



SPORT INTEGRITY MATTERS

ISSUE 9 | JUNE 2022

GLOBAL PUSH TO PROTECT SPORT

ONLINE ABUSE IN SPORT
AN EVOLVING THREAT

BLOWING THE WHISTLE
ON BAD BEHAVIOUR

THE WAIS GYMNASTICS
PROGRAM REVIEW
FINDINGS





SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA

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FEEDBACK

Do you have a story about an integrity issue that you want to share with the sports community through future issues of *Sport Integrity Matters*?

Send an email to
communications@sportintegrity.gov.au

All feedback is appreciated.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



As the number of sports adopting the National Integrity Framework (NIF) continues to grow, it heralds a new era in Australian sport which is reflected globally.

The culture is changing with a focus and desire to address integrity issues with transparency and independence. While the culture in Australian sport is changing for the better, we must remind ourselves it will take time but collectively we are heading in the right direction.

The shift has been significant, it also effectively signals a reset for Sport Integrity Australia.

A lot of hard work has gone into building our capabilities to ensure the NIF is delivered and that sports understand their role in the framework. The buy in from National Sporting Organisations has been critical to the adoption of the NIF across sport in Australia. In terms of Sport Integrity Australia, there is now a determined focus on the future with the NIF in place. Prior to the NIF the response was to assist sport utilising existing policies. This helped inform the development of the NIF and we can now move forward with a clear framework.

What has also become patently clear to me is the need for athletes to have a role in the implementation of strategies around integrity in sport. It is not just about educating athletes, we must listen to what they are saying as we move into an important era in sport.

“It is not just about educating athletes, we must listen to what they are saying as we move into an important era in sport.”

I have been heartened by the number of countries indicating a desire to introduce a sport integrity agency, with Sport Integrity Australia seen by many as the template, globally the culture is changing.

There is no one size fits all model and each country must develop its own capabilities to suit their circumstances but sharing experiences is critical.

The New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Sports Minister Grant Robertson has just announced the establishment of an integrity body in New Zealand. We have worked alongside Drug Free Sport New Zealand on anti-doping issues for a number of years and the establishment of an integrity in sport body will only strengthen this relationship. This new body has many positives for Australia as it creates a greater protective integrity ring for our region and improves the capability to manage issues of concern.

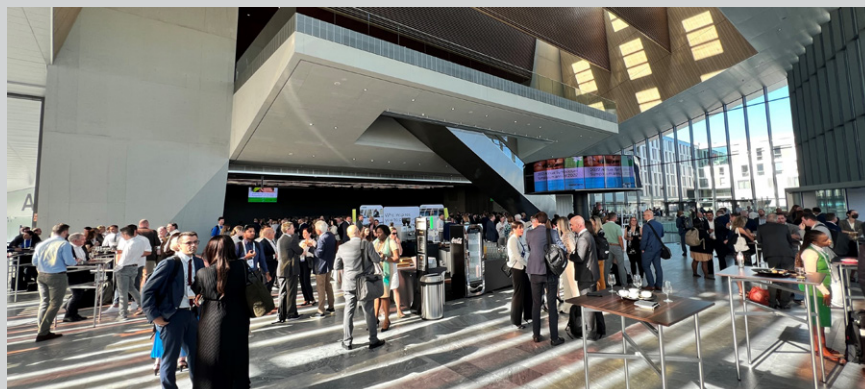
I have just returned from a series of meetings in Europe where it became obvious that there is a rapidly growing appetite for the establishment of independent integrity bodies. This is in no small part due to a commitment by sport to ensure that what has happened in the past with the abuse of athletes in a range of sports isn't repeated in the future and that a framework is in place to protect all involved in sport.

It is no longer simply about anti-doping, there is now a far wider remit with an emphasis on protecting sport and its athletes. It is why the focus must now be on the future together, it is why Sport Integrity Australia has such a vital role to play.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Sharpe', written in a cursive style.

David Sharpe APM OAM
Chief Executive Officer

Sport Integrity Australia CEO David Sharpe shares our vision with global integrity agencies from 25 countries in Lausanne, Switzerland.



GLOBAL PUSH TO PROTECT SPORT

Sport Integrity Australia is committed to learning from our international colleagues and to building better environments for our Australian athletes competing overseas.

Threats to sport do not stop at the international border or at the elite level of competition. Threats are omnipresent – at all levels, regardless of where you live.

Strengthening the global integrity framework is the key to managing these threats.

Sport Integrity Australia attended a series of meetings in Europe to help identifying and adopt best practice around the world.



INADO WORKSHOP

While recognising a number of threats to the legitimacy and credibility of the anti-doping community, a group of National Anti-Doping Organisations proposed the adoption of a '*Declaration of Guiding Principles for the Future of Anti-Doping*'.

The Guiding Principles were proposed by anti-doping agencies in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Among the Principles were that the athletes' voice should be given a prominent position in anti-doping, and that everyone in sport is entitled to the right of justice at a minimum standard.

MODEL FOR FUTURE

Sport Integrity Australia is seen as a model for a number of countries seeking to establish a sport integrity body which oversees anti-doping, safeguarding, wagering and the manipulation of sporting events.

CEO David Sharpe was invited to outline the strengths and capabilities of the agency at a global integrity forum in Lausanne, Switzerland, with leaders from 25 countries who are looking to expand their remit beyond anti-doping into a broader sport integrity framework.

"It is exciting to have such a high level of global interest in how Australia and other countries are responding to emerging threats to sports integrity," Mr Sharpe said. "As we were one of the first countries in the world to deliver an all-encompassing sport integrity agency, we have been able to share our experiences and lessons learnt on the world stage.

"We have been able to offer advice on issues, such as structure and capabilities, while governance considerations and legislative programs were also key areas of interest."

He said the forum highlighted what could be achieved through collaboration, with leaders working with each other to achieve the best possible outcome for both sport and athletes.





DUTCH INVITATION

The Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport invited Sport Integrity Australia to share experiences in our approach on sport integrity. The meeting discussed a range of issues including the challenges in anti-doping, safeguarding, manipulation of sporting events, and a vision for a possible future.

The Dutch are currently investigating their approach on sport integrity and safety and looking at Sport Integrity Australia as a possible model.

"While we were able to pass on our experiences in establishing Sport Integrity Australia, we also gained a great deal from the meeting with the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport," Mr Sharpe said.

Martijn Kooijman, deputy director Sport, agreed: "Integrity and safety in sport is a priority for the Netherlands' Government. Besides sharing our experiences, the Australian approach on sports integrity is one that we are keen to learn from."

Sport Integrity Australia will host a Dutch delegation later in the year.

INTERPOL

A meeting with Interpol achieved a number of positive outcomes for Australia.

Sport Integrity Australia discussed a formal agreement with Interpol and has an opportunity to present to the Interpol General Assembly (195 member countries) in October on the importance of integrity responses being in partnership with sport and law enforcement.

Further discussions centered on the opportunity for Sport Integrity Australia to co-host a global sport integrity forum for 195 member countries highlighting legislative requirements, trends, threats and the critical role of law enforcement.

During these meetings discussions also explored the potential secondment of a Sport Integrity Australia staff member to Interpol for a short-term to work together as Interpol progresses its sports corruption model.

“Threats to sport do not stop at the international border or at the elite level of competition. Threats are omnipresent – at all levels, regardless of where you live.”

WADA LABORATORY EXPERT GROUP

Sport Integrity Australia's Chief Science Officer Dr Naomi Speers is a member of the WADA Laboratory Expert Group (Lab EG). The Lab EG is responsible for the overall management of the accreditation and re-accreditation of anti-doping laboratories around the world and also responsible for the maintenance of the International Standard for Laboratories and associated Technical Documents.

