



Prohibited Association

What it means for members of sport

July 2025

Prohibited Association is one of the 11 Anti-Doping Rule Violations. It aims to prevent people who have broken anti-doping rules from negatively influencing athletes and others in sport.

Under Prohibited Association, members of sport are not allowed to knowingly associate **in a professional or sport-related context** with:

- anyone who is serving an anti-doping sanction
- anyone who has been found guilty of a criminal or disciplinary offence equivalent to a doping violation e.g. the supply of a prohibited drug, which is a criminal offence, and would also amount to a doping violation of trafficking.

There are examples of what types of interactions can and can't take place below, but it's first important to know that Prohibited Association:

- is an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV), and can therefore involve sanctions
- applies to all people bound by a sport's anti-doping policy, such as athletes, coaches, support staff, officials and administrators
- can apply to sport-related and professional interactions that are in-person and online
- applies across all sports that are a signatory, or member of a signatory, to the World Anti-Doping Code (Code). This requires sports to recognise sanctions imposed by other sports.

To better understand Prohibited Association, it helps to know what someone serving an anti-doping sanction can and can't do. Here are some examples, noting this list is not exhaustive.

THEY CAN



Attend a sporting event as a spectator, such as watching a professional match, or watching their children play sport.



Spend time with athletes and support personnel in a social capacity, such as going to the movies or dinner.

THEY CAN'T*



Carry out any official role at a sporting event in any capacity, such as coaching, refereeing, judging, or timekeeping.



Provide any kind of representation or advice regarding sport-related business, including as a manager or advice on contracts. This includes serving on a sporting board or committee, at any level.

*can't do any of these activities in a sport that is a signatory to the Code.

THEY CAN



Talk about their sanction and restrictions with others in sport.



Provide training services to people who **are not** bound by a sport anti-doping policy.



Access support services offered by sport, such as wellbeing, medical and career support, as long as these services do not constitute participation in the sport or use of its facilities.



Stay active and participate in purely recreational sporting activities, not organised by a recognised sporting body with an anti-doping policy e.g. Park Run.



Train separately in public facilities, away from athletes and sports people bound by a sport anti-doping policy e.g. public gyms and pools.



Provide treatment, prescriptions, therapy, nutritional information, or medical advice to people who **are not** bound by a sport anti-doping policy (unless a health or medical disciplinary body/board has banned them from this activity).

THEY CAN'T*



Be involved in any sport or club-related activities such as medal ceremonies or speaking engagements (unless it is anti-doping education that is first approved by Sport Integrity Australia).



Provide any form of coaching, training services, strategy or technique advice.



Attend or use sporting facilities to access sport-related support services (e.g. a sporting club's gym or recovery centre).



Participate in any sporting event.



Participate in any form of organised training with athletes or sporting organisations.



Provide any treatment, prescriptions, therapy, nutritional information, or medical advice to people who are bound by a sport anti-doping policy.

*can't do any of these activities in a sport that is a signatory to the Code.

Potential penalties that may result from Prohibited Association

If a person commits a Prohibited Association ADRV by interacting with a sanctioned person in a professional or sport-related context, they risk a ban of up to 2 years. In order to prove a Prohibited Association ADRV, Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) or the applicable Anti-Doping Organisation, must establish that the person was aware of the disqualifying status of the sanctioned person when interacting with them.

Additionally, the person serving an anti-doping sanction can have their sanction extended for breaching conditions of their ban.

**POSSIBLE 2
YEAR BAN**

How sporting organisations can help members

Sports can put reasonable measures in place to help members avoid committing a Prohibited Association ADRV.

If you have good reason to believe a person associated with your sport may be serving an anti-doping sanction, or has been found guilty of a criminal or disciplinary offence equivalent to a doping violation, you can:

- Check the [Sanction List on Sport Integrity Australia's website](#)
- Check the sanction list on the person's National Anti-Doping Organisation website or International Federation (for example, if they are a foreign national competing in Australia)
- Check the [Prohibited Association List on the World Anti-Doping Agency website](#)
- Contact Sport Integrity Australia on our **Safe Sport Hotline 1800 161 361**.

If you become aware that a sanctioned person is involved with your sporting organisation, you should consider:

- Advising your members about the sanction. Include a verified link to the Sanction List or Prohibited Association List.
- Outlining Prohibited Association rules to your members, including steps they should take to protect themselves.
- Exercising caution regarding the person's interaction with your organisation or the sport.
- Taking steps to manage your members' risk of associating with the person in a professional or sport-related context.

SIA can assist you regarding any action taken above. Every sport and each sanctioned person's circumstances will be unique and create different challenges. For example, if a sanctioned person has children who participate in the sport, they can be a spectator as a parent. However, the sanctioned person cannot actively engage in coaching of any kind with their children or children's team, even informally.

Ultimately, though, the responsibility is on members to make sure they don't commit a Prohibited Association ADRV.



Mental health and wellbeing considerations

Bans from sport can significantly impact a person's mental health and wellbeing. Sports should take the following actions:

- Discuss in advance with the sanctioned person when, how and why their sanction will be communicated to other members of their sport.
- In formal communications to members of your sport, include information on how the sanctioned person can and can't be involved with the sport. Consider tailoring messaging for people who were directly involved with the sanctioned person, such as teammates. Consider engaging with the sanctioned person when drafting these so you can factor in their wellbeing.
- Consider personal circumstances and how that may affect the sanctioned person's involvement with the sport. For example, do they have family members involved?
- Encourage the sanctioned person to reach out if other members falsely accuse them of breaching their restrictions.
- Offer the sanctioned person wellbeing and support services, ensuring these services do not constitute participation in the sport or use of its facilities.
- Designate a staff member to remain in appropriate contact with the sanctioned person to check on their wellbeing.

If you are concerned about a sanctioned person's mental health at any point, recommend that they reach out to their GP, who may be able to provide a treatment plan or refer them to professional support services.

If there is immediate risk to the person, call 000.

Need more information?

Call our **Safe Sport Hotline 1800 161 361** for advice if you are unsure about your requirements under Prohibited Association. Visit sportintegrity.gov.au for further information.

