



Australian Government
Sport Integrity Australia



SPORT INTEGRITY
AUSTRALIA

Sport Integrity Australia

Statement of Intent

Policy owner: Director, Governance

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1. Introduction

The Government is committed to comprehensively protecting the integrity of Australian sport for the benefit of the entire Australian community. This requires strong and ongoing partnership with key sports integrity stakeholders. It is critical beneficiaries of the national response, including states and territories, sports and wagering service providers work with the Australian Government to develop a sustainable framework and funding model to support Australia's national sport integrity response into the future.¹

Australians have no tolerance for the corruption of sport. The *Wood Review*² warns ... 'without the presence of a comprehensive, effective and nationally coordinated response capability, the hard earned reputation of sport in this country risks being tarnished' and beyond the immediate impact of corrupt conduct of the kind identified, a public loss of confidence in the sporting contest has direct consequences for the health, economic, social and cultural benefits sports generates and undermines significant investment in sport (more than AU\$300 million in 2016-17).³

Participants at all levels risk losing their confidence in their sports. They need – and indeed are entitled – to know they are competing on an even playing field. And while Australia has always taken a strong stance against doping and other forms of cheating internationally, it is incumbent on us to ensure sport in Australia is protected from external threats and our own high sports integrity standards are in order to ensure all Australian sport is safe, fair and inclusive.⁴

The *Wood Review* identifies a critical leadership role for the Commonwealth Government by supporting the integrity efforts of sporting organisations in the evolving threat environment, particularly those sports with fewer resources. This is also expressed in the *National Sports Plan*⁵, with 'Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport' one of four key pillars. Sport Integrity Australia will complement this leadership role across sport both domestically and abroad.

In this context, the Government issued a Statement of Expectations for Sport Integrity Australia, which outlines the Government's expectations of our role and responsibilities, our relationship with the Government, our Responsible Minister and the Department of Health, our priorities, issues of transparency and accountability and organisational governance and financial management.

The Statement of Expectations is available via the Sport Integrity Australia website at <https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/>.

This Statement of Intent responds to the Government's Statement of Expectations for Sport Integrity Australia.

2. Role and functions

Sport Integrity Australia is here to lead a national approach to protect the health and welfare of athletes, to protect sport and to protect the integrity of the competition – from elite levels right through to grassroots.

The Australian Government established the agency to cohesively draw together and develop existing sport integrity capabilities, knowledge and expertise and to coordinate all elements of a sport integrity threat response nationally including prevention, monitoring and detection, investigation and enforcement. Sport Integrity Australia provides a single point of contact for athletes, sporting organisations, law enforcement bodies and other stakeholders for matters relating to sports integrity.

Sport Integrity Australia is established to prevent and address threats⁶ to sports integrity⁷ and to coordinate a national approach to matters relating to sports integrity in Australia, with a view to:

¹ 'Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport - the Government Response to the Wood Review'

² 'The Review of Australia's Sports Integrity Arrangements' - <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/the-review-of-australias-sports-integrity-arrangements>

³ 'Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport - the Government Response to the Wood Review'

⁴ 'Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport - the Government Response to the Wood Review'

⁵ <https://www.sportaus.gov.au/nationalsportplan>

⁶ **threats** to sports integrity include: (a) the manipulation of sporting competitions; (b) the use of drugs or doping methods in sport; (c) the abuse of children and other persons in a sporting environment; (d) the failure to protect members of sporting organisations, and other persons in a sporting environment from bullying, intimidation, discrimination or harassment.

⁷ **sports integrity** means the manifestation of the ethics and values that promote community confidence in sport.

- a. achieving fair and honest sporting performances and outcomes
- b. promoting positive conduct by athletes, administrators, officials, supporters and other stakeholders, on and off the sporting arena
- c. achieving a safe, fair and inclusive sporting environment at all levels
- d. enhancing the reputation and standing of sporting contests and of sport overall.⁸

Sport Integrity Australia has three primary areas of focus:

- regulation
- monitoring, intelligence and investigations
- policy and program delivery (including engagement, education, outreach and development).

Part of Sport Integrity Australia's responsibilities is to be Australia's National Anti-Doping Organisation, providing a comprehensive anti-doping program for the Australian sport community and will become the national platform for the purposes of the Macolin Convention.⁹

Sport Integrity Australia is responsible for leading further development and implementation of the Government's response to the *Wood Review*, including those functions identified for stage-two.

