



SPORT INTEGRITY *MATTERS*

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THE UGLY SIDE OF SPORT
ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

GLOBAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2022

THE SPORTS INTEGRITY THREAT ENVIRONMENT

REACHING SUPPLEMENT ZERO



SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA

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All feedback is appreciated.

CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO	3
THE UGLY SIDE OF SPORT	4
DESIGNED TO EXCITE, INSPIRE: THE WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY'S GLOBAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE	10
Factors that influence adolescent supplement use and doping	12
Laboratory tour	12
Developing clean sport behaviours	13
Innovation Day	13
Preventing a paradise for cheats: a Sport Integrity Australia podcast with Witold Bańka	14
THE SPORTS INTEGRITY THREAT ENVIRONMENT	16
RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SPORTING CLUBS	18
REACHING SUPPLEMENT ZERO	19
PARA CLASSIFICATIONS EXPLAINED	22
THE TRUTH ABOUT TUES	24
Question corner	25
COMPETITION MANIPULATION FOR A SPORTING BENEFIT	26
BIRMINGHAM COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022	28
SNAPSHOT OF GLOBAL ISSUES	30

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Education is central to integrity.

The value of education in ensuring the integrity of sport is maintained has never been more evident. Education allows sport and sportspeople to fully understand possible threats and develop strategies to deal with issues before they arise.

Finding innovative ways to connect with athletes has been a feature of our education strategy. Indeed, education is central to everything we do in Australia and is the driving force behind our recent announcement that for the first time in over a decade not a single athlete tested positive due to a supplement in Australia, due to a targeted education and communications strategy.

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

Australia was proud to have been chosen to co-host the World Anti-Doping

Agency's (WADA) Global Education Conference in Sydney in September.

The conference provided an avenue for the exchange of ideas and concepts between Sport Integrity Australia, Australian sports and global experts, which will benefit all involved in protecting sport.

A powerful presentation from a sanctioned athlete really hit home the importance of engaging and relating to athletes. The protection of athletes' health and wellbeing should always be our priority and while we all have a role to play it is our educators who are most critical in protecting athletes from falling afoul of the rules in the first place.

The presentation of these innovative techniques in the engagement space such as theatresports, the use of virtual and augmented reality were other features of a highly successful conference.

The conference was followed by the WADA Executive Committee, emphasising the respect Australia has globally when it comes to integrity in sport. There is a firm understanding that integrity in sport is not confined to



anti-doping and a number of countries are proceeding down that path.

Despite the positives to come out of the conference we are mindful that the threats and issues are ever-present and we must be continually vigilant in the wider integrity space. As an agency we are continually looking to improve and evolve as sport evolves.

Issues such as racism, abuse, mistreatment of athletes and discrimination cannot be tolerated in sport as may have been the case in the past. Athletes now feel empowered to come forward in the knowledge that they will be listened to and their concerns and complaints acted upon. In many cases athletes simply wanted to be heard.

Strategies are continually being developed in a bid to provide awareness to sports of the role they play in preventing issues recurring.

Sport Integrity Australia has rolled out the National Integrity Framework (NIF) which has been adopted by the majority of the 97 registered sports in Australia.

The Framework provides sports with guidance when dealing with integrity matters and Sport Integrity Australia is assisting National Sporting Organisations implement the NIF through the deployment of National Integrity Managers either embedded in sports or providing assistance.

The Framework, like sport, is evolving and the collaboration has been exceptional.

From my observation, sport in Australia is working together to ensure all integrity issues are dealt with appropriately. After all, protecting sport is everyone's responsibility.

David Sharpe APM OAM
Chief Executive Officer

David Sharpe with DFSNZ CEO Nick Paterson, Sport Integrity Australia Advisory Council member Lynne Anderson, and our Deputy CEOs Darren Mullaly and Susie Ball.



THE UGLY SIDE OF SPORT

Athletes, referees, coaches and even grassroots club volunteers are continually calling out poor sideline behaviour and the torrent of online abuse. Abuse has an impact not only on the mental health of individuals, but on the people around them and is being seen as a continuing threat to the integrity of sport in this country and internationally. Last year, gymnast Simone Biles withdrew from competition to focus on her mental health, tennis player Naomi Osaka criticised the role the media plays, swimmer Kyle Chalmers said he'd hit "rock bottom" at the Commonwealth Games and we're seeing young referees in grassroots sport walk away due to sideline behaviour.

Here we talk to a referee, a coach, a journalist, a club volunteer and a player to get their perspectives on the toll this is taking on individuals, the sport and the community at large.

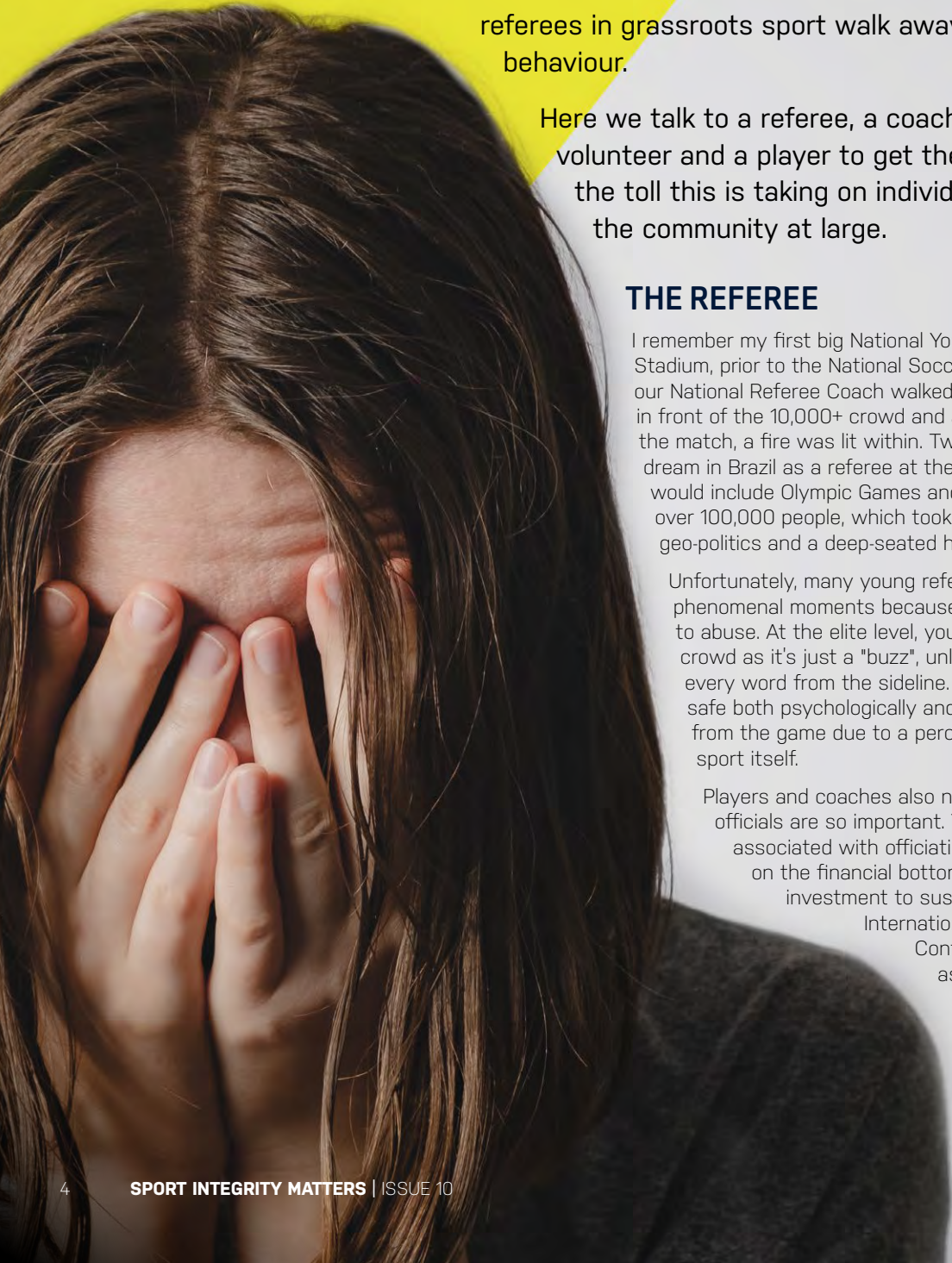
THE REFEREE

I remember my first big National Youth League match at Marconi Stadium, prior to the National Soccer League match. After my game, our National Referee Coach walked us around the edges of that game in front of the 10,000+ crowd and as I watched the referees control the match, a fire was lit within. Twenty years later I was living out my dream in Brazil as a referee at the FIFA World Cup. My experiences would include Olympic Games and international matches in front of over 100,000 people, which took me around the world, taught me geo-politics and a deep-seated history of the world through football.

Unfortunately, many young referees don't get to experience these phenomenal moments because they've left their career early due to abuse. At the elite level, you can't hear comments from the crowd as it's just a "buzz", unlike our young referees who can hear every word from the sideline. Referees at any age need to feel safe both psychologically and physically, yet too many walk away from the game due to a perceived lack of support from the sport itself.

