



SPORT INTEGRITY *MATTERS*

ISSUE 21 | JUNE 2025

BASKETBALL & BEYOND
LAUREN JACKSON'S PLAY FOR EQUITY
& INCLUSION IN SPORT

NATURAL DOESN'T EQUAL SAFE
THE DANGERS OF BOTANICALS

NEW VOICES AND THINKING FOR THE
ATHLETE ADVISORY GROUP



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ABOUT OUR INDIGENOUS ARTWORK

Chern'ee Sutton is a contemporary Indigenous artist from the Kalkadoon people. This painting is her interpretation of Sport Integrity Australia and our reconciliation journey. The large community symbol pictured represents Sport Integrity Australia. Within this community symbol is Australia, which represents a single nationally coordinated organisation to address all sport integrity issues. Canberra, where our office is located, is represented by the small community symbol within Australia.

See the whole artwork and read the full story on our website.

FEEDBACK

Do you have a story about an integrity issue that you want to share with the sports community through future issues of *Sport Integrity Matters*?

Send an email to communications@sportintegrity.gov.au All feedback is appreciated.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



It's hard to believe we've reached the mid-point of the year. I reflect on what we've achieved to date in 2025 and look forward to the next six-months ahead.

Our agency as a whole is reflecting on the body of work undertaken for the last five years as July marks Sport Integrity Australia's (SIA) 5th anniversary.

In July 2020, SIA was established, bringing together the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority, the National Integrity of Sport Unit and the national integrity programs of Sport Australia as one entity, providing national coordination and streamlined support to sports, and sport sector stakeholders.

It's a model that is the envy of many other countries across the world. I'm often approached by others in partner organisations from across the globe who are keenly watching how our agency, who has brought all sport integrity matters under one umbrella, advocates and drives change in our sporting sector.

As someone driven by purpose and with a passion for protecting sport and its participants, I can see that together we are making progress.

However, SIA can only be successful and have an impact if we are connected with sport and our key partners. I've had the opportunity in the first half of this year to meet with many in our sector, and I genuinely believe that together we are strengthening integrity frameworks across the sport ecosystem.

There's still much to be done and there are some critical areas of focus in the months and years ahead.

This includes leading a national conversation, in collaboration with key partners, on how to strengthen the current integrity environment for children, young people and those most vulnerable in our sporting community. Collectively, we need to discuss the current gaps in policy, legislation and programs to ensure children, young people and those vulnerable can participate in a safe sporting environment, one that is free from harm, abuse and discrimination.

SIA is working closely with the peak sporting agencies and the National Office for Child Safety to assess gaps and identify viable policy and legislative reforms, however any solution must balance integrity with appropriate privacy and legal safeguards.



SIA is working closely with the peak sporting agencies and the National Office for Child Safety to assess gaps and identify viable policy and legislative reforms...

An important discussion at our 2025 CEO Sport Integrity Forum earlier this year was around online abuse and harassment. Everyone has a right to feel safe in sport, whether that's during competition, on the sideline, or online.

Sadly, online abuse continues to plague sport. A recent survey, completed by the organisation [United Against Online Abuse](#), measured online abuse in sport globally and found 50% of all abuse directed at athletes and competitors is misogynistic or racist. This was a significant increase from their 2024 survey.

Furthermore, 75% of sport federations reported continued threats against competitors and their families, 50% said volunteers and officials now face routine online abuse, and 90% of federations agreed that abuse could force athletes to leave their sport.

A key piece of work I will be focussing on is formalising an MoU between SIA and the eSafety Commissioner, which will ensure we provide consolidated support to sport by building stronger connections with partners, particularly those outside of sport, who have the authority and powers to respond to online abuse.

As many are aware, our National Integrity Managers (NIMs) play a key role in protecting sport in Australia and ensuring their sports are building and delivering on integrity capability under the National Integrity Framework. We recently fast tracked our review of the

National Integrity Managers program to provide a solid basis to seek ongoing funding for this important program.

While SIA is a Commonwealth government agency, we know our impact is limited if we only focus at the national level. Through our review, we're looking at how we can extend our reach and ensure that our impact and the work of the NIMs is also felt at the state/territory and community levels in sport. We also want to elevate the good work and resources of the [Play By The Rules](#) team, who are empowering communities to make positive change in sport.

We will work collaboratively across the landscape, with our many partners, to identify gaps and find meaningful solutions to protect the integrity of sport in Australia.

Another priority area of focus for myself and the agency is driving transparency and trust in the global anti-doping system, with unintentional doping in the spotlight.

Whether that's in the context of illicit drug use or contamination, it's absolutely critical that we look at the health and welfare of athletes and we are influencing the global framework, to ensure a system that is fair and transparent. We are positioned to influence with SIA representation on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Taskforce on Unintentional Doping, the Working Group on Contaminations and

a series of recent meetings between myself and the senior executive of WADA. Ongoing support to athletes including through targeted education and resources also remains a priority to ensure they are empowered in a system designed for their protection.

You may have read in a last edition of Sport Integrity Matters magazine that SIA has assumed sole responsibility (previously a partnership with the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission) as Australia's National Platform for Information Sharing. Through our role as the National Platform, SIA aims to support sporting organisations, regulators, gambling operators, state and territory law enforcement agencies, in partnership with other key stakeholders to identify and respond to the threat of competition manipulation and coordinate responses where possible.

This year is about building the agency and our partners' capability to make sure that we are positioned to respond to match fixing or competition manipulation threats but also protect sports from those threats in the first instance.

I look forward to continuing this work in the months and years ahead to make a difference together.



Dr Sarah Benson PSM
Chief Executive Officer

The Sport Integrity Australia **Learning Management System** has had an upgrade!

SIA EDGE is a fresh, user-friendly platform designed to make accessing your integrity education even easier.

- **Better navigation**
- **Increased accessibility**
- **Streamlined registration**
- **Improved account management**
- **Multi-sport selection**

When you first log in, just click '*Forgot Your Password?*' and follow the prompts using the email linked to your account.

Please note:

- Only learning records from 1 July 2020 onwards have been transferred to the new platform, and only for users with completed courses.
- Users without any completed learning activities will need to create new accounts.
- The certificate of learning/training record will look slightly different, but users will still be able to view their record of completed learning since 1 July 2020.

For any issues relating to account migration contact us via email: SIAEDGE@sportintegrity.gov.au.



SIA EDGE

STRENGTHENING INTEGRITY FOR THE **LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY**

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) has partnered with Pride in Sport to ensure a more inclusive, safe, and healthy sporting environment for people with diverse sexualities and genders.

The new **LGBTQ+ Sport Integrity Guideline** provides sporting organisations with comprehensive guidance on identifying, managing and resolving incidents of homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia.

"Addressing these incidents in sport is crucial for creating inclusive and safe environments for everyone, at all levels. We want sport to be a safe place for all Australians," said Dr Paul Oliver, SIA Acting Deputy CEO – Safety in Sport.

"Creating an inclusive environment leads to better mental health, greater participation, more enjoyment and even better performance.

"Our hope is that this guideline helps equip sport with practical tools and information to build positive environments, but also to manage any phobic incidents that might occur."

Pride in Sport National Program Manager, Beau Newell, acknowledged LGBTQ+ people face significant challenges in feeling accepted in sports settings.

"Our 2024 Pride in Sport Index National Survey shows 53% of respondents have witnessed homophobia, biphobia, or vilification based on identity, and 40% have personally experienced it," Mr Newell said.

"While participation rates in some sports are high, many young LGBTQ+ athletes still struggle with acceptance and belonging.

"Ongoing education is essential to create safe and welcoming spaces for all athletes; and that's what we want to achieve by arming sports with resources like this guideline."

While SIA can manage complaints relating to discrimination in sport, phobic incidents can also fall under a range of prohibited conduct under different policies. This guideline helps readers understand how different types of phobic incidents can be appropriately managed.

Download the guideline from the [SIA website](#).



SIA CEO, Dr Sarah Benson, together with Pride in Sport's, Ben Cork, presenting the guide to SIA staff in Canberra.

Key components of the guideline

- **Detailed examples of a range of phobic behaviours.**
- **Information about where these behaviours sit within sport policies.**
- **An outline of organisational roles and responsibilities when it comes to addressing phobic behaviours.**
- **Education for decision makers (tribunal members and complaint managers).**
- **The importance of including those with lived experiences in decision making.**





ENHANCED GAMES.

**DANGEROUS
+ UNETHICAL**



Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) has condemned the concept of the Enhanced Games as dangerous, unethical and damaging to sport, and has also issued a health warning to Australian athletes considering taking part.

The Enhanced Games – now commonly referred to as the 'steroid games' – is luring athletes to compete with appearance fees, prize money and additional bonuses for setting new world records. Athletes can compete whether they're doped or clean.

Enhanced Games organisers claim the event allows them to "pioneer new training and recovery protocols". The intent of the games is to foster a new industry centred around 'performance medicine', effectively marketing steroids and peptides to the general public.

Operating as a profit-driven business, the philosophy of the Enhanced Games erodes the fundamental values of fair competition, turning athletic achievement into a contest of chemical manipulation rather than natural talent and dedication.

Earlier this year it was announced that the Enhanced Games will take place in Las Vegas in May 2026. Part of the announcement was that the games will be medically supervised with an 'IRB-approved clinical framework that ensures all enhancements are safe, legal, and scientifically guided'.

However, the announcement of health safety measures for the Enhanced Games has done little to ease concerns of anti-doping agencies globally, including SIA.

SIA CEO, Dr Sarah Benson, said the agency was committed to protecting athlete health and well-being and the integrity of sport in Australia.

"We work to ensure that sport is safe and fair for all; the Enhanced Games is promoting the complete opposite and poses a significant risk to athlete health and safety while undermining the fundamental values of sport in Australia.

"SIA condemns competitions that promote drug use and doping methods in sport, particularly those that may seek to exploit athletes for financial gain and influence.

"Of particular concern is the message this sends to young athletes participating at all levels of sport around the world – that it is ok to take performance enhancing drugs – which it is not," Dr Benson said.

The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** also condemned the Enhanced Games as dangerous and irresponsible, stating the health and wellbeing of athletes is WADA's number one priority.

"Those of us who truly care for the health of athletes and integrity of sport must send a firm message that we will not be deterred. For the sake of athletes' health and the purity of sport, it must be stopped," said WADA President, Witold Bańka.

