpose

This Companion Guide supports sporting organisations and personnel to understand and implement the Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy (Policy) within the National Integrity Framework (NIF). It is to be read and used in conjunction with the Policy.

The Policy is the principal document that sets out mandatory rules and requirements. This Companion Guide provides additional context, explanatory material and practical considerations to assist sports in applying the Policy. The guidance is advisory in nature and does not form part of the Policy.

Understanding competition manipulation

Betting vs non-betting manipulation

Competition manipulation includes both betting-related fixing and non-betting motivations. Understanding these different types helps participants recognise threats relevant to their sport.

Relevant Organisations should:

- ensure participants receive education explaining the difference between betting-related manipulation (e.g. match-fixing, spot-fixing and point shaving to profit from betting markets) and non-betting related manipulation (e.g. avoiding relegation, securing favourable draws, age falsification)
- provide sport-specific examples so participants understand how manipulation could occur in their environment.

Relevant Persons should:

- understand the difference between betting and non-betting competition manipulation and recognise how these behaviours may present within their role.

Acceptable vs improper conduct

Not all actions that affect competition outcomes are improper. Each sport has accepted strategic behaviours that may appear questionable but are legitimate within the sport's rules, norms and standard practices.

Appendix A of the Policy provides sport-specific examples of prohibited and acceptable conduct to help participants understand what is improper in their sport.

Relevant Organisations should:

- provide clear guidance on what constitutes acceptable strategic behaviour (e.g. resting players, rotation policies) versus improper behaviour (e.g. intentionally conceding points, deliberately underperforming)
- include sport specific examples in Appendix A of their Policy.

Relevant Persons should:

- ensure any tactical or strategic decisions remain within the rules, norms and accepted practices of the sport
- seek clarification from their Relevant Organisation if unsure.

Understanding the competition manipulation risk environment

Competition manipulation risk varies by sport depending on betting markets, participant vulnerabilities and sport-specific factors. Understanding these risks helps sports prioritise prevention efforts.

Relevant Organisations should:

- be aware of whether betting markets exist for their competitions and, if so, where most betting turnover occurs (domestic vs offshore)
- identify potential vulnerabilities relevant to their participants (e.g. financial pressures, problem gambling, little to no income from the sport). Competition manipulation often begins with approaches to participants through social media, sponsorship offers or exploitation of these vulnerabilities. Early recognition and reporting are critical to prevention
- educate participants about common approach methods such as social media contact, sponsorship offers, exploiting personal vulnerabilities and requests for inside information (e.g. team selections before they are public, tactics, injuries)
- reinforce that participants must resist and report any suspicious approach as soon as practical.

Relevant Persons should:

- be alert to unsolicited contact or offers
- resist any suspicious approach and report it as soon as practical.

Understanding Prohibited Conduct

It is essential to have a clear understanding of Prohibited Conduct for compliance. Participants must know what is prohibited under the Policy and where to seek clarification.

Relevant Organisations should:

- ensure all Relevant Persons are educated on Prohibited Conduct under the Policy
- provide sport-specific examples to clarify what conduct is not permitted.

Relevant Persons should:

- understand what conduct is prohibited, including competition manipulation, providing inside information, failing to report approaches and any betting rules specific to their sport
- seek clarification from their Relevant Organisation if unsure whether conduct may breach the Policy.

Reporting requirements

Timely reporting is a mandatory requirement and critical to detecting and preventing competition manipulation.

Relevant Organisations should:

- provide clear details of where to submit reports on their website and in their Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy
- regularly remind participants that they must report suspicious approaches or knowledge of possible competition manipulation as soon as practical.

Relevant Persons should:

- understand where to submit reports in relation to suspicious approaches or knowledge of possible competition manipulation.

Managing conflicts of interest

Conflicts of interest can create opportunities for competition manipulation if not properly managed, such as when a person responsible for creating draws or officiating matches also has a role with a competing club.

Relevant Organisations should:

- identify roles where conflicts of interest could enable manipulation (e.g. draw creation, officiating)
- implement controls such as declaration requirements or step-aside processes.

Relevant Persons should:

- declare any conflicts of interest that may affect their role
- remove themselves from decisions where a conflict exists.