Players and coaches also need to feel safe, which is why officials are so important. Yet across sport, the costs associated with officiating are often viewed as a liability on the financial bottom line, rather than an integral investment to sustain and grow the game.

Internationally, FIFA and Asian Football Confederation (AFC) invest heavily and as such I felt safe, supported, valued and respected as part of the global football family. We need to do this better in Australia. The investment of time, money and resources into officials will prove



to be better for sport nationally because respect and culture starts within each sport itself. It is the old adage of, "we reap what we sow".

As a country steeped in sporting pride, we need to walk the walk when it comes to the safety and mental health of all participants. To address systemic issues, serious action needs to be taken if we are to retain our "sporting nation" title. An all-inclusive approach to funding into officiating will demonstrate that officials, kids, coaches, players, volunteers, families, all matter. It starts at the top and should filter all the way down to the grassroots level.

In my career I encountered death threats directed at my wife and my children, which meant they no longer felt safe in their own home. There is definitely no place for this in sport. I personally made a conscious decision to not have social media in my life, but for those that do, the flow-on can have devastating effects on wellbeing. Many of my colleagues have experienced mental health battles, costing them relationships, employment and, in some cases overseas, cost officials their lives. This is not the message we want to send out to prospective referees, so drastic action and investment MUST be made immediately.

I was a young bloke from Canberra who dared to dream and worked hard which saw me at the biggest events around the globe. I'm incredibly fortunate to have experienced a great career, but the future is now with the next generation – so the solutions need to be focussed on that young boy or girl who dares to dream to officiate at the highest level.

Let's ask ourselves, "what role can we all play to protect referees and keep them coming back?" People want sport to be safe and fun – that's why we get involved in the first place. It is the responsibility of us all to take a stand against abuse for sustainable sport and to support all members of our sporting family.

Ben Williams, retired A-League, AFC and FIFA World Cup Referee



THE COACH

From a coaching perspective I can see the impacts of abuse, from changes in behaviour to disengagement from group situations, loss of confidence and even panic attacks.

Each situation is different. Sometimes the effects can be short-term, others long-term. For me the most important thing is getting the right help and support around people if and when they need it and then managing that accordingly. You can't have a one-size-fits-all response.

In a team environment it is also important for me to consider the impact on the other players and ensure that their needs are also considered and managed accordingly. It can certainly be challenging at times to find the most appropriate way to manage certain situations, in the best interests of all who may be impacted either directly or indirectly.

I think the best way to improve the impacts of mental health is through awareness and education. Once people are aware of the types of things that can impact elite sporting professionals' mental health, we can begin to reduce its prevalence by educating people about the impacts of such abuse. It is then also important to ensure that there is adequate support systems and personnel around high-performance environments to help athletes and staff as needed.

I'm very fortunate to work in women's sport. The teams I coach spend a lot of time looking out for each other and lifting each other up. It is important to create environments where everyone feels safe and valued.

I think most coaches in a competitive elite sporting environment, myself included, have probably had some kind of negative impact on their mental health at some point throughout their career. It can be quite lonely at the top, but I have always been very fortunate to have a great family and supportive friends and colleagues around me to assist when needed.

**Sandy Brondello,
Head Coach of the
Australian Opals
basketball team and
New York Liberty**





Image: John Cullen

THE VOLUNTEER

Gungahlin United Football Club (GUFC), one of Australia's bigger amateur football clubs, has recently seen a scourge of abuse directed at our National Premier League (NPL) first grade men's team, their coaches and medical personnel. Not only has this significantly impacted the mental health of our players, but has flowed right through to club volunteers, our referee base and our spectators.

To hear threats and slurs from the crowd firstly renders as disbelief among the team, clear shock and emotion can be seen, which then affects performance. It then manifests as insecurity as this is essentially their workplace for the time they are on and around the field.

For our volunteers and our supporters who are seeing this play out at the game, or our Executive who have to read the reports of abuse after the match, there's the disbelief that a human being can do this to another human being.

At the grassroots and amateur level in a very large club essentially run by volunteers, we often feel limited in what we can do from a safety and security point of view. There's the feeling that there's a potential and very real danger.

When we see abuse like this taking place we go into protector or parent mode. These young sports people, the officials, the volunteers and coaches are our family. The whole thing creates an environment of unease and impacts everyone in the community.

The most recent example I was involved with was very emotional for me as a community club president. Watching our players enduring over two dozen clearly heard taunts from the opposing crowd of racial abuse, swearing, demeaning comments and even yelling at our physio that he would follow her to the carpark implying a sexual threat. We had hoped the home team would have done more to

stop the abuse as it was taking place. We try to be strong in these situations, but the disbelief and shock takes over. Emotion is clearly visible for all involved.

Our first response is that of safety and mental wellbeing in cases like this. We then gather the playing group, take statements, look at options and undertake a risk analysis. We take action quickly and openly with our governing body.

As a club we coach our players from under 5s through to our NPL that respect starts on the field, with respect of match officials and referees. We need to lead from the ground. We have a zero tolerance to abuse, which is not always easy for a club our size, but we have no hesitation in removing players, parents or coaches from the club if we need to (no matter how good a player little Jimmy is).

Drawing a line in the sand has not been easy but we consider ourselves leaders in this space. Our 1600 GUFC player community is worth too much to us to sweep this type of behaviour under the rug.

My seven-year-old daughter came to me recently and said "Dad, were there any fights at the footy today?". I was mortified!

Our children deserve more than this. Our players, volunteers, young referees, coaches and the families who come to cheer on their teams, all deserve more than this.

**Neil Harlock, President,
Gungahlin United Football Club**



THE PLAYER

I think as the years have gone on the emergence of social media and keyboard warriors has made abuse in sport more prevalent. People can hide behind computer screens and feel like they can say anything without any consequences.

As athletes, we try not to read these things but of course we sometimes do and they can have a big impact on us and on our confidence as we go on to the sporting field. The words we read seep through and we start to believe what is being said about us which can cause poor performance, which in turn means more comments are made about us and it becomes a vicious cycle.

In a team sport like basketball we spend a lot of time together, so if someone is struggling it can impact the entire team. Low confidence brought on by online abuse can drip through, impacting everyone – team members, coaching and support staff, family, friends – the entire support network of the person being abused can be affected.

From a mental health point of view, abuse and negativity wears you down and while you can brush things off it'll get you in the end, with sometimes the smallest incident being the one that breaks you.

The popularity of betting has added another layer of abuse on athletes with people who lose money often blaming the athletes for their financial loss. People can make fake accounts and say whatever they like over the internet without any consequences. This is where I see it is getting worse and is taking the biggest toll on athletes. It is a double-edged sword because many athletes need to use social media to increase the profile of their sport and to make extra money through sponsorship arrangements, but that then leaves them open to being abused by keyboard warriors.

“From a mental health point of view, abuse and negativity wears you down ... with sometimes the smallest incident being the one that breaks you.”



As athletes we know that fans are passionate about sport but crossing the line with personal attacks, racism, any type of attack is never ok and just because you are behind a keyboard, that doesn't make it any less abusive than a face-to-face attack. There is someone on the other side of the computer reading your words. Somebody's child, sibling, parent, friend who is being psychologically damaged.

Jenna O'Hea, former Australian Opals captain and member of the Sport Integrity Australia Athlete Advisory Group



To help us protect people in sport from abuse, Sport Integrity Australia's **National Integrity Framework** includes the **Member Protection Policy**. This policy is designed to protect the welfare, wellbeing, and health of everyone involved. It provides clear definitions of abuse, bullying, harassment, sexual misconduct, discrimination, victimisation and vilification in sport, along with information on how to report these behaviours. For more information about the Member Protection Policy go to www.sportintegrity.gov.au



“...Osaka's claim that traditional media are one of the root causes of athlete mental health problems, instantly gained widespread support and emboldened other disgruntled competitors to make similar accusations.”



THE JOURNALIST

There's an old saying that while doctors bury their mistakes and lawyers jail theirs, journalists publish their errors for everyone to see and use against them.

Nowhere is that more evident than in the evolving and increasingly complicated relationship the press has with mental health issues, particularly in sport.

On one hand, mainstream media has been leading the way in helping raise awareness about serious mental health issues elite athletes face. Few professions have done more to educate the general public – or hold authorities to account – about wellbeing issues confronting sportsmen and women.

But, on the other hand, publishers have also been blamed for fuelling the extreme pressures that high-performance athletes' experience, either by inflating expectations or piling on the criticism when anything goes wrong.

This is where things start to get messy because while there may be some merit in that, most journalists would strongly disagree, primarily because of the blinkered way they view their role in society.

Mainstream media takes the principle of freedom of speech seriously. It's sacrosanct, so any attempts to muzzle them only reinforces their belief they are right to call it as they see it and report news accurately and independently, without fear or favour.

So if that means ruffling a few feathers, then so be it because sports journalism is not a popularity contest and reporters are not paid to be cheerleaders barracking for the home team.

The best journalism is often the most scrutinised because it challenges widely held perceptions while triggering debate around difficult issues, but that comes at a hefty personal price.

Few employees cop more sustained abuse than journalists, who are routinely subjected to complaints, threats and intimidation. It's no surprise then that

studies frequently indicate reporters experience higher than average rates of depression, divorce and drug and alcohol abuse.

