



# SPORT INTEGRITY *MATTERS*

ISSUE 6 | SEPTEMBER 2021



SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA  
12 MONTHS IN

NATIONAL INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK  
PROTECTING *ATHLETE A TO Z*

PIVOTING SAVED THE  
SUPER NETBALL SEASON

NEW RULES AROUND  
GLUCOCORTICOID INJECTIONS





## SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

1 July 2021 marked the first 12 months of operations for Sport Integrity Australia. The past year has been an exercise in responding to the unimagined – none of us were fully prepared for a pandemic and the way it would impact sport, and no one was truly prepared for the flood of allegations of historical abuse that would rock the global sporting community.

As such, a key focus for the agency in the last 12 months has been our ability to be agile in response to emerging threats to sport, whatever they may be. In the last six months alone, we have:

- released Australia's first National Integrity Framework, a suite of policies designed to streamline and standardise the management of integrity in sport
- established a new mechanism to hear complaints and allegations in sport in an independent and transparent way
- developed a new program to help bolster sports' ability to implement child safeguarding and member protection practices

All of these are new bodies of work, far beyond the expectations originally set for Sport Integrity Australia, and all are necessary if we truly want to address the serious threats facing sports and athletes.

In the past 12 months we have also had over 600 integrity matters reported to us, across 61 sports. We have disseminated 236 intelligence products and provided education services to over 75,000 members of the Australian sporting community.

I am confident that the work we are doing is having an impact. We are building momentum and trust. Athletes and sporting communities are coming to us for assistance and support. And the international sporting community is watching on, as we lead the way.

Earlier this month, I released our Corporate Plan for 2021–25. This document reflects our deep-seated commitment to safe and fair sport for all.

It also reflects the multitudes of conversations myself and my staff have had with the sporting community over the past 12 months.

A key focus of the agency to date has been to listen to sports, athletes and stakeholders. We know that our vision – safe and fair sport for all – cannot be achieved alone. To have the most impact, we need to work with our partners and listen to their views, their concerns and their ideas.

In the next 12 months, the implementation of the National Integrity Framework remains a priority for the agency. It is critical that sports and athletes have an avenue for reporting complaints which is separated and independent from the sport. The National Integrity Framework provides this.

Importantly, this process removes the burden and associated expense of sports dealing with these issues in-house. The rollout across all sports is a large piece of work and we understand that it will take time to implement, as every sport is unique. To inform our work in this space, we are working to establish a National Sporting Organisation CEO Consultation Panel which will ensure we have a clear understanding of the issues faced by sport in adopting the Framework.

We also recently conducted consultations and surveys with more than 70 sports to best understand their needs in regards to integrity capability, and we have included an article in this edition of Sport Integrity Matters to inform our readers of our progress to date.

To that end, if you are reading this edition of *Sport Integrity Matters* and



have ideas or views you want to be heard, I encourage you to reach out. True to our mission, I am certain we can only protect sport by doing it together.

**David Sharpe APM OAM**  
Chief Executive Officer

## EMERGING ISSUES

### National Integrity Framework and Complaints Handling Model

Consultation with sports continues to identify resources and support needed to implement the National Integrity Framework over the next 12 months

### Birmingham 2022

A Sport Integrity Australia Liaison Officer will be embedded with teams going to Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

### Cost-based funding review

To inform a sustainable funding model

### 2032 Summer Olympics

With Brisbane confirmed as the host of the 2032 Summer Olympics and Paralympics Games, Sport Integrity Australia will focus on program development and planning in the lead up to the Games



# 12 MONTHS SHIFTING SANDS



**Sport Integrity Australia** first opened its doors on 1 July 2020 at a time when the sporting landscape in Australia was unlike anything we've ever seen: COVID-19 was impacting sporting competitions and, indeed, their very survival was in doubt. This, coupled with growing global unrest around the treatment of athletes, presented challenges beyond comprehension. Here we look at how Sport Integrity Australia responded, and some key milestones for our first 12 months.

## SHIFTING SANDS

When COVID-19 hit, sports had to adapt in order to survive, according to CEO David Sharpe, with many sports forced to cut costs and reduce staffing levels.

"In context, Australia was in the midst of building and delivering a new sports integrity agency, and these issues impacted the very foundations the new agency were being built upon," Sharpe says.

Sport Integrity Australia, one year on, is a very different agency to the one that opened its doors virtually in July 2020, he says.

"When we were establishing the agency, our focus was on consolidating the existing efforts of multiple agencies into one new organisation. That in itself can be a challenge, but within three months, so much in Australian sport changed so quickly, it was clear our role had to be broader than we initially planned. We had to adapt at a rapid pace none of us anticipated."

A key development was the release of the *Athlete A* documentary which sparked allegations of abuse by coaches and other administrators towards gymnasts around the world, including Australia.

The resultant ripple effect of abuse claims within Australian sporting communities was unprecedented, he says.

Participants from "all levels of sport and a myriad of sporting organisations sought our assistance" to independently assess alleged breaches of sport integrity policies, from breaches of child safeguarding and member protection policies, to the improper use of drugs and medicine and sports wagering issues.

"This has shaped our development and defined who we are today," he says.

"Sport Integrity Australia is determined to ensure that no sport, indeed no athlete, will be left behind."

He says a strong partnership between sporting bodies and Sport Integrity Australia, built on trust, is the only way forward in supporting athletes past, present and future.

"While our remit may have changed, our commitment to working in partnership with sports and athletes to protect the integrity of Australian sport – from elite competition right through to the grassroots level – has not."

## SUPPORTING DIVERSITY

Sport Integrity Australia understands the power of sport and its culture in the Australian psyche, however Sharpe believes the integrity of sport is challenged by the lack of female representation at CEO and Board level as "diversity of voice is critical to success".

It is only through partnerships that we can correct this imbalance, he says, which is why we have collaborated with Sport Australia, the Minerva Network and Ducere to identify and explore the barriers that contributed towards a lack of female leadership positions in the sporting industry.

"For Australian sport to flourish there needs to be diversity of thought, and female CEOs in sport are drastically underrepresented. The objective of our collaboration is to ensure we play a vital role in influencing a blueprint for the future development and enhancement of women within sporting leadership positions and to establish a best practice globally, which is not only limited to sporting organisations."

Sharpe says he is "proud" that 50 per cent of Sport Integrity Australia's senior leadership group and 50 per cent of overall staff are women. Highlights for the year include our celebrations of International Women's Day with swimming coach Tracey Menzies, National Reconciliation Week with UC Capitals star Abby Cubillo, a proud Larrakia woman from the Darwin region, and Play True Day with Sarah Cook, former rower, and now coach and administrator.



*Celebrating International Women's Day with swimming coach Tracey Menzies (centre front).*

## NATIONAL INTEGRITY FRAMEWORK

The roll out of the National Integrity Framework for sport in March 2021 supports a streamlined and coordinated policy framework for sport in Australia. This framework will be accompanied by education and support programs for sports to ensure that athletes and sports are afforded the highest level of protection, with independence being the key factor in managing complaints.

## SAFEGUARDING SPORT

In partnership with the National Office for Child Safety, Sport Integrity Australia is working with sport to develop the Safeguarding in Sport Continuous Improvement Program, acknowledging that all sports are different, with different governance models and at varying stages of their safeguarding journey. The Continuous Improvement Program will help each sport bring their Child Safeguarding and Member Protection policies to life, by providing tailored action plans for each level of sport, and a range of resources and support to help each sport. More information on the program will be available soon.

## ANTI-DOPING

Sport Integrity Australia has been actively pursuing anti-doping reforms to address delays and improve the athlete experience. To that end, the agency has been instrumental in legislative reform in Australia, influencing changes to the World Anti-Doping Code subsequently implemented in 2021, and through internal end-to-end process reviews to ensure a more effective and efficient anti-doping process.

Sport Integrity Australia has also been working with the World Anti-Doping Agency and other leading agencies around the world to explore an alternative sample collection method – dried blood spot (DBS) collection. Sharpe says DBS could be a game-changer and this pilot program is "just another example of Sport Integrity Australia partnering with other industry leaders to help find better systems for athletes."

## SPORTS WAGERING

Sport Integrity Australia has also partnered with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and Gambling Research Australia to commission two important research projects that will inform the development of the Australian Sports Wagering Scheme and broader sports wagering reform.