The Lab EG includes scientific experts from a range of relevant disciplines. The Lab EG was able to meet in person for the first time since COVID.

As a member of the Lab EG, Naomi also attended the WADA Laboratory Directors meeting, the annual meeting of WADA Science, Laboratory Directors and Lab Expert group.

The Lab EG and associated meetings are a highly valuable opportunity for Sport Integrity Australia to collaborate with international partners in Anti-Doping and contribute to the important discussions.



EUROPOL

Whilst at Europol a number of briefings related to global match-fixing and organised crime infiltration of sport and the need for formalising arrangements for the sharing of intelligence and capability were held.

Negotiations are progressing for Sport Integrity Australia to be authorised as a Competent Authority to exchange intel with Europol members.

KADA PARTNERSHIP

Mr Sharpe and Deputy CEO Darren Mullaly met with the Chair of Korea Anti-Doping Agency in person after the virtual signing in February of a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance the integrity capabilities within the Asia and Oceania region.

Mr Sharpe said both agencies shared a commitment to continuous improvement, to strengthen our own programs and fill the gaps in the region.

The MoU will reduce global duplication of effort in anti-doping education.

WADA MEETINGS

Deputy CEO Darren Mullaly attended a range of WADA meetings in his current role as Onevoice Secretariat. Onevoice is the collective group of global government representatives that facilitate input and representation at WADA Executive Committee and Foundation Board meetings.

A key meeting involved Mr Mullaly meeting with the independent WADA Nominations Committee and the IOC to discuss procedures for the nomination and appointment of a new independent member to the WADA Executive Committee.

“The legacy program takes on added importance due to the economic and social devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic....”

Below left: Sport Integrity Australia Deputy CEO Darren Mullaly and CEO David Sharpe in talks with Europol's Arthur Whitehead (centre) about securing a future partnership between the two agencies. **Below right:** Our Chief Science Officer Naomi Speers joined laboratory directors for updates from the World Anti-Doping Agency. **Bottom:** Darren Mullaly and David Sharpe finally meet with the Korea Anti-Doping Agency in person after the virtual signing in February of a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance the integrity capabilities within the Asia and Oceania region.





New integrity body for NZ

The New Zealand Government has announced it will establish a new, independent sport integrity body in 2024.

The new body will include the anti-doping functions of Drug Free Sport New Zealand along with the integrity capabilities currently performed by Sport NZ.

Sport Integrity Australia CEO David Sharpe said the new agency would ensure global integrity threats are targeted through one national coordination body, similar to the Sport Integrity Australia model.

Mr Sharpe said Sport Integrity Australia had formed a powerful alliance with New Zealand over the years, with the two countries enjoying a close working relationship.

"New Zealand deals with similar issues to Australia," he said. "We have been fortunate enough to utilise the expertise of Drug Free Sport New Zealand and its CEO Nick Paterson over the years, including during the formation of Sport Integrity Australia," Mr Sharpe says.

"Nick and his agency's guidance has been invaluable as we navigated strengthening integrity in sport in Australia and we look forward to returning the favour."

Mr Sharpe said the inception of the New Zealand sport integrity body would further enhance our relationship and strengthen capacity in the Oceania region.

"Together we will work to protect sport from integrity threats in this region, of which there are many. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with New Zealand counterparts on significant projects in future."

WADA Athlete Committee Chair Ben Sandford reinforced the importance of athlete involvement in clean sport while underscoring the WADA's commitment to be more athlete-centred.

WADA SYMPOSIUM

The theme of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Symposium in Lausanne was "Raising the Game". It focused on advancing anti-doping through a series of sessions, as well as discussions on how to develop innovations to tackle doping. Some sessions included:

Athletes' Anti-Doping Ombuds: WADA's Athlete Committee announced a new pilot project, the Athletes' Anti-Doping Ombuds, to help athletes navigate the complexities of the anti-doping system, for example, if they have a positive test. This pilot project will run in Europe with the hope to expand in the future.

Dried Blood Spot (DBS) Testing: There's been significant progress made on the implementation of DBS into testing programs with a small number of ADOs having included DBS in their testing programs. Anti-doping agencies discussed practical experiences and limitations. Sport Integrity Australia, who has been a contributor to the WADA DBS project, are continuing to work on our own implementation project and so took the opportunity to learn from others experiences.

Athlete biological passport advances: The implementation of an Endocrine passport module and the addition of steroids in blood to the steroid passport were discussed. These are both significant advances in the athlete biological passport and will increase our ability to detect doping. The scientific research work which forms the basis of these new components was shared and the most effective use of these new components by anti-doping organisations was discussed.

Unmasking the Prohibited List: Dr Audrey Kinahan, chair of the WADA Prohibited List Expert group, explained some of the complex concepts in the List and shared insights into the many factors which influence this critical component of the anti-doping program. These insights will inform Sport Integrity's feedback to the List Expert Group on the Prohibited List.

Alternative Sample Collection Programs: During COVID, some anti-doping agencies employed for alternate sample collection, including use of motorhome, virtual witnessing of sample collection, sample temperature monitoring and DNA analysis to ensure the validity of sample. These alternate sample collection processes were discussed. Some of these alternate sample collection are being considered for inclusion in WADA documents for pandemic situations.



CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE: GLOBAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Passionate about anti-doping education and reducing the risk for athletes? Then we have news for you!

In September 2022, Australia will host the 3rd World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Global Education Conference, bringing together more than 200 anti-doping education practitioners from around the world.

Hosted by Sport Integrity Australia in partnership with WADA, the conference will be held at the International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour, Sydney, from 19–23 September, 2022.

While the conference has an international focus, representatives from national sporting organisations (NSO), researchers or other people with an interest in anti-doping education are able to register to attend, subject to WADA approval.

Under the theme of '*innovation, collaboration and implementation*' the conference will examine emerging trends and how anti-doping organisations can enhance and monitor the success of their programs.

The conference will also bring together leaders in anti-doping research to discuss topics such as the prevalence of doping and factors that might make someone more or less likely to dope.

After being delayed for two years due to COVID related international border closures, the conference will be the first time the global education community has come together since 2018.

CEO David Sharpe said the conference was an opportunity to promote the critical importance of education in preventing integrity threats.

"As CEO, education has long been one of my passions. I believe the protection of athletes' health and wellbeing should always be our priority, and while every piece of the anti-doping system plays a role, it is our educators who are most critical in protecting athletes from falling afoul of the rules in the first place," Mr Sharpe said.

"Australia has long been recognised as a world-leader in anti-doping education, and we are delighted to continue our commitment to education and athletes through the Global Education Conference."

Australia is recognised globally for its innovative approach to sport integrity education, in particular for pioneering the employment of elite athletes as educators, and the development of new technologies, including the world's first virtual reality anti-doping experiences, the Sport Integrity app, and the Health Effects of Doping augmented reality app.



"This conference is an opportunity for Australia to both showcase our pioneering work in anti-doping education, but also to hear from international experts in this field and learn new ways to improve our own program."

Conference events will be held over four days, as a unique mix of discussion, practical workshops and demonstrations. All NSOs will receive a formal invitation to attend Day 4: Innovation Day in the near future. Registrations to attend the full conference are subject to approval by WADA.

Monday, 19 September: Sport Integrity Australia Open Day

This event will introduce international attendees to the unique role of Sport Integrity Australia in the Australian sporting ecosystem. Running for an hour and a half, the session will cover how we grew to become one of the world's only sport integrity bodies, as well as a look into how we tackle the full range of integrity issues including doping, match-fixing, child safeguarding, harassment and bullying in sport.