Not that you will ever hear many journalists complain out loud because most accept that's part of the job they signed up for so you need a thick skin to survive.

The same used to be thought about top athletes but that narrative has shifted ever since Japanese tennis star Naomi Osaka launched a scathing attack on the media when she was criticised for pulling out of last year's French Open.

Osaka wasn't the first athlete to point the finger at the press but timing means everything in sport and hers delivered a hammer blow to the Fourth Estate when she directly blamed mainstream media for negatively impacting her mental health.

Tapping into the false view popularised by former US President Donald Trump that traditional media is "fake news" while social media is the real deal, Osaka's claim that traditional media is one of the root causes of athlete mental health problems instantly

gained widespread support and emboldened other disgruntled competitors to make similar accusations.

It's likely that genie will be impossible to put back in the bottle now because there's an entire generation of athletes who have never read a newspaper so measure everything by the number of likes or views they get on their Twitter, Instagram or Tik Tok accounts.

But if the first casualty of the finger pointing over mental health has been a breakdown in trust between athletes and traditional media, then the first priority should be to use the same issue as a calling card for a truce to repair it.

Julian Linden is a News Limited journalist



“...sports journalism is not a popularity contest and reporters are not paid to be cheerleaders barracking for the home team.”

CONFERENCE

DESIGNED TO EXCITE, INSPIRE

Sport Integrity Australia co-hosted the World Anti-Doping Agency's Global Education Conference in Sydney – the largest in its history, featuring more than 300 anti-doping experts. The aim was simple, to move beyond giving information and into changing behaviour.

Under the theme of '**innovation, collaboration and implementation**', the Global Education Conference (GEC) showcased emerging trends in education and how anti-doping organisations could enhance and monitor the success of their education programs.

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

Sport Integrity Australia's Director of Education Alexis Cooper said the focus of the GEC was on "moving away from just providing information into developing clean sport behaviours".

"It was also an opportunity to share innovative learning ideas and to help anti-doping organisations learn how to combat 'education fatigue'," she said.

The week started with a Sport Integrity Australia 'Open Day' to introduce international attendees to the unique role of Sport Integrity Australia in the Australian sporting ecosystem.

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

The second day featured plenary discussions from education experts outside the anti-doping field and break-out sessions on educating along the athlete pathway, digital education, research findings and learning theory and design.

Designed to excite, engage and inspire anti-doping education practitioners around the world by showcasing innovative approaches to learning, an Innovation Day was held, which included demonstrations of theatresports, virtual reality ethical decision making sessions, animation design workshops and a range of learning activities from around the world.

To wrap up the week, there was the opportunity for conference participants to tour the Sydney WADA-accredited laboratory. WADA's Executive Committee also held its second meeting of the year.





*Clockwise from top:
Attendees at the World
Anti-Doping Agency's Global
Education Conference;
the Welcome to Country
performed by Matthew Doyle,
descendant of the Muruwari
People, with the Jannawi
Performance Group;
GEC MC Bronwen Knox, a
four-time Olympian and
athlete educator;
the Sport Integrity Australia
team; attendees on Day 1;
Sport Integrity Australia CEO
David Sharpe in a press
conference with WADA
President Witold Bańka.*



FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE ADOLESCENT SUPPLEMENT USE AND DOPING

Drug Free Sport New Zealand's General Manager Athlete Services Dr Sian Clancy discussed the findings from her thesis on the factors that influence the odds of supplement use and doping.

Her study found a large cohort of adolescents (aged 13 to 18 years) revealed widespread supplement use (92%), moderate doping consideration (42%), limited doping intent (3.8%) and doping (2.5%). The thesis also revealed that efforts to prevent supplement use and doping among adolescent athletes may have greatest effect if values-based and life skills focused education is initiated before the age of 13.

Social media is a prominent source of information for adolescents about supplements and is a vehicle through which adolescents are frequently exposed to athletic body imagery.

Dr Clancy, who surveyed adolescent athletes, athlete support personnel and stakeholders, has taken an evidence-based approach to youth education and focused on:

- a) critical thinking and questioning skills, and
- b) media literacy, to question and evaluate the validity of information and imagery they are exposed to via social media and other marketing.

"They need these skills to question if what they see, read, hear is accurate and where the evidence came from to suggest it is so," she said. "They also require volition – the ability to make and enact their own decisions – so that they can use critical thinking tools and then act on the good decisions they (may) have made as a result.

"In our education program, we focus on three developmentally appropriate concepts to give athletes the tools to decrease their odds of supplement use and doping for the purposes of enhancing performance: media literacy, critical thinking/questioning and volition and considered decision making."



Dr Sian Clancy

DFSNZ situate this learning within Māori health model (Te Whare Tapa Whā) for maximum cultural and contextual relevance to our youth population. This model is holistic and considers the physical, spiritual, emotional and social well-being of individuals, both inside and outside of sport.

"This is how we tie in values that are visible and have strong connection for our youth, during a developmental period where values are most malleable and which, once set, may have a long-term clean sport impact."

LABORATORY TOUR

Ever wondered where urine and blood samples get tested and what sort of equipment they use? Participants in the conference attended a guided tour of the Sydney WADA-accredited laboratory which answered these questions – and more.

The sample collection and analysis process is designed to ensure security of the sample during and after collection, as well as sample anonymity during the analysis process. The tour showed how samples are stored, the strict chain of custody of samples, how results are analysed using the Athlete Biological Passport and included a "find the banned substance" on the supplement labels test.



USADA's Kelsa Ferguson, WADA's Ariadna Camargo and Sport Integrity Australia's Alexis Cooper during a session.



DEVELOPING CLEAN SPORT BEHAVIOURS

This topic pushed attendees to think creatively about how to move beyond giving information and into changing behaviour. After all, it is one thing to give people information, but another entirely to influence behaviours.

Sport Integrity Australia's Director of Education Alexis Cooper discussed the agency's approach to tackling the risk of supplements.

"We use information to explain why supplements are a risk as research shows 20% are contaminated in Australia," she said. "We also use information to explain what the risk is for example, through videos featuring sanctioned athletes.

"But when it comes to developing behaviours, we follow this information up by giving athletes and support personnel real supplements and ask them to check the risk using the Sport Integrity app, which has a list of all batch tested products sold in Australia."

In face-to-face sessions, this means handing out supplement bottles in sessions. In webinars, supplement labels are used.

"By explaining why supplements are a risk, giving them a tool and showing them how to use it, we can build positive behaviours where athletes know to check supplements beforehand. They also have the app in their pocket and with them all the time."

This approach has been very successful, Cooper said, with the app receiving 23,000 checks a year, and if the product isn't on the batch tested list, athletes go through a risk survey which uses 10 questions to give them a risk rating.

Another strategy is via an ethical decision making module that can be delivered face-to-face, through an online course, or through a virtual reality game.

In virtual reality – they live those scenarios in a 'choose your own adventure'.

"This gives them a safe space to apply those values and see the impact of their decisions," she said. "What we are trying to do is build behaviours where they understand how to apply the information about values into their decision making, even in tough circumstances."

INNOVATION DAY

There are many different ways to engage athletes – but, as the audience found out, there are few more engaging than theatresports.

Run by professional actors from THINK ABOUT IT, theatresports uses scenarios to teach participants about anti-doping rules and risks to athletes.

The session involved four different scenarios being acted out by the team with help from several audience volunteers, including ORADO Chair Dr Lawrence Puni, USADA Education Manager Tammy Hanson and WADA athlete committee chair Ben Sandford.

Luke Kensey, from the Sport Integrity Australia's Education team, said the agency has found theatresports to be an "incredibly useful tool to bring down barriers that can often exist in standard face-to-face education delivery methods".

"The session was well-received with interest from many global participants, including WADA Education Manager Amanda Hudson on how it can be used globally," he said.

A session on virtual reality decision making, which presented real-life examples of ethically grey scenarios people might face in sport, was also popular.

Augmented reality. Google Glass. Gamification Artificial Intelligence in Education were also explored by MAXART in a fun hands-on session. Participants were able to put on a headset and immerse themselves in the world of virtual and augmented reality to discover what is possible in technology.

Another session showcased animation design workshops showing how to create quick, easy, effective animations for less than US\$300 per year. Participants had the opportunity to create their own animation using Vyond software. Sport Integrity Australia uses animation to turn long written content into engaging scenarios and stories.

PREVENTING A PARADISE FOR CHEATS

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) president Witold Bańka spoke on Sport Integrity Australia's *On Side* podcast at the WADA Global Education Conference. Below, is an edited transcript.

What's impressed you most about listening to all the athlete educators and listening to what every country is doing?

WITOLD BAŃKA: [It's] the biggest attendance in the history of WADA, when you take into account our conferences regarding education, so it's really great achievement. A lot of experts, a lot of people full of passion, engagement from different countries, different regions. This is a great chance to share the views to discuss some important matters, the role of the education and the future of education in anti-doping. So [it is] very, very valuable from WADAs perspective.