*Chief Operating Officer Bill Turner with UC Capitals star Abby Cubillo to celebrate National Reconciliation Week.*

To date, more than 40 domestic and international stakeholders, including sporting organisations, wagering service providers and regulators, have been consulted to gather evidence for two research projects to understand the impact of distributing Australian sports data overseas, and the impact of online in-play betting markets overseas.

## EMERGING THREATS

In June, the agency hosted a Sport Integrity Threats conference to develop a platform for intelligence sharing between Sport Integrity Australia and enforcement agencies. This will enable us to more effectively coordinate the sport integrity threat response.

While the agency targets existing threats, Sharpe says it is also focusing on emerging threats and emerging sports, like eSports. "eSports is a complex and rapidly growing industry and we are engaging with the industry to understand how we might aid the coordination of integrity responses within our current responsibilities and resourcing."

Packaged with the new National Sports Tribunal, Australia's response to integrity in sport is leading the way, he says. Sport Integrity Australia is the foundation of the Australian Government's sport integrity strategy and "countries around the world are closely following Australia's approach to integrity".



# PROTECTING ATHLETE A TO Z

In June 2020, investigative journalists broke the story of Dr Larry Nassar and the sexual assault of young female athletes in the documentary *Athlete A*. More than 200 women and girls stepped forward to accuse him of abuse committed throughout his 30-year career as a doctor for USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University.

What followed was unprecedented with Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain and the United States all launching cultural reviews as a response to allegations of abuse, bullying and misconduct by coaches and other administrators towards athletes in gymnastics across the globe.

Here at home, Gymnastics Australia engaged the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) to examine the culture and practices in gymnastics by providing key stakeholders, past and present, with the opportunity to have their experiences heard, acknowledged, and recorded.

Gymnastics Australia also established a temporary *Supplementary Policy for the Management of Complaints relating to conduct covered by the 2020/21 Australian Human Rights Commission Review into Gymnastics in Australia* (the SCMP), to ensure that complaints related to the scope of the AHRC Review were managed with enhanced independence, fairness, transparency and consistency. Sport Integrity Australia and the National Sports Tribunal (NST) were engaged by Gymnastics Australia to manage this end-to-end temporary independent complaint handling process. The SCMP also included the appointment of an Independent Assessor, selected by Sport Integrity Australia and the NST, who would determine the appropriate complaint handling process to be applied to each complaint.

In the SCMP, Sport Integrity Australia's role was to:

- receive all complaints and provide expertise in terms of research and assessment of the alleged conduct against relevant Gymnastics Australia policies
- provide secretariat support for the Independent Assessor and Gymnastics Australia
- conduct investigations or refer matters to law enforcement if recommended by the Independent Assessor
- report on investigations and make recommendations to the Gymnastics Australia CEO as to next steps after the conclusion of an investigation.

The role of the NST was to offer mediation if recommended by the Independent Assessor and to determine any disputes arising by way of arbitration.

Complaints were received between 24 September 2020 and 10 January 2021, with the volume of complaints received being larger than initially predicted. For matters that were referred to Sport Integrity Australia for investigation, timeframes had to be tailored to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions. It was important to allow people to engage in the dispute resolution process in a face-to-face environment, particularly for minors.





While some SCMP matters are still being finalised, this experience demonstrated there was a clear need for a straight forward, easily understood integrity policy framework that was supported by an independent complaint handling system for all sports to access. In particular, dealing with a complaint when it first occurs as efficiently and effectively as possible will result in early resolution and benefit the welfare and integrity of all parties involved.

This prompted Sport Integrity Australia to implement a working group made up of the Australian Olympic Committee, Paralympics Australia, the Commonwealth Games Federation, the National Sports Tribunal and the Australian Sports Commission to identify an appropriate process for all sports to access.

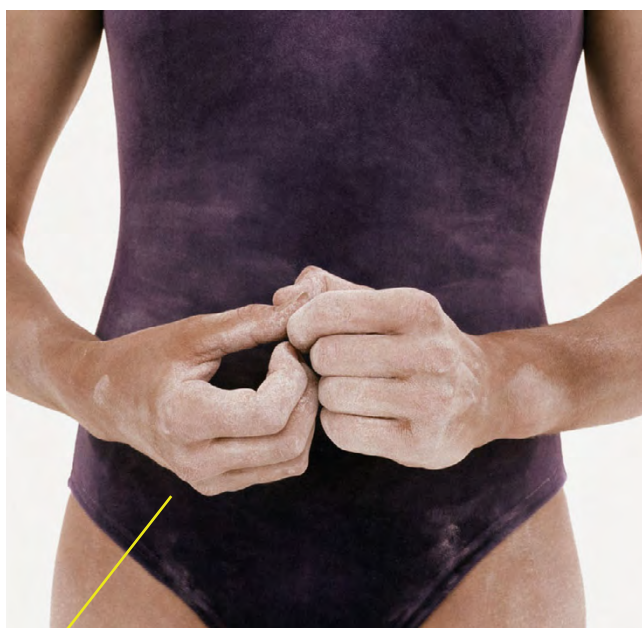
In December 2020, the Australian Government identified the need to reform the way in which sport integrity complaints were managed and announced \$10.1 million funding for Sport Integrity Australia to establish an independent complaint process. Consultation continued with sports and various government agencies that manage national complaint handling processes, to identify best practice for implementation into any new framework.

On 1 March 2021, the National Integrity Framework was released to National Sporting Organisations. The framework managed by Sport Integrity Australia is underpinned by an independent, transparent, and fair complaint management system for those sports that choose to opt in.

The learnings Sport Integrity Australia gained from supporting Gymnastics Australia were applied to the new Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy under the National Integrity Framework. In addition, our internal processes for managing complaints were updated, including the recruitment of new staff and the development of new procedures to ensure that all interested parties, and our staff, are supported appropriately throughout a dispute resolution process.

Engagement to ensure National Sporting Organisations and state bodies are supported to implement the Framework is well advanced.

“...the Australian Government identified the need to reform the way in which sport integrity complaints were managed and announced \$10.1 million funding for Sport Integrity Australia to establish an independent complaint process.”



# SUPPORTING INTEGRITY CAPABILITY

Integrity is critical to keeping sports, athletes and participants safe, and to ensure Australian sport continues to contribute to strong, positive communities.

At Sport Integrity Australia, we're committed to working with all sports to help increase their capability to manage integrity threats.

The National Integrity Framework (NIF) is designed to do just that, by offering a streamlined suite of policies and an independent complaint process to reduce the administrative burden on sports.

In addition to the NIF, Sport Integrity Australia is also developing a number of other mechanisms to support sports to best respond to integrity threats.

To inform this work, Sport Integrity Australia recently sought feedback from all National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) to understand their current integrity capability and learn how we can help.

Through a mix of one-one-one consultation sessions and online survey responses, we heard a number of clear priorities for sports.

Firstly, we received strong support for a proposal to provide sports with extra people power - that is, a dedicated person to help sports manage their integrity response, on either a full-time or part-time basis.

Sport Integrity Australia is now using the feedback from sports to inform the development of a new network of integrity managers to work with NSOs who adopt the NIF.

Secondly, we received strong support to develop education and training resources regarding the NIF policies, to support both staff and participants.

As a result, Sport Integrity Australia is currently developing a suite of digital resources for sports, such as video explainers of each policy, fact sheets, social media tiles and website content.

In addition, a number of online courses are already under development, including an "Introduction to the Child Safeguarding Policy" course to support staff and members of sport, and a "National Integrity Framework Overview" course to support staff at all levels understand the new policies and what they mean for their sport.

If sports do not adopt the NIF, we will work with them to ensure the policies mandated under the Sport Investment Agreement meet the SIA requirements in order to ensure a consistent approach to integrity across all sports. We will also continue to provide information and education on integrity threats to support safe and fair sport for all.

“In addition to the NIF, Sport Integrity Australia is also developing a number of other mechanisms to support sports.”



