



Key NIF Policy changes and what they mean for your sport

New policy templates available now, to be adopted by no later than 30 April 2027

National Integrity Framework (NIF) policies have been updated to reflect current risks, strengthen safeguards and make them easier to apply. The updated policies bring:

- **Greater alignment:** all policies work better together and also allow for more cohesive information-sharing across the sector.
- **Clear separation between rules and recommendations:** policies focused on enforceable responsibilities only, while new Companion Guides give extra context and best practice advice.
- **Simpler reporting:** including a single "allegations" approach to remove confusion between reports and complaints.

Find help

Sport Integrity Australia will work closely with sports to help adopt and implement these policies. Each policy is complemented by a Companion Guide, which provides practical guidance to help apply the policy. These do not form part of policy.

As sports begin to adopt the policies, we will also be adding information to our website sportintegrity.gov.au

This will include easy to understand policy summaries and fact sheets.

A summary of what's changed

Sports need to **know, understand and implement** the updated policies. But here are some key changes for broad awareness and what it means for your sport.

Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy	
Change	What it means for your sport
A new 'allegations' process means people do not need to decide whether it is a report or complaint when first raising an issue.	Easier for participants to safely report issues.
Stronger requirements to have independent Complaint Managers and for allegations involving a NSO.	Greater trust, fairness and independence in managing complaints.
Case categorisation model now complemented by a more flexible assessment process.	Sports can assess different situations flexibly, effectively and have access to more proportionate responses.
Clearer governance requirements on the investigation and sanctioning process, including options to share sanctions across the sector.	More consistent and transparent outcomes to improve procedural fairness and enforcement.

Participant Protection Policy

Change	What it means for your sport
Formerly the Member Protection Policy, re-named and expanded to cover all participants.	Broader protections for everyone involved in sport.
Alignment of the Policy to the Play Well Way now highlighted.	Behaviours are consistent with agreed sport-sector values.
SIA to accept reports of abusive behaviour on the basis of disability. Stronger protections against victimisation.	Greater protection for people with disabilities and for vulnerable people.
New general exemption confirms that reasonable management, coaching, safeguarding and duty-of-care actions are not Prohibited Conduct where applicable.	Clearer boundaries about what is right and wrong in the duty of delivering sport.

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

Change	What it means for your sport
Child Safe Practices divided into minimum requirements (Prohibited Conduct in the Policy) and best practice (Companion Guide).	Clearer requirements for child safety, supported by examples.
Definitions of harm and abuse updated to reflect current child safety standards.	Improves understanding of unacceptable behaviours and provides greater national consistency.
Clearer obligations for Relevant Persons to report allegations, charges or investigations relating to harm or abuse of children and young people.	Clearer individual accountability which assists with the early identification and mitigation of child safety risks.
Organisations required to implement risk management, recruitment screening processes, child safety statements and controls of images and livestreaming.	Strengthens the preventative approach to child safeguarding and clarifies organisational accountability.

Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy

Change	What it means for your sport
Updated roles and responsibilities for Relevant Support Personnel.	Improves accountability for athlete wellbeing.
Practical guidance on medication, injections, supplements and clinical governance moved to a standalone Companion Guide.	Clearer expectations for athlete health, wellbeing and medical oversight.

Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy

Change	What it means for your sport
Expanded scope to include members participating in international competitions.	Extends integrity protections to more people and competitions.
Stronger focus on factors that contribute to threats such as courtsiding, data scouting, betting activity.	Better prepares sports to identify, prevent and respond to threats.