Tuesday, 20 September: WADA Global Education Conference

Day 1 will include discussions of anti-doping trends around the world, discussions of risk factors that make people more susceptible to doping, and workshops around how best to put research into action.

Wednesday, 21 September: WADA Global Education Conference

Day 2 will include plenary discussions from education experts outside the anti-doping field, and breakout sessions on educating along the athlete pathway, digital education, research findings and learning theory and design.

Thursday, 22 September: Sport Integrity Australia Innovation Day

This day is designed to excite, engage and inspire anti-doping education practitioners around the world by showcasing innovative approaches to learning. It will include demonstrations of theatresports, virtual reality ethical decision-making sessions, animation design workshops, and a range of learning activities from around the world.

Friday, 23 September: Tour of the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Testing Laboratory

Ever wondered where urine and blood samples get tested, and what sort of equipment they use? Participants in the Conference have the option of attending an exclusive guided tour of the Sydney WADA-accredited laboratory.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY COURSE: MANAGING INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Sport Integrity Australia has confirmed the dates for the launch of the *Managing Integrity in Sport* course, developed in partnership with Victoria University.

Attendance at the course is by invitation only and the first intake will be run from July 12–14 in Melbourne at the new Victoria University city campus.

The participants will include a mix of Integrity Managers recently employed through the Integrity Manager Grant Program, and existing Integrity Managers within sports who have adopted the National Integrity Framework.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the second intake will be held in October 2022.





There's no doubt that the introduction of the National Integrity Framework (NIF) is a huge change for Australian sport.

For the first time in history, all recognised sports in Australia will have integrity policies which set the same consistent standards around unacceptable behaviours in sport.

This means that no matter what sport someone plays – the expectations are the same.

It means that collectively we can raise the standard of behaviour in sport to make sure it's a safe, fair place for anyone who wants to take part.

It means that there's no place to hide for someone who wants to threaten sport, or hurt participants.

The introduction of the NIF also means that, for the first time, sports in Australia that choose to opt-in now have access to a free, independent complaint handling system.

This means sports can spend less time trying to figure out how to handle complicated complaints, and more time focused on promoting participation and performance.

It also means participants in sport can come forward confident that their complaint will be handled independently, free from any risk or perception of bias, or any fear that it will be 'swept under the rug'.

The result is a sporting ecosystem where the standards of behaviour are clear and consistent and offer an environment where poor behaviour can be reported.

In the end, this means safe, fair sport for all Australians.

As with any big change, there's bound to be some confusion or uncertainty about how the NIF operates, and what it means in 'real life'. We've taken the 10 most common myths and questions from national sporting organisations (NSO), and put them to the NIF-buster test.

NIF-MYTH #1

BUSTED

Once a sport adopts the NIF, Sport Integrity Australia will manage all complaints in that sport.

There are a range of complaints that can crop up in the context of sport – whether that's disputes about the outcome of a match, non-selection issues, or governance concerns.

Sport Integrity Australia was established to specifically manage integrity threats – that is, things that threaten the safety or fairness of sport.

Complaints about things outside that remit, like competition rules, team selection issues, employment disputes and others rightly belong to sports to manage, resolve and have the final say.

To that end, once a sport adopts the NIF, Sport Integrity Australia will manage all complaints about behaviour that might constitute Prohibited Conduct in a NIF policy. The full list of Prohibited Conduct is available on our [website](#), but includes things such as: **Abuse, Bullying, Harassment, Competition Manipulation, Inside Information and Illicit Drug Use.**

The sport is responsible for handling all other issues in sport including things like: **Selection issues, Competition Rules, Code of Conduct Breaches, Social Media Policy breaches, Governance Misconduct, Employment Disputes, Personal Grievances.**

In addition, Sport Integrity Australia will only manage issues that occur after the date the NIF commenced in a sport. Myth 8 explores this in more detail.

NIF-MYTH #2

All NIF complaints will always take a long time to resolve.

BUSTED

We know that sports and parties often want complaints resolved ASAP – the faster, the better. However, we also need to ensure that everyone involved in a complaint is given natural justice, that our processes are trauma informed, and that we are following fair process. A rushed complaint process is likely to result in more challenges and mess in the long run – both for the parties and for the sport. A bungled complaint process just means you have another, more difficult complaint to manage at the end.

With that in mind, there is no definitive timeline for how long a complaint might take for Sport Integrity Australia to resolve. The amount of time required depends mainly on the complexity of each individual case.

This is because, in complex complaints, there are things that add additional time which are out of our control – for example, if parties are based overseas, if there are a large number of witnesses we need to speak to, if we have to wait for law enforcement advice, if we have to wait for international federation advice, or if we need to seek external legal counsel because a matter is particularly complicated. When this happens, Sport Integrity Australia will ensure the parties are kept up to date.

In the past year, Sport Integrity Australia has processed complaints for a number of sports either through ad-hoc arrangements or through dedicated Reviews. Some of these complaints have taken longer to resolve than they would under the NIF. This is because all the matters managed by Sport Integrity Australia to date have been individual historical complaints where we have had to seek policy authority from the sport, and overcome challenges that are unique to historical matters such as outdated policies, parties who are no longer involved in a sport or are difficult to locate, and jurisdictional issues. These matters were also managed during a time when Sport Integrity Australia was still developing and training its complaint handling unit, which has since been established.

NIF-MYTH #3

BUSTED

A “trauma-informed approach” means the complaint process will not cause distress.

Having a trauma-informed approach means we will endeavour to not re-traumatise, additionally distress, or blame victims for their reactions to re-living traumatic experiences.

Sport Integrity Australia has incorporated the following trauma-informed principles into the complaints process:

1. Realise the widespread impact of trauma.
2. Recognise the signs and symptoms of trauma, and the varied responses to trauma in both individuals and cultures.
3. Respond to trauma by integrating knowledge of trauma into all policies and practices.
4. Actively seek to resist re-traumatisation through organisational policies and environments.

A trauma-informed approach does not mean that the complaint process will not cause distress to people involved. Being accused of wrong-doing, or having to re-live traumatic experiences either in interviews or before tribunals may cause distress. Our role is to minimise that and provide support as best as possible.

BUSTED

NIF-MYTH #4

NSOs will be invited to give input on individual sanctions.

We know that all sports are unique, and that there is no one-size fits all approach to sanctioning. A suspension could be meaningless in one sport, but career-limiting in another. As such, any sanctions we impose will be tailored to fit individual sports, taking into account things such as frequency of competition and sanction precedence previously set in the sport. We may contact a sport to find out this information.

However, NSOs will not have direct input into determining the sanction for a Breach of Policy for any individual matter because it would undermine the independent nature of the complaint process.



NIF-MYTH #5

BUSTED

If you don't sign up to the NIF, Sport Integrity Australia will still manage the complaint.

Sport Integrity Australia only has authority to manage complaints when NSOs grant us the power to do so. This can only be done via a sport adopting the NIF, or in exceptional circumstances, through a dedicated Memorandum of Understanding for a specific period or complaint process.

If Sport Integrity Australia receives a complaint regarding a matter in a sport that has not adopted the NIF, we will direct the complainant to report the issue to the NSO, or refer the matter to another relevant body if appropriate (for example, law enforcement). Sport Integrity Australia can also use the information to inform its education and policy programs. Sport Integrity Australia will not handle complaints for sports who do not adopt the NIF.