WADA has called on all governments and law enforcement agencies to assess whether athletes who admit to taking performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) – or the physicians who supply or administer those substances – may be in breach of criminal laws or professional rules, whether in their own countries or wherever the event takes place.



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Dr Sarah Benson
Sport Integrity Australia CEO

Further, WADA warned athletes and support personnel who wish to participate in sport regulated by the World Anti-Doping Code, that if they take part in the Enhanced Games, they risk committing anti-doping rule violations under the Code. They would also put their reputations on the line, as they would risk forever being associated with doping.

"To be clear, WADA will encourage Anti-Doping Organisations to test involved athletes before, during and after this event, in order to protect the integrity of legitimate sport," a WADA statement said.

World Aquatics went one step further adopting a new Bylaw that reinforces its commitment to clean sport.

Swimming is one of three sports that will make up competition as part of the Enhanced Games, the others being Athletics and Weightlifting (with limited events in each sport).

Under the new Bylaw, individuals who support, endorse, or participate in sporting events that embrace the use of scientific advancements or other practices that may include prohibited substances and/or prohibited methods, will not be eligible to hold positions with World Aquatics or to participate in any World Aquatics competitions, events, or other activities. This ineligibility would apply to roles such as athlete, coach, team official, administrator, medical support staff, or government representative.

"Those who enable doped sport are not welcome at World Aquatics or our events," said World Aquatics President, Husain Al Musallam.

"This new Bylaw ensures that we can continue to protect the integrity of our competitions, the health and safety of our athletes, and the credibility of the global aquatics community."

Our colleagues from **Sport Integrity Commission New Zealand** also condemned the Enhanced Games as irresponsible and dangerous, jeopardising athlete health and safety while fundamentally eroding the core values of fair play and integrity.

"The Enhanced Games exploits athletes by putting their health and careers at risk for the sake of purported entertainment and financial gain. Doping in sport is never acceptable and we condemn any activities that undermine the safety and fairness of sport," said Board Chair of Sport Integrity Commission New Zealand, Don Mackinnon.

While CEO of the **US Anti-Doping Agency**, Travis Tygart, labelled the Enhanced Games "a dangerous clown show, not real sport".

"As we have seen through history, performance-enhancing drugs have taken a terrible physical and mental toll on many athletes. Some have died," Mr Tygart said.

Some of the substances being used by the enhanced athletes participating can have significant lifelong side effects. Many drugs on the WADA Prohibited List are experimental and are not approved for therapeutic use in humans, with adverse effects largely unknown and unstudied.

Some of the substances being used by the enhanced athletes participating can have **significant lifelong side effects**. Many drugs on the WADA Prohibited List are experimental and are **not approved for therapeutic use in humans**, with adverse effects largely unknown and unstudied.

Understandably, scientists have weighed into the debate, warning of varied health risks, including **liver and/or kidney damage, high blood pressure and cholesterol, infertility, mental health problems, and a higher risk of cancer**.

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Professor Ian Boardley, whose research has been supported by WADA, and fellow researcher Martin Chandler, who specialises in PEDs, recently told *The Guardian* that organisers' claims that banned drugs can be made safer if taken under medical supervision are "incorrect and misleading".

Former Australian Olympic swimmer, James Magnussen, now an Enhanced Games athlete, has said publicly that he feels like he's "18 again" after taking testosterone, peptides and banned drugs, including BPC-157, CJC-1295 and the growth hormone ipamorelin.

Professor Boardley and Chandler have warned that Magnussen and other Enhanced Games competitors are underestimating the risks and dangers from taking steroids and other experimental drugs.

"BPC-157 has had very limited human trials, so we don't have robust human data for that, while ipamorelin was discontinued when it was a pharmaceutical drug," Chandler said. "Neither is FDA approved."

Sport Integrity Australia's Athlete Advisory Group (AAG) also expressed deep concern about the Enhanced Games.

"Our priority is to use our lived experiences as elite athletes to advocate for practices and policies that support clean, fair, safe, and ethical sport. For us, competitive sport is more than simply breaking records," the SIA AAG said.

"The normalisation of performance-enhancing drugs promotes doping as entertainment, putting athletes at risk, and devalues the efforts of those who choose to compete clean.

"We are concerned about the negative role modelling impact on young athletes in particular, and the related health risks of using performance-enhancing substances or methods that may be inadvertently viewed as safe.

"For athletes considering participation, we strongly urge them to reconsider and fully understand the health risks not only to themselves, but also the influence their choices may have on young athletes who look up to them and emulate their choices.

"Informed decision-making is critical, especially when it comes to your health, your legacy, and the integrity of the sport," the AAG stated.

"We call on Australian athletes to stand with us, to reject the idea of the 'Enhanced Games', and to speak up for clean, fair sport. Your voice matters."

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Those of us who truly care for the health of athletes and integrity of sport must send a firm message that we will not be deterred. For the sake of athletes' health and the purity of sport, it must be stopped.

Witold Bańka
WADA President

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We call on Australian athletes to stand with us, to reject the idea of the 'Enhanced Games', and to speak up for clean, fair sport. Your voice matters.

Athlete Advisory Group
Sport Integrity Australia



CULTURE COUNTS

LEADERS INSPIRE STUDENTS WITH MESSAGES OF CULTURE & INCLUSION IN SPORT

Good culture in sport is the foundation of sustained success. It fosters teamwork, accountability, resilience, and a shared commitment to excellence, both on and off the field.

Our Culture and Safety team at Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) is focused on preventing and responding to integrity threats to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with a disability, LGBTI+ people, and women and girls across all levels of sport in Australia.

The team is supporting and assisting to change the culture of sport to embed culturally safe practices and protocols, ensuring a level of integrity that will allow all those involved in Australian sport to feel safe, respected and culturally included.

During National Reconciliation Week, SIA's Culture and Safety Advisor, Patrick Johnson OLY, and Empowering Women and Girls in Sport Integrity Program lead, Delfina Shakespear, visited Bremer State High School on Yagara Country, to speak to 60 students who are part of the Ipswich Regional Sports Academy (IRSA).

IRSA is a partnership between Bremer State High School and the University of Southern Queensland and is dedicated to supporting young athletes as they work towards their academic and sporting goals. The student population at Bremer State School is diverse, with a high number of First Nations students.

Students were abuzz leading into the visit, knowing they would meet a former Olympic sprinter (and current 100m

Oceania and Australian record holder) and female A-League Football referee.

IRSA Director of Sport, Michael Seiler, said the purpose of the visit was to motivate and inspire the students.

"They're with their teachers every day, so our messages often wear off," Michael said.

"It's about reaffirming to these kids that irrespective of where they live, where they come from, or any other situation, that they can be successful.

"When they hear it from people like Patrick and Delfina, it means something. The more people we can get around our kids, the more stories, the more motivation; the better it is for them and their sporting endeavours."

Patrick and Delfina shared insights with the students about their respective journeys in sport, provided an overview of Sport Integrity Australia, and talked about the importance of working hard, playing clean and fair, and being inclusive.

"Sport should be safe; it should be a place where children feel protected and it should be for everyone," Patrick said.

"It's important in our role at SIA to do visits like this, to educate, and explain to young athletes what the SIA



SIA's Patrick Johnson OLY, Delfina Shakespear and Kym Potts with students from Bremer State High School's Ipswich Regional Sports Academy.

team does, but importantly, what they can do to contribute to safe, fair and clean sport.

"Whether its information around doping, supplement use or match fixing; these are subjects that are foreign for young people, but it's something they may come across in their time in sport.

"We're planting the seed early. It's around education and awareness but also empowering young people to take control of their own lives and to call out some of the issues that are happening in sport – whether that's peer-on-peer issues, bullying, racism or sexism in sport."

Cultural safety was also discussed, with Patrick talking about the importance of showing up as your authentic self – including representing your culture – in sport.

"It's critical because it's who they are, and they should never shy away from that. It's their DNA, it's part of their family, it's part of their community.

"Sport has its own culture, but it has the bonus to create safe environments for everyone – from different cultures, different backgrounds, different religions, different nationalities – to say very clearly 'you have a place in sport'.

"That messaging is so important," Patrick said.

For Delfina, the visit allowed time to discuss the importance of providing safe and empowering environments for girls in sport.

"It's such a privilege to get to chat to the next generation, because they're the future of Australian sport.

"Having time and space to speak to 60 sports academy children about the importance of women and girls having a place in sport was a fantastic opportunity.

"Reminding children that it's everyone's business to create a safe sport culture is critical. It's not just up to women and girls to own that space; young men have a role to play as well by supporting their female colleagues in safe and inclusive environments."

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Patrick Johnson OLY
SIA Culture and Safety Advisor



Clockwise from top left:

SIA's Patrick Johnson giving some tips to track students from Ipswich Regional Academy of Sport.

Senior students from Ipswich Regional Academy of Sport with Patrick Johnson.

SIA's Delfina Shakespear fist pumping a female student from Ipswich Regional Academy of Sport.

Patrick Johnson and Delfina Shakespear with staff from Ipswich Regional Sports Academy.

Delfina Shakespear presenting to students.



While presenting Delfina was asked by one of the male students how he could do better to support his female colleagues at sport.

"What a question! It fills me with such hope for the future that young men really want to play a role in making sport safe and inclusive, empowering their female colleagues.

"The way a young student genuinely reflected on what I had said, it showed that these are moments I and my SIA colleagues can help make a difference; to help children on their journey, so they can stay in sport and thrive."

For Michael, as Director of Sport, he's hoping the 'high' students experienced during the visit, will continue into their academic and sporting commitments.

"We talk about buzz words like 'ambition', 'success' and 'motivation', but a lot of our kids grow up in environments where they don't see that every day; they don't understand the depth of what hard work means.

"It's important for them to see it through the eyes of people like Patrick and Delfina and understand what it looks like. It's not just a word on paper, it's physical and that's what they need to do every day.

"It's been the best week ever at Bremer and I can't wait to see what progress follows for our students in the months to come."

YOU CAN'T BE WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE: CARRYING CULTURE IN SPORT

Chatting to some of the students after presenting, Delfina was approached by a young girl who was a fellow referee in basketball. Sinalofa is a Year 10 student of Samoan heritage. She talked about how respect is one of the strongest attributes of her culture she takes everywhere with her in sport.

Sinalofa also plays basketball. She aspires to play college basketball in America. She said Patrick and Delfina's stories inspired her and made her believe she too can achieve her goals.