## You asked, we listened

### What you want from SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA

- ✓ Policy fact sheets
- ✓ eLearning courses
- ✓ Staff information packs
- ✓ Training courses
- ✓ Additional staff
- ✓ Social media tiles
- ✓ Posters



## SPORTS TALK: Why we adopted the Framework

*The National Integrity Framework has delivered us the opportunity to enhance our integrity and safeguarding program and ensure our members have the necessary structures and support systems in place to provide safe environments to enjoy our sport. With changes and expectations shifting not just in sport but throughout the community, we had to review our existing member protection and integrity policies and processes. The National Integrity Framework made this process simple – the Frameworks integration across the suite of policies, it's thorough coverage of safeguarding and integrity policy and process and it's alignment to access the National Sports Tribunal, provided the resource our sport needed to take this next step.*

*We are also embracing the holistic approach Sport Integrity Australia are taking to the implementing the National Integrity Framework. The recognition that policy development and adoption must be supported with education and resources has been delivered by Sport Integrity Australia. We are actively working in partnership with them to ensure our members at all levels are supported to understand how they can apply the policies in their own environments. This recognition will contribute to the success of the National Integrity Framework being applied and lived by our sport.'*

~ Emma Taylor , Judo Australia



## PIVOTING SAVED THE SUPER NETBALL SEASON

Super Netball was thrown into a spin this year with COVID-19 a constant threat to their ability to complete the 2021 season. While they embraced the sports bubble approach as a way to continue competing safely through the pandemic, their bubble was constantly shifting as they bounced from city to city in an effort to keep ahead of the virus and finish the year.

We chat to Netball Australia CEO Kelly Ryan about life in the bubble, the constant need to pivot, lessons learned, athlete wellbeing and the future of the sport within the current climate.

Pivot is a word Netball Australia probably used more than they wanted to, with the constant need to readjust their season to stay out of COVID-19's grasp. Some teams left home believing they would be gone for a week, instead spending two months on the road and relocating to multiple states at short notice and sometimes late at night. The gravity of COVID-19 gave them a season they never envisaged with the need to not only apply a sporting bubble, but one that allowed them to move safely from state to state.

Kelly is quick to applaud the success of the netball bubble and the ability to complete the season, despite the constant COVID-19 challenges plaguing 2021.

"We got it done which is a massive credit to everyone involved, including their families," Kelly says. "We continued to find ways to work together for the benefit of the sport. Everyone had to concede something, but people put aside individual team requirements to ensure we could continue to compete and see the season through to the end."

The Super Netball bubble included anyone who was travelling with teams at any given time including high performance staff, coaches, players and family members. To ensure player wellbeing and the ability to finish the season, Kelly described their approach to the sporting bubble as "over commitment".

"Despite what the protocols were in the jurisdiction we were in, we applied an additional protocol over the top to add another layer of risk mitigation," Kelly says.

"It didn't matter if that state allowed for dining out or a trip to the hairdresser, or didn't require masks, we had a strict no dining out, no appointments, full mask wearing policy, which extended to all performance staff, players and family."

This additional layer included regular COVID-19 testing of teams to ensure they were on the front foot given the highly infectious nature and speed in which the virus travels through communities.

"There is always going to be challenges and with COVID-19 moving so fast there were of course hurdles," she says. "One player bought a takeaway coffee which was an approved behaviour, but that coffee shop became a tier one contact point which meant our player had to go into isolation for 14 days."

All eight teams needed to relocate at some stage throughout the season as the pandemic forced the league into hub conditions that moved from Queensland to Melbourne, then to Adelaide and back to Queensland. The two Grand Final teams, the NSW Swifts and Giants, spent 67 days on the road after leaving Sydney Airport on June 23. With constant changes to fixtures, the need to relocate at short notice and travelling for extended periods of time, welfare was clearly a key concern.

"Each team has a wellbeing lead and some have psychologists as well, so there's a layer of resourcing in that area. Our teams also tend to be close knit so there's a natural support of each other with teams becoming family. We ensure regular check-ins across all levels."





As with any sport, it's not just the elite levels that are suffering in the current COVID-19 climate. With netball the number one sport for girls and women across Australia, there are many players at the club level who haven't been able to step onto a court. Which of course has flow on effects for the organisation, including financially.

"Every sport has suffered financially in some way from the loss of revenue from grassroots sport to ticket sales at games," confirms Kelly, "But the focus is on how to rebuild from the last two years.

"We thought last year was it, but if anything this year has been more challenging. We've had to be more nimble."

She also reflects on what the sporting bubble approach has given Australians generally during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The greatest thing is that sports have continued to find a way. Being in lockdown and still having sport on the TV is such a saviour in hard times and a shining light for many Australians."

For more information about Netball Australia, including all the netball news, head to [netball.com.au](https://netball.com.au)

## ATHLETES NET PAY DEAL

Our elite netballers will earn 22 per cent more in 2022 after the league signed a new broadcast agreement with the Foxtel Group. In a two-year-deal, the average potential maximum salary of contracted players will increase from \$75,167 to \$91,500.

Netball Australia, the Australian Netball Players' Association and all eight Suncorp Super Netball clubs worked together to achieve this landmark deal, increasing the sustainability of the sport and improving athlete conditions.

This deal ensures Australia's elite netballers remain the highest-paid female domestic club athletes in the country.

Images courtesy of Netball Australia  
© Barry Alsop





# TOKYO 2020

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our educators help athletes across Australia understand the rigorous anti-doping testing processes and rules we follow as part of our commitment to sport integrity. All of our educators are athletes themselves, including four who competed at Tokyo 2020.

### When it comes to integrity, education is key

Australia has a proud reputation of never losing an Olympic or Paralympic medal for doping, and at Sport Integrity Australia we do our best to help keep it that way. To do that, educating our teams is critical.

We know that the anti-doping and competition manipulation rules can be complex. Athletes need to be aware of medicine importation rules, supplement risks and betting rules before they even step foot on a plane. They also need to know what to expect during a testing mission, and why the process matters.

That's why in partnership with the Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympics Australia, Sport Integrity Australia put in a massive pre-Games effort to ensure every member of the Australian team was provided the opportunity for education prior to the Games.

This included competition manipulation and anti-doping online training, Tokyo-specific face-to-face sessions, and one-on-one advice to Australian long list team members at athlete processing days. As a result, athlete confidence in understanding integrity rules was high.

### Pre-Games education

- **982 Australian Olympic and Paralympic team members completed the online course on anti-corruption and anti-doping, of which 95% said they felt better informed.**
- **6 individual teams and 183 Olympic and Paralympic team members attended face-to-face sessions, of which 100% said they felt better informed.**

## TESTING AT THE OLYMPICS

Steve Northey has worked in the anti-doping space since 1996 and is currently the Assistant Director, Sport Operations at Sport Integrity Australia. With his team he assesses the doping risk in sports to develop and implement testing plans for sports and athletes.

Steve has been involved on the ground at both the Sydney and Tokyo Olympics and in a planning capacity for an additional four Olympic games, including as a member of both the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 International Testing Expert Groups.

Steve talks about his role in Tokyo and how he thinks pre-Games education is having an impact.

*Based inside the Olympic Village within the Anti-Doping Functional Command Centre, I worked alongside the Tokyo 2020 Anti-Doping team and members of the International Testing Agency to assist in facilitating out-of-competition testing plans on identified athletes. We worked very closely with the sample collection staff testing those athletes.*

*I loved walking through the Olympic Village each day on my way to the office and seeing the excitement and atmosphere of the athletes who were obviously so relieved at being there after everything COVID-19 threw at them.*

*I have worked at many large scale events where athletes have not always been happy at being tested, but my encounters with athletes in Tokyo were nothing but positive. All athletes embraced being there and accepted testing as part of that participation. They happily chatted and didn't complain, despite the fact it may have been an inconvenient time or late at night. I was impressed and saw the differences to some experiences I've had in the past. This could be attributed to athletes finally getting to Tokyo after so much uncertainty, but I think it's also a testament to an increase in education and awareness of anti-doping and its importance at such events.*

*Pre-Games education is important because testing is easier when athletes have an understanding of the anti-doping process. They understand despite some unpleasant components to sample collection, it helps them in the long run to compete on a more level playing field. If what I experienced at the Tokyo Games is any indication, I think we are doing great things in the education space.*





## TESTING AT THE PARALYMPICS

Kate Walker has worked in the anti-doping landscape since 2007. She has worked on the ground at both the London and Tokyo Olympics, as well as the Pacific Games in Samoa.

Kate, who is currently the Assistant Director, Engagement at Sport Integrity Australia, talks about her role at the Tokyo Paralympics, confirms the need for pre-Games education and gives us an insight into how COVID-19 was handled during testing at the Paralympics.