Gambling sponsorships

Entering a commercial sponsorship arrangement with a wagering service provider is a matter for each sport to consider, in line with the best interests of the sport.

Relevant Organisations should:

- consider the potential reputational impacts that sponsorship arrangements with a wagering service provider may have, including impacts on the integrity of events or competitions
- consider whether a proposed sponsorship arrangement with a wagering service provider could give rise to real or perceived conflicts of interest
- ensure clear governance processes exist for reviewing, approving, rejecting and justifying decisions relating to gambling sponsorship arrangements.

Match formats and draws

Competition manipulation can occur when competition formats or draws create opportunities for participants or officials to influence outcomes improperly.

Relevant Organisations should:

- review competition formats to reduce opportunities for manipulation (e.g. formats that incentivise deliberate losing or favourable draw positioning)
- identify roles where individuals may influence draws, seeding, scheduling or match formats (e.g. tournament directors, officials, selectors)
- ensure appropriate controls are in place, such as conflict of interest declarations, step-aside processes
- ensure draw and competition formats are transparent and well documented.

Relevant Persons should:

- refrain from using their position to improperly influence draws, seedings or match formats to advantage themselves, their club or associated participants.

Courtsiding and data scouting

If a sporting event has betting markets, courtsiders and/or data scouts may be present. Courtsiding means the real-time transmission of match data (such as live scores, points or outcomes) for the purpose of creating a betting advantage by exploiting the time delay between live events and the framing of in-play betting odds.

Data scouting means the collection and transmission of match data (such as live scores, points or outcomes) for commercial use, including supply to Wagering Service Providers in Australia and offshore. There are 2 forms of data scouting:

1. Official Data scouting occurs under a formal agreement between a Relevant Organisation and a data company or Wagering Service Provider.
2. Unauthorised data scouting occurs without such a formal agreement.

Courtsiding undermines betting market integrity, while unauthorised data scouting threatens commercial data rights and enables unregulated offshore betting markets.

Courtsiding and unauthorised data scouting are often conducted by spectators outside the scope of the Policy.

If courtsiding and/or unauthorised data scouting is an issue, Relevant Organisations should:

- prohibit these activities through ticketing or entry conditions, denying entry or removing offenders
- display signage stating that courtsiding and unauthorised data scouting are prohibited
- designate a person (e.g. competition or venue manager) to monitor venues for such activities
- depending on their risk profile, sports may choose to implement additional governance measures, such as a courtsiding and/or data scouting policy.

It is acknowledged that these recommendations may be challenging to enforce, especially at large venues or in public spaces where identification and removal of offenders is not always practical.

Relevant Organisations should also:

- report any confirmed or suspected instances of courtsiding or unauthorised data scouting to Sport Integrity Australia at NationalPlatform@sportintegrity.gov.au. This helps Sport Integrity Australia monitor national trends, identify emerging risks and provide better support to the sector.

Calcuttas

Note: This section only applies to sports where Calcuttas are conducted or permitted.

A Calcutta is a fundraiser and/or betting program where bidders participate in an auction format (or blind draw) for the 'ownership' of an athlete or team participating in a competition. As the successful bidder, the 'owners' are entitled to a pre-determined portion of the auction funds should their athlete or team be successful during the competition.

Regulatory considerations

Calcuttas may be subject to State or Territory gambling, gaming, fundraising or other regulatory requirements. Relevant Organisations should familiarise themselves with any applicable legislative or regulatory requirements and take steps to ensure they are meeting those requirements.

National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) should consider engaging with relevant regulators and government agencies to better understand the regulatory environment for Calcuttas, including reporting thresholds and obligations, and support the integrity objectives of their sport.

Integrity considerations

Relevant Organisations considering conducting a Calcutta should engage with their NSO prior to the event. Early engagement can help identify and manage any integrity risks associated with the proposed Calcutta.

When engaging with their NSO, Relevant Organisations may consider providing:

- the event details
- the proposed Calcutta format, and
- the expected prize pool.

Following the event, Relevant Organisations may consider providing their NSO with:

- the approximate total prize pool of the Calcutta, and
- the winner(s) of the Calcutta.

Information relating to Calcuttas may assist NSOs to monitor activity within their sport, identify trends, assess potential integrity risks and inform future education, awareness and integrity activities.