

Northern Territory Sport Integrity Action Plan 2019

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Contact details	Don Boyanton - Sport Integrity Officer
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1.1	14 December 2018	Don Boyanton	First version
1.2	18 February 2019	Don Boyanton	Department name change

Acronyms

You will find the following acronyms in this document.

Acronyms	Full form
ASADA	Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority
PBTR	Play By The Rules
NISU	National Integrity of Sport Unit
PSB	Peak Sporting Body

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1 Introduction

Maintaining integrity within the sports sector is a multi-layered and complex issue. It requires a collaborative approach across sport, Territory, State and Federal governments, law enforcement agencies and commercial organisations.

Commonwealth bodies such as the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA), the National Integrity of Sport Unit (NISU), Australian Border Force and other law enforcement agencies interact at a national level to maintain a regulatory network. They also work with national sports organisations and state-based agencies such as Northern Territory Police.

Match fixing, corrupt gambling practices, performance enhancing drugs and illicit drugs pose a real threat to the integrity of sports, impacting their reputation and their ability to attract participants, partners and commercial opportunities. Inappropriate behaviour, by players and spectators, also undermine sport's reputation and its value to the community.

Athletes competing at a national and international level are increasingly exposed to higher performance pressures. Sub-elite and younger, more vulnerable athletes, are soft targets for organised crime, looking to influence the contingencies and outcomes of sporting contests as well as distribute illicit, performance and image enhancing drugs.

Evidence based consultation with Territory Peak Sporting Bodies (PSBs) in 2018 has identified a prevalence of doping, illicit drug activity, court-siding (an illegal gambling practice) and poor player and spectator behaviour in Territory sport. These present threats provide strong justification for the Territory sport system to respond accordingly and be proactively working towards eliminating them.

A robust and refined approach to drive sports integrity, at the Territory and community level, is required to address these issues in concert with national regulatory arrangements. This action plan sets out practical steps the Territory government will be taking to strengthen integrity arrangements in Territory sport.

2 Key actions to address sport integrity issues

The plan identifies four key action areas to proactively build the capability of sports in the Territory. It aims to mitigate integrity risks through heightened awareness and enable sports to respond quickly and decisively when such instances occur.

3 Action 1 - Develop and manage the anti-doping education strategy

Recommendation 20 of the Wood Review¹ cites *“That the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority and the sports sector should increase their respective investments in anti-doping education, collaborating to deliver more effective education and training packages with greater reach below national-level athletes. Education and training programs to focus on:*

- information on the testing process and allied rights of athletes*
- the need for values-based education.”*

Key feedback from consultation with PSBs identified that anti-doping and illicit drug education needs to be flexible, to reach a range of audiences, across a combination of differing timeframes.

The anti-doping education strategy addresses these needs with a multi layered approach providing a range of touch points and delivery options, for a variety of audiences in the sport community.

- 1) Delivery of face-to-face education sessions for doping, illicit drug and sport supplement information to local clubs, sports, players, parents, coaches and administrators. These sessions will be staggered across different evenings, weeks and months throughout the year. This will provide optimum opportunities for people with competing priorities to attend.

¹ Page 26 - *The report of the review of Australia’s Sport Integrity Arrangements 2018*, Commonwealth Department of Health

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/the-review-of-australias-sports-integrity-arrangements>

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- 2) Promotion and support of the Good Sports “Tackling Illegal Drugs” program. This program assists sporting clubs to develop their illegal drugs policy in collaboration with their membership. This is a crucial long-term sustainability component to positively drive the drug-free culture among sporting clubs and their members.
- 3) Communication and promotion of the “Illegal Drugs In Sport” (IDIS) online education program, from the NISU. This is a free flexible online resource available for athletes, coaches and club administrators.
- 4) Communication and promotion of the ASADA eLearning platform, which offers both a level one and level two online course to prevent doping in Australian sport. This is free and available for athletes and support personnel.
- 5) Communication and promotion of the ASADA Mobile App, which has been designed with athletes in mind. The free App gives a complete list of all supplements sold in Australia that have been screened for prohibited substances by an independent laboratory. The App can also be used to report doping, to check if a medication is banned in sport, give ASADA feedback on testing missions and complete online education modules.
- 6) Communication and promotion of the online ASADA Global DRO substance search tool. This website provides a quick and easy public search of any substance and determines whether it constitutes an anti-doping rule violation, specific to each sport, both in and out of competition.

4 Action 2 - Establish and manage the NT Sport Integrity Network

The establishment of a Sport Integrity Network is critical strategic component, to develop viable communication and connection points within and outside the sport sector.

The Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture (the Department), along with law enforcement agencies, will meet and work with key leaders from PSBs to collectively build knowledge of integrity issues, jointly address integrity threats and coordinate educational messages.

The platform for cooperation commenced through face-to-face consultation with PSBs in 2018. This enabled preliminary assessment of their policy framework, identification of prevalent integrity threats, what measures are currently in place and which capabilities need further development.

In addition, the 2018 NT Sport Integrity Consultation Survey invited responses from all Territory PSBs, to determine their preferred timeframes to hold quarterly Sport Integrity Network meetings and provide maximum attendance and engagement opportunities.

5 Action 3 - Develop the Sport Integrity Toolkit

The Sport Integrity Toolkit has been developed to provide key information about integrity issues to PSBs, clubs, sports administrators, players, parents, coaches and support personnel. It is an online platform and can be accessed via: nt.gov.au/sport-integrity

The Toolkit contains:

- Policy templates for PSBs and clubs that do not have sufficient resources or time to develop their own.
- Educational resources for athletes, parents, coaches, administrators and committees for the following:
 - i. Member Protection
 - ii. Safeguarding Children
 - iii. Drugs in Sport
 - iv. Gambling in Sport
 - v. Sport Integrity eBook
- Links to SAFENT for the acquisition, renewal and status of Working With Children Checks (Ochre Cards) in the Territory.
- The 10 Child Safety Standards will also be communicated, once endorsement by the Territory government is announced.

6 Action 4 - Hold the Sport Integrity Forum

A Sport Integrity Forum will be held in 2019. It will bring together the Sport Integrity Network, the NISU, ASADA, Play By The Rules and Northern Territory Police. It will continue to build connections and provide the opportunity to improve the knowledge of integrity risks and communicate strategies to combat them, across the sector.

7 Implementation

The Department will lead the implementation of these four actions, working closely with sector partners, national sporting organisations, PSBs and law enforcement agencies.

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Available at: nt.gov.au/sport-integrity