*Within the 24-hour Doping Control Command Centre I assisted both the International Paralympic Committee and the Tokyo 2020 staff with the coordination of controls, in both out-of-competition situations and during competition.*

*I enjoyed working with the 250 plus doping control staff, whose collective expertise and experience in anti-doping was amazing. From a sporting sense, I thoroughly enjoyed the Goalball and felt completely inspired when watching the Aussie team play against Turkey. You could really feel the spirit and atmosphere during the Paralympics despite there being no spectators and the chaos of COVID-19.*

*I agree with Steve and Bronwen (see her story over the page) that education is key to making the testing process easier for everyone. Particularly for the Paralympics where some athletes are not regularly tested in their home countries in comparison to able-bodied athletes. Plus the varying classifications of Paralympians makes it even more important to get the education content and modifications appropriate. Not to mention ensuring anti-doping staff are educated on modifications athletes might request during doping control.*

*Due to COVID-19, anti-doping wasn't just about collecting the sample, there were other elements such as COVID-19 screening, cleaning, and daily COVID-19 tests that made the testing program that little more challenging. COVID-19 was at the front of mind during the Games because while we were there for anti-doping, equally important was keeping everyone safe.*

*Despite it being a different looking Games due to the global pandemic, the Tokyo Paralympics was a truly amazing experience which I'll be forever grateful for.*



Kate Walker



# TOKYO 2020

## AN ATHLETE'S VIEW

Bronwen Knox has hung up her Aussie swimsuit for the last time, having just competed in her fourth Olympics. With a pile of team FINA medals and two Olympic bronzes (Beijing 2008 and London 2012), Bron has definitely made her mark on Australian Women's Water Polo. She has also made her mark at Sport Integrity Australia as an Education Presenter helping athletes better understand their rights and responsibilities in the sport integrity space.

We chat to Bron about her Olympic experiences, how Tokyo compared, her role at Sport Integrity Australia and why pre-Games education is so important.

*From the blur of my first Olympics in Beijing scoring important goals and bringing home bronze, to having the crowd so close to the action in London that it felt like friends and family were right next to me, to captaining the team in Rio, Tokyo was about the relief of finally being able to compete again on the biggest international stage when I thought COVID was going to force me into early retirement.*

*Not having games leading into Tokyo made it difficult to prepare, and not having friends and family able to come along was a downside, but something that surprised me was it was probably the best Olympics out of all those I competed at. The Tokyo Games had the ability to be dynamic and adapt quickly to changing circumstances which is something I think organising committees of the future will learn from.*

*Testing is a major part of any Olympics experience and from a sport integrity point of view, pre-Games education is really important. Athletes can be vulnerable to outside influences, or simply lack access to information to know what dangers to watch out for and where to seek advice and help.*

*By better informing of the dangers and their responsibilities athletes are better equipped to protect themselves which leads to an increased feeling of wellbeing and performance.*

*I think Australia has one of the best programs in educating athletes. Being an athlete who has been*

*tested many times, both home and away, I know that every time I am tested here in Australia it follows the same process. However, testing overseas is always different, from country to country, from first day of competition to the last day of competition. You are never quite sure what you may be faced with.*

*I was attracted to the Educator role at Sport Integrity Australia as I believe athletes need to better understand*

*their rights and responsibilities when it comes to integrity issues in sport. We need to empower those who are at risk to falling prey to the common mistakes that athletes inadvertently make with potentially career ending consequences. It's my hope that by being an athlete I can better relate to those coming through by sharing my experiences and helping them understand their worth and power.*

*Retirement from international sport will be a big change for me, after 10-plus training sessions per week for the last 21 years.*

*Recently I started a new role in the legal industry and I hope to continue*

*to play my sport in some sort of state or national competitions, and coaching to assist the next generations. I hope to keep pursuing my passions and*

*interests around improving the athlete wellbeing space and providing better support for amateur athletes. In the past we have often viewed an athlete as a commodity and not a person. Time and time again it is the athlete's wellbeing that is thought of last. I would love to see this change.*

“We need to empower those who are at risk to falling prey to the common mistakes that athletes inadvertently make with potentially career ending consequences.”







## MAKING SPORT INTEGRITY ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

Deaf Sports Australia (DSA) has partnered with Sport Integrity Australia to ensure that integrity information and resources are accessible for all community members.

DSA is the peak organisation for sport participation and opportunities for Australians who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Phil Harper has been actively involved in deaf sports since the age of 20 as an athlete, coach, committee member, volunteer and is now the General Manager of DSA. Growing up playing footy, cricket and tennis, Phil's passion for improving sport participation, inclusion and recognition for people with hearing loss was always there.

"I enjoy working with people and seeing them get good outcomes and have a smile on their faces," Phil says. "The challenge to work in such diverse aspects of sport with others is satisfying yet sometimes difficult when deaf sport does not get the understanding or recognition it deserves.

"This collaboration is an important one that enables critical information relating to governance, rules and policies to be available in Australian Sign Language (Auslan)," Phil adds. "Many of our members use Auslan as their first language, so it's critical that we can offer information and resources in accessible formats."

He suggests that working with Sport Integrity Australia will also help the DSA team better understand their roles and responsibilities within the integrity space, which they can then pass to their members to ensure sport is played with the best intentions, integrity and spirit.

"Many deaf and hard of hearing people in the past have not been able to access critical information and may therefore not be fully aware of their and their sport's obligations," Phil says. "We look forward to working with Sport Integrity Australia on this project to ultimately ensure that information is accessible."

*Phil Harper (right) at the 2018 Australian Deaf Games hosting a 'silent sports challenge' basketball match with deaf basketball players and well-known local Albury/Wodonga personalities. Erica Harper (left) is a volunteer Auslan interpreter.*







*Sport Integrity Australia is helping raise awareness of deaf sports and providing accessible resources for a safe, fair and healthy sporting environment for all Australians.*

With one in six Australians (over 3 million people) having some level of hearing loss, the work of DSA is more important than ever to help keep Aussies, particularly our kids, participating in sport. According to Hearing Australia, in 2019 there were over 26,000 children across Australia in the education system who have a hearing loss.

"An important DSA focus is working with schools where deaf and hard of hearing students attend to ensure they can enjoy sport activities and participation in the same way as their peers," he says.

Sport Integrity Australia looks forward to continuing to engage with DSA to help raise awareness of deaf sports and by providing accessible resources for a safe, fair and healthy sporting environment for all Australians.

For more information about Deaf Sports Australia and to access their resources head to [deafsports.org.au](https://deafsports.org.au)

## DID YOU KNOW?

- > In top-level competitions in Australia, there is a start light system that is synchronised with the start gun to assist swimmers and athletes who are deaf or hard of hearing in their races.
- > Deaf Sports Australia is working on raising awareness, funding and opportunities for participation in the Deaflympics, which is an IOC-sanctioned event. The next Deaflympic Games is being hosted by Brazil in late 2022. Starting as the International Games for the Deaf in 1924, Australia hosted the Deaflympics in Melbourne in 2005.
- > Australia has one of the oldest deaf sport clubs in the world, with the Melbourne Deaf Cricket Club established in 1880 and still going strong today.
- > The pinnacle of deaf sports in Australia is the Australian Deaf Games held every four years since 1964. 2022 will mark the 19th Games with over 1,000 people from Australia, New Zealand, and hopefully our Oceania friends due to attend across 17 sports.
- > There are many deaf and hard of hearing Australians who have represented their sport and community at a high level. Here are just a few:

**Cindy-Lu Bailey** (nee Fitzpatrick) – Swimming

**Dean Barton Smith** – Athletics

**Frank Bartillo** – Fencing

**Andrew Swan** – Snow Skiing

**Melinda Vernon** – Triathlon and Athletics

**Katie Kelly** – Triathlon

**Joanne Lambert** – Athletics





# THE SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA ADVISORY COUNCIL

*By Council Chair, Sarah Kenny (Vice President of World Sailing)*

The Sport Integrity Australia Advisory Council was appointed in early 2021 to advise both the CEO of Sport Integrity Australia, as well as the Minister for Sport on integrity issues and the way they are addressed.

Importantly, the Advisory Council's focus is on policy matters and the provision of strategic advice, it does not provide advice on any particular individual matters or investigations.

The Advisory Council provides unique insight because of the diversity of experience of its members across business, sport, government and community. Our members have been active as athletes, in sports administration and leadership and in senior roles in business, with experience across professional, Olympic, Paralympic and community sport.

I am joined on the Council by Paralympics Australia CEO Lynne Anderson, former senior public servant Peter Conran, sports consultant and former elite athlete Scott Draper, former elite athlete and governance expert Margot Foster, policy adviser Jason Marocchi, former National Children's Commissioner Megan Mitchell, former NSW Police Commissioner Ken Moroney, and Golf Australia CEO James Sutherland.