"I'm the only referee in my basketball team; my teammates are always asking 'isn't it scary, getting yelled at'," she said.

"Hearing Delfina talk about her experiences and some of the abuse she has faced, and what she has done to try and overcome that; it was just inspiring to hear from another woman who is doing the same thing as me.

"Knowing that she got all the way to the A-League, that inspired me to think that I can get there too and keep doing the thing I love, even though I'm a girl and younger than other people I know refereeing," Sinalofa said.

"It's inspiring hearing the humble beginnings, where Patrick and Delfina came from, it resonated with me.

"Seeing how far they've both come, I can see that I can get there too if I put in the effort and hard work."

Outside of sport, Sinalofa has her eyes set on becoming a school teacher and wants to inspire children, like herself, in the future. She's also hopeful that if her dream of playing College Basketball in America comes true that she can return and share that experience to help other children reach the same heights.

"Listening to Patrick and Delfina, it helped boost my confidence. They were like 'You can do it, even if you're from a small town like Ipswich'."

Dontae is a Darnley Island and Djabugay man in Year 12 at Bremer. He's involved in the Rugby League Academy at IRSA but also loves AFL. He spent time talking to Patrick about sport and life. The key takeaway was to be his authentic self.

"Patrick reminded me that you should not let anyone else define who you are; that you should write your own story," he said.

"As an Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander man myself, having Patrick at the school and talking about culture and being proud of who you are and continuing to find your place in life, was inspiring."

For Dontae, sport is his number one passion in life. He wants to put his best foot forward and inspire others. Outside of sport he's aiming to pursue a career as a sports physiotherapist so he can help others involved in sport.

"Other people from my background need someone to look up to. I look up to Patrick as an Aboriginal man – he's inspiring and empowering. I want to be someone young Aboriginal kids can also look up to."

He's also determined to ensure he brings his culture to sport.

"Spirituality is an important part of my culture I bring to sport; the connection with my people and my ancestors always looking over me and guiding me in life, and sport."

Year 12 Māori man, Jaylin, is a rugby league player who has set a goal to one day play in the Queensland Cup. Attending Bremer State High School and being involved in IRSA has created new opportunities for him to achieve his goal.

Proudly hanging around his neck is a Pounamu, gifted to him by his uncle. Jaylin wears it so his uncle is always close by. Carrying his culture with him in sport is important.

"I like to represent my culture by drawing designs on my wrist tape when I play. It helps me remember my culture and know that it's backing me all the time.

"I was inspired by Patrick; he carries himself and his culture to such a high standard. He's always running with his culture. I'd like to employ that myself, as much as I possibly can."

BASKETBALL & BEYOND

LAUREN JACKSON'S PLAY FOR EQUITY & INCLUSION IN SPORT

When it comes to athletes committed to empowering women and girls in sport the name Lauren Jackson immediately comes to mind.

A five-time Olympian, WNBL and WNBA Champion, and global icon in basketball, Lauren has not only dominated on the court but continues to make a lasting impact off the court.

Lauren is currently a Special Advisor for the Women's National Basketball League and Head of Women and Girls in Basketball for Basketball Australia. She is also the lead for She Hoops, a program that empowers women in basketball through visible pathways, mentoring, connection, insights, participation and education.

Lauren has also recently connected with Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) providing advice from an athlete lens for the agency's Empowering Women and Girls in Sport Integrity Program, as well as other critical areas like anti-doping.

She remains passionate about sport and being part of the change she wants to see.

"The older I get the more passionate I get," Lauren said.

"I think when I was younger, I was in a bit of a bubble. I was very good at playing basketball and I floated

through and didn't really think too much about the broader issues affecting women and girls in sport.

"It wasn't until I got older and I was able to reflect on my career and some of the things that I'd gone through – my evolution as an athlete, as a person, and then the roles that came after my first retirement and university studies – that I really understood the conditions women and girls compete in."

Delivering equity in basketball remains a passion for Lauren.

"There is no equity in basketball between men and women," she said.

"When I went number one in the WNBA draft and as the number one draft pick, I earnt around \$40,000 that year in the WNBA. It's not too much better today; not compared to what the first draft pick in the NBA would get.





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THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF EQUITY ISSUES IN BASKETBALL... I'M FORTUNATE I'VE BEEN GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO REFLECT AND TALK ABOUT IT, AND NOW BE A PART OF CREATING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES, PATHWAYS AND RESOURCES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Images courtesy She Hoops

"There are still a lot of equity issues in basketball, but for women and girls across sport in general. I'm fortunate I've been given opportunities to reflect and talk about it, and now be a part of creating better opportunities, pathways and resources for women and girls."

When asked about the importance of SIA's Empowering Women and Girls in Sport Integrity Program, Lauren said creating engagement on the subject was vital.

"For a long time, I think we've talked about wanting better conditions for women and girls across all levels of sport, whether it's on the field, on the court, in an office, or coaches and officials; I think the real work is defined in these frameworks and guidelines that are going to be passed down to the sports," she said.

"The conversations need to change as well. We often talk about social media, about the comments and sexism that women face on a daily basis.

"Women are more often held to a higher standard than what men are in sport and in the boardroom, and I think being able to have realistic conversations about why this happens and how we're going to change it, is so important. My role is to be a part of that conversation," Lauren said.

Making pathways and opportunities visible is critical according to Lauren.

"There has to be representation; girls have to see that their dreams are reachable," she said.

"We're in a time where women's sport is so accessible, it's visible, it's on television. You're seeing the AFLW, the WNBL, cricket, rugby – all sports women play are often also played nationally and internationally.

"It's the right time for all of these conversations and that visibility piece; why kids have to see their idols and why young girls have to be able to dream."

As a child growing up in the 80s and whose parents both represented Australia, Lauren was always encouraged to dream big. Her father Gary played for the Boomers in 1975, and her mother Maree played for the Opals between 1974–1982, winning two World Championships.

Lauren is passionate about addressing barriers in sport for women and girls, following in the footsteps of her mother. Maree was the first Australian woman to attend a US college on a basketball scholarship, paving the way for other Australian athletes to do the same each year.

However, one of her greatest concerns is online abuse.

"The sexist comments have got to stop," she said.

"It's the place where trolls go to town. They're faceless and they've got no accountability whatsoever and the things that they say are just so reprehensible.

"I think a lot of people have become quite immune to it and unfortunately, I think there's a culture of dismissing those sorts of comments without really understanding how it is impacting the athletes."

With basketball now ranking in the top three most played organised sports among girls aged 5–14, with nearly 1 in 5 girls participating, the 'She Hoops' program is where Lauren is hoping to have the biggest impact on girls in the community.

Born from legacy funding following the FIBA Women's World Cup in 2022, She Hoops provides an inclusive and safe space for women and girls to access resources giving them the confidence to participate, contribute and thrive at all levels of basketball.

She Hoops aims to empower women and girls in basketball to pursue careers in sport – as athletes, coaches, officials and administrators – through camps, scholarships and fellowships, mentoring, and a wealth of online resources.



"The players (WNBL) have really got behind it and are supportive of it; that's probably the biggest differentiator in what She Hoops has created.

"Any girl or woman you talk to has faced challenges in their teenage years; what we're trying to do is just give tangible skill sets that these girls can use to help them in life.

"Whether that's time management, leadership, breath work, or being able to control emotions through difficult situations, which a lot of kids face.

"The fact that we can do this in a safe space, where they feel like they're learning and creating a version of themselves they're going to love and then feel confident going back and giving to their communities; I think that's impactful and special.

"We're trying to create a community that keeps giving back, empowers and continues to evolve."

The program also has a strong focus on supporting First Nations girls from 14 to 17 years of age.

"We've partnered with Kulbardi, and through the Bibbulmun fund they support us to run the Indigenous Leadership Program. There's a leadership booklet that they work through with Abby Cubillo – who is leading that program for us – to learn a range of new skills with physical, social and emotional benefits."

Retired, for a second time now, Lauren is also navigating being a sports mum, which often has her looking at sport in a whole new light.

As someone who rose to stardom as a 16-year-old in the high-performance space, she's conscious of ensuring those at the grassroots are given opportunity and have fun.

Lauren coaches her 6-year-old son's basketball team and she freely admits it's a challenge.



THE SEXIST COMMENTS HAVE GOT TO STOP ... A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE BECOME QUITE IMMUNE TO IT...

"Coaching your own kids in sport is a minefield, There are behaviours where it's like 'I can't let you get away with that', and then I'm thinking 'Well, I'm your mum, how have I taught you?'.

"I have to check myself as well. It's about being respectful, trying to understand what the balance is being a parent, being a coach...it's a hard one.

"There's a grey line there. You want your kids to be the best version of themselves and to be great teammates and to be supportive, not to be selfish. Sport is so great at being able to teach lessons like that."

It's Lauren's honest insights that will be of value to SIA moving forward. She's looking forward to sharing more of her experiences with the SIA team in the coming months.

"I've played and been involved in sport through many decades. I've seen many changes and it's exciting to see where sport is going, where Sport Integrity Australia is going," she said.

"Sport is amazing and in Australia we're trying to get it right for everyone involved. That's something that's special, and I love being a part of it."

Hear more insights from Lauren in our podcast.

sportintegrity.gov.au/news/podcasts

ONE IN THREE SUPPLEMENT PRODUCTS CONTAIN BANNED SUBSTANCES

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) has released the findings of a major survey of sports supplements available in the Australian online marketplace, revealing a significant and continuing risk for athletes.

In 2022, SIA commissioned Human and Supplement Testing Australia (HASTA) to purchase and analyse 200 sports supplement products available online in Australia.

The aim of the survey was to assess the likelihood of athletes accidentally purchasing a product containing one or more World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) [Prohibited Substances](#).

The findings are concerning:

- Of the 200 products tested, 35%, around one in three, were found to contain one or more WADA Prohibited Substances. This demonstrates that the risk from sports supplements in Australia remains high.
- In this most recent survey, 57% of the positive products did not list the prohibited ingredients on their packaging or website, leaving athletes vulnerable to unknowingly breaching anti-doping rules. Products marketed as pre-workouts, fat burners and muscle builders were the most likely to be contaminated.

SIA Director of Research, and coauthor of the report, Dr Naomi Speers said the findings reinforced the agency's long-standing warnings about the risks associated with [supplement use](#).

"Athletes need to understand that using supplements always carries risk," Dr Speers said.

Many of the detected prohibited substances were naturally occurring compounds, with only two products containing high levels of [synthetic stimulants](#).