I think we have to underline that the role of education is an extremely important pillar of our policies because our goal is to balance the policies. You know, from one perspective we have to catch and punish, but from other perspective we have to protect and support, you know, and this part is education's role. This is the future of anti-doping. Not to show WADA as a policeman and a prosecutor in anti-doping, but to show the positive face, to show that education has an extremely important role to protect the dreams of the of young athletes.

Because not every country has the same focus on education. Today, that's been one of your messages.

BAŃKA: Yeah. This is our goal because now I think in the last years and months we've underlined that education is very important, we try to convince the stakeholders, I mean anti-doping organisations that you have to increase your efforts to put education in the right place, in your policy to increase the position of education. This is a part of our strategy for the next years and this is our call to the stakeholders, to the anti-doping organisations. This is one of the goals of this of this education, to tell our colleagues from different countries, different regions responsible for anti-doping that you have to have the same balance between those two policies, those two parts, catch and punish and support and prevent and protect.

On that theme then, the gap between countries that are very stringent with their anti-doping policies such as Australia to the other countries that don't have the same stringent anti-doping policies. How do you narrow that gap?

BAŃKA: I think it's the biggest challenge ahead of anti-doping environment, not only WADA. Still we have regions, countries with very weak anti-doping policy or without even [the] right system. What is very important is partnership, what Australia is doing to help these say less-developed regions [and] countries conduct anti-doping policy. This is

“...from one perspective we have to catch and punish, but from other perspective we have to protect and support ... and this part is education's role.”

what we really appreciate. When we have countries which are really keen to work with our colleagues from different regions.

It's WADA's role, of the governments, of the sports movement to do everything we can to convince the people responsible for anti-doping in these regions to do their job. In terms of the funding, in terms of the capacity, in terms of the many, many other issues. So, this is the very important goal for us.

As a former athlete, have you got a way of interpreting what works well with education and what works well with anti-doping coming from that different perspective?

BAŃKA: Now we are in a completely different place than in the past. I mean when I look at WADA, it's a big change, you know? Now we have tools, we are much stronger than even 3-4 years ago. We are able to conduct investigations. We [only] received the permission, the possibility to conduct investigations in 2016, so it's quite fresh. Intelligence, investigations, education is completely different place than in the past. From science perspective the same. From a funding perspective, again the budget is much bigger than in the past. I mean, WADA's budget, that's why we can do more.

I'm a former athlete, but I still feel like an athlete. I think that as athletes we can be very comfortable now with the system and how we as WADA and the anti-doping community work. Of course, the system is not perfect. Nobody is perfect, but there is room for improvement for development. So of course, we have to do everything that we can to strengthen the system, but the system works much better than in the past.

SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA



Are you at that point where you feel as though you are starting to get on top of anti-doping worldwide? You got to be vigilant, obviously, but do you feel as though you are close to getting to that point?

BAŃKA: I think the system works well generally [in relation to] anti-doping policy, but there is room for development. It's not that we are happy with everything that is going on in sport in anti-doping policy.

It's a race, you know. It's a race with the cheats. We have to be stronger. We have to be faster. We have to have better tools to eradicate doping from sports. As I said the rules are OK, [the] system works, but for sure we still have to think what we can do more.

Anti-doping now it's not only testing as you mentioned. ABP (athlete biological passport), the long-term storage of samples is a great tool, then intelligence, investigations and the collaboration with law enforcement. We have MOUs with the Interpol, with Europol, so we are working with law enforcement, with the strong agencies that have good tools which we don't have.

Obviously, the Russia decision is on December 16. It is massive worldwide, isn't it? It's not just a decision that WADA makes?

BAŃKA: It's not easy. The issue is very complicated. Now we monitor the situation very closely. You know [the] geopolitical situation is very, very difficult. The Russian invasion in Ukraine, this terrible invasion, and the war in Ukraine. The fact that Russian and Belarussian athletes are not competing internationally, at least majority of them,

some of them they are able to compete as neutral, but the majority are sanctioned, is very, very complicated. But our role is to follow the CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport) expectations, so we have to monitor RUSADA, and we are doing it because we decided not to close the open line of communication with RUSADA because we think that the world cannot create a paradise for cheats.

Is there enormous outside pressure on WADA?

BAŃKA: [It's] business as usual [laughs]! We are responsible for really important area. It's a huge responsibility on our shoulders. So, I think it's normal for everyone involved. I think that sport has the power to unite people, to build community, sport plays a very important role [in] countries. Sport without doping, without corruption, match fixing, so from our perspective, from an anti-doping perspective, we have to do everything that we can to protect those values.

So, the pressure is normal because we are even more sometimes a geopolitical organisation rather than sports, because when you look at the decisions which we can make, it doesn't affect only sports.

This podcast is available on all major streaming services.



THE SPORTS INTEGRITY

THREAT environment

Sport Integrity Australia has published a report on the current and emerging threats facing Australian sport. Here's a snapshot of the findings.

Sport Integrity Australia's role is to identify potential threats and vulnerabilities to the broader Australian sport environment and to individual National Sporting Organisations. We achieve this through our intelligence capability and relationships with domestic and international law enforcement, intelligence agencies, regulators, wagering service providers and sports.

To coordinate the response to existing and emerging integrity threats in sport, Sport Integrity Australia must first understand what those threats are, where they exist and how they come about – which is why the *Inaugural report on threats to sports integrity in Australia, 2022* is so important.

We found that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact the Australian and international sporting communities. In many cases, this has led to an increased threat to sports integrity including, but not limited to:

- The protection of children, who have become more vulnerable to online grooming and attending less-supervised environments.
- Increased financial vulnerability of athletes and support personnel. A growth in online gambling and betting on non-traditional sporting activities during lockdowns has presented new and novel opportunities for competition manipulation.
- Perceptions in the sporting community that anti-doping testing is not occurring, leading some to feel they can get away with doping.

These threats have been compounded by the capacity for sporting organisations to dedicate resources to integrity functions – especially in smaller sports.

“...the COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact the Australian and international sporting communities.”

CHILD SAFEGUARDING AND MEMBER PROTECTION

Member Protection matters were the most prevalent subject of integrity complaints over the past six months – second only to doping-related matters. While these issues receive widespread media attention at the elite level; we believe these issues are certainly occurring in sub-elite and recreational-level sports.

Victim survivors will continue to come forward and shine a light on toxic culture. As further allegations are reported in the media, there will be an increasing number of victim survivors speaking out and demanding change. There is an

inherent tension in some sports between the pressures of the competitive nature of sport and prioritising the reputation of the sport over safeguarding the physical and mental wellbeing of participants – it's highly likely this pressure will intensify for Australian sport participants involved in the 2032 Olympic pathway. This will require a shift in policy, attitude and culture that may take some time to change.

MANIPULATION OF SPORTING COMPETITIONS

Our analysis has shown that the manipulation of sporting competitions involves the interplay of threats and vulnerabilities.

While financial gain is a key motivation for engaging in competition manipulation, it is not the only factor. Sport-related benefits can also be appealing, such as securing a favourable position, ranking or opponent, or allowing an athlete to win in return for favours.

Sport Integrity Australia is not aware of any increased threat of serious and organised crime involvement in competition manipulation in Australia, the domestic threat from sophisticated facilitation of competition manipulation is relatively low in comparison to the broader international environment.

The most common topics reported to date:

- Issues with decisions made by judges or referees. These allegations generally reference bias or incompetence.
- Allegations of deliberate underperformance.
- Inconsistent or unfair rules impacting results.

Threats

Criminals or other facilitators

- Access to sport participants – particularly athletes: most prominent athletes have a presence on social media and can be directly approached.
- Coercion of sports participants may include: financial incentives, entrapment, threat of reputational damage and threats to harm loved ones.

Availability of unregulated wagering

- Activity which circumvents the scrutiny and reporting requirements that may otherwise indicate suspicious activity.

Availability of exotic/spot betting

- Wagers on particular events within, or throughout the course of a match or event – for example, first score or penalty. This is easier to manufacture and generally does not impact the outcome of a game. It provides plausible deniability – where actions can be blamed on small mistakes. That said, they can be more easily detected – attracting unsophisticated attempts by participants – and less likely to attract serious and organised crime elements.

Insider threat

- A threat which may include anyone with means to access and/or provide relevant information for the purposes of competition manipulation.

Sabotage

- Sabotage is likely a relatively rare technique, there have been overseas reports of suspected drugging of athletes. Modification, or interference with playing surfaces is another example.

Vulnerabilities

Financial insecurity (particularly participants with a lower income/unpaid salaries)

- Participants with significant debts, and/or living beyond their financial means.
- Lower professional/semi-professional leagues are paid modestly, but still incur significant expenses.
- Relevant perceptions of a participant's value to the sports may lead to vulnerabilities. For example, Pakistan's international cricketers are paid 20 times less per year than their English and Australian counterparts, and four times less than their Indian neighbours. The annual salaries of English Premier League referees can equate to a player's weekly earning.
- There has been a significant increase in betting on women's sport in Australia and globally. Female players regularly receive lower salaries than men, which increases vulnerability to corrupt approaches.

Addiction/risk taking behaviour

- Participants may be placed in compromising situations – such as using illicit drugs, engaging in inappropriate sexual activity – and later subject to blackmail.
- Participants may be more vulnerable to approaches to manipulate a competition in order to pay off gambling debts. Gambling addiction problems have been shown to be over-represented in athletes, particularly male athletes.