The Council had its first meeting in person in Canberra which gave us the opportunity to get to know each other better and to meet the Sport Integrity Australia team. Since that first meeting we have worked and met virtually. In its early months of operation, the Advisory Council has been briefed on a number of key initiatives and had the opportunity to provide advice on a number of topics including the proposed Australian Sports Wagering Scheme.

We have recognised the need for the Advisory Council to provide early input on key issues and new policy initiatives

to help ensure the feedback can be properly considered. As the Agency settles into its second year of operations, the Advisory Council has insight into the forward work plan which will guide our work going forward.

The key to Sport Integrity Australia's success is its independence and its ongoing education and engagement program with sport, athletes and other relevant stakeholders. We were fortunate to see Sport Integrity Australia's innovative approach to education via the virtual reality experience of a drug test.

Recognising that effective and widespread access to education and communication with all stakeholders is key to managing integrity issues in sport, the Advisory Council contributes valuable insight to the challenges of communicating in the often very decentralised sports environment in Australia.

The Advisory Council has also seen firsthand how the agency has fostered strong international relationships and networks to ensure it stays at the forefront of managing threats to integrity in sport. It is evident that the agency is a global leader in sports integrity and respected by the global community.

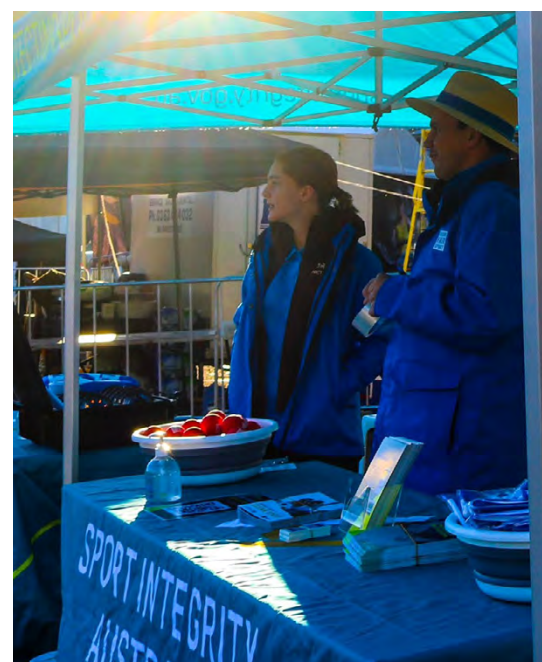
The Council gives Sport Integrity Australia ready access to many decades of relevant experience to provide input and perspective to help ensure the agency prevents and addresses threats to sport integrity in an effective and coordinated national manner.

*Image at top, the Sport Integrity Australia Advisory Council (left to right): Lynne Anderson (NSW), Ken Moroney AO APM (NSW), Megan Mitchell (NSW) Margot Foster AM (VIC), Sarah Kenny (Chair) (NSW), James Sutherland (VIC), Scott Draper (QLD). Not pictured: Peter Conran AM (QLD), Jason Marocchi (WA)*





“The key to Sport Integrity Australia's success is its independence and its ongoing education and engagement program with sport, athletes and other relevant stakeholders.”



*Sports Integrity Australia undertakes regular education and engagement sessions with sports, athletes and schools to educate them on the importance of integrity in sport.*



# NEW RULES AROUND GLUCOCORTICOID INJECTIONS

From 1 January 2022, all glucocorticoid injections will be prohibited in-competition. This is a new ruling making their classification consistent with oral glucocorticoid preparations.

Athletes may require a glucocorticoid injection for legitimate medical purposes, in which case they'll need to check the Sport Integrity app for their Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) requirements and keep good medical records to enable a TUE application if required.

Glucocorticoid injections are permitted out of competition. However, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) advises that the most commonly used glucocorticoid injections have a wash-out (clearance from the body) period of between three and five days, but some are longer (up to 60 days for intra-muscular injection.) This means that some injections given before competition can be detected in an in-competition sample.

Sport Integrity Australia Chief Science Officer Dr Naomi Speers reminds athletes to discuss their status with a doctor and to ensure good medical records are kept.

"Some glucocorticoids have longer washout periods and may remain in the athletes system for up to 10 weeks," Dr Speers says. "It might be difficult to identify the exact injection that contributed to an atypical in-competition test, which makes it even more important for physicians to practice good medicine with appropriate clinical record keeping."

The following opportunities will be made available for doctors in sport to discuss the WADA 2022 glucocorticoid injection changes with the members of the Australian Sports Drug Medical Advisory Committee:

- SMA Symposium (online), Saturday 9 October
- ACSEP annual scientific conference (online), December 3 and 4
- High Performance Sport Medical Officers Group (AIS Chief Medical Officers meeting)
- Sport specific meetings on request from National Sporting Organisations/Chief Medical Officers
- Sport Integrity Australia is also hosting a live webinar to discuss this change on October 26. To register, scan this QR code.

Resources for athletes and medical practitioners have been shared with National Sporting Organisations and are available on the Sport Integrity Australia website.



“Some glucocorticoids have longer washout periods and may remain in the athletes system for up to 10 weeks.”



**From 1 January 2022, all glucocorticoids injections will be prohibited in-competition. Athletes and their doctors need to maintain appropriate medical records to enable a TUE application if required.**

## What are glucocorticoids?

Glucocorticoids are a group of medications, most commonly known as "cortisone". Doctors prescribe and administer glucocorticoid injections for the management of medical conditions which may include:

- inflammation of the joints, bursa (bursitis) or around tendons
- for impingement (pressure) on nerves in the spinal canal from disc bulges
- for severe allergies such as anaphylaxis.

Find out more, download the Sport Integrity app

Email: [asdmac@sportintegrity.gov.au](mailto:asdmac@sportintegrity.gov.au)

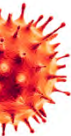
Call: 13 000 27232

The in-competition period begins at 11.59pm the night before an event, and finishes after the event (and any testing processes that follow).





# A TESTING TIME DURING COVID



Craig Wilson has been working as a Doping Control Officer (DCO) on the Sunshine Coast for three years and, as an avid sport participant, he thoroughly enjoys being able to mix with athletes around the edges of their sport.

Employed full time with the Queensland Ambulance Service, Craig has experience as a paramedic, triple zero call taker and dispatcher, and as a quality assurance educator and investigator. Applying to become a DCO with Sport Integrity Australia was an easy next step, adding to his resumé in health and safety.

The COVID pandemic is challenging for everyone, and with an Olympics/Paralympics to prepare for and many sports continuing via their "COVID bubbles", it means our DCOs have continued to be on the job.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Sport Integrity Australia has continued to collect anti-doping samples since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and welfare of Sport Integrity Australia staff and athletes will always be our number one priority. Sport Integrity Australia continues to review our processes and procedures to ensure that they are in line with the latest state and territory health requirements.

Queensland benefited from the lockdowns in major Australian cities with a number of sports moving their winter competitions to the Sunshine State. The National Rugby League (NRL) moved around 1,000 players, coaches and staff from 12 clubs across Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, which means DCOs like Craig have been kept pretty busy.

"I have had five NRL teams based on the Sunshine Coast, a number of Super Netball teams, the local SC Lightning team, and several Olympic athletes who relocated to be able to continue to train," Craig says. "Plus our local Olympians who I test regularly."

Testing in a pandemic requires a whole new method of operation.

Sport Integrity Australia has agreed protocols in place with sports to ensure testing occurs in a safe and compliant way. This includes rigorous attention to hygiene, social distancing protocols and the use of personal protection equipment for staff and athletes.

"The main challenges have been navigating the different protocols we have in place for attending an athlete's home, training venue or in-competition events," Craig says. "This takes a lot of planning to ensure a successful and safe testing mission."

Masks and hand washing have become a symbol of our times in the fight against COVID, but the quality of masks required and hand health procedures vary.