"Products marketed for fat burning, muscle building or pre-workout are particularly risky," Dr Speers said.

"The compounds we identified could trigger a positive test result and lead to an anti-doping sanction. In many cases, athletes would have no way of knowing what they were taking."

Under anti-doping rules, athletes are strictly liable for any substance found in their system.

"These types of products are common and widely available, which might give athletes the false impression that they're safe to use," Dr Speers said.

"But due to issues like cross-contamination during manufacturing or undeclared ingredients, the risk of unintentional doping is high. This is why it's important

to use the Sport Integrity app; to help you find lower risk batch-tested supplements."

Dr Speers urged athletes to only use supplements that have been screened for prohibited substances by independent companies such as HASTA and Informed Sport, through a process known as batch testing.

"While no supplement is 100% safe, batch-tested products significantly reduce the risk of contamination because an independent laboratory has already run some checks to see if the product contains a prohibited ingredient before it gets on the shelf," she said.

"We encourage athletes to check all their supplements by using the Sport Integrity app."

Athletes can download the free [Sport Integrity app](#) to find a list of more than 12,000 batch tested supplements sold in Australia and to check if a supplement they already own has been batch tested.

More than 100,000 Australians have already downloaded the app, and there are almost 7,000 supplement checks every month.

SIA's Assistant Director of Education Gavin Whitehouse said the SIA app and athlete education is making a difference.

"The number of positive doping cases involving supplements has dropped significantly since the introduction of the Sport Integrity app and new education messaging – from seventeen cases in 2016, to zero in 2022 and 2023, and one in 2024," Mr Whitehouse said.

"Athletes and sports have done a great job in taking the threat of supplements seriously in recent years, but this survey shows we need to continue to be vigilant when it comes to supplements."

SIA continues to urge athletes to make informed decisions and protect their sporting careers by avoiding high-risk products.

**Learn more in
our Podcast**

**See all the
survey results**

Natural DOESN'T EQUAL SAFE

THE DANGERS OF BOTANICALS

'Natural' and 'plant-based' is often listed as a positive claim on supplements and complementary medications. The reality is that ingredients listed with a natural, botanical (plant-based) source still present a notable risk to health and anti-doping for athletes.

Botanical ingredients are different to many other ingredients that are used in medicines. Botanical ingredients are complex and can contain many unique substances within them. The exact composition of a botanical ingredient may vary over time or between products. Differences in the breeding of a plant can lead to changes in the chemical composition of the botanical ingredients.

In addition to this variation, botanical ingredients listed on supplements and complementary medicines may be highly concentrated and processed. This change means that composition of the ingredient may differ from the original plant. While it may be safe to consume a plant as part of a normal diet, that doesn't mean that the concentrated version is safe. An increased concentration of certain substances can result in health and anti-doping risks.

Botanical names may also be used in a misleading way to mask the presence of prohibited substances. Some products with botanical ingredients listed contain prohibited substances. This may be because a prohibited substance is present in the plant or a prohibited substance has been added under the name of a plant. For example, supplements with "geranium oil" listed in the ingredients have contained methylhexanamine, a synthetically produced stimulant that is WADA prohibited.

"One of the issues we often see here at SIA is athletes who assume that because something is promoted as

While it may be safe to consume a plant as part of a normal diet, that doesn't mean that the concentrated version is safe. An increased concentration of certain substances can result in health and anti-doping risks.

being 'natural', it's good for them, and more is even better," said Sport Integrity Australia Chief Science Officer, Vanessa Caig.

"This is misleading as there are plenty of 'natural' products that have either anti-doping implications or health risks, and at worst, both. Athletes should always take the necessary steps to check anything that they consume is actually safe to consume, particularly in terms of the WADA Prohibited List."

The presence of a prohibited substance under a biological name may result in an anti-doping rule violation. Under the World Anti-Doping Code's strict liability principle, athletes are ultimately responsible for any substance found in their body, regardless of how it got there. That means, even if the prohibited substance

is listed under a botanical name, if you consume it, you are still responsible.

Botanical ingredients can also present significant health risks. In 2024, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) issued multiple safety warnings about botanical ingredients and herbal products.

The warnings about herbal products were due to the presence of undeclared high-risk ingredients such as *Garcinia cambogia*, *Camellia sinensis* (green tea) and *Withania somnifera* (also known as Ashwaganda) with negative health impacts. These included yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice), weakness and unusual tiredness, sudden and potentially severe gastrointestinal symptoms, and severe allergic reactions. Severe instances of liver injury have been reported leading to the need for liver transplant.

Geraldton man Matthew Whitby knows the risks better than anyone.

In 2016, Matthew purchased a protein shake with green tea extract in an effort to lose some weight and get fit. He thought he'd found the right product – one with good reviews and Australian made.

After only four or five shakes Matthew started displaying side effects that he hadn't read online. Fatigue, and yellow skin, eyes and nails. Less than two weeks later he was admitted to hospital and was diagnosed with liver failure.

He did some research and found other people were experiencing similar symptoms after taking protein shakes with green tea extract.

He raised the matter with doctors. After he continued to deteriorate a liver biopsy was completed showing there was still green tea extract in his liver, which should have been processed within days of consumption. It was determined that the green tea extract in the protein shake was why Matthew's liver failed so quickly.

Matthew required a liver transplant and now, for as long as the liver lasts, he requires regular GP visits, blood tests and daily medication.

"I cringe now when I see people buying it or when I see it on the shelves because it brings back memories.

"I had two young kids at the time – 3-weeks-old and 3-years-old – they could have been without a dad.

"What I was hoping, was to get some sort of warning label on the product. It doesn't say it could cause liver or kidney failure or anything like that.

"I just want to help people by spreading the message and hope to help someone else make a better choice instead of just taking it straight off the shelf or online."

Athletes and support personnel need to be aware of the health and anti-doping risks associated with herbal ingredients and be wary of products containing them.

Natural or plant-based does not mean safe.

If athletes still choose to use a product with botanical ingredients, they should use the SIA app which helps athletes find products with a lower risk of testing positive.

Download the app

SPECIFIC BOTANICAL INGREDIENTS OR NAMES THAT HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

Bitter Orange

Also known as *Citrum Aurantium*

Associated with **Octopamine** which is a WADA Prohibited Stimulant.



Nandina domestica

Also known as *Tinospora crispa*, *Aconitum carmichaelii*, *Nelumbo nucifera* and other names.

Associated with **Higenamine** which is a WADA Prohibited Beta-2-Agonist.



Juglans Regia

Also known as *Kigelia africana*

Associated with **Octodrine** which is a WADA Prohibited Stimulant.



FIERCE ABOUT INTEGRITY

AUSTRALIAN DRAGON BOAT FEDERATION IGNITING THE INTEGRITY FLAME

The sport of Dragon Boat has rich cultural origins, deeply embedded in China's 'Dragon' culture. Originally, Dragon Boat was used for religious purposes to appease the rain gods.

The sport's origins in Australia commenced in 1980 when the WA Surf Life Saving Association was invited to send a team to the Penang Festival in Malaysia.

Today, participation in Dragon Boat, at both recreation and competitive levels, occurs across Australia, and the team at Australian Dragon Boat Federation (AusDBF) continues to experience participation growth.

Leading into the recent National Championships in Penrith, AusDBF engaged in education and awareness in the integrity space, even launching a 'respect campaign'. AusDBF adopted the National Integrity Framework in August 2022 and since that time has continuously built on efforts to promote a positive, safe and fair sporting culture.

"We're seeing that our work to embed integrity into every level of the sport is being embraced really positively by the paddling community," said AusDBF National Integrity Manager, Deborah Begg.

"Our athletes, coaches and volunteers have such incredible pride and passion for dragon boating – they want the sport to be the best it can be. By building a culture of respect, safety and fairness, we're not just protecting the sport – we're strengthening it for the future."



The National Championships attracts around 3,000+ competitors from across Australia, and this year, New Zealand crews as well.

Walking around the Sydney International Regatta Centre there's a festival feeling and the camaraderie is evident – there's drumming, cheering, clapping and singing.

"There's a lot of intensity as well as having fun," said Peter Campos, Chair of AusDBF.

"We're trying to elevate these championships to really be a celebration of what happens at the club and state level."





“

We welcome everybody; it doesn't matter who you are, what size you are, what age you are, or where you're from – we embrace everybody.

*Peter Campos
Chair of AusDBF*

Peter has been involved in Dragon Boating for eight years, it started as recreational to keep fit, but then addiction to the sport kicked in. Peter loves the diversity of the sport.

"We welcome everybody; it doesn't matter who you are, what size you are, what age you are, or where you're from – we embrace everybody."

With an age profile that leans more towards the 50 plus age bracket, AusDBF is also working hard to increase youth participation numbers, and with opportunities to represent Australia in the sport numbers continue to increase.

Grace started paddling at the age of 13 and now competes with the 24U NSW state team. This is her ninth year of paddling.

At club level Grace competes with [Different Strokes Dragon Boat Club](#), a Sydney-based club with the aim of providing a social and fitness-focused sporting outlet for the LGBTQI+ community, as well as their friends, family and supporters.

Grace loves the sense of community within Dragon Boating.

"It's such a unique sport; the reason I picked it is because it had such an interesting name. I had to figure out what it was, and I feel like I found a community that I really gel with and really enjoy paddling in – it gives me a big sense of belonging.

"I came up from the juniors and the sport gave me a good sense of finding myself. Now I feel like I've found a club where we all are just one big family," Grace said.

When asked about what makes Grace feel safe in the sport, the response was simply 'respect'.

"Everyone respects everyone here. We all come from very different walks of life. I've seen it coming up from the juniors, I've seen it now paddling with a crew full of adults. Everyone respects everyone, and everyone treats everyone the same.

"Regardless of whether this is your first time in the boat or your 100th, everyone has the same respect."

Grace is aware of AusDBF's work to keep building a safe, fair and inclusive sporting community, and can see the organisation's efforts to engage with younger athletes.

"I saw the recent respect campaign on Instagram and it was good to see. They're using multiple different platforms to communicate this message and that shows they're willing to put in the extra effort to reach more people."

For Bridie, also an 24U NSW Dragon Boat athlete, it's the family orientation that keeps her in the sport. Bridie competes for [Ryde Dragon Boat Club](#) and has only been in the sport for three years. It was personal adversity that brought her to the sport.