Participants with criminal associations

- These relationships can be exploited to corrupt the athlete and give social status to the criminal. Illicit drug use by athletes leaves them particularly vulnerable to exploitation, including match-fixing and provision of inside information.

Maturity and judgement

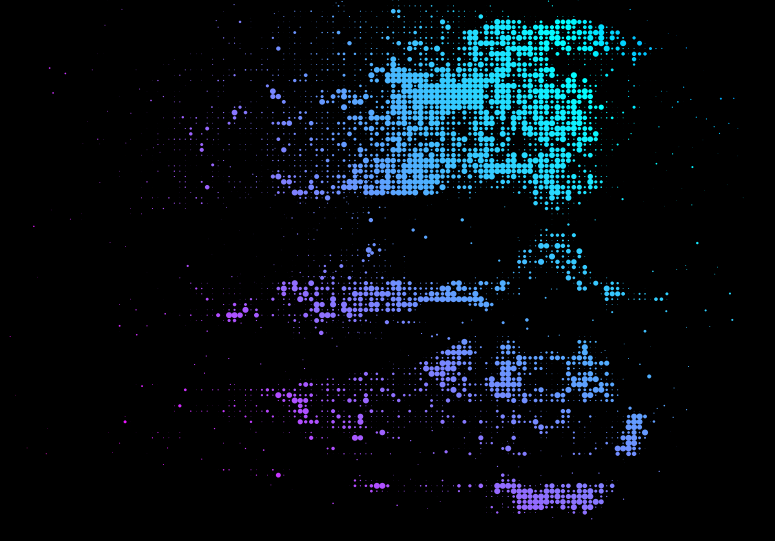
- Young athletes are at greater risk of approaches and those with considerable potential may be groomed for future compromise.

Individuals

- Individuals are easier to manipulate than teams. For example, referees are a desirable target as they have a high degree of influence over the outcome of a competition.

Sport/team culture and education

- Participants in amateur competitions may have less education regarding threats and vulnerabilities, including awareness of reporting requirements and mechanisms.
- Pressure to succeed/ego.
- Disgruntlement with the team/sport.
- Fluid morals/values – the ability to rationalise immoral behaviour.
- Fear and shame – some athletes may not report an approach for fear of repercussion.



THE USE OF DRUGS OR DOPING METHODS

Since 2015 (and as at May 2022), there had been 145 individuals subject to anti-doping rule violations by Sport Integrity Australia (prior to 2020, ASADA). There are 40 individuals currently sanctioned for activities including (but not limited to) use, trafficking, failure to comply and failure to provide a sample.

The most commonly detected substances in current Australian anti-doping rule violations, according to the report, are the anabolic agents ligandrol (LGD 4033) and testosterone.

TRENDS IN TIP-OFFS

Our analysis shows that more than 35% of current sanctioned athletes were the subject of a tip-off prior to being found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation.

Of 164 tip-offs received since July 2021, 46% related to weightlifting, followed by cycling with 12% – these sports also account for the greatest number of current anti-doping rule violations.

The vast majority of tip-offs reference 'suspicious progress' and significant or perceived unnatural improvements in strength and endurance.

Other trends:

- Athletes associating with sanctioned individuals.
- Noticeable physical changes, such as acne and virilisation.
- Suspicious activity on social media, such as no longer posting updates, or showing significant progression beyond what would be expected through traditional training methods.
- Information about use of prohibited substances within certain gyms or sporting teams.
- In a handful of cases, individuals have posted likely drug paraphernalia on social media, such as syringes and vials, generally using 'stories' that disappear after a period of time.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SPORTING CLUBS

Sport Integrity Australia has developed a new series of posters to help sports educate their participants on how to report integrity issues. We encourage clubs to download and display the posters to help build safer and fairer sporting environments. Download your posters [here](#).



REACHING SUPPLEMENT ZERO

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER A DECADE NOT A SINGLE ATHLETE TESTED POSITIVE DUE TO A SUPPLEMENT IN AUSTRALIA.

Sport Integrity Australia's long-standing advice to athletes has been that **no supplement is safe to use** – they pose too much of a risk to an athlete's health, career and reputation.

Despite this warning, anti-doping rule violations due to supplements accounted for a third of positive doping tests between 2016 and 2019.

In response to these alarming figures, tackling supplement use has been a major priority for Sport Integrity Australia and its predecessors, the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority and the National Integrity of Sport Unit.

Studies showed that some supplements were illegal, unsafe and dangerous, not all supplements had all the ingredients listed on the bottle and that many supplements may be contaminated during production process. In fact, one survey revealed that one in five supplements surveyed contained a banned substance.

To counter this issue, the agencies developed a range of innovative education programs and strong regulatory responses in partnership with National Sporting Organisations, athletes, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the Australian Sports Drug Medical Advisory Committee (ASDMAC), the Australian Institute of Sport and Food Standards Australia and New Zealand.



REACHING SUPPLEMENT ZERO

“Since the app was created it has been downloaded **65,094** times, with almost **23,000** supplement checks a year.”

By listening to athletes it was recognised a change in education approach was needed. To counter circumstances where sports dieticians recommended supplements, or that athletes would use supplements despite the risks. We needed to support athletes to minimise these risks.

Sport Integrity Australia did this in many ways. It included changing messaging to promote a harm-minimisation approach and implementing supplement education in all online courses and face-to-face sessions, including education for coaches, parents and medical support staff. It also included developing specific resources and delivering targeted education for medical support staff to enable them to assist athletes through this complex area and answering emails and phones from many individual athletes and support people seeking direct guidance.

A game changer was the creation of a mobile app where athletes could check the risk of "batch-tested" supplements. For the first time athletes had a list of low-risk supplements to choose from, a survey to assess the risk of other products and warnings about extremely high-risk supplements.

Since the app was created it has been downloaded 65,094 times, with almost 23,000 supplement checks a year.

Other initiatives included:

- education videos featuring sanctioned athletes
- athlete-informed changes to supplement messaging
- a communications campaign, including over 300+ supplement warnings on social media.

Sport Integrity Australia also worked with the TGA to effect legislative change. In 2020 the TGA announced that from 30 November 2020, in order for sports supplements with therapeutic claims containing higher-risk ingredients to be advertised and supplied, they must be included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods.

The change applied to products making claims relating to performance in sport, exercise or recreational activity which:

- contained ingredients that are higher risk (such as, those containing substances in a schedule to the Poisons Standard) or included in the World Anti-Doping Code's Prohibited List), or
- were in a medicinal dosage form of a tablet, capsule or pill.

This meant that certain products would undergo greater regulation and scrutiny, leading to a safer marketplace for athletes.

The combined education, communication and regulatory response resulted in the number of positive tests attributed to supplements dropping dramatically, with only three in 2019–20, one in 2020–21, and none in 2021–22.

Despite these amazing results, supplements remain a risk to athlete's health and integrity. Athletes and support personnel need to remain vigilant, continue to heed the warnings and check each supplement.

The Sport Integrity app is free to download from [Google Play](#) or [Apple](#) stores.

Number of recorded supplement positives per financial year

2016–17	17
2017–18	5
2018–19	8
2019–20	3
2020–21	1

2021–22

0

“BEYOND WHAT I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR”

A nine-month sanction from sport changed marathon runner Cassie Fien's life. Cassie talks about why she shared her story to help educate other athletes.

As an athlete who received a sanction for an adverse analytical finding as a result of inadvertent supplement use, I am thrilled to see there were ZERO athletes in 2021–22 who suffered the same fate.

When I was invited to become a member of Sport Integrity Australia's Athlete Advisory Group my sole purpose of agreeing to the opportunity was to help reduce the number of athletes inadvertently testing positive to supplements. When I found out the last financial year saw no athlete testing positive because of supplements it was beyond what I could have hoped for.

I believe Sport Integrity Australia is leading the way globally when it comes to educating athletes about the dangers and how to avoid inadvertent doping. Many countries are looking to Sport Integrity Australia as the numbers show Australia is on the right track with other countries even adopting their initiatives.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever test positive to a prohibited substance. I wasn't taking anything illegal or injecting anything... right!? The majority of us athletes just want to perform at our optimal, which entails giving ourselves every opportunity to do that safely and within the rules – whether it be taking an iron supplement if deficient, a sports drink to hydrate effectively or purchasing the best equipment

available. When I purchased a supplement from a local store in Australia and checked the ingredients using the World Anti-Doping Code Prohibited List and Check Your Substances on Global DRO, I thought I was doing everything right. Maybe it was naivety, but as it turns out I was so wrong – some banned ingredients have various names – I found this out the hard way and paid a huge price.

I was at a point of my athletic career where a lot of the hard work was paying off and I was about to embark on attempting to fulfil childhood dreams of representing my country at the Commonwealth Games and Olympics. Instead, my whole world came crashing down around me to the point I couldn't see any reason to go on. My sport means more to me than being a hobby, at the time it was my identity. Time has healed the wound this situation created, but I am scarred for life.

Moving forward my hope is that we can make the 2021–22 statistic of ZERO athletes testing positive due to supplements the new normal.