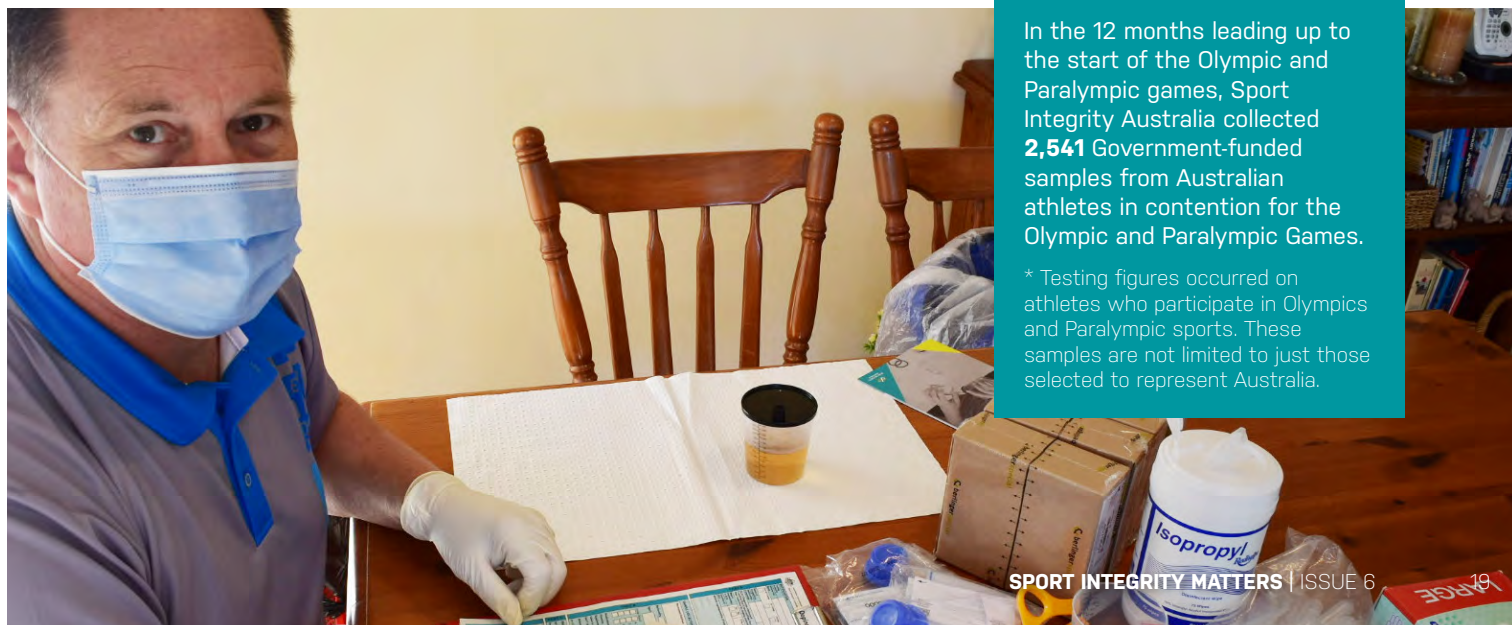
"While wearing masks has become standard for testing sessions, the types of masks differ between sporting bubbles, as do glove requirements," explains Craig. "Double gloving is needed with the outer gloves discarded between processing each athlete, which has proved an entertaining exercise!"

COVID challenges aside, Craig says there's never a dull moment as a DCO and there's always something to smile about. From the personalities of the athletes he tests and sharing in their massive achievements in events like the 2018 Commonwealth Games, Craig is proud of his role as a Doping Control Officer and won't let a global pandemic get in the way of continuing to keep Australia at the forefront of integrity in sport.

## TESTING IN COVID

In the 12 months leading up to the start of the Olympic and Paralympic games, Sport Integrity Australia collected **2,541** Government-funded samples from Australian athletes in contention for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

\* Testing figures occurred on athletes who participate in Olympics and Paralympic sports. These samples are not limited to just those selected to represent Australia.



# PARTNERSHIPS PROTECT AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD

As one of the first countries in the world to bring all elements of sport integrity under one organisation, Sport Integrity Australia is not only the cornerstone of the Australian Government's sport integrity strategy, but is a key presence in sport integrity globally.

Sport Integrity Australia contributes to a range of international meetings each year as part of our commitment to the integrity of sport. Across anti-doping, sports wagering, competition manipulation and safeguarding, we're actively involved in international engagement to ensure good governance, education, intelligence and to contribute to discussions on key areas that fall within the sport integrity space.

In particular, we've spent a great deal of time over the past 12 months sharing our knowledge and successes by creating solid partnerships and contributing to capacity building.

Darren Mullaly, Sport Integrity Australia's Deputy CEO Strategy and International Engagement, says it's our efforts to be good global citizens and our commitment to working with others that has enhanced our reputation as leaders in our field.

"The integrity of sport is incredibly important to Australians, but we can't protect sport alone," Mullaly says. "We are part of a much larger global community working together to create a level playing field for all. Our outcomes will be limited if we don't have great relationships with our national and international colleagues."

Here is just a handful of international projects we've been involved in to give you a peek inside our collaborative approach to sport integrity globally.

## THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is developing a publication on safeguarding sport from corruption, to help governments, sporting organisations and stakeholders to better understand corruption in sport. The report will include trends, case studies and good practices.

Australia is recognised as having particular expertise in this area and as such Sport Integrity Australia has been actively contributing to the report.

The report will examine issues such as money laundering and illegal betting on sports, sport and organised crime, the development of international frameworks, understanding risks at major sporting events, the gender dimensions to corruption, manipulation of competitions, and capacities to detect corruption in sport.

The final report will be presented to the United Nations Convention on Corruption Council of States Parties in December to become a global resource for sport stakeholders. Australia's active involvement in this UNODC project is strengthening our relationship with corruption experts around the world and solidifying our reputation as specialists in our field.

## AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS ENSURING WHISTLEBLOWERS' PROTECTION

Set up by the Monitoring Group to the Council of Europe Anti-Doping Convention, the ad hoc group of experts has been created to provide adequate and effective protection to whistleblowers, which is essential if we're going to be able to foster global transparency, promote integrity and detect misconduct.

Sport Integrity Australia is actively involved in the group through the participation of Mullaly as the Chair and additionally as a member of the Council of Europe Co-ordination Group.

The insights from the group will serve as a catalyst to providing protection for those who report wrongdoing in the fight against doping in sport globally and we feel privileged to work with our international colleagues in leading this important work.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGAINST CORRUPTION IN SPORT (IPACS)

Australia is actively involved in IPACS which was launched at the International Olympic Committee's International Forum on Sport Integrity (IFSI) in February 2017. As a multi-stakeholder platform, IPACS brings together international sports organisations, governments and inter-governmental organisations to strengthen and support efforts to eliminate the risks of corruption and promote a culture of good governance in sport.

IPACS provides guidance and resources across a range of integrity-related challenges, with four taskforces currently in action to focus on major event procurement, major event bidding, good governance in sporting organisations, and cross sector cooperation for information sharing.



Australia's input to IPACS resources allows us to influence global partners for fairness in sport, with our engagement influencing a range of other anti-corruption forums for reform and improvement in the sporting world.

## BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS AND THE AZERBAIJAN PARTNERSHIP

As part of our commitment to strengthening regional and global efforts to maintain the integrity of sport, we seek opportunities to collaborate with, and leverage off, our international counterparts to build a better understanding of risks, vulnerabilities and threats to sport.

A partnership we're particularly proud of is the recent agreement with the Azerbaijan National Anti-Doping Agency (AMADA), which allows us to share subject matter expertise in the education, intelligence and legal areas for continued improvement of anti-doping programs for mutual benefit.

AMADA senior leadership shares our innovative approach to anti-doping and is actively engaged in looking for improvements to their programs and the global approach to doping in sport. Three meetings have been held since signing the agreement covering education, intelligence and legal aid. Through those meetings we have shared multiple education resources, which are available for AMADA to adapt and use as they see fit, and linked the AMADA education team with resources from other anti-doping agencies. Our intelligence experts shared best practice approaches to the collection and use of intelligence information in an anti-doping setting and we have learned from AMADA's leading approach to legal aid funding.

Collaborating with international partners such as AMADA helps our agency continue to learn, and also has a positive impact on the ability of Australian athletes to compete internationally on a level playing field.