"My dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer and decided he needed to do something for himself," Bridie said.

"His high school best mate, who was involved in Dragon Boat, had been saying for years that he should join.

"About two months after dad signed up, I decided to as well; to go on this journey with him.

"It's a sport where you've got the senior age divisions all the way to the junior divisions and you see parents with their children.

"It's a sport where everyone can be together and all members of their family involved. It's not just the kids doing the sport and the parents on the sidelines. Everyone can participate and have fun."



With the AusDBF National Championships wrapped up for another year, the spotlight turns to the World Championships.

Australia's National Dragon Boating team – the Auroras – will be in Germany from 14–20 July competing at the World Dragon Boat Racing Championships.

More than 300 athletes make up the Australian contingent across a broad spectrum of ages, including 16U, 18U and 24U, Premiers, 40+, 50+ and 60+ age divisions. In addition to this, it is the inaugural international event for the Australian Paradrasons – a team of paddlers who live with physical, psychological, neurological, sensory, developmental or intellectual impairment.

Together with Sport Integrity Australia (SIA), AusDBF has undertaken a wealth of work to ensure necessary safeguards are in place, in particular, for underage athletes travelling to an international event.

Liz Dinh is the Auroras Junior Team Manager and will travel with the team to Germany. Her love for the sport, which her son is also involved in, is evident.

"I've seen how transformative the sport is for children," Liz said.

"It's not just about paddling for themselves, they learn how to paddle as a team; the camaraderie of being part of a team, the skills they learn in terms of teamwork and working hard towards a goal."

In her role as team manager, Liz believes education is the key to creating a safe, fair and inclusive environment.

"We want to educate our community so that firstly, athletes know how to interact with each other and be respectful of each other, and secondly, ensure our paddling community – coaches, managers, spectators – understand their rights and responsibilities also."

Crucial to the World Championships preparation has been ensuring younger athletes understand the importance of nutrition, supplements and knowing what they are putting into their bodies.

"We've also focussed on the anti-doping system, making sure that they've done all their training, but also that they know and understand about checking any medications they're on (for prohibited substances), and building that general clean sport awareness."

Images courtesy Australian Dragon Boat Federation.



“

I've seen how transformative the sport is for children. It's not just about paddling for themselves, they learn how to paddle as a team; the camaraderie of being part of a team, the skills they learn in terms of teamwork and working hard towards a goal.

*Liz Dinh
Auroras Junior Team Manager*

AusDBF Integrity Actions for National Championships 2025

Child Safe Campaign

- Ran a national education campaign on child safety, promoting "dos and don'ts" for safeguarding children and young people in sport.
- Distributed resources to clubs, coaches, and team managers to reinforce safe sport responsibilities, and encouraged all clubs and states to share the campaign across their networks.

Integrity Education and On-Ground Support at the Event

- Hosted SIA education activations on-site at Sydney International Regatta Centre.
- Provided paddlers and officials with access to SIA information, resources, and reporting tools.
- Integrity representatives available on-site to answer questions, provide advice, and support complaint management if required.
- Conducted an on-air live interview with SIA at the event to promote safe, fair, and inclusive sport to a broader audience.



#Respect Campaign (5-part series)

- Launched a five-week #Respect campaign focusing on respecting officials, teammates, opponents, the sport and yourself.
- Shared key messages via social media, email bulletins, and posters to create a culture of respect leading into National Championships.
- Clubs and states were encouraged to share and distribute the campaign further.

Pre-event Communications

- Team registrations included agreement to abide by the NIF and ensure all paddlers in the team abided by the NIF.
- Sent integrity reminders via bulletins to all participants outlining expected behaviours, complaints pathways, and appeals processes.
- Reiterated zero-tolerance policy for abuse of officials in official bulletins and team briefings.
- Provided an Accessibility Social Story to Paradrakon team management for distribution to paddlers.
- Visible Integrity Branding.
- Displayed integrity messaging across venue signage, including Respectful Behaviours, Photographing Children, and Child Safe Sport graphics.
- Rules about photographing and videoing children were displayed at the event.
- Promoted reporting pathways for integrity breaches through QR codes and information points at the event.



**Safeguarding
in Sport**



Have you seen our
CHILD FRIENDLY
resources?

SIA has resources for children and young adults to help them better understand what sport integrity means for them.

You can download these age-specific fact sheets from our website.

www.sportintegrity.gov.au/what-we-do/safeguarding

New voices and thinking for the **ATHLETE ADVISORY GROUP**

Our shared mission at Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) is to build trust with athletes, sports and fans alike to ensure sport is safe, fair and clean. To achieve this mission and to truly understand the integrity threats within sports we need to work closely in partnership with everyone who holds a piece to the puzzle.

SIA's Athlete Advisory Group (AAG) is an important group of individuals who inform our strategic direction and shape education strategies from lived experience through the lens of an elite athlete.

In May, we welcomed six new members to the AAG – who join seven existing AAG members – following an EOI process earlier in the year that attracted 70 applications from athletes representing 12 different sports.

Alison Bai (Tennis), Natalie Butler (Netball), Cruz Hogan (Athletics), Alexandra Kiroi-Bogatyreva (Gymnastics), Ben O'Donnell (Rugby Union) and Melissa Wu (Diving) attended their first meeting recently, excited about the opportunity to be part of efforts to protect Australian sport from integrity threats.

Additionally, Beki Smith (Athletics) was appointed after the meeting and the AAG looks forward to welcoming her into the fold.

Co-Chair of the AAG and former Olympic Rower, Bronwen Downie, said it was exciting to welcome new members to the AAG (as former members came to the end of their term).

"It's always refreshing to have new thinking coming into any sort of room," Bronwen said.

"What's particularly exciting is that we're covering such a broad range of sporting experience.

"Melissa Wu, from diving, is a fantastic addition to the AAG. It's an aquatic sport that we haven't had a voice coming to us from before, and someone who's been a five-time Olympian is extraordinary.

"Her lived experience and wisdom in the elite athlete space is going to be an excellent sounding board for a lot of the discussions that we have in that group.

"The overall mix of voices from varying sports means we catch sight of more important topics."

Discussions for the first meeting of 2025 were broad and included the subjects of anti-doping with input from the AAG on the review of the World Anti-Doping Code and Prohibited List.

With a number of the AAG members also parents, or in positions where they work with and/or coach children and young people, child protection and safeguarding was also an important discussion; particularly in the area of drug testing, how that interacts in terms of safe, clean sport, and also looking after the rights of children and vulnerable people.

Bronwen has been a member of the AAG since November 2021 and said the role of the group is vital in ensuring an athlete centred approach to sport integrity.

"It's refreshing to be involved in a group that is not just a tick box group," she said.

"The opportunity to check-in, test and be invited to rigorously challenge a strategy, policy or program that the agency is looking to progress or invest in is where we see our value.

"It's a unique space to be asked to provide that challenging feedback."

Integrity in sport is a priority for all members of the AAG and a subject our new members reiterated at their AAG induction.

Melissa Wu recently retired from diving after almost two decades in the sport. As a five-time Olympian, she understands the importance of integrity in sport.

"Integrity is something that's always been very important to me as someone who's been in sport for almost my whole life, and as someone who started very young," she said.

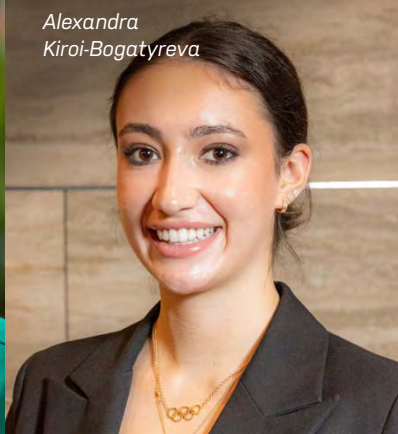
Natalie
Butler



Cruz
Hogan



Alexandra
Kiroi-Bogatyreva



Ben
O'Donnell



"It's been great to see a lot of positive change happening in this space, in the sport.

"Becoming an older athlete and looking out for the younger generation; it's very important to me. Even though I'm retired, I'm still involved in sport and I'm still working a lot with younger athletes.

"To be in a position to influence this space and have the potential for my voice to be heard is a great opportunity."

Melissa is well aware of the integrity threats within aquatic sports and wants to make a difference in her role when it comes to safeguarding children and young people. Putting athletes at ease around the anti-doping space is another area she'd like to be proactive in.

"It's one of the sides to sport, even though there's a lot of education, that can be quite confronting," Melissa said.

Being in a room with like-minded athletes is what has Melissa most excited and she's ready to dive into deeper conversations.

"One of the main highlights with meeting other athletes is even though we're in different sports, there are a lot of similarities with the challenges that we face or the challenges across sports."

For rugby player **Ben O'Donnell** ensuring the athlete voice is heard and aligning that with integrity in sport was what encouraged him to apply.

"I love sport; I want to keep it safe and fair, and protect athletes," he said.

"What SIA does is so important and newer athletes, understandably, sometimes aren't as educated as the older ones.

"I'm at the older end now, so hopefully I can be a bit of a role model for the younger guys and help them understand that it's about (SIA) protecting and helping them.

Opposite page: Members of the AAG with SIA staff at a recent meeting of the May meeting of the AAG.

Back l to r: Linda Muir (SIA Director of Sport Partnerships), Ben O'Donnell, Cruz Hogan, Jonathan Goerlach.

Front l to r: Richard Nicholson (SIA Sport Partnerships), Alison Bai, Melissa Wu, Petria Thomas (SIA Sport Partnerships).

"It would be really cool to get out into the community and help the younger athletes, grassroots athletes, understand that sport integrity is for them, not against them."

Australian Javelin thrower **Cruz Hogan** is well acquainted with SIA, already a Clean Sport Educator, he's now adding AAG member to his resume.

It's his passion for everything sport and integrity that had him wanting to contribute even more, and from the lens of an athlete.

"We're at the forefront of sport, so I think it's always important to get the athletes' perspectives on different things," he said.

"Different sports have different contexts, so I think getting perspectives from different people and from a diverse range is really important."

Former Australian tennis player **Alison Bai** wanted to give back to the sporting community and share her knowledge and experiences as a former tour athlete, particularly in the match fixing and the anti-doping space.