NIF-MYTH #6

BUSTED

Sports can choose whether or not to refer an integrity matter to Sport Integrity Australia to manage.

Under the NIF, sports must provide all potential integrity issues to Sport Integrity Australia to manage. This means any potential breach of a NIF policy must be reported to Sport Integrity Australia as soon as practically possible. Sports do not have the ability to pick and choose which integrity matters they report to Sport Integrity Australia, and have no authority under the NIF to investigate or apply sanctions on any integrity matters.

NIF-MYTH #7

Sports only need to update their policies to adopt the NIF.

Updating integrity policies is only one step of adopting and implementing the NIF. Under the NIF, sports must also:

BUSTED

- Appoint an Integrity Manager.
- Appoint a Complaints Manager.
- Refer participants to submit complaints to Sport Integrity Australia.
- Assist Sport Integrity Australia during any Complaint process (see NIF-Myth 10).
- Develop an integrity education plan with Sport Integrity Australia.

Sport Integrity Australia provides significant support to help sports with these requirements, including funding to hire an Integrity Manager, staff resources to support the implementation of the NIF and a range of free educational materials.



NIF-MYTH #8

Sport Integrity Australia can handle historical complaints under the NIF.

BUSTED

For Sport Integrity Australia to have the legal authority to deal with complaints and set sanctions on a sport's behalf, we need the sport to give us explicit policy authority – without it, we have no jurisdiction to take action.

By adopting the NIF, the sport is giving us that policy authority, and that authority begins on the date of implementation.

All matters that occur before this implementation date have to be assessed using the policies that were in place at the time that they occurred – you can't change the rules someone has agreed to after the fact. That includes the rules about Sport Integrity Australia's role. Since historical policies don't include any role for Sport Integrity Australia, we have no legal jurisdiction in those matters.

It is true that Sport Integrity Australia has managed some historical complaints in sport, but these have been done under specific Memorandums of Understanding with each individual sport. These historical complaint processes come with their own challenges and can take longer to resolve.

NIF-MYTH #10

Sports do not have to do anything during the NIF complaint process.

BUSTED

Sport Integrity Australia needs to work collaboratively with the NSO during a complaint process because the incident occurred in their organisation. During a complaint process, the NSO may need to:

- provide information (such as membership information and any information relevant to the allegation)
- coordinate alternative dispute resolution if required (for example, mediation)
- impose provisional action if required (for example, a temporary suspension while an investigation is underway)
- enforce sanctions (for example, removing an accreditation or mandating education)
- coordinate hearings if required (either through the National Sports Tribunal or an internal tribunal)
- finalise complaints (including things like record keeping and posting any breach on their website).

However, NSOs will not be aware of the details of complaints as they progress. NSOs will only receive detailed information about a complaint once a breach has been substantiated.

NIF-MYTH #9

Sports will know the details of complaints Sport Integrity Australia is investigating

BUSTED

When a complaint comes in Sport Integrity Australia may contact the Complaint Manager at the NSO to gather information that is critical to our next steps – for example, to obtain membership information. However, the NSO **will not be told** any information about the nature of the complaint or any next steps. For example, if Sport Integrity Australia decides to impose provisional action, the sport **will be told which action to impose** (for example, a temporary suspension) however the sport **will not be told why**. This is because providing ongoing updates about the complaint may potentially compromise the independence of the process, which is the cornerstone of the NIF complaint handling process.

OUT OF SCOPE, NOT OUT OF MIND

The initial phase of the Football Australia Independent Complaint Handling Process has been completed. Here is an update.

The Independent Complaint Handling Process (ICHP) was established by Football Australia to enable Sport Integrity Australia to independently receive, assess and manage particular complaints relating to the men's and women's national teams, the A Leagues Men's and Women and the Y League.

The ICHP supplemented, rather than replaced, Football Australia's existing complaint handling process under its Member Protection Framework. It provided an avenue for current and former footballers and staff to bring forward concerns regarding abuse, harassment or bullying in relation to the national teams and the A-Leagues. Complaints about community level conduct were outside the scope of the ICHP and continue to be principally managed pursuant to Football Australia's Member Protection Framework.

Overall, Sport Integrity Australia received 27 submissions through the ICHP. Of those, nine submissions were complaints made by individuals who were directly impacted and 18 submissions were reports made by individuals who were not directly affected.

Twenty-five submissions were out of the scope of the ICHP, while two progressed to investigation. Three of the out-of-scope submissions have been referred to law enforcement since they included information that could potentially warrant criminal investigation.

As noted, many of the reports provided to Sport Integrity Australia didn't fall within the scope of the ICHP, or were provided to us for information only. While we are pleased that community members felt comfortable communicating their concerns through this medium, we were unable to process such complaints through the ICHP. We understand that this may have left some complainants disappointed.

There are many reasons why the 25 submissions were out of scope and

“Sport Integrity Australia evaluated each submission and assisted those lodging complaints to connect them to alternate options or contact the relevant body where possible who could manage the complaint.”

beyond the jurisdiction of Sport Integrity Australia. For some, it was because they related to historical issues; either where the alleged conduct occurred prior to the formation of Football Federation Australia in 2003, or where the matter had already been through a complaint process.

Those out-of-scope submissions identified as current issues that had not been through a process were referred to the relevant club or state body to manage under [Football Australia's Member Protection Policy](#) or other relevant policies.

The remaining submissions were out of scope because they were made anonymously.

However, while they were out of scope, they were not out of mind. Sport Integrity Australia evaluated each submission and assisted those lodging complaints to connect them to alternate options or contact the relevant body where possible who could manage the complaint. In some cases the complainant was still provided the opportunity to speak to Football Australia to tell their story and provide feedback on member protection mechanisms.

Importantly, all of these submissions will be used for intelligence and, if of a criminal nature, passed on to the relevant legal authorities.

The learnings are also not lost with information giving us an invaluable picture of integrity issues at all levels of the sport.

Every complaint or report helps Sport Integrity Australia and Football Australia understand what is happening in their sport, and where, and on what issues we need to direct our education and policy resources to build stronger, safer environments in future – whether that be abuse, bullying, harassment and protection.

This information also helps Sport Integrity Australia direct activities such as future anti-doping testing missions, education, and investigations through to more strategic assessments addressing trends, policy approaches and the overall environment of sports integrity threats within Australia.

This complaints process was not conducted under the National Integrity Framework (NIF), however the work we do under the Framework will be our focus going forward with 80-plus sports having signed up or in the process of signing up to the NIF by 30 June.

The NIF is what athletes, members and sports have been waiting for – an avenue where they can independently raise their concerns, an avenue where their complaint can be heard impartially and independently now, not 30 years into the future.



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ONLINE ABUSE IN SPORT: AN EVOLVING THREAT

Every day, millions of participants, volunteers and fans are online as part of sporting life. Technology such as team apps, videoing, image sharing, social media, member platforms and group chats are now integral to sport.

While technology allows for rich connection and communication, it also comes with risks of online harm and abuse. It's a serious issue facing the wider community and one that sport must keep pace with too.

Online abuse is behaviour that can be threatening, intimidating, harassing or humiliating. It includes conduct like **trolling, image-based abuse, sexual extortion, impersonation accounts** and **doxing**.

A [recent study](#) by the [eSafety Commissioner](#) revealed 45% of Australian children have been treated in a hurtful or nasty way online, 11% have experienced online hate speech and 9% have had their personal information posted without their consent. These online harms can have a significant impact on mental health.

Another [eSafety study](#) on women's online presence for work found one in three experienced online abuse, with harassment, doxing and trolling the most common forms. The study found it affected their mental health and wellbeing (41%) and reduced their confidence (35%).