Cassie Fien is a member of Sport Integrity Australia's Athlete Advisory Group.



“Moving forward my hope is that we can make the 2021–22 statistic of ZERO athletes testing positive due to supplements the new normal.”



PARA CLASSIFICATIONS EXPLAINED

To ensure fairness, Para-sports use a classification system to group athletes according to their level of impairment. A new course explains the process.

Do you know the 10 types of Para-sport impairments? Or what the classifications are? And how they are decided?

Paralympics Australia, in conjunction with Sport Integrity Australia, has created a Classification Fundamentals course, designed not only for those involved in Para-sport to better understand the process, but anyone interested in improving their knowledge about the different levels of classification available.

There are 28 Para-sports in the Paralympic Games. Because athletes have impairments that range in severity, most Para-sports use a range of sport classes. The new online course, which takes up to 45 minutes to complete, is designed to demystify classification, one of Para-sport's most complex areas.

Following an extensive review of its classification program in 2020, Paralympics Australia identified a limited understanding of classification among some key stakeholders, prompting Paralympics Australia's Classification Manager Cathy Lambert to take action.

A common theme, she found, was that education around classification was needed.

"It was clear that the gap in knowledge about classification was the cause of a lot of issues," Lambert said. "I discovered there were misunderstandings which needed to be ironed out in a sequential and methodical way to reduce the perceived level of complexity."

Module topics include who can compete in Para-sport, how classification works along the competition pathway and fairness and safety in classification.

Lambert hoped that the course could help increase participation rates in Para-sport along with the Paralympic fan base.

"By everyone having the right messages and information, it's going to help people engage better in Para-sport," she said. "They might come across people with a significant disability and not know that they, too, could be competing in Para-sport because of the way the classification system helps group athletes with similar activity limitations for competition. It's similar to grouping athletes together by weight, age or gender."



Sport Integrity Australia's Director of Education Alexis Cooper said partnering with Paralympics Australia was the "perfect fit" as both agencies strived to create safe and fair sporting competitions.

"Classification is one of the cornerstones of Paralympic sport because it ensures competitions can be both inclusive for people with a range of impairments, but also fair for everyone taking part," Cooper said.

To complete the course:
<https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/>

Learn more about classification in Paralympic sport, visit <https://www.paralympic.org.au/classification/>

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF A CLASSIFIER?

Classifiers are sports officials with a medical or sport science background who have completed the required training and certification as determined by the International and National Federation of their nominated sport. They assess athletes to determine their eligibility for Para-sport competition and provide them with a sport class and sport class status at the conclusion of the assessment.

The training and management of classifiers for athletes with a physical impairment is the responsibility of the National Sporting Organisation.

The training and management of classifiers for athletes with a vision impairment is the responsibility of Paralympics Australia.



Images courtesy of Paralympics Australia

WHO CAN COMPETE IN PARA-SPORT?

Athletes must have one of the eligible impairments listed below:

Loss of limbs

Partial or complete absence of bones or joints due to amputation or deficiency from birth.

Muscle weakness/ impaired muscle power

Muscle weakness or paralysis from conditions such as muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, nerve damage, spinal cord injury or damage.

Co-ordination impairments Hypertonia, Ataxia or Athetosis

Impairments from neurological conditions such as acquired brain injury, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis that affect co-ordination and smoothness of movement and balance.

Restricted joint movement

Restricted movement or tightness in a joint/s from conditions such as joint fusions and other restricting conditions.

Short stature

Reduced standing height and limb length from conditions such as achondroplasia or other conditions that affect growth.

Leg length difference

Significant difference in leg length from a deficiency at birth or trauma.

Intellectual impairment

An IQ of 75, and impairments in adaptive behaviour (conceptual, social and practical skills) – that is observed before the athlete is aged 18.

Vision impairment

Impairment of the eye structure, optic nerves or pathways, or vision area of the brain, resulting in a loss of vision in both eyes. Caused by conditions such as albinism, macular degeneration, macular or cone rod dystrophy and retinitis pigmentosa.



THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTIONS

THE TRUTH ABOUT TUEs

Each year there is an influx of in-advance Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) from athletes who are not required to apply for an in-advance TUE due to their level of competition.

While we understand the fear that athletes face regarding the implications of not having an in-advance TUE, we also recognise the TUE process is costly and time consuming for all involved. Here we breakdown what a TUE is, when you might need it and the easiest way to work out if an in-advance TUE applies to you.

WHAT IS A THERAPEUTIC USE EXEMPTION (TUE)?

TUEs allow an athlete to use a prohibited substance, or method of administering a substance, for legitimate therapeutic purposes.

UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES CAN AN ATHLETE BE GRANTED A TUE?

A TUE may be granted if, and only if, an athlete can show the prohibited substance or method:

- is needed to treat a diagnosed medical condition supported by clinical evidence
- will not produce any additional enhancement of performance beyond what might be anticipated following the treatment of a medical condition
- is an indicated treatment for the medical condition, and there is no reasonable permitted therapeutic alternative
- is not needed as a consequence of prior use of a prohibited substance or method without a TUE.

DOES A TUE PROTECT ATHLETES FROM RECEIVING A SANCTION?

A TUE may protect athletes from receiving a sanction for a prohibited substance or a prohibited method.

WHAT TYPES OF TUEs ARE THERE?

There are two types of TUEs:

In-Advance TUEs where you need to apply for and have the TUE approved prior to training (if the medication is prohibited both in- and out-of-competition), competing or an event.

Retroactive TUEs which may be applied for in the event of an emergency or urgent treatment, exceptional circumstances, testing of lower-level athletes and out-of-competition use of in-competition prohibited substances.



HOW DO I KNOW IF I NEED A TUE IN MY SPORT AT MY PARTICULAR LEVEL?

The simplest way to determine whether or not you need an in-advance or retroactive TUE is to check the Sport Integrity app or website.

- Step 1:** Check the substance on the Global DRO [website](#) to see if it or the method is prohibited.
- Step 2:** If the substance or method is prohibited, then head to the Sport Integrity app, swipe to the Therapeutic Use Exemption Checker and follow the prompts. It will tell you all you need to know. Or visit the [TUE](#) section on the Sport Integrity Australia website.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A TUE?

- Step 1:** Fill in the TUE application form found on the Sport Integrity Australia website or on the app.
- Step 2:** Check to see what specific [medical information](#) you need to provide.
- Step 3:** Send the completed form and supporting medication information to asdmac@sportintegrity.gov.au.



WHO DO I TALK TO IF I HAVE CONCERNS OR I'M UNSURE OF WHETHER I NEED A TUE?

If after you've followed the above steps you still feel unsure as to your need for a TUE or the process for applying for a TUE, you can call the Australian Sports Drug Medical Advisory Committee (ASDMAC) secretariat on (02) 6222 4283 or email asdmac@sportintegrity.gov.au.

For more information about TUEs including the process, application, medical evidence needed and frequently asked questions, head to the Sport Integrity Australia [website](#).

QUESTION CORNER

I take a medication that is prohibited in sport, does this mean I can't compete?

No. Athletes who need to take a prohibited substance for a medical condition can apply for a TUE.

Does my approved TUE last forever?

No. All TUEs have an expiry date. Check yours to see if it has expired and reapply if it needs to be renewed.

If I am given medications in hospital, do I need a TUE?

Quite possibly. Medications received in hospital can still require a TUE.

Over-the-counter medications are not prohibited in sport, so I don't need a TUE?

Wrong. Some over-the-counter medications are prohibited in sport and therefore a TUE may be required.

If I am going overseas on holiday do I need a TUE?

Yes. If you are required to have an in-advance TUE and your medication is prohibited out-of-competition you still need a TUE even if you aren't competing.

When applying for a TUE do I only need to submit an application form?

No. Clinical medical information outlining your diagnosis, treatment plan, independent tests results and a completed application form needs to be submitted.

I have the same symptoms as my friend, can I take their medication?

No. You should only take medication prescribed to you. A TUE cannot be approved for someone else's medication.

If my coach gives me medication it must be ok?

No. Only take a medication that is prescribed to you by a doctor. Over-the-counter medication (that doesn't require a prescription) can be taken, but **MUST** always be checked.

My medication was not prohibited when I checked in June, should I recheck it in early January?

Yes. The WADA Prohibited List is updated each year and comes into effect on **1 January**. So a medication that was not prohibited in June may be prohibited in January.

COMPETITION MANIPULATION FOR A SPORTING BENEFIT

When it comes to examples of competition manipulation, people usually think of profiting through wagering markets, or betting-related competition manipulation. This is not surprising given these incidents are often front-page scandals and, if found guilty, the people involved face significant penalties including imprisonment.

Two examples of betting-related competition manipulation include the [Southern Stars match-fixing scandal](#) in the Victorian Premier League and a former Australian table tennis player allegedly [winning \\$438,000 on fixed Ukrainian table tennis matches](#).

In addition to profiting through wagering markets, competition manipulation can also be motivated by obtaining sport-related benefits or advantages, such as securing a better draw in the finals or qualification for a major event. While not as common as betting-related manipulation, there have been instances that have caused significant interest. In July 2021 the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) reported they had received 17 referrals for investigation of suspicious qualifying performances in the lead-up to the Tokyo Olympic Games.