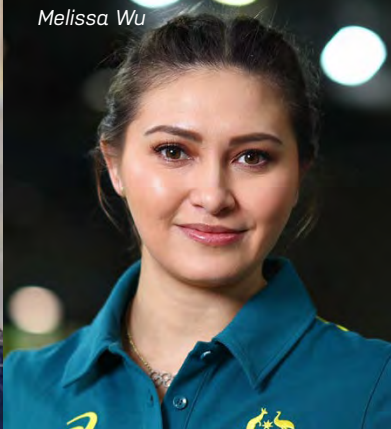
"It's been such a welcoming environment and it's really nice to be part of a group of like-minded individuals who all want to come together and make a difference.

"At the end of the day, SIA's trying to make sport better for all, particularly athletes and those participating in the sport. So, I think being able to work collaboratively together is really important to make sure everyone's on the same page and we're all achieving the same goals."

Alison Bai



Melissa Wu



Beki Smith



CHAMPIONS IN THE SURF and BEYOND

HOW SURF LIFE SAVING AUSTRALIA
UPHOLDS INTEGRITY AND HUMANITY



There are few sports that can boast participation from the grassroots to the high performance space along with providing an essential community service; but that's exactly the case Surf Life Saving Australia and its thousands of members. On beaches across the nation, lifesavers rescue an average of 30 people per day and conduct 451 preventative actions every hour.

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) is Australia's peak coastal water safety, drowning prevention and rescue authority, however it also provides opportunities for its members to partake in competitive activities allowing aspiring surf lifesaving athletes the opportunity to turn their lifesaving community service into a sporting endeavour.

Athletes wishing to compete in SLSA sporting events must first be a surf lifesaver. Competition eligibility stipulates proficiency and patrol hour requirements for all members wishing to compete at SLSA Championship events.

SLSA Head of Mission, Peter George, said it's what makes the sport so unique.

"We're possibly the only sport in the world that has a humanitarian background; you have to be a surf lifesaver to be compete in our sport," he said.

"We're number one in the world in terms of life saving sport; both our open and youth have won back-to-back titles over the last four years," Peter said.

"We have a number of Olympic swimmers, kayak paddlers and runners who have a surf lifesaving background. It's a sport that's high profile in terms of the quality of the athletes, but each one of those athletes need to be a lifesaver first."

Peter has 60 years continuous service with SLSA and is passionate about the work of the organisation.

"I get the privilege of reading some of the rescues that people do; big seas, enormous challenges...every one of those rescues is inspiring," Peter said.



"We do 8–10,000 rescues every year. If we weren't on the beach doing those rescues around 800 to 1300 people would die every year."

In those 60 years, Peter has seen SLSA evolve in delivery of both the volunteering and competitive sport arms of the organisation, in particular, with regard to integrity.

With around 60,000 children aged 5 to 15 involved in the Nippers program, it's vital that SLSA has a strong focus on the protection of children and young people.

SLSA's policies have been assessed by Sport Integrity Australia as meeting the Sport Integrity Policy Standards. SLSA has developed a Child Safe Policy, Child Safe Commitment Statement along with Child Safe Guideline.

But the commitment doesn't stop there. There are numerous policies and procedures in place from Nippers all the way through to SLSA's Silver Salties program (over 60s) governing all activities for the sport of surf lifesaving to ensure safety and fairness for all.

‘AUSSIES’: SLSA’S PINNACLE EVENT

Earlier this year members of the SIA team – education and anti-doping – were onsite at Aussies, the national Surf Lifesaving Championships. It's the largest surf lifesaving event in Australia and the largest event of its kind in the world.

It has a rich 110-year history, and is an event every surf lifesaver wants to attend. Taking up more than a one kilometre stretch of Kirra Beach, more than 7,500 athletes converged on the Gold Coast for Aussies 2025.

Aussies showcases the athletic prowess of surf lifesaving – from youth through to open and masters – and with a festival vibe; there's plenty of action on the beach and in the sea.

As a rule, SLSA takes a risk management and evidence-based approach to coastal safety to ensure appropriate public education programs, mitigation strategies and lifesaving services are in place to address coastal safety issues, hence risk management runs deep within the organisation.

For an event the size of Aussies, contingency plans have been developed for almost every scenario – from having to move the event due to dangerous surf, marine animals, lightning – you name it, there's a contingency plan.

Wayne Drury is Sport Manager at SLSA and has the enormous task of overseeing operations for Aussies.

The safety of competitors, members, officials and volunteers is his primary concern.

So just how tough is it to manage an event the magnitude of Aussies and ensure everyone can compete in a safe and fair environment?

The Aussies team is a well-oiled safety vessel, involving emergency services (front and back of beach), Bureau of Meteorology and local council in all of their activities over the 9-day event.

"We do a risk rating every morning on the surf conditions that takes into account the nature of the swell along with the weather," Wayne said.

"We have a morning safety meeting, we go through that risk rating and then make a recommendation to the competition committee who decides on how competition proceeds on that day.

"As an event that often has multiple water areas operating, we have a safety officer in each area who is linked back to the head of safety, which is all controlled centrally through SLSA's event Control Centre."

Add to that radars and drones that monitor the situation – swells, change in weather conditions and/or marine life



– all day for nine days, there's a strong foundation of safety across the entire Aussies event.

Wayne has been in his current position for seven years. Prior to that he was on the volunteer side in the technical delivery, as an official, referee, and Director of Sport in Sydney, hence he's been involved in the SLSA movement for many years.

It's an organisation that he loves and a team that he's proud to lead.

"We link in with an enormous amount of expertise across our volunteer ranks to deliver a phenomenal event.

"My team, and the team of volunteers that we have, cover safety, technical delivery, IRB (Inflatable Rescue Boat) support and medical, and that team is focused on always improving this event.

"It was a great event 20 and 30 years ago, but as times change, and to remain relevant, we need to be on that road to continuous improvement – and we are definitely on that road," Wayne said.



Images courtesy Surf Life Saving Australia.



Three cheers for SLSA volunteers!

As every major sporting event organiser knows, sport doesn't happen without an army of volunteers. More than 500 volunteers stepped into official roles for Aussies 2025.

Jenny Kenny was Deputy Referee at Aussies and is also the National Officials Advisor at SLSA.

She joined SLSA in 1980 when women could first do their bronze medallion. Living in Tasmania, her early years were a 'cold' surf life saving experience.

The team at SLSA take great care in looking after their volunteers. There's provision of clothing (including high vis gear), food and drinks, and shade and sunscreen. Time is also taken to check in on volunteers during the day and placing each volunteer in a role that best suits their skill set.

Jenny's happy to give up her time and volunteer because of the collegiately of SLSA and the opportunities that are afforded to members.

"If you're a lifesaver you can do just about anything!" she said.

"You can be in leadership, you can patrol, you can compete, you can officiate, you can be an administrator; you gain skills through this organisation that service the public."

Jenny said it's also a sport where the competition is fierce, but athletes never lose sight of their strong link to community service.

"We had a moment during the beach flags event – where people dive into the sand to get the flags – a guy broke his arm and one of his competitors, instead of trying to win the flag, immediately went to check on his fellow competitor to make certain he was OK.

"It's that sort of sporting environment – if somebody's in difficulty, you stop doing what you're doing, and you help out."

With an ageing volunteer base and new blood needed for the organisation, Jenny encouraged anyone interested in surf lifesaving to give it a go.

"You can do it purely as a community service, or you can do it as a sport as well, from 5-years-old right through to 90 – the age of one of our officials – which is pretty amazing."



SPORT AGENCIES PARTNER TO UPSKILL COACHES OF JUNIOR HIGH PERFORMANCE ATHLETES

Upskilling coaches of junior athletes in high performance sport is the focus of a world first eLearning course developed by Sport Integrity Australia (SIA), the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS).

The partnership to develop *The Safe and effective coaching of young athletes in high performance sport* course, follows the 2022 WAIS Women's Artistic Gymnastics Program review, which identified a critical gap in safeguarding education for coaches of young high performance athletes, in Australia and abroad.

The course draws on research and expertise, led by athlete development expert Dr Juanita Weissensteiner from the NSW Office of Sport, and the current integrity trends reported to Sport Integrity Australia.

With WAIS and AIS National Generation 2032 coaches involved in a pilot – shaping and testing the content – it's a course high performance coaches of junior athletes are highly encouraged to complete.

Those who have already undertaken the course have found it beneficial and an addition to their skill set.

"The course was really good at describing the developmental stages of young athletes and how that applies to their training environment and their needs as a person as well as an athlete."

– James Fitzpatrick, Head Coach of Pole Vault WAIS

"Young people aren't the same as adults and this really helps coaches understand how to tailor and temper their coaching in order to be most effective with that athlete cohort."

– Neill Potts, High Performance Director WAIS

SIA CEO, Dr Sarah Benson, said embedding safeguarding practices in high performance coaching is in the best interest of our national and state/territory sport programs; particularly leading up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"We know exceptional coaches are at the heart of any successful high performance sport program, and young athletes rely on their leadership, care and trust," Dr Benson said.

"In developing this course, it was important to consider the unique challenges being faced by young athletes

– such as their physical maturation, hormonal changes, and mental development and wellbeing – to provide coaches with the insights and tools necessary for safe and successful high performance programs.

"This course proactively supports coaches to bring out the best in junior athletes while also keeping sport safe for everyone, at all levels."

SIA, the AIS and WAIS worked in collaboration to ensure the course's success, evidenced by the positive engagement with West Australian coaches during the pilot program.

"At WAIS, we've listened closely to the experiences of former athletes and committed to meaningful change; this course is one part of a broader effort to improve how we deliver high performance," WAIS CEO, Matt Fulton, said.

"It's been incredibly valuable to have our coaches involved in shaping its direction and driving positive outcomes in the development, wellbeing, and long-term success of young athletes."

Australian Sports Commission Executive General Manager of AIS Performance, Matti Clements, said the course aligns with Australia's *High Performance 2032+ Sport Win Well Strategy*.

"Former and current athletes bravely shared their experiences, both at WAIS and other programs across the country, and told us more needs to be done to safeguard young athletes. We as a high-performance system not only listened but acted," Ms Clements said.

"All Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games sports and sporting bodies are united in our vision to win well. Ensuring our coaches and athletes have the support and environment to succeed in both sport and in life is crucial to achieving that goal."

The new course is available via SIA's [eLearning platform](#). For more information and educational resources for coaches and young athletes, visit [SIA's Safeguarding Resources](#).

MEET OUR CLEAN SPORT *educators*

Our Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) Clean Sport Educators provide face-to-face education sessions for sporting groups around the country. They deliver engaging and interactive presentations to create more awareness about the importance of integrity in sport to help ensure Australian sport is clean, safe and fair.