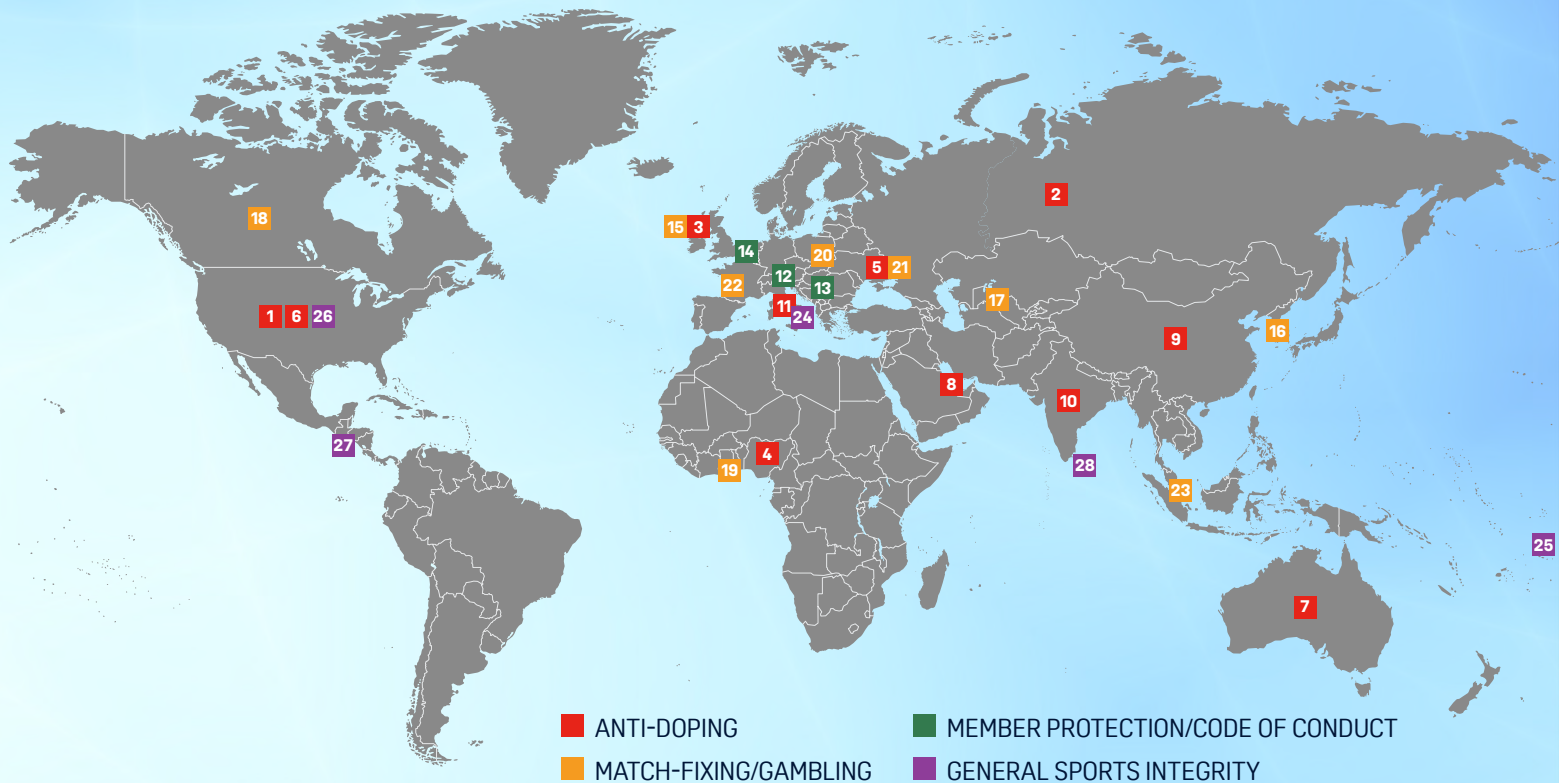
## OUR INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE IN SPORT INTEGRITY

Australia attends and contributes to a range of international interagency meetings each year. Examples for 2020–21 include (but are not limited to):

- World Anti-Doping Agency
- The OneVoice Public Authority Group
- Institute of National Anti-Doping Organisations
- National Anti-Doping Organisation Leaders Forum
- Council of Europe
- International Anti-Doping Agreement
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- International Olympic Committee
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- The International Criminal Police Organization
- International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport
- Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
- G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group
- Asian Racing Federation
- Global Learning and Development Framework meetings
- U.S. Anti-Doping Agency Science Symposium
- International capacity building and partnerships including
  - Oceania Regional Anti-Doping Organisation
  - Global Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network
  - Drug Free Sport New Zealand
  - United Kingdom Anti-Doping
- Bilateral relationships with countries such as Azerbaijan, Norway, Sweden, Moldova, India, Sri Lanka, Japan, South Korea, USA, Austria, Hong Kong, Fiji and Poland.
- Provision of advice to Australian Government officials on international sport integrity matters as required.



# SNAPSHOT OF GLOBAL ISSUES



## ANTI-DOPING

### ATHLETICS USA 1

The Court of Arbitration for Sport banned US middle distance runner Shelby Houlihan for four years after testing positive to nandrolone in December 2020.

### TRIATHLON RUSSIA 2

Igor Polyanskiy has been provisionally suspended after testing positive to EPO during an out-of-competition test in July 2021.

### CYCLING UK 3

Richard Freeman, the former British Cycling and Team Sky chief doctor, was struck off the medical register by the Medical Practitioners Tribunal for misconduct, after he was found guilty of ordering banned testosterone 'knowing or believing' it was for performance enhancement. Appeal pending.

### ATHLETICS NIGERIA 4

Ten Nigerian athletes were among 18 competitors from "high-risk" nations who have been barred from the Tokyo Olympics after failing to meet requirements for out-of-competition drug testing.

### GYMNASTICS UKRAINE 5

Olympic gold medallist Oleg Verniaiev missed Tokyo 2020 after being handed a four-year doping ban following a positive test for the prohibited substance meldonium.

### ATHLETICS USA 6

Olympic champion Brianna McNeal lost her Court of Arbitration appeal against a five-year ban for "tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control" in January 2020, preventing her from defending her 100m hurdles title in Tokyo.

### FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA 7

A-League footballer Evan Tsakos was banned for three years after testing positive for prohibited substances ibutamoren (MK677) and ostarine.

### ATHLETICS BAHRAIN 8

Salwa Eid Naser, the world 400m champion, is banned for two years over a case of missed drug tests in 2019.

### SWIMMING CHINA 9

Gold medallist Sun Yang has had his doping ban cut from eight years to four by the Court of Arbitration for Sport after his blood vials were smashed with a hammer in September 2018.

### WRESTLING INDIA 10

Grappler Sumit Malik was provisionally suspended for testing positive for the banned substance methylhexanamine during the Tokyo 2020 qualifiers in Bulgaria in May.

### CYCLING ITALY 11

Matteo Spreafico has been banned for three years after testing positive for the selective androgen receptor modulator ostarine at last year's Giro d'Italia.



## MEMBER PROTECTION/CODE OF CONDUCT

### GYMNASTICS SWITZERLAND 12

Trainers for the Swiss Gymnastics Federation's women's team resigned en masse following an ethics investigation that upheld athletes' complaints of psychological abuse.

### GYMNASTICS HUNGARY 13

The Hungarian Gymnastics Federation and high-profile coach Imre Draskóczy have been sanctioned by the International Gymnastics Federation, with a formal warning over the alleged abuse of a gymnast.

### CYCLING BELGIUM 14

The International Cycling Union (UCI) has suspended Doltcini-Van Eyck's team manager Marc Bracke for three years after its Ethics Commission found that his conduct towards a rider constituted sexual harassment.



## MATCH-FIXING/GAMBLING

### TENNIS UK 15

The International Tennis Integrity Agency is investigating two matches at this year's Wimbledon Grand Slam after bookmakers flagged "possible irregular betting patterns".

### BASEBALL SOUTH KOREA 16

Former professional baseball pitcher Yun Sung-hwan was charged with match fixing. Yun is accused of giving up a walk in the first inning of a game and then allowing a certain number of runs before the fourth inning in exchange for 500 million won (US\$443,380) in cash.

### SWIMMING UZBEKISTAN 17

FINA said in June it had received evidence some results from the Uzbekistan Open Swimming Cup and Uzbekistan Open Swimming Championships had been "manipulated". The Uzbekistan Swimming Federation lodged an appeal against FINA's decision but the Court of Arbitration for Sport turned it down.

### ICE HOCKEY CANADA 18

San Jose Sharks forward Evander Kane denied allegations his wife made on social media that he bet on NHL games, including against his own team.

### ATHLETICS NUMEROUS

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) banned eight athletes for cheating to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics. Conduct included shortening courses, using unauthorised field equipment, illegal use of pacemakers, and manipulation of finishing times and photo finishes. In their investigations, the AIU suspected 31 athletes from 16 countries over questionable qualifying performances.

