



Understanding your National Integrity Framework

The National Integrity Framework is a set of rules that help keep Australian sport safe and fair for everyone. It sets clear and consistent expectations about behaviours in sport and outlines how behavioural issues are managed.

Your sport has chosen the National Integrity Framework for the benefits, which include:

- Protecting members
- Keeping sport safe and fair
- Transparent and consistent rules for all levels of the sport, from community clubs through to national level
- Dealing with integrity threats and managing complaints
- Holding people who do the wrong thing accountable.

What are the rules?

These policies **all work together** to help build safe and fair sporting environments for you.

1. **Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy** – creating safer sporting experiences for children and young people.
2. **Participant Protection Policy** – encouraging respectful, inclusive, positive behaviours in sport.
3. **Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy** – maintaining trust in fair competition.
4. **Improper Use of Drugs and Medicines Policy** – supporting the safe use of medicines and supplements.

These policies outline banned behaviours in your sport – called Prohibited Conduct.

What happens if someone breaks the rules?

These 4 policies are all supported by the **Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy**, which provides a consistent process and accountability when the wrong things occur.

What does it mean for me?

If your sport has adopted the National Integrity Framework, **the rules apply to you**. From community clubs through to state and national level, the National Integrity Framework covers everyone.

- Athletes
- Coaches/officials
- Administrators/staff
- Volunteers
- Support people
- Contractors



Reporting and support information

Check your sport's national website to access the policies.

Reporting alleged breaches of the rules is also important to protect you and others.

- All matters can be reported to your sport
- Matters relating specifically to child safeguarding or discrimination or abusive behaviour on the basis of disability can also be reported to [Sport Integrity Australia](https://sportintegrity.gov.au).

Report to
your sport
➔

Report
to SIA
➔



Safeguarding Children and Young People

Safeguarding is about protecting children and young people by creating safe, positive and enjoyable sporting environments and experiences.

Safeguarding:

- **prioritises the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people aged under 18**
- **minimises risks of harm and abuse**
- **helps children and young people, and the adults around them, understand their rights.**

Everyone in sport – including athletes, coaches, officials, employees, volunteers – has a responsibility to keep children and young people safe. You should know the risks and banned behaviours (Prohibited Conduct). These are outlined in full detail in your sport's

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

Banned behaviours – a summary

- **Abusive behaviour:** this includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, bullying, harassment, discrimination, grooming, victimisation and vilification.
- **Harmful behaviour:** this includes excessive training and disciplinary actions, harmful focus on body image and offensive comments.
- **Private 1-on-1 communication:** an adult must not communicate in person or online with a child or young person without including their parents/carers and/or sport representatives.
- **Supplying alcohol, drugs or unauthorised medications:** this includes even common over-the-counter medications without parent/carer consent – unless in emergencies.
- **Preventing parental access:** restricting parents/carers from observing sport or communicating with their child e.g. on sport trips.
- **Unauthorised transportation:** transporting a child or young person without consent from their parent/carer.
- **Inappropriate supervision:** this includes having insufficient supervision numbers or failing to protect privacy and safety in change rooms.



- **Crossing professional boundaries:** a person in a position of authority must act appropriately and not beyond their sporting role e.g. not show favouritism, provide unsanctioned gifts.

Reporting and support information

There are reporting requirements if you suspect a child or young person is at risk of harm. **If a child or young person is in immediate danger, call police on 000.**

For advice on [reporting child safeguarding matters in sport](#), visit sportintegrity.gov.au.

Check your sport's national website for the full *Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy*.

Find a Policy overview at sportintegrity.gov.au.

Report
to SIA
→

Learn
more
→



Participant Protection

Sport should be safe, positive and enjoyable for all participants by encouraging respectful and inclusive behaviours.

Protecting participants in sport means prioritising:

- **Respect** – every individual is treated with dignity and care
- **Belonging** – people feel included, valued and connected
- **Wellbeing** – physical, emotional and cultural safety is actively protected and promoted
- **Enjoyment** – sport is a positive and fun experience
- **Growth** – people are supported to learn, develop and thrive.

Everyone in sport – including athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers – should also know what's expected of them and the behaviours that are banned (Prohibited Conduct). These are outlined in full detail in your sport's **Participant Protection Policy**.