Eight Olympic badminton players disqualified for 'throwing games'

- Four pairs disqualified in disgrace after farcical matches
- Koreans appeal against decision rejected by officials
- Players were booed on court and warned by referee

Judges 'used signals' to fix Olympic boxing bouts, McLaren report finds

- Culture of 'favours' saw incorruptible officials driven out
- Aiba president Wu Ching-kuo let 'manipulation flourish'

As a result of the AIU's investigations, eight qualifying performances for the Olympic Games were not recognised by World Athletics and the relevant athletes denied a place at the Games¹. Some other notable examples include:

- A first division men's hockey team in Western Australia was found to have deliberately conceded two goals to get an easier draw in the finals. They were subsequently deemed ineligible for the finals and the coach was dismissed by the club².
- A report into boxing at the Rio 2016 Olympics found widespread evidence of "corruption, bribery and the manipulation of sporting results". In this case, judges gave each other signals at ringside to fix bouts to ensure fighters from certain countries would win the bout. It was found that there existed a culture of "favours", with one example cited where Azerbaijan gave amateur boxing's governing body, the International Boxing Association, an investment loan of \$10 million with the expectation that bouts would be manipulated in their favour for medals at London 2012. The report's investigation identified seven to 10 suspicious bouts where manipulation is likely to have taken place³.

While these incidents are unquestionable examples of competition manipulation, it isn't always as black and white. Sports are different and what is accepted behaviour in one may be perceived as "improper" in another. A good example



PRESS RELEASE

**COMPETITION MANIPULATION IS A THREAT TO SPORT INTEGRITY:
AIU IDENTIFIES MULTIPLE ILLEGITIMATE QUALIFYING
PERFORMANCES FOR THE TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES**

1 [AIU-PRESS-RELEASE-Competition-Manipulation-a-threat-to-sport-integrity-AIU-identifies-multiple-illegitimate-qualifying-performances-for-the-Tokyo-2020-Olympic-Games.pdf \(athleticsintegrity.org\)](#)
 2 [Town's South Hockey Club thrown out of finals and coach booted after tanking last game of season | PerthNow](#)
 3 [Microsoft Word - FINAL AIBA REPORT 200921 FOR PUBLISHING.docx \(dmcl.biz\)](#)

is the accepted practice of "team orders" in motorsport, which involves a direction from a team manager to a driver to deviate from the practice/principle of maximising their individual performance for the overall benefit of the team.

Motorsport Australia has proactively considered this and has specifically drafted their National Policy on Competition Fixing accordingly to ensure clarity around team orders.

The Sports Wagering and Competition Manipulation team at Sport Integrity Australia encourages sports to consider which legitimate tactics and strategies specific to their sport may inadvertently be captured as competition manipulation in its policies.

For those sports that have adopted the National Integrity Framework, sports will be requested for feedback in October about sport specific conduct that is or is not

accepted for possible inclusion in the Competition Manipulation and Sports Wagering Policy.

Sports should also consider any improper ways that sporting related competition manipulation could potentially occur in their sport, and proactively implement mitigating strategies in advance to help prevent a future incident from occurring, such as education or reference to guidance resources.

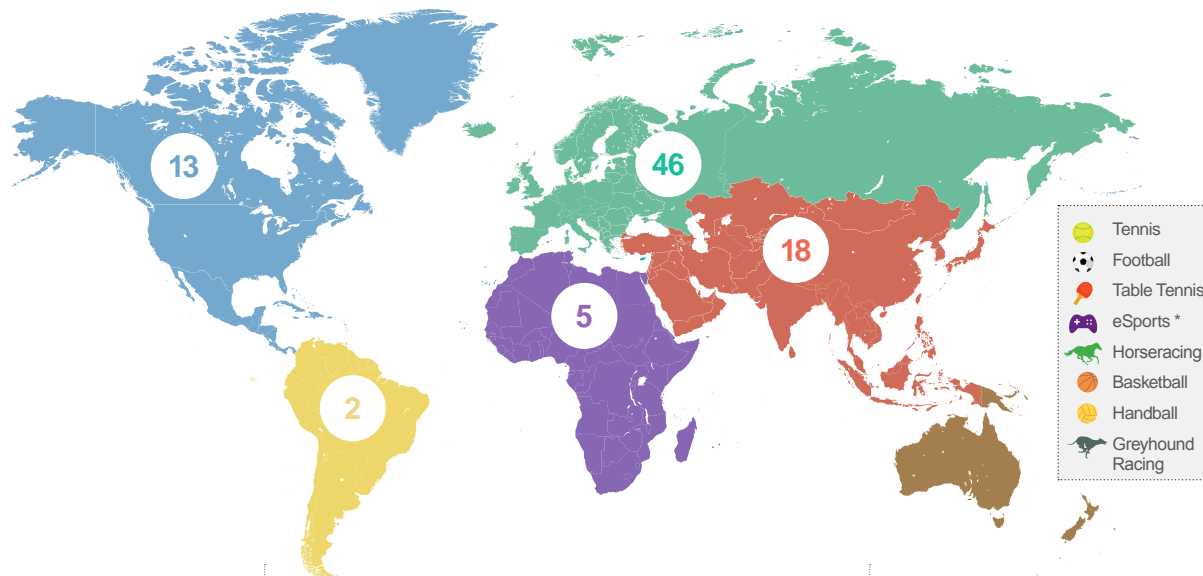
IBIA RELEASE 2022 Q2 INTEGRITY REPORT

A total of 88 suspicious alerts on eight different sports across 36 different countries were reported to the relevant authorities for further investigation in Q2 2022.

Football (32 alerts) and tennis (27 alerts) continue to dominate the number of alerts being reported in Q2, which also included table tennis and handball. [Q2-2022.pdf \(ibia.bet\)](#)



88 Suspicious Alerts Reported in Q2 2022



18 - ASIA

Georgia (3) • India (1) • Israel (1)
Kuwait (2) • Mongolia (4) • Nepal (1)
Turkey (1) • Uzbekistan (1) • Vietnam (1)

Thailand (1) • Turkey (2)

5 - AFRICA

Ghana (4) • Algeria (1)

46 - EUROPE

Albania (1) • Czech Republic (2) • Finland (1) • Italy (1) • Kosovo (1)
Montenegro (1) • Netherlands (1) • Romania (2) • Sweden (2)

Bosnia & Herzegovina (1) • Bulgaria (3) • Croatia (1) • Denmark (5)
France (1) • Germany (1) • Greece (1) • Italy (2) • Montenegro (3) • UK (1)

Czech Republic (1) • Hungary (1) • Bulgaria (1) • North Macedonia (1)
Poland (6) • Slovenia (1)

UK (2) • France (1) • UK (1)

13 - NORTH AMERICA

USA (10) • USA (3)

2 - SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil (1) • Chile (1)

Countries have been grouped following the official UN classification, except for Cyprus which has been listed under Europe.
* 4 eSports alert reported. eSports alerts haven't been allocated a country as it's not always clear where an event has been hosted.



Australia loves a major sporting event and this year's Commonwealth Games was no exception. Sport Integrity Australia was involved with anti-doping testing, athlete education and Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) in the lead-up to the Games, in addition to having staff on the ground in Birmingham across various roles. We hear from Sport Integrity Australia's **Petria Thomas**, who headed the Australian team as Chef de Mission, and **Justine Crawford**, who took on the role of Commonwealth Games Australia's Integrity Liaison Officer.

After three years of planning and preparation I was really excited but nervous to arrive in Birmingham to start setting up for the arrival of our 700 team members. We had a headquarters staff of around 100 people to support our sport sections and athletes and we needed every single one of them to get ready in time, as there was a very short bump in period for these Games. We basically had only a few days to unload and set up five shipping containers full of equipment and supplies across multiple locations, on top of delivering over 1500 bags to the rooms of our team members. It was a massive logistical effort but everyone chipped in with a "can-do" attitude and got the job done, even in 38 degree heat on one of the days!

We received a very friendly welcome by the people of Birmingham and the thousands of volunteers supporting the event, which set the scene for what was to be a great Games. As with any major event it was not without its challenges, but we managed to combat that by having terrific people on our team that were able to think on their feet and problem solve on the run. Speaking of terrific people, it was great to be able to share the Games experience with four of my Sport Integrity Australia colleagues (Justine Crawford – Integrity Liaison Officer, Gary Vandeburgt – Team Operations, Adam Castle – Team Operations and Steve Wyatt – Team Experience) who each did an amazing job in their respective roles.

There were too many highlights from the Games to pick just one, but what I can say is that I was very proud of the way our Australian team performed and conducted itself, both on and off the field of play. Of course it was fantastic to top the medal table on English home soil, but just as heartening was the very positive feedback we received from multiple sources about how friendly, appreciative and good to work with our Australian team members had been.

There are always many lessons learned and we will unpack these during the review/debrief process to ensure that we do better next time when the Commonwealth Games return to Australia for Victoria 2026. One great initiative that I know will continue is having an Integrity Liaison Officer from Sport Integrity Australia embedded in the team to ensure we have the education, structures and processes in place to achieve positive integrity outcomes in a multi-sport event specific environment. I thank Sport Integrity Australia for supporting the Australian team through the inclusion of this role and for the time and expertise of the many other Sport Integrity Australia staff members that contributed to our preparations.