In this issue of *Sport Integrity Matters* we introduce you to Lachlan Carter, Monique Murphy, Sia Kazantzis and Jarrod Crane.



Lachlan Carter

Tell us a little about your background and how you've arrived at SIA?

Lachlan: My background is in swimming. I've swum pretty much my entire life up until the 2024 Olympics Trials. Having been involved in elite level sport, drug testing and sport integrity has always been around, and that's how I was first exposed and aware of SIA.

Monique: I'm a retired Paralympic Swimmer and won a silver medal at the Rio 2016 Games. I was selected on my first team one year after I lost my leg below the knee and continued to have health issues throughout my career, so learning the World Anti-Doping Agency rules was paramount. I particularly like working and meeting athletes from other sports and learning about the different pathways to the same goal.

Sia: Hi, I'm Sia – yes, Sia from SIA! My professional background is in Allied Health, having worked in the sports industry for many years as a clinician, researcher and clinical educator. I joined SIA in 2023 as a Doping Control Officer – following on from volunteering as a Chaperone during the FIFA Women's World Cup and loving it!

Jarrod: I'm a former Coach and Teacher who is now working in Elite Athlete Wellbeing and Education. I grew up in a small town in the Riverina area of NSW called Gundagai, but spent time working in the UK as well as North Queensland before arriving in Newcastle in 2023.



Monique Murphy

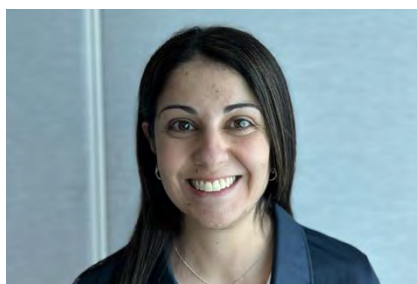
What is your favourite sport and why?

Lachlan: I'm an avid sports lover and enjoy all parts of competition. Swimming holds a special place in my heart given I dedicated so much of my life to the sport. I loved that with swimming, at the end of the day, the result purely came down to you and you alone.

Monique: Wheelchair Rugby. Those players are absolutely fearless.

Sia: I'm pretty much sport obsessed and love all sports. If I had to pick a favourite it would be European Handball, as I played this sport as a junior athlete prior to retiring due to injury.

Jarrod: Rugby League. I played Rugby League from the age of eight until injury forced me into retirement at the age of 21. From there I began coaching and eventually transitioned into Athlete Wellbeing and Education Management, which I'm currently doing at the Newcastle Knights.



Sia Kazantzis



Jarrod Crane

Jarrod Crane



Monique Murphy



Sia Kazantzis



Lachlan Carter



Why did you want to become one of our Educators?

Lachlan: It was such a great opportunity as an athlete as it helped build my knowledge and SIA was very caring of athletes and their training. But more so it was the perfect way to give back to sport and help educate those currently competing, and the future generations.

Monique: Working as an Educator was the perfect combination of my love of sport, keeping the game clean and fair, and being a chatterbox.

Sia: I wanted to become a SIA Educator because it allows me to combine both my professional background together with my anti-doping experience. Working in the field, I witness and appreciate the importance of education both in the clinic and during a doping control mission.

Jarrod: The opportunity to meet and work with athletes, coaches, administrators and volunteers from a range of sports as well as to contribute to SIA's mission of keeping sports safe and fair for all involved.

What do you most want to achieve in your role as a SIA Educator?

Lachlan: I want to create a safer sporting environment for all athletes and ensure they are aware of the rules to abide by. Being an athlete, sometimes you don't realise how easy it is to accidentally make a mistake. If I can help that not happen for another athlete in the future, then I'm happy.

Monique: To help ensure every athlete understands the rules so no unintentional mistakes are made, as well as helping anyone and everyone who engages in sport to do so in a fair, inclusive and respectful manner.

Sia: Convey key messages to athletes and their staff so that they can make informed decisions about their health, wellbeing and safety to keep sport enjoyable, clean, fair and safe.

Jarrod: I want to share my knowledge, skills and experience with key stakeholders within the sports that SIA works with, I also want to learn from those stakeholders to improve myself as an educator and overall person.



The landscape and threats to sport (such as supplements) are constantly changing which makes being an Educator increasingly important and interesting.

As a para-athlete I'm passionate about ensuring all abilities have the opportunity to engage in sport, and sports have the right tools to facilitate this.

~ Monique Murphy

What makes you so passionate about education and awareness in the sport integrity space?

Lachlan: There are so many people out there that are involved in sport and sport means the world to them. I want to make sure it's the best possible experience for everyone. Ensuring the future generations understand what SIA is and what we do goes a long way as well.

Monique: The landscape and threats to sport (such as supplements) are constantly changing which makes being an Educator increasingly important and interesting. As a para-athlete I'm passionate about ensuring all abilities have the opportunity to engage in sport, and sports have the right tools to facilitate this.

Sia: I feel strongly that education and awareness play an imperative role and are the foundation that can contribute to sport being a fair, safe and inclusive environment that can be enjoyed by all involved.

Jarrod: My experiences as a player, teacher, coach and now Wellbeing and Education Manager have shaped my passion for education and awareness around the integrity of sport. I want to give back to the sports that have given so much to me by allowing participants to engage in sports where integrity and player welfare are at the forefront.

AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND COOPERATION CONTINUES

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) officers crossed the Tasman in May to engage in robust discussions with their anti-doping testing counterparts at the Sport Integrity Commission New Zealand (SICNZ).

Director of Anti-Doping Testing Michael Harkins said the focus was on shared experiences, effective strategies regarding anti-doping testing and sample collection. Discussions also shared learnings on resources, operational objectives, and case management.

"The meeting came as SICNZ and SIA commemorate their first and fifth years of operations respectively," Michael said.

"Our national agencies have a lot to learn from each other as the anti-doping bodies responsible for implementing an effective program, consistent with international requirements and national legislation.

"It's not lost on us how fortunate we are to have such collaborative NADO partners like New Zealand and what this does to strengthen our joint efforts to protect sport in the Oceania region."

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON SAFE SPORT RESEARCH

The inaugural International Congress on Safe Sport Research, organised by the Research Chair in Safety and Integrity in Sport (SIMS) at Université Laval took place in Quebec, Canada.

The child safeguarding congress objective is to enhance safe participation in sport for children and young people by bringing together members of the international research and scientific community.

Director of Safeguarding at SIA, Lisa Purves, said the uniquely established congress provided attendees the opportunity to share and compare regional research and findings on the issues of safety and abuse in sport.

"The congress was a great opportunity to advance our understanding of interpersonal violence and abuse in the global sporting landscape, through a scientific lens," said Lisa.

"These networking and information sharing initiatives, on an issue as important as child safeguarding, encourage the advancement of research and data-backed policies, aimed at abuse prevention in sport, here and abroad."

GLOBAL ANTI-DOPING INTELLIGENCE AND INVESTIGATION NETWORK WORKSHOP

SIA's acting Director of Intelligence, Mark Blacker, was in New Delhi, India, for the third of six workshops as part of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Intelligence & Investigations Capability and Capacity Building Project in the Asia and Oceania region.

The five-day workshop was hosted by the National Anti-Doping Agency of India (NADA India) with support from the Indian Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and in partnership with International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and SIA.

The workshop brought together representatives of law enforcement agencies and National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) across the Asia and Oceania region.

SIA delivered training modules, a presentation on SIA Intelligence operations, and assisted in panel sessions in an expertise capacity.

WADA thanked all involved in the workshop as they continue to strengthen ties between NADO I&I experts and law enforcement across Asia and Oceania.

The workshop identified opportunities for collaboration between NADOs and law enforcement, and focused on several topics including:

- Intelligence functions and investigative techniques.
- Confidential source management.
- Open-source research.
- Analytical and interviewing methods.

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Opposite page, clockwise from top left:

Director of Sports Wagering and Competition Manipulation, Lara Hayes (centre) with Asia/ Oceania counterparts attending the 20th Asia/Oceania Region Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting on Anti-Doping in Sport.

Director of Safeguarding, Lisa Purves (centre), in attendance at the International Congress on Safe Sport Research

Acting Director of Intelligence, Mark Blacker (kneeling, left of centre), attending the Global Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigation Network workshop.

Left to right: Deputy CEO (SIA), Luke McCann; CEO of GCGRA, Kevin Mullally; Director of Sports Wagering and Competition Manipulation (SIA), Lara Hayes; and GCGRA Sports Betting Integrity Vice President, Jason Whybrow.

INTERNATIONAL GAMING SUMMIT & 20TH ASIA/OCEANIA REGION INTERGOVERNMENTAL MINISTERIAL MEETING ON ANTI-DOPING IN SPORT

Director of Sport Wagering and Competition Manipulation, Lara Hayes, represented SIA at the **International Association of Gaming Advisors (IAGA) 42nd International Gaming Summit** in Berlin.

The Summit brought together leaders from all global gaming sectors, providing operators, sports, suppliers, attorneys, investors, bankers, regulators and other advisor delegates with an opportunity to meet and discuss the most important issues facing gaming.

Lara attended the inaugural meeting of the Sports and Wagering Integrity Coalition and participated in a panel discussion on Concerns and Challenges Facing Sports and Sports Betting Stakeholders. Lara spoke on:

- The importance of collaboration with regulators on information sharing, and the interests shared.
- Shared learnings about Australia's established integrity monitoring unit.
- How to approach match fixing protections.
- Current and emerging trends relating to wagering and competition manipulation.

Lara then travelled to the UAE to attend the **20th Asia/Oceania Region Intergovernmental Ministerial Meeting on Anti-Doping in Sport**, alongside SIA's Deputy CEO, Strategy, International Policy and Corporate, Luke McCann.