ONLINE HARM IN SPORT

While more sport-specific research is needed, the prevalence of online abuse in the community is likely reflected in sport. Media reports about high-profile athletes

and officials being subjected to vicious online abuse appear on a weekly basis.

Few would dispute that traditional sport integrity threats, such as harassment and discrimination, now have significant online components. For example, if a player is bullied or an official is the victim of racism, it's highly likely that much, if not all, of this abuse is taking place online.

So, are there ways to keep our sporting communities safer from online abuse – and even improve the way people behave online?

Australia's eSafety Commissioner is the world's first government agency dedicated to keeping people safer online. eSafety's work is founded on three pillars:

- **Prevention** – by developing supportive resources and programs based on evidence.
- **Protection** – through regulatory and reporting schemes.
- **Proactive change** – to make digital environments safer and more inclusive.

A STUDY OF AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN FOUND



45%

have been treated in a **hurtful or nasty** way online

9%

have had their **personal information** posted **without their consent**

11%

have experienced online **hate speech**

In partnership with the Australian sporting sector, eSafety is stepping up efforts to ensure sport can create safer online environments for its members. These efforts include:

1

Collaboration

Online abuse is common across sporting codes, so it's essential that the sector works together with eSafety to understand and tackle the problem.

There was an important step towards this last year when 24 leading Australian sport organisations agreed to join forces with eSafety to address online abuse. The [Online Safety Statement of Commitment](#) calls on all signatories to drive positive change, build internal skills and online resilience, implement strong policy and

processes, support research and collaborate on communication campaigns. Working together will also increase pressure on tech platforms to be more proactive in protecting user safety, by taking a 'Safety by Design' approach and implementing measures, such as moderation tools and community standards.

2

Good sport organisation management

Sport organisations must be well equipped to prevent and address online issues.

This includes:

- **Preparation** – creating good governance systems, by understanding online settings, assessing risk, assigning responsibility, implementing robust online safety policies and embedding a positive culture. Effective technology management is also crucial, including strong security, privacy and personal data management.
- **Responding** – having a clear process for dealing with online incidents, underpinned by a culture that encourages reporting and takes a victim-centred approach to all issues.
- **Education and communication** – building members' online skills and knowledge by talking about online conduct and issues. Sports can also promote online values such as kindness and respect.

3

Online safety skills for individuals

Everyone involved in sport, including athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers, need basic online safety skills.

Members should be encouraged to:

- manage personal online security and privacy
- consider their digital reputation
- be positive, courteous and thoughtful online
- understand and follow sport policies and codes.

If online abuse occurs, sport members should be supported to:

- tell someone
- resist the urge to respond to the offender
- collect evidence, including screenshots
- report it to the police, online platform, eSafety or their sporting organisation, depending on the issue
- block the offender and/or review online privacy and security settings
- seek support from their sport or other services.

The [eSafety website](#) has many useful resources including:

- [Tips for sports club](#) leaders
- [#playitfaironline advice](#) for athletes
- [Training](#) for sport groups
- [eSafety guide](#) with advice for using popular apps
- Guides on how to [remove content, images and posts](#)
- [Support and counselling services](#)

There is also specialised advice for [parents](#), [young people](#), [kids](#), [seniors](#), and [diverse groups](#).

eSafety is committed to working closely with the sport sector and is collaborating with sport organisations to develop tailored resources, education and support. Maintaining positive sport environments, 'on field' and online, is the united goal.

news flash!

Sport Integrity Australia is working in partnership with the office of the eSafety Commissioner on developing **cyber safety training for athletes and administrators**.

This new online course is being designed to help sports protect themselves and their data. For more information contact education@sportintegrity.gov.au



SPORT INTEGRITY
AUSTRALIA

Safeguarding
in Sport

Have you seen our **CHILD FRIENDLY** resources?

We have resources for children and young adults to help them better understand what sport integrity means for them.

You can download these age-specific fact sheets from our website.

www.sportintegrity.gov.au/what-we-do/safeguarding



Happy
Safe
Respected



BLOWING THE WHISTLE ON BAD BEHAVIOUR

Sport Integrity Australia is working to establish a Whistleblowing Scheme to ensure athletes, administrators and others, from across all sports, can safely and confidentially raise concerns relating to sport integrity issues. Sport Integrity Australia wants to hear from anyone who detects, identifies, witnesses, knows of, or has reasonable grounds to suspect, that there are integrity issues impacting sport.

In the report titled *Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport – the Government Response to the Wood Review*, it was agreed a whistleblowing scheme encompassing all sports integrity issues, and a related source protection framework, be administered by Sport Integrity Australia.

The underlying objectives of the recommendation are the vital tasks of facilitating, receiving, properly investigating, managing and protecting the disclosure of relevant information by individuals from within the Australian sporting community, on matters in the jurisdiction of Sport Integrity Australia.

Sport Integrity Australia acknowledges the courage it can take to come forward and raise concerns about integrity issues in sport. As an agency, we are taking great care in developing this important initiative for the Australian sporting community. Engaging with sports on the design of the Whistleblowing Scheme is vital for its success.

While integrated with the rest of the Sport Integrity Australia framework for complaint handling and resolution, the Whistleblowing Scheme will be focused on protecting and supporting "insiders" within sporting organisations and related entities (employees, officeholders, volunteers, athletes, coaches, health professionals, suppliers, gambling and related entities) in the relevant sporting codes.

These people often hold the key to vital information, but the risks and barriers associated with complaining, reporting, or providing information are known to be significant. Sport Integrity Australia wants to ensure that the appropriate protections are available for people who choose to come forward to Sport Integrity Australia or to sporting bodies and organisations under the National Integrity Framework for sport, introduced in 2021.

The objectives of the Sport Integrity Australia Whistleblowing Scheme are to:

1. Facilitate integrity disclosures.
2. Protect whistleblowers who make them.
3. Ensure the disclosures are properly dealt with (investigated, referred, resolved, reported on).

Sport Integrity Australia conducted two Whistleblower Scheme consultation workshops in Melbourne on 13 May and two in Sydney on 16 May. Special thanks to Athletics Australia and Equestrian Australia for kindly opening their doors up to us to host on their premises.

Representatives from over 30 sporting organisations participated across the four workshops both in person or virtually. Whistleblowing experts Professor A J Brown and



Jane Olsen from Griffith University led the consultations which focused on hearing from sports on the scheme's development and design. An early draft approach was presented which covered jurisdictions, legal implications, proposed principles, action areas and resources. This was followed by an invaluable discussion on the sports' experiences, needs, opportunities and risks.

Another consultation workshop will be held in mid-July to glean feedback from the major professional and participation sports. Thanks to Cricket Australia for agreeing to host this workshop at their offices. Feedback from all of these workshops will inform the further development of the proposed scheme.

In parallel, Sport Integrity Australia will soon begin the legislation phase of the scheme to determine the process to give effect to a Whistleblowing Scheme for sport integrity matters, as distinct from the narrower remit of the current laws. Sport Integrity Australia will continue to provide updates on this important body of work.

Should you have any questions or feedback on the Scheme, please send them to engagement@sportintegrity.gov.au.

COLLABORATION FOR IMPACT

Threats to sports integrity are a multi-faceted challenge requiring a coordinated approach by all stakeholders.

Sport Integrity Australia is building partnerships and capabilities to better react to a threats environment that is as diverse and challenging as it is global.

Over 40 delegates travelled to Hobart in May for Sport Integrity Australia's annual Threats to Sport conference with our law enforcement and regulatory partners, with this year's focus: Collaboration for Impact.