Further detail on the role and functions of Sport Integrity Australia are set out in the *Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020*, the *Sport Integrity Australia Regulations 2020* and the National Anti-Doping Scheme. The agency is a non-corporate Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

3. Relationship with Government and Responsible Minister

Sport Integrity Australia will keep the Minister for Sport fully informed with timely high-quality advice on all sports integrity threats and policy matters, including doping, match fixing and sports wagering and participant safeguarding concerns. The CEO will also inform the Secretary or Associate Secretary of the Department of Health of relevant issues and information, including any concerns or clarification of legislative requirements, resourcing and policy.

Operational Context

Australia and New Zealand share responsibility to represent Oceania on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Executive Committee on a two-year, one-year basis (respectively). The minister is currently the Australian delegate on that committee and is also a member of the WADA Foundation Board. New Zealand will represent Oceania on the Executive Committee during 2021.

Sport Integrity Australia's Deputy CEO of Strategy and Policy is designated the Minister's Registered Deputy to represent the Australian Government's interests on behalf of the Minister within the WADA framework.

As Australia's National Anti-Doping Organisation, Sport Integrity Australia maintains operational autonomy in compliance with the *Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020*¹⁰ and the World Anti-Doping Code 2015¹¹ through a governance framework quarantining anti-doping policy staff from operational anti-doping decision making.

⁸ Section 3A – *Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020*.

⁹ The Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (the Macolin Convention), is the only multi-lateral treaty specifically aimed at combating match-fixing and other related corruption in sport.

¹⁰ Section 24 – *Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020*.

¹¹ Section 20.5.1 - World Anti-Doping Code 2015.

4. Government's policy priorities for sport integrity

In undertaking its role and functions, Sport Integrity Australia will take account of the government's broad policy framework and work collaboratively with the Department of Health on the development and implementation of sports integrity reform initiatives as outlined in the government's response to the *Wood Review*, including:

The Australian Sports Wagering Scheme

Focus is required on the development of the Australian Sports Wagering Scheme to give consistency and visibility of sports wagering across the country and enhancing the national ability to detect and respond to match-fixing and related sports corruption. Engagement continues with Sports Controlling Body's, Wagering Service Provider's and state and territory regulators to investigate appropriate models to facilitate these outcomes. Sport Integrity Australia will aim to present a fully developed scheme to government for decision by Budget 2021, along with a fully costed funding model to support all the enhanced functions envisaged in *Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport*.

Commonwealth match-fixing offences

Most major sporting codes in Australia conduct national and, in some cases, international competitions. Sport Integrity Australia will continue to pursue the establishment of national match-fixing laws complementing those introduced by some states and territories and essential to promoting a nationally consistent approach to addressing this corrupt behaviour.

Ratification of the Macolin Convention

The Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (Macolin Convention) is the only multi-lateral treaty specifically aimed at combating match-fixing and other related corruption in sport. On 1 February 2019, the Australian Government formally signed the Convention and Sport Integrity Australia continues with the process to ratify the convention.

By engaging formally with the Parties to the Macolin Convention, Australia will be empowered to create a fully effective national platform to enhance detection of, and nationally coordinate responses to, match-fixing and related corruption of Australian sport and sports competitions. Membership of the Macolin Community will enable Australia to obtain formal ongoing access to international counterparts and fora engaged in protecting global sport from corruption.

Effectiveness of a nationally coordinated approach to sports integrity

In two years' time Sport Integrity Australia anticipates the independent review of the implementation and suitability of the government's new sport integrity arrangements, particularly the establishment, effectiveness and value of the agency both domestically and internationally. Sport Integrity Australia will design programs and projects within this scope to be measurable, accountable and reportable. The COVID-19 pandemic will impact Sport Integrity Australia's ability to demonstrate the value of the agency both domestically and internationally.

5. Other priority areas

Education

More than ever as we look to tackle the array of sports integrity threats head on it is critical to engage proactively with the sporting community, particularly those most susceptible to approaches by people or groups looking to corrupt sport and exploit sporting contests for their own gain. We will ensure our education and awareness programs assist athletes at all levels to understand where the risks come from and empower them more to make the right decisions.

Safeguarding

Participation in sport should be safe for all. Sport Integrity Australia is committed to ensuring people in sport are treated with respect and dignity and are protected from bullying, discrimination, harassment or abuse. Sport Integrity Australia will realise this intent through development and sharing of best practice national policies, resources and education in three key areas: Member Protection, Child Safeguarding and Complaints, Disputes and Discipline.

The agency aims to create and maintain a child-safe culture in sport as part of a proactive and preventative approach to upholding a commitment to the safety, wellbeing, participation and empowerment of all children who participate in sport.

Leadership in sports integrity and information sharing

Through its designation as an 'enforcement body', Sport Integrity Australia has enhanced information sharing provisions to enable greater national and international collaboration on sports integrity matters. This opportunity to develop a coordinated national picture of Australia's sports integrity environment will be maximised through strong focus on partnerships, trust and collaboration to put a protective ring around sport. Sport Integrity Australia will offer guidance on sports integrity matters across the sector.