### FOOTBALL GHANA 19

It was reported that Ghana Premier League Ashantigold SC is set to suffer demotion to the Division One League following preliminary match-fixing reports. The Miners recorded a 7-0 win against Allies, with Allies defender, Hashmin Musa, scoring two own goals. Musa claims he intentionally scored the goals to spoil the fix.

### TENNIS SLOVAKIA 20

Barbora Palcatova received a three-year ban, with 15 months suspended, following an International Tennis Integrity Agency investigation into match-fixing allegations.

### ESPORTS UKRAINE 21

During the preliminary investigation into the EPIC League CIS 2021 semi-final match-up between Virtus.pro and Akuma in May 2021, the Esports Integrity Commission has found "substantial evidence indicating the existence of potential betting fraud" by the Akuma team.

### TENNIS FRANCE 22

A Russian tennis player suspected of deliberately losing a doubles match at Roland Garros last season was arrested by French police after she lost in this year's competition. The Global Lottery Monitoring System as well as the Group of Copenhagen, which brings together 33 national anti-sports corruption bodies, raised the alarm.

### ESPORTS SINGAPORE 23

Two competitive Valorant players have been banned from VCT competition for 36 months, after a Riot investigation discovered that they had bet against their own team and encouraged their teammates to throw the match.

## GENERAL SPORTS INTEGRITY

### CYCLING ITALY 24

Cycling team Vini Zabu was suspended for a period of 30 days after two of their riders tested positive for banned substances in a 12-month period.

### RUGBY LEAGUE TONGA 25

The Court of Arbitration for Sport has dismissed the appeal by Tonga National Rugby League against its expulsion from International Rugby League over governance issues.

### ATHLETICS USA 26

Paralympian runner Blake Leeper was prevented from competing at the Tokyo Olympics because his two prosthetic legs have been ruled to give him an unfair advantage.

### SOCCER EL SALVADOR 27

The former president of El Salvador's football federation faces court this month over his alleged role in a sprawling corruption probe surrounding FIFA and other soccer governing bodies.

### CRICKET SRI LANKA 28

Sanath Jayasundara, a former performance analyst at Sri Lanka Cricket, has been banned from all cricket for seven years after being found guilty of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.



# MAKING PROCESSES EASIER FOR ATHLETES

Sport Integrity Australia has actively pursued improved results management processes in anti-doping with athletes' wellbeing firmly in mind.

While every case is different, CEO David Sharpe says the agency acknowledges criticism that anti-doping processes can be "complicated" and "lengthy".

"In the past the process has taken too long and we recognised that," Sharpe says. "As a result we have actively advocated for changes in the World Anti-Doping Code and reviewed our own internal processes."

Many changes are in direct response to the Wood Review findings that the current anti-doping rule violation (ADRV) process contained inefficiencies, he says.

Importantly, the changes to our legislation have resulted in streamlined and quicker processes to reduce the time that athletes have to wait for the Anti-Doping Rule Violation Panel (ADRV) process to be completed. From 10 August 2020, the Anti-Doping Rule Violation Panel (ADRV) was abolished to streamline the administrative phase of the ADRV process.

Sharpe says changes to legislation also mean we now have greater flexibility to more appropriately handle cases of lower-level athletes, greater flexibility to respond to public comments and can directly address misinformation in the public domain, where necessary and where possible.

In another win for athletes, the National Sports Tribunal was established to provide independent, cost-effective dispute resolution services to sporting bodies, athletes and support personnel.

"These reforms are athlete-focused. They streamline the administration of the ADRV process, allow discretion to recreational and lower level athletes, and ensure an impartial hearing via the National Sports Tribunal, if required.

"Athlete wellbeing is really important to us, we don't just say it, we believe it and we've taken steps to address the issues athletes faced. Behind the scenes we have worked hard to influence within legislative constraints, we have advocated and supported any changes that provide a better experience for the athlete during what can be a challenging time for them."

Sharpe says Sport Integrity Australia is also currently expanding the membership of its Athlete Advisory Group, a group established to ensure that decisions that affect athletes are informed by athletes.

"Engaging with athletes who understand their environment and the pressures of sport better than anyone helps Sport Integrity Australia enhance our operations, education and policy development."

In partnership with our Athlete Advisory Group, the agency has developed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation Handbook: A Guide for Athletes that outlines in simple English all the information athletes need when faced with an ADRV.

The handbook includes valuable insights and stories from Australian-sanctioned athletes who have been through the same process. Importantly, it also outlines what resources are available to athletes during this difficult time and ways they can take care of their physical and mental health.

Sharpe also applauds the work done in this space by the World Anti-Doping Agency Athlete Committee in introducing the Athletes' *Anti-Doping Rights Act*.



The Act aims to ensure that athletes' rights are clearly set out and accessible in one document with universal applicability. The Act includes the right:

- to equitable and fair testing programs
- to a fair, independent, timely hearing
- to be free from pressure that jeopardises their health
- to obtain a Therapeutic Use Exemption
- to report concerns without the threat of retribution or retaliation
- to education
- to data protection, and
- to a B Sample analysis.

There were also key changes to the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code which goes a long way to improving the athlete experience.

Sharpe points to the Substance of Abuse provisions, in particular, which focuses on rehabilitation and recognises that substances (i.e. cannabis and cocaine) are frequently abused in society outside the context of sport.

Athletes who have tested positive for a defined Substance of Abuse, and can prove the use was out-of-competition and not intended to enhance performance, now have the opportunity to receive a reduced sanction of between one and three months.

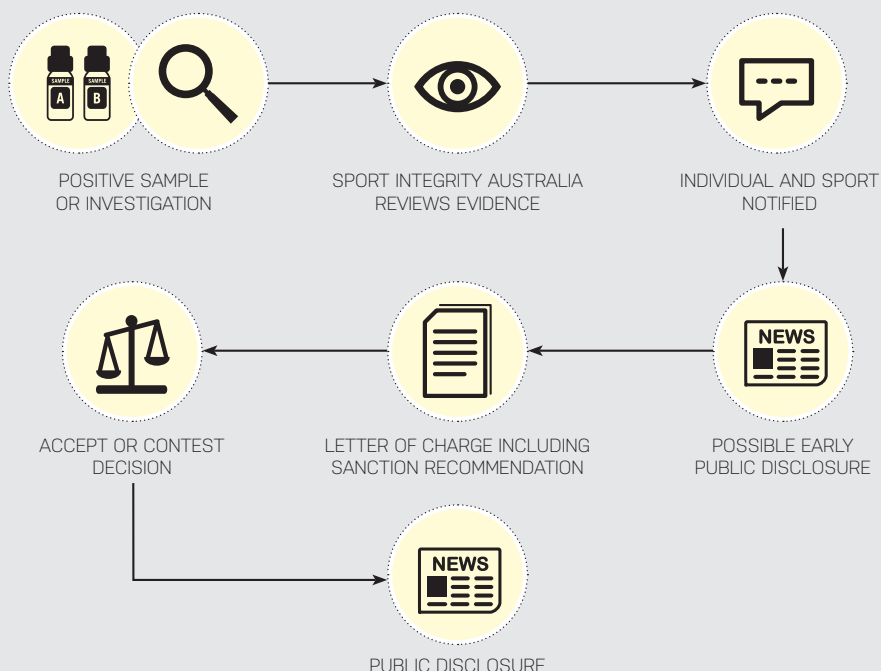
There is also the introduction of an *International Standard for Education* to ensure an athlete's first experience with anti-doping is through education and not through testing, and a new violation to protect athletes or any other individuals who speak up and call out doping-related behaviour.

Other changes to the Code include new categories of protected persons who may receive less severe consequences or sanctions, and prompt admission to a violation (an athlete facing a four-year ban can have their sanction reduced by one year if they admit to the charge). There is also a new violation which makes it an offence to threaten or intimidate someone in order to stop them reporting or speaking up about doping. This change is to protect athletes or any other individuals who speak up and call out doping related behaviour.

Sharpe says Sport Integrity Australia will always act in the interests of athletes who deserve a level playing field and to ensure that Australian athletes and sporting competition are protected.

"Along with athlete welfare, this remains our primary concern."

## ANTI-DOPING RULE VIOLATION PROCESS



## FEEDBACK

Do you have a story about an integrity issue that you want to share with the sports community through future publications?

Do you have ideas on what topics we might include?

Do you want to talk to us directly about a topic and how it might relate to your sport?

Did you find it useful or informative?

Are there ways for us to improve it?

Send us an email to [communications@sportintegrity.gov.au](mailto:communications@sportintegrity.gov.au)

All feedback is appreciated.





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