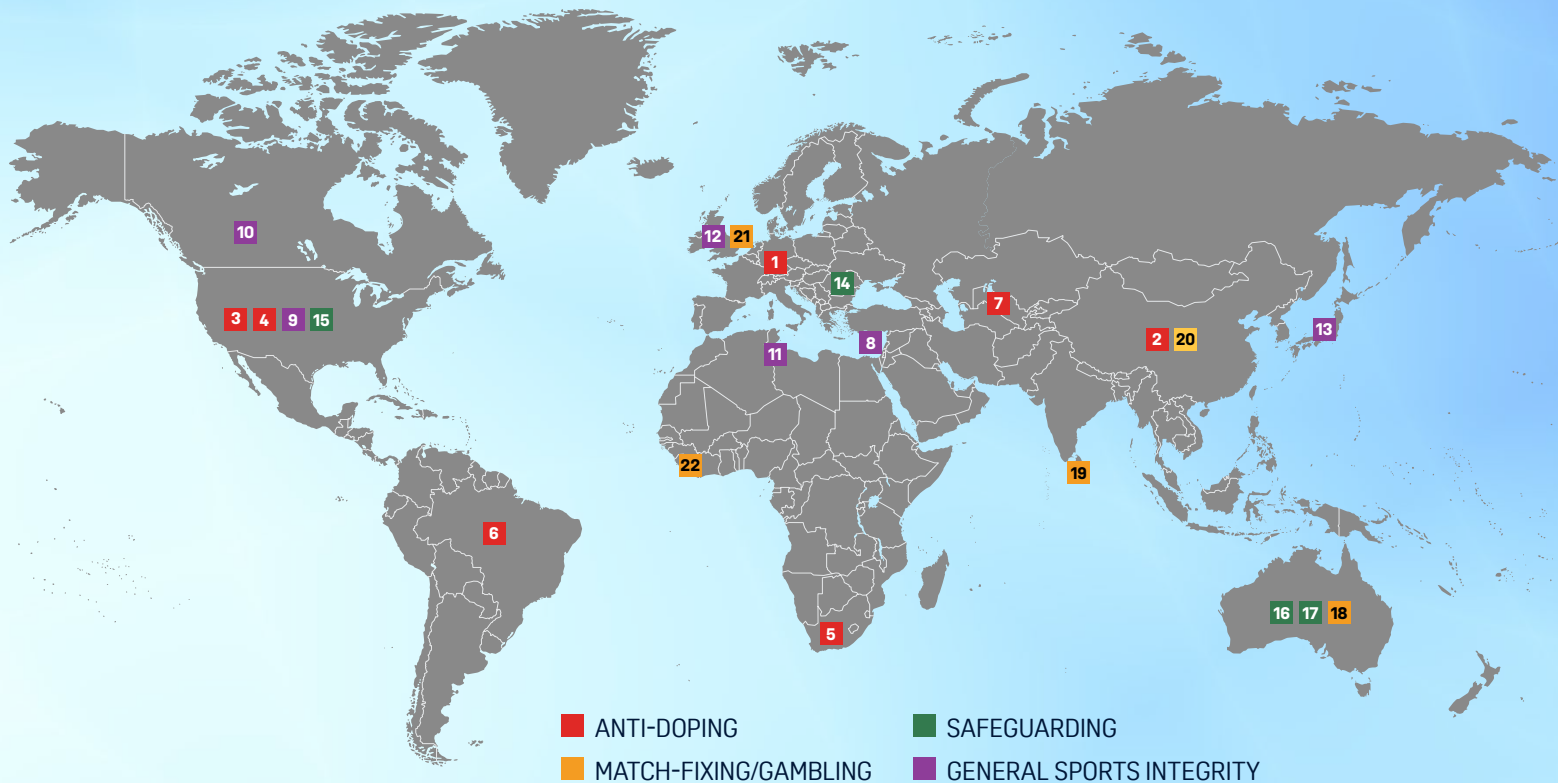
The meeting brought together over 80 participants representing 32 countries, with a shared commitment to the Intelligence and Investigations Capability and Capacity Building project within Asia and Oceania. SIA hosted the first of these advanced WADA workshops on the Gold Coast in March.

Participating Government officials, ministers and NADO representatives committed their joint support to the official meeting resolution. The resolution aligns a growing list of influential global stakeholders, in their joint opposition to the proposed Enhanced Games.

Attendance provided an opportunity to reconnect with agency alumni, Jason Whybrow, current Vice President, Sports Betting Integrity of the General Commercial Gaming Regulatory Authority UAE, and Darren Mullaly, Government Relations Director of WADA.



SNAPSHOT OF GLOBAL ISSUES



ANTI-DOPING

BODYBUILDING

GERMANY 1

A joint operation between France and Germany's National Anti-Doping bodies and law enforcement agencies, led to a large seizure of illegal doping substances. Three German nationals were arrested in connection to the seizure, following raids across six locations in Germany. The investigation came following evidence given by a French body builder, who claimed they obtained the Ostarine in a German gym, after returning a positive result to the prohibited substance.

BASKETBALL

CHINA 2

An Adelaide 36ers player was found guilty of doping violations while competing in China. The Chinese Basketball Association announced the athlete, returned a positive result to cannabis, during a Chinese Anti-Doping Agency In-Competition test. Cannabis is listed as a Substance of Abuse and prohibited In-Competition.

BOXING

USA 3

A boxer was suspended for 12 months and stripped of their \$1.1 million prize, after testing positive to the prohibited substance, Ostarine. The positive result and subsequent suspension came following a New York fight in April 2024. The New York State Athletic Commission also fined the boxer \$10,000. They were eligible to return to the sport in April 2025.

HORSE RACING

USA 4

A convicted trainer was released from prison after serving three years and three months of their five-year sentence for horse doping. The conviction followed a 2020 FBI investigation.

VARIOUS

SOUTH AFRICA 5

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has revoked a South African laboratory's accreditation. The Bloemfontein anti-doping lab was found to be non-compliant with international standards and has previously been suspended and restricted from testing. To regain accreditation, the lab must reapply and adhere to WADA's guidelines.

ATHLETICS

BRAZIL 6

A marathon runner received a five-year ban after testing positive to steroids. The Brazilian was prohibited from competing during the 2024 Paris Olympics and the ban will also prevent them from competing within the upcoming 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. The athlete is banned from competing in any WADA sanctioned sport until the end of July 2029.

KICKBOXING

UZBEKISTAN 7

An international kickboxer received a four-year ban from competition, following a positive test to the prohibited substance, Meldonium. Confirmed by the International Testing Agency in April 2025, they were suspended from participating in any WADA sanctioned sport until 20 November 2028.

GENERAL INTEGRITY

SOCCER CYPRUS 8

Cyprus's Football Association President resigned after two decades in the role, following corruption claims. Claims of match-fixing, conflicts of interest and unethical financial dealings linked to broadcasting have been levelled against the outgoing President. The country's sport ethics committee has recommended criminal proceedings against the former President.

SOCCER USA 9

FIFA President, Gianni Infantino's alleged ties to USA President Donald Trump have sparked calls for a boycott of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The calls come from human rights advocates, after it was reported that the host nation, of next year's competition, is facing concerns over travel bans, discrimination and political interference.

VARIOUS CANADA 10

The International Betting Integrity Association's Education Ambassador is spearheading a campaign to intercept match-fixing in Canadian sport, following changes to the country's betting legislation. With the country's rapidly growing betting market, Jean-Francois Reymond, is providing education and integrity frameworks, to sports across the country to safeguard against the increased threat of match-fixing and competition manipulation.

SAFEGUARDING

SOCCER ROMANIA 14

The Romanian Football Federation has launched a new program with the aim of protecting young athletes and females within the sport. The Integriball 2.0 project, offers specialised training for athletes and coaches to safeguard against integrity threats posed to young players in the sport.

ATHLETICS USA 15

At least 177 male students have made allegations against a college sport physician. Former students of Ohio State University divulged the abuse suffered at the hands of their athletics doctor. The historical abuse dates back to 1978 and in the university's own crime data, released in 2021, it had recorded more than 2,800 instances of alleged sexual misconduct by the alleged offender.

SWIMMING TUNISIA 11

A Tokyo Olympics 400-meter freestyle champion has received a 21-month suspension from the sport following three whereabouts failures. The Tunisian Aquatic Sports Integrity Unit has disqualified the swimmer's results dating back to 11 April 2024 and has suspended them from competition until 10 January 2026.

ATHLETICS UK 12

An athletics coach has received a lifetime ban from the sport for engaging in inappropriate relationships with athletes. A UK Athletics disciplinary panel also found the coach breached several coaches' codes of conduct relating to the use of racist, discriminatory and misogynistic language. They have been prohibited from participating in athletics in any capacity throughout the UK and Northern Ireland.

VARIOUS JAPAN 13

The funding agreement between the Japan Anti-Doping Agency and WADA has been renewed for another 12 months. Funding of up to JPY 27,997,742 (approximately USD 196,000) has been committed by the Japanese Government to support the anti-doping capability development in Asia and Oceania.

VARIOUS AUSTRALIA 16

Sport Integrity Australia, the Australian Institute of Sport and the Western Australian Institute of Sport partnered to develop a world first eLearning course to upskill coaches of junior athletes in high performance sport. *The Safe and effective coaching of young athletes in high performance sport* course, was developed following a Review of the Women's Gymnastics program at WAIS in 2022, which identified a gap in this type of education in Australia and globally.

AFL AUSTRALIA 17

A former Victorian of the Year nominee was found guilty of four child abuse charges in April 2025 and sentenced to the maximum of four years and eight months in prison. He was working as a senior umpire in Warrnambool when several sexual assault offences were committed against junior athletes.



MATCH-FIXING

SOCCER AUSTRALIA 18

The Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission has announced an investigation into Football Australia following a claim of match-fixing in the country's elite-level competition, the A-League. The second scandal of this kind in 2025, it is alleged some players have been manipulating yellow cards.

CRICKET SRI LANKA 19

An Indian National, and owner of the Lanka T10 League's Galle Marvels has received a two-year prison sentence, fined \$6 million INR, ordered to pay a further \$1 million INR in compensation and banned from all sport-related activities for 10 years. They were ordered to leave Sri Lanka following a guilty plea for match-fixing.

CHESS CHINA 20

Several players and key figures have been sentenced to prison following major match-fixing and bribery scandals. China's world number one player received a two-year and nine-month prison sentence for bribery within the sport.

BASKETBALL UK 21

An investigation conducted by FIBA and British Authorities has uncovered serious corruption within the professional British basketball league. Five former Surrey Scorchers players have received lifetime and 10-year bans for their involvement in a match-fixing ring within the BBL. The prohibited conduct is said to have taken place throughout the 2022-23 season, effecting at least six games.

SOCCER LIBERIA 22

Wologizi FC head coach and four referees have been suspended following their alleged involvement in competition manipulation. The Liberian Football Association has stated the suspensions are a precautionary measure while investigations are ongoing and do not imply guilt.



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