Organisation culture/diversity

As a new government agency comprising mainly existing amalgamated workforces, Sport Integrity Australia will focus on building a culture characterised by inclusion, continuous improvement and work-life balance. The agency recognises the challenges for staff borne through the COVID-19 pandemic of isolation and remote location working and has prioritised staff welfare and engagement accordingly.

Digital transformation

Sport Integrity Australia will continue implementation of a Digital Business Strategy to use emerging technologies to automate and streamline traditional work processes. This strategy will support the agency's operating model and interoperability of new and existing Sport Integrity Australia systems, while also addressing critical security requirements to ensure the protection of sensitive information.

Responding to changing circumstances

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented effect around the world. This extends into Australian sport with the entire community affected. Sport Integrity Australia recognises the greater risk to sport with athletes being isolated, training regimes and sporting competitions disrupted and sports administration bodies hurting financially. The agency will support the sporting community with education and awareness of sport integrity threats and vulnerabilities as well as complementing programs to protect the welfare of athletes, support personnel and administrators. Sport Integrity Australia is forced to adjust priorities due to the impact of COVID-19 which may impact the delivery of stage-two as specified in the Government's response to the *Wood Review*, particularly the Australian Sports Wagering Scheme.

6. Engagement and collaboration

To get on the front foot with a collaborative and coordinated approach is to firstly recognise and acknowledge the breadth the stakeholder group Sport Integrity Australia will work with and then to leverage off the expertise on offer. In turn, these stakeholders will benefit from the ability to deal with a single nationally coordinated organisation to address all sports integrity issues.

Sport Integrity Australia will enhance its engagement with athletes and support personnel, as demonstrated through ongoing strategies such as the Sport Integrity Australia Athlete Advisory Group and Athlete Education Presenters. The insights gained from a strong and focussed engagement program will critically inform Sport Integrity Australia's strategies, including how best to support athletes in making the right decisions, and how best to deliver fit for purpose education and prevention programs.

One of the major challenges for Sport Integrity Australia will be combating the broad range of sport integrity threats including organised crime and the subsequent effect it has on sport. This must be a joint effort across law enforcement, border protection agencies, regulatory agencies, wagering service providers, academic institutions and the health sector.

Sport Integrity Australia will work closely with sports' existing integrity units and help build the capabilities of those sports without designated resources.

Sport Integrity Australia will continue to strengthen partnerships with WADA and other international anti-doping organisations to build the collective capability of the anti-doping community so Australian athletes can compete on a level playing field wherever they may be.

Independent and high-level quality assurance and support has been enabled through the creation of the legislated Sport Integrity Australia Advisory Council, which provides strategic advice unrelated to a particular individual or investigation to:

- a. the Sport Integrity Australia CEO in relation to the CEO's functions or to Sport Integrity Australia's function
- b. the Minister about the operations of Sport Integrity Australia or the performance of the CEO's functions.

All these relationships allow Sport Integrity Australia to better understand and respond to integrity threats as the sports and organised crime contexts converge, as well as fostering proactive engagement with Sport Integrity Australia to develop a culture of clean, fair and safe sport.

7. Organisational governance, financial management and reporting

Sport Integrity Australia will fully meet its financial, performance and reporting accountabilities as set out in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and uphold and promote the Australian Public Service (APS) values, as well as adhering to the APS Code of Conduct.

Sport Integrity Australia will highlight in its Corporate Plan key strategic priorities over a rolling four-year period and strategic risks possibly affecting Sport Integrity Australia's ability to achieve its mission and strategic objectives. The agency will incorporate performance measures in its Corporate Plan and report on outcomes against each measure in its Annual Report to Parliament to provide a transparent line of sight between the use of resources and the results achieved by Sport Integrity Australia.

Sport Integrity Australia will strive to act in accordance with regulatory best practice in its decision making, policies, processes and communication with stakeholders to maximise effectiveness, efficiency and transparency.

Sport Integrity Australia will enhance its transparency by providing regular external communications on key decisions and regulatory outcomes, subject to applicable information sharing provisions, with a view to demonstrating how these decisions and intended outcomes align with Sport Integrity Australia's statutory objectives and strategic priorities.

Sport Integrity Australia has put in place appropriate security arrangements for confidential information, including controls to manage the risk of unauthorised disclosure of sensitive and/or protected information.

8. Conclusion

Sport Integrity Australia is fully committed to fulfilling its important role and functions and working with Government to implement further sport integrity reforms to promote and improve confidence and trust in Australia's sport integrity framework that protects participants in sport, at all levels.