Banned behaviours – a summary

- **Abusive behaviour:** this includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, and misusing power to control others.
- **Abusive behaviour on the basis of disability:** degrading, humiliating or exploiting someone because of their disability e.g. excluding them.
- **Bullying:** using words or actions repeatedly and intentionally to cause someone distress.
- **Harassment:** offensive, belittling or threatening behaviour that is likely to cause harm.
- **Sexual misconduct:** this can include unwelcome touching, suggestive comments or jokes, insults based on sex or gender identity, unwanted approaches and intrusive questions about someone's private life.
- **Discrimination:** treating someone differently based on things such as age, disability, race, sex or gender identity, religion, family or relationships status.
- **Victimisation:** excluding or disadvantaging someone because they've made, or supported, a complaint.
- **Vilification:** actively behaving in a way that influences others to direct hate, ridicule or violence towards people with protected characteristics.



Reporting and support information

Report allegations of these banned behaviours to your sport.

Report to
your sport



Matters relating specifically to child safeguarding, discrimination, or abusive behaviour on the basis of disability can be [reported to Sport Integrity Australia](#).

Report
to SIA



Check your sport's national website for the full *Participant Protection Policy*.

Learn
more



Find a Policy overview at sportintegrity.gov.au.



Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine

The safe use of medicines, medical practices and supplements is vital to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone in sport. This should be guided by qualified and trusted science and medical personnel. It helps to maintain safe and clean sport environments, and guard against the negative impact of illicit drugs on sport.

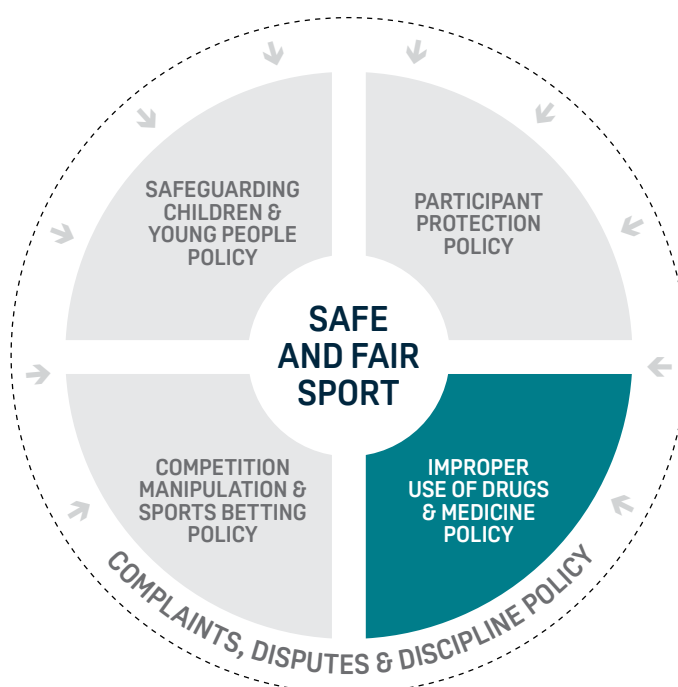
Improper use of drugs and medicine can:

- **cause health problems**
- **increase risks of athletes taking banned substances, even unintentionally**
- **damage the integrity and culture of sport, and the reputation of individuals**
- **be a criminal offence.**

Everyone in sport – including athletes, coaches, medical and sports science staff, officials and employees – should know the risks and banned behaviours (Prohibited Conduct). These are outlined in full detail in your sport's **Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy**.

Banned behaviours – a summary

- **Unlawfully using or providing prescription or over-the-counter medication:** athletes cannot use or possess medications in an unlawful way. Prescription medications must only be used by the person they're prescribed for.
- **Injecting or possessing injection equipment without authorisation:** Other than approved self-injection for known medical conditions, only authorised health professionals or authorised carers can administer injections for athletes.
- **Using a prohibited supplement:** each sport has its own rules on supplement use, so it's important to know your sport's policy. Remember, no supplement is 100% safe for athletes because they can carry doping risks.
- **Drug offences:** this includes assisting, covering up or failing to report drug offences.
- **Failure to report:** all known or suspected banned behaviours relating to drugs or medicines must be reported immediately to your sport.



Reporting and support information

Report all allegations of improper use of drugs and medicines to your sport.

Report to
your sport



Check your sport's national website for the full *Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy*.

Find a Policy overview at
sportintegrity.gov.au.

Learn
more





Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting

Competition manipulation, sometimes referred to as match-fixing, is when someone deliberately and dishonestly influences a sporting event to gain a benefit. It's commonly linked to betting, but can also include non-betting related behaviours like tanking, which is deliberately underperforming.