The two-day conference was attended by all seven state policing law-enforcement agencies, as well as representatives from Australian Border Force, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, Australian Federal Police, Office of the eSafety Commissioner, and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Deputy CEO Operations Susie Ball said establishing partnerships such as these is crucial in helping Sport Integrity Australia protect the integrity of Australian sport and the health and welfare of participants – at all levels – from elite to grassroots.

"We are all responsible for protecting sport – governments, law enforcement, sporting organisations, coaches, athletes, parents, and officials," Susie said.

"These partnerships offer a wide-ranging collection of intelligence capabilities to ensure the protection and integrity of sport is maintained. But it involves everyone who has a piece of the puzzle – not just law enforcement, but border protection, regulators, sports, and the broader community too."

The two-day conference highlighted ways each agency could proactively work together to share information so we can all understand the threats to the sport environment better. It also identified ways to break down barriers not only across enforcement agencies, but between sports, enforcement, regulatory, child protection and government agencies.

It was also recognised that sports have an important role to play, that there was a need to build relationships with sports and the role that Sport Integrity Australia could play in facilitating this.

Susie said it's important that we understand each other's roles and identify opportunities for collaboration as this would lead to better outcomes.

Delegates also identified intelligence and capabilities within Sport Integrity Australia that could assist them in detecting and preventing crimes, such as performance and image enhancing drug users and suppliers, sporting contacts and associates and child safeguarding threats.

These takeaways will be discussed at Sport Integrity Australia's Sports Integrity conference with sports and their integrity officers later in the year.

"Collaborations will go a long way to strengthening the protective measures already in place," Susie said. "Together we are stronger. Collaboration will ensure the coordination of a national approach to all sports integrity matters as they emerge."

guest speaker

Everyone likes an underdog story and there are few better than new National Basketball League team the Tasmanian JackJumpers.

With no players and no staff, American coach **Scott Roth** told conference guests how he built a 15-man team from scratch and took them all the way to the NBL Grand Final series in their inaugural season.

Upon touching down in Tasmania, one of the first things Roth did was travel the breadth of the island to connect with locals so he could understand what it meant to be Tasmanian.

When it came to his playing roster, apart from basketball smarts Roth said he had one other criteria – "character" – as he wanted players who would embrace Tasmania, embrace the community and grow the game on and off the court.

Roth, a former NBA player and assistant coach, set the culture that he demanded from the first "practice" session at a local apple growers. "We were on his property all day. They went to work from 8am to 4pm to find out what it meant to be Tasmanian. They worked all over the farm picking apples, in the restaurant serving, in the cider factory bottling. They learnt what it meant to work here and what a privileged position they were in."

It paid off. Roth built an incredible foundation and culture that unified not only his players, but the entire state and the team now has more members than seats and sold out every home game.

With an emphasis on accountability and integrity ahead of results, the team went from a 2-6 [win-loss] at the start of their inaugural season to winning 15 of their last 20 games to reach the playoffs.





Top: Over 40 delegates participated in Sport Integrity Australia's Threats to Sport conference.
Clockwise from left: Presenters **Robert Critchlow** (NSW Police), **Jason Whybrow** (Sport Integrity Australia), Deputy CEO Operations **Susie Ball**, CEO **David Sharpe**, **Michelle Plumpton** (Tasmania Police) and **Denise Gray** (SA Police).



Conference representatives

- Australian Border Force
- Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission
- Australian Federal Police
- Office of the eSafety Commissioner
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Law-enforcement representatives from New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia.



THE WAIS GYMNASTICS PROGRAM REVIEW FINDINGS

The findings highlight the importance of having a National Integrity Framework to investigate complaints properly, and independently, in the first instance.

Sport Integrity Australia has released its findings from the Review of the Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) program at the West Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS) between 1987–2016.

The Review, conducted at the request of WAIS and Gymnastics Alliance Australia, highlighted historical allegations of abuse, mistreatment and unacceptable conduct which occurred up to 25 years ago in the WAIS WAG program.

It concluded that unacceptable conduct perpetuated predominantly due to the lack of an adequate complaints-handling mechanism, safeguarding policies or sufficient oversight.

This Review is an important step in improving the integrity of sport in Australia and safeguarding future generations, Sport Integrity Australia CEO David Sharpe said, and is "a wake-up call for all sports" to review their practices with fresh eyes.

Mr Sharpe said the findings highlighted the importance of having an independent complaints handling process, such as the National Integrity Framework, for resolving complaints and administering disciplinary action arising from an individual or organisation engaging in prohibited conduct.

"Independence is the key for all complaints handling," Mr Sharpe said. "We now have a system in place giving athletes a voice to ensure mistakes, abuse, misconduct and victimisation are called out and never repeated.

"Under the National Integrity Framework we won't have matters arising 20 or 30 years down the track because matters will be investigated properly, and independently, in the first instance. This strong integrity framework and a desire to protect sport will ensure a safe and positive environment is created."



He said Sport Integrity Australia's role in handling these complaints, independent of sporting bodies, has resulted in the agency securing the trust and confidence of athletes who have told their stories, in many cases for the first time.

OVERVIEW

There were two key aims underpinning this Review.

Firstly, to examine the gymnasts' experiences and allegations of abuse and/or harm while they were with the WAG Program and understanding the culture which allowed it to happen.

Secondly, to review WAIS's current child safe policies, procedures and processes and examine their effectiveness. This Review intended to assist WAIS – and sporting institutions and organisations more broadly – in creating an environment which is athlete-centred and has effective systems in place to prevent and respond to abuse and harm.

Harm was suffered by many gymnasts, the Review found, and that the passing of time in no way removed the validity of the lived experiences.

Sport Integrity Australia identified several key themes of concern.

Some gymnasts described being subjected to a culture of fear with no adequate way to raise a complaint. A number of gymnasts spoke of the verbal and physical abuse they experienced, unnecessary frequent and traumatising skinfold testing, weight-shaming, the expectation to train and compete with injuries, the extreme training load and little or no aftercare after leaving the Program.

Gymnasts who participated in this Review said they experienced either feeling like they needed to train through injuries or reported being made to train through injuries. Many reported having a negative experience around body shaming, skinfolds and weight management.

INADEQUATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Review found that the policies and procedures that governed the WAG Program did not adequately protect some of the gymnasts in the Program, and that it is reasonably likely that the conduct and/or omissions on the part of some WAIS and WAG staff, coaches and management contributed to the ensuing abuse and/or harm, either directly or indirectly.

One gymnast recalled her time at WAIS:

The culture of the WAIS gymnastics program, I believe, is one that accepted, encouraged and even at times celebrated in the physical, emotional and psychological abuse of its athletes. This was allowed by not only the coaches, but the medical professionals and administrators too. As an athlete, I was subject to this abuse, and witnessed it being done to my teammates. I still carry around the impact of my personal experiences.

Another young gymnast reportedly wanting "the floor to swallow me up. I wanted to disappear. [...] I can't handle being shouted at anymore. I can't handle being humiliated anymore".

While much of the alleged abuse took place a long time ago, the Review heard that it wasn't until some of the gymnasts



“The culture of the WAIS gymnastics program, I believe, is one that accepted, encouraged and even at times celebrated in the physical, emotional and psychological abuse of its athletes.”

were adults that it became clear that they had been the subjects of abuse and mistreatment.

As one gymnast explained, "Sometimes it's not until you read somebody else's experience and you're like, 'Oh my God, that was horrific.' And then go, 'Oh yeah, that happened to me too.'"