It's now time for me to get back to my "day" job as Assistant Director of Engagement where I work to support National Sporting Organisations to meet their sport integrity obligations and build their capability to keep their sport safe and fair.

Petria Thomas





International Safeguards for Children in Sport

@SafeinSports

Aug 9 ...

We love seeing #TeamSafeSport in action with outgoing safeguarding lead Colin from #B2022 together with Claudia the lead for @thecgf and Justine the lead for Commonwealth Games Australia - the next host of the Games! What a legacy and a great thing to celebrate on #SafeSportDay



My role during Games time was to coordinate responses to any integrity related incidents and lead on athlete whereabouts, safeguarding and security matters for the team. To do this effectively it was important that I had strong networks that I could tap into quickly.

We had spent a lot of time in the lead up to the Games creating solid partnerships online, so it was great to finally meet key contacts in person and build on that rapport. I had to hit the ground running in this space because as soon as something happens you rely on your networks, whether Games specific, within each sport, law enforcement, or regulators.

The daily security briefing hosted by the Organising Committee (OC) and West Midlands Police provided contemporary insight into the operating environment in Birmingham and this real-time information supported team planning. An adaptable and collaborative group formed around these briefings, which proved invaluable.

The integrity strategy focussed on prevention and awareness prior to the Games, so it was heartening in Birmingham when athletes or team managers proactively engaged around these issues. That shared understanding of contributing to a welcoming and respectful environment, or considering the health and safety of the whole team when making decisions, resulted in more effective responses. As with any event there will be issues that come up, but because of the pre-Games work we all put in and the collaborative team environment, the matters we had were dealt with quickly before they became magnified.

I attended the [Commonwealth Games Federation \(CGF\) Anti-Doping Legacy project](#) launched during the Games. The event was hosted by UK Anti-Doping, the current secretariat for this project, with Sport Integrity Australia taking over this role in the lead up to Victoria 2026. The Safeguarding "firsts" introduced at these Games were inspiring and meeting with OC and CGF Heads of Safeguarding about how we can build on these for future Games was another positive initiative to be a part of in Birmingham.



Huge highlights for me were the amazing sporting achievements of the Australian team and engaging with athletes. Other take-aways included recognising the value I was able to give in my role, the networks and rapport we quickly created and seeing the results of the preventative work and relationship building we did in the lead-up. The bottom line is that the health and safety of the Australian team is key to performance and seeing the proactive manner in which HQ staff, team managers and athletes worked together gave me a real sense of pride in the role we've all played. There were challenges along the way, but the learnings from this 11-month experience is something we can all build on.

I am still humbled for being provided the opportunity to contribute at Birmingham 2022, in what was a new role for any Australian team, and grateful for the support and expertise both Sport Integrity Australia and Commonwealth Games Australia colleagues provided to deliver the integrity strategy for these Games.

Justine Crawford

SNAPSHOT OF GLOBAL ISSUES



ANTI-DOPING

ATHLETICS

BOTSWANA 1

Olympic 800m silver medallist Nijel Amos has been provisionally suspended after testing positive for the metabolic modulator GW1516 in an out-of-competition test.

ATHLETICS

KENYA 2

Tabitha Gichia Wambui has been banned from competition for seven years after testing positive for norandrosterone and tampering with the anti-doping process. Wambui unsuccessfully argued that she was injected with the testosterone booster while being treated in hospital.

BOXING

GHANA 3

Shakul Samed was banned from the Commonwealth Games after his sample came back positive for furosemide – a banned masking agent and diuretic. Samed was the first athlete to fail a doping test in Birmingham.

CYCLING

COLOMBIA 4

Two-time Tour de France runner-up Nairo Quintana was disqualified from the 2022 edition for misuse of an opioid banned during races.

ATHLETICS

SWITZERLAND 5

Swiss sprinter Alex Wilson was banned for four years after an anti-doping tribunal judged he intentionally used an anabolic steroid. The case flared at the Tokyo Olympics last July when Court of Arbitration for Sport judges reinstated Wilson's provisional suspension days before he was due to compete in the men's 100m and 200m.

ATHLETICS

USA 6

400m runner Randolph Ross was suspended and ruled out of the World Championships in Oregon for tampering with the anti-doping process due to his "conduct during the course of an investigation into a potential whereabouts violation".



ATHLETICS **NIGERIA** **7**

Commonwealth Games relay gold medallist Nzubechi Grace Nwokocha has tested positive to anabolic agents ostarine and ligandrol. Nwokocha, 21, ran the anchor leg in Birmingham as Nigeria won gold in the 4x100m relay.

ATHLETICS **RUSSIA** **8**

Russian shot putter Irina Tarasova, who reached the 2012 Olympic final, was banned for two years and all her results between July 2012 and July 2016 were

disqualified. Her ban was based on 10-year-old evidence of state-backed doping that had long been hidden in a Moscow laboratory database.

CYCLING **USA** **9**

Jackson "Huntley" Nash received a lifetime ban from USADA for a litany of offences stemming from an investigation spurred by a whistleblower. His results on and subsequent to December 15, 2021, have been disqualified.

**MATCH-FIXING/GAMBLING****TENNIS** **NETHERLANDS** **10**

Dutch tennis coach Max Wenders has been banned from the sport for 12 years for match-fixing. The International Tennis Integrity Agency said Wenders admitted to "multiple match-fixing charges" and to destroying evidence and failing to report a corrupt approach.

SNOOKER **UNITED KINGDOM** **11**

Simon Blackwell has been banned for at least 18 months after approaching another player and offering them a bribe of £200 to lose two frames. This result would have guaranteed Blackwell finishing in the top four, and then earning a spot at Q-school for the professional tour.

HOCKEY **AUSTRALIA** **12**

Bunbury's Towns South Hockey Club coach has been dismissed and team disqualified after admitting to tanking to let an opposing team win in order to play an easier side in the finals.

CRICKET **INDIA** **13**

Indian Police arrested a group of conmen who fooled gamblers in Russia as part of an elaborate hoax, by holding cricket matches on a farm in Gujarat and broadcasting them on YouTube to accept bets. The group hired a field, set up cameras, created fake names and asked local labourers to dress up in team uniforms and play cricket.

FOOTBALL **NETHERLANDS** **14**

Defender Tom Beugelsdijk was banned for three matches for betting on matches from competitions in which his own club played. He did not play in the matches in which he bet and was therefore not guilty of match fixing.

FOOTBALL **UNITED KINGDOM** **15**

Suspicious betting activity around the issuance of a yellow card against Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka is under investigation. The Football Association has handed the case over to National Crime Agency.

BADMINTON **CHINA** **16**

Former badminton world number one Ye Zhaoying has claimed that she was ordered to lose her women's singles semi-final against Chinese compatriot Gong Zhichao at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Ye stated Chinese officials wanted the best chance of securing the gold medal and decided that the latter was most likely to beat Camilla Martin should the Dane reach the final.

FOOTBALL **CZECH REPUBLIC** **17**

Czech police have recommended 21 people be indicted for suspected corruption in a match-fixing scandal that involves former Czech Football Association deputy Roman Berbr. The investigators believe they were involved in fixing matches in the second and third-tier leagues and other crimes.

TENNIS **TUNISIA** **18**

The International Tennis Integrity Agency reported that three Tunisian tennis umpires were banned after being found guilty of 12 charges relating to the umpires manipulating scores inputted into their electronic scoring devices, which did not reflect the actual scores on court.

TENNIS **ITALY** **19**

Lorenzo Chiurazzi, a national-level Italian chair umpire and line judge, has been banned from the sport for seven years and six months after admitting match-fixing charges. In addition to the ban, the official has also been fined \$50,000, with \$33,500 suspended.

SAFEGUARDING**SPORT** **CANADA** **20**

The Canadian Government has created a new Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner to provide athletes with a reporting structure capable of addressing the mounting allegations of harassment, bullying and abuse.

GYMNASTICS **NEW ZEALAND** **21**

In response to "distressing and concerning allegations of abuse", Gymnastics New Zealand has approved a work plan aimed at finding solutions to the 50 recommendations made by last year's Independent Review.

GYMNASTICS **CANADA** **22**

A coach, who had been charged in connection with sexual offences against a seven-year-old girl, faces further charges relating to three additional child victims.

FOOTBALL **USA** **23**

US Soccer has confirmed it has suspended the coaching licence of Brad Evans following an investigation into alleged sexual misconduct by the former University of Toledo women's coach.

CRICKET **AUSTRALIA** **24**

A survivor of Ian Harold King has blasted the notorious sex offender for sexually abusing him as a child and accused major cricketing bodies of allegedly ignoring the former professional player's vile behaviour when he was a coach.

GENERAL SPORT INTEGRITY**OLYMPICS** **JAPAN** **25**

Prosecutors in Japan have arrested a former board member for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Organising Committee on suspicion of bribery. Harajuku Takahashi is alleged to have taken money unlawfully from a clothing company that became an official sponsor of the games.



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