Competition manipulation:

- **is unfair, and illegal in some cases**
- **damages trust in sport and can harm the reputation of those involved**
- **can create dangerous situations like threats or blackmail**
- **can happen in any sport, at any level.**

Everyone in sport – including athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers – should know the risks and banned behaviours (Prohibited Conduct). These are outlined in full detail in your sport's

Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy.

Banned behaviours – a summary

- **Match or spot-fixing:** manipulating a moment or the result of a sporting event to gain a benefit e.g. arranging a result before the contest, including to profit from betting.
- **Tanking:** deliberately underperforming to gain an advantage e.g. intentionally losing to get a favourable draw.
- **Misusing inside information:** sharing private information that influences betting e.g. revealing non-public team selections to inform betting.
- **Betting on your sport:** betting restrictions vary by sport. You must follow your sport's rules, which may prohibit betting on your sport entirely, or prohibit betting on events you're connected to.
- **False identification:** deliberately providing wrong information to gain an advantage e.g. lying about your age to compete in a different category.
- **Unfair modifications:** interfering with equipment or playing surfaces, outside the rules, to gain an advantage e.g. ball tampering.



- **Failing to report:** you must never accept, assist or cover-up any approach to manipulate a sporting event. You must report any suspicious approach, request for inside information, or knowledge of possible competition manipulation as soon as you can.

Important: Be alert. Suspicious approaches may come from social media, sponsorship offers, in person, or from people you know trying to exploit you.

Reporting and support information

Report all allegations of competition manipulation to your sport.

Report to
your sport



Check your sport's national website for the full *Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy*.

Learn
more



Find a Policy overview at

sportintegrity.gov.au.



Complaints, Disputes and Discipline

A fair, transparent and consistent process for managing complaints helps to protect participants and keep sport safe and fair.

A consistent complaints process:

- helps protect people in sport by making everyone accountable for their behaviour
- clearly outlines who should manage a complaint, and how it's managed
- helps to resolve disputes in a timely and effective way
- means rules are enforced in the same way for everyone.

Knowing the banned behaviours in your sport

It's important that everyone – including athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, and volunteers – understands banned behaviours (Prohibited Conduct) in their sport so they can make a complaint if required. These banned behaviours are outlined in full detail in the integrity policies on your sport's national website.

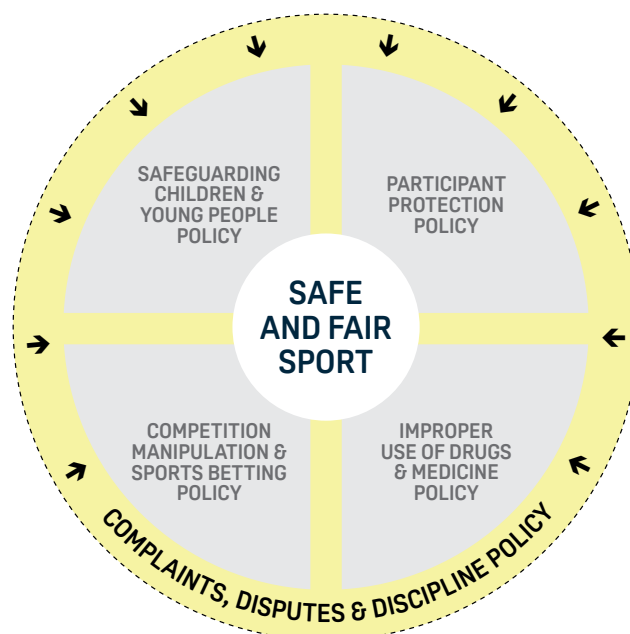
The **Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy** also outlines how sport should manage complaints and how everyone must behave during a complaints process.

You must *not*

- ❌ Deliberately withhold information during a complaints process
- ❌ Interfere with a complaints process
e.g. influence witnesses
- ❌ Knowingly provide inaccurate or misleading information.

You must

- ✅ Keep information confidential
- ✅ Comply with breach notices and sanctions following an investigation.



Reporting and support information

It's important to report all allegations of banned behaviours as soon as possible. The nature of the complaint will determine who manages it and how it's resolved.

Matters relating specifically to child safeguarding, discrimination, or abusive behaviour on the basis of disability can be reported to [Sport Integrity Australia](https://sportintegrity.gov.au).

Report
to SIA



Report all other complaints to your sport.

Report to
your sport



Check your sport's national website for the full *Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy*.

Find a Policy overview at sportintegrity.gov.au.

Learn
more