During the course of the Review, some participants raised allegations of potential sexual and/or physical abuse which is alleged to have occurred during their time at the WAIS WAG Program. Sport Integrity Australia took any

information it received during the Review seriously and made seven reports to police, child protection agencies and/or Gymnastics Australia in regards to any allegations that potentially had an element of criminality, including allegations raised of potential sexual and/or physical abuse, and/or allegations that suggested that a child/young person may be at risk of harm.

It should be noted that Sport Integrity Australia also spoke to some gymnasts and their families who could only recall positive experiences while with the WAG Program. One gymnast said that she felt empowered as a child and had no difficulty in maintaining a separate life to gymnastics.

"I can write an equally long essay on my many incredible experiences, the adults and gymnasts who I met that were nothing but supportive, caring and professional [...] gymnastics played a major part in shaping the person I am today."

It was also noted that the recollection of the coaching and other staff who were at the WAG Program in the relevant period was different to that of the complainant gymnasts, although they did not deny that the coaching methods were stringent, and that 'yelling' took place for the purposes, in one case, of causing an "adrenalin rush". One explanation from a support staff participant was that "the intention was all good and I think as a coach you learn from people that have coached you and that tradition that's passed down and it's what they think they need to do".

However, coaches and other WAG staff Sport Integrity Australia spoke to acknowledged the reality of the complainants' experiences and their lasting consequences, with one former coach saying "finding out that we not only missed the mark but there's damaged people out there is traumatic".

FINDINGS

Based on the information and material Sport Integrity Australia obtained, the Review found it is reasonably likely that some gymnasts suffered abuse and/or harm while participating in the WAG Program at WAIS.

It recognised the complexities for a sport in which children participate from a young age, and who at times, attain the 'elite' level before being fully mature, both physically and emotionally. As minors the gymnasts were not afforded the adequate protections to which they were entitled, instead told Sport Integrity Australia they were subjected to unacceptable conduct, abuse and harm at the hands of those who were supposed to protect them, the consequences of which remain with many well into their adult lives.

It also recognised that the landscape across sports has changed considerably since the WAIS WAG Program, including coaching methodologies, coach education, advances in sports science and the ability to speak up and be heard in a safe and secure environment.

Despite this, a key responsibility remained with sports to create an environment which is conducive to open and honest dialogue, where concerns can be aired without fear of retribution or ostracisation.

Sport Integrity Australia made a number of recommendations to assist WAIS take the necessary steps to provide a safe environment for current and future athletes, free from abuse and harmful practices. They were:

- 1 WAIS adopt the National Integrity Framework, including the independent complaint handling process.
- 2 WAIS must ensure that all sport programs involving children are child-focused and age appropriate.
- 3 WAIS should continue to embed athlete wellbeing into policies, procedures and practices in all sport programs.
- 4 WAIS, in collaboration with the impacted Gymnasts, engage in a restorative and reconciliatory process.



SELECTIVE ANDROGEN RECEPTOR MODULATORS

SARMS WARNING

Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators (SARM) are a group of experimental medicines claiming to build muscle mass and bone density without the side effects of steroids. They are not only banned in sport, but many have not undergone clinical trials as they have not been deemed fit for human consumption.

SARMs include:

- [Ligandrol](#) (LGD-4033),
- [Testolone/radarine](#) (RAD-140),
- [Andarine](#) (S4)
- Ostarine (or Endbosarm)
- BMS 564929, AC-262,536 (Accadine), ACP-105, GSK2881078, S1, S9, S-23, and more.

Both the Therapeutic Goods Administration (Australia) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have issued warnings about the health effects of SARMs, including adverse effects on the liver and heart.

The ability to buy SARMs online, or the presence of online advertising, does not negate the fact they are illegal in Australia without a valid prescription, licence or authority to possess. Buying SARMs online, or products containing SARMs, could result in hefty fines and/or jail time. For athletes, purchasing SARMs can also result in a lengthy ban from sport for the anti-doping rule violations of possession or trafficking.

Because they are illegal, SARM products do not undergo any quality assurance checks, and may not even contain the substances they claim in advertisements or on labels. In fact, a recent [Australian study](#) found that 70% of SARM products purchased online had incorrect substances or dosages to what was on the label and more than 96% of products were contaminated with other SARMs or related substances. This comes with risks of unknown drug-drug interactions at the very least.

Although SARMs are often marketed as being cutting edge science, these results suggest that buyers will rarely get the



product they think they are ordering – risky business for substances that haven't been approved for human use in the first place.

It's essential that any supplement or product claiming to help build muscle be checked thoroughly for evidence of SARMs and other banned substances. As always, we strongly suggest a dedicated training regime and food first approach to enhancing performance or building physique, but if supplements are deemed necessary, athletes must ensure their products are batch-tested, by using the Sport Integrity app (found on [Google Play](#) or the [App Store](#)).

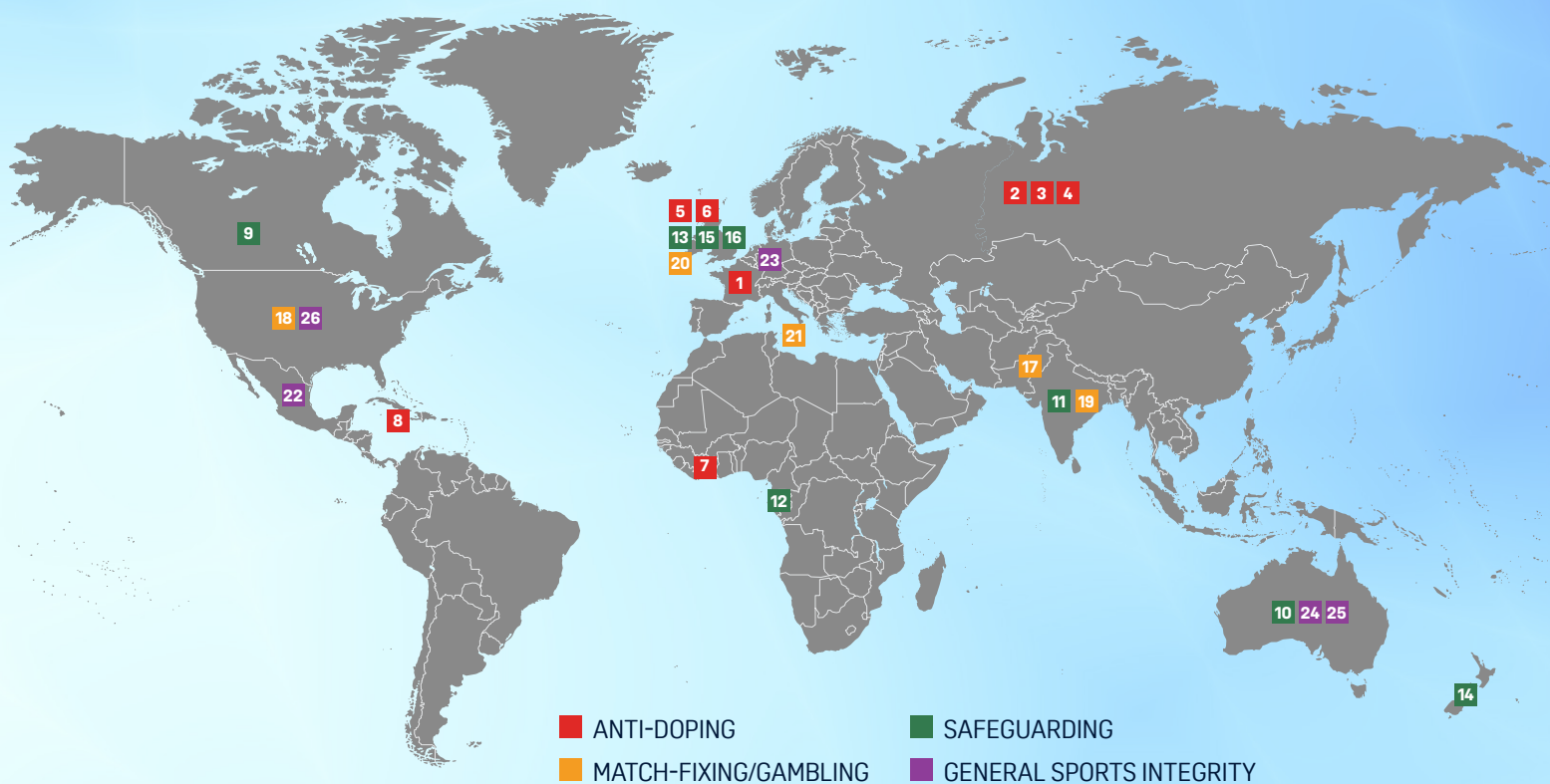
For more information on SARMs you can check the [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) website.



**SPORT INTEGRITY
AUSTRALIA**

SAME TESTING TEAM. NEW UNIFORMS
IF YOU'RE UNSURE, ASK FOR THEIR CREDENTIALS

SNAPSHOT OF GLOBAL ISSUES



ANTI-DOPING

ATHLETICS

FRANCE 1

The suspension of middle-distance runner Ophlie Claude-Boxberger, who tested positive to EPO in 2019, was extended to four years after the Conseil d'Etat appealed the initial 2-year suspension by its sanctions commission.

CYCLING

RUSSIA 2

Cyclist Aigul Gareeva, a junior world champion in 2019, has been banned for 18 months after missing three drugs tests. Gareeva missed three tests in a 12-month window, which constitutes an anti-doping rule violation.

BIATHLON

RUSSIA 3

Ekaterina Glazyrina has received a second sanction for an anti-doping rule violation, with the Russian biathlete found guilty of an offence via evidence retrieved from the Moscow Laboratory. Glazyrina was provisionally suspended by the Biathlon Integrity Unit in September 2020.

CANOE

RUSSIA 4

Three canoeists, including a 2012 Olympic champion, were banned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport for their part in a state-backed doping program eight years ago. WADA prosecuted the case using evidence it received from a Moscow laboratory that had been manipulated and withheld by Russian authorities.

TENNIS

UK 5

British player Tara Moore, who is ranked 83rd in doubles, was provisionally suspended after testing positive to nandrolone metabolites and boldenone during a WTA tournament in Colombia in April.

RUGBY LEAGUE

UK 6

The former Scotland international Oliver Wilkes has revealed he used performance enhancing drugs during his career. The 41-year-old represented Super League sides Huddersfield, Wigan and Wakefield during a playing career which lasted two decades.

FOOTBALL

IVORY COAST 7

FIFA has banned Ivory Coast goalkeeper Sylvain Gbohouo for 18 months in a doping case involving the same substance that Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva tested positive for ahead of the Beijing Olympics. The FIFA disciplinary committee decided Gbohouo had no intention.

ATHLETICS

JAMAICA 8

Jamaican long jumper Sabina Allen has been banned for 4 years by USADA after testing positive to two banned substances. Allen is the first example of an athlete being banned in part through the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act.

SAFEGUARDING

GYMNASTICS CANADA 9

Over 300 gymnasts have called for an independent investigation into a "toxic culture and abusive practices" at Gymnastics Canada. The call was initially made by more than 70 current and former Canadian gymnasts, but that figure has now risen to more than 300 signatories.

OLYMPICS AUSTRALIA 10

A physiotherapist is facing multiple indecent treatment charges allegedly committed against children. The man, who was charged with three counts of indecent treatment of children under 16, worked as a physiotherapist at four Olympic Games.

CYCLING INDIA 11

Sports Authority of India dismissed chief cycling coach RK Sharma after a female cyclist accused him of "inappropriate behaviour" during a training tour of Slovenia.

FOOTBALL GABON 12

The president of the Gabonese Football Federation, Pierre-Alain Mounguengui, was arrested after claims he covered up widespread sexual abuse in the sport. He faces up to three years in prison if found guilty of not reporting to the authorities alleged sexual abuse by a number of coaches.

MATCH-FIXING/GAMBLING

FOOTBALL PAKISTAN 17

Pakistan's National Shaheen Football Club was expelled from the Ramzan tournament after its game against Babul Sports Football Club was found to be fixed. Babul Sports Football Club has also confirmed that its players were involved in match-fixing and multiple players were suspended.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL USA 18

The NFL has opened an investigation into allegations that the Cleveland Browns provided incentives to then-head coach Hue Jackson to lose games during the 2016 and 2017 seasons.

CRICKET INDIA 19

The CBI has booked three suspected punters in connection with alleged fixing of Indian Premier League matches "based on inputs" from Pakistan, officials said on Saturday. It is reported that the central agency has started a country-wide probe.

GYMNASTICS UK 13

Prior to the Tokyo Olympics, veteran coach Liz Kincaid was removed from the Great Britain Olympic coaching team following allegations about her treatment of a former gymnast.

LAWN BOWLS NEW ZEALAND 14

Bowler Gary Lawson suspended for 16 weeks and is out of Commonwealth Games contention. Bowls New Zealand's judicial panel dismissed Lawson's appeal pertaining to an incident of homophobic abuse that happened at a competition in Christchurch in May 2021.

GYMNASTICS UK 15

Eloise Jotischky becomes first gymnast to win a civil case against British Gymnastics for abuse she experienced in the sport. Jotischky was subjected to inappropriate weight management techniques and verbal harassment. British Gymnastics has admitted full liability.

ATHLETICS UK 16

British Olympic medallist Anyika Onuora speaks out on a system skewed against black sportswomen and how the sport "broke her". She also revealed she felt alone when raising sexual assault and racism allegations.

SNOOKER UK 20

Simon Blackwell has been banned from the sport for at least 18 months after being found guilty of attempting to fix the outcome of a tournament match. Blackwell was reported by another player for approaching them and offering a bribe of £200.

BASKETBALL MALTA 21

The Malta Basketball Association has expelled teams Depiro and Hibernians, and coaches James Bamfield and Mario Tabone were suspended until the end of the 2022-23 season for "failing to uphold the integrity of the sport". Players that were involved in suspicious actions during the last six minutes were handed a three-game ban.

GENERAL SPORT INTEGRITY

TENNIS MEXICO 22

World No.3 Alexander Zverev was kicked out of the Mexican Open after a violent act aimed at the umpire in Mexico. The former US Open finalist smacked the umpire's chair with his racquet multiple times – nearly hitting him – following the conclusion of a doubles match.

TENNIS GERMANY 23

Stuttgart Open organisers are investigating Nick Kyrgios' claims that he was racially abused by the crowd during his semi-final loss to Andy Murray.

AFL AUSTRALIA 24

The co-author of the report that exposed a toxic umpiring culture in which women are sexually harassed and abused says he quit the AFL because the research "fell on deaf ears".

FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA 25

Sport Integrity Australia is investigating two complaints over alleged abuse or wrongdoing within professional football.

SKIING USA 26

U.S. Ski and Snowboard have opened an investigation into allegations of abuse and racism within the United States Snowboard Team after a series of Instagram posts made by 2010 Olympian Callan Chythlook-Sifsof.





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