Protecting the integrity of sport

Sport is part of who we are as New Zealanders. And we’re pretty good at it. Our participation rates are among the highest in the world and we produce more than our fair share of winners on the world stage.

We also have a reputation for sportsmanship – we play hard, but fair. We strive to uphold the values of sport, whether we’re Olympic champions or weekend warriors.

This love of sport provides many benefits for individuals, communities and the nation. And because of that, sport is valued.

However there are many things that can undermine the integrity of sport, from match-fixing and corruption, to the behaviour of sideline supporters. Therefore upholding the integrity of our sport system is vital to ensuring sport continues to be valued, and provide value to New Zealanders.

**Sport Integrity Framework**

Sport NZ’s Sport Integrity Framework will support all those involved in sport and active recreation, and ensure we take a consistent approach to issues that can compromise the integrity of sport.

The Framework provides advice and resources on a range of integrity matters, which come from a range of sources, and will be updated when new advice, resources and tools become available. If you have material you would like considered for inclusion please email policy@sportnz.org.nz.

The Framework comprises seven focus areas, in two sections:

1. **Ensuring fair and honest competition and performance.**

   Focus Areas:
   - Corruption
   - Match-fixing
   - Doping

2. **Ensuring positive conduct by all who participate in, and support sport.**

   Focus Areas:
   - Player welfare
   - Member protection
   - Child protection
   - Supporting diversity
Sport Integrity Framework

PURPOSE:
To guide work aimed at safeguarding the integrity of sport and promoting confidence in sport at all levels.

CORE ASPECTS:
- Ensuring fair and honest competition and performance.
- Ensuring positive conduct by all who participate in and support sport.

FOCUS AREAS:
- Corruption
- Match fixing
- Doping
- Player welfare
- Member protection
- Child protection
- Supporting diversity

Single issues
Sport Integrity Framework: Corruption

Corruption has no place in New Zealand society and playing fair off the sports field is just as important as playing fair on it. Corruption in any form has the potential to affect the integrity, growth and development of New Zealand sport.

Summary

From a business and government perspective, New Zealand is regarded as one of the least corrupt countries in the world, but we can’t afford to be complacent. Corruption in sport has many forms: referees and players can take bribes to influence results, club owners can demand kickbacks for player transfers, and companies and governments can rig major events bids for contracts.

To break the ties between sport and corruption a coordinated approach is required. Openness in decision and policy-making is vital. Governments must work closely with the Police, the international gaming industry and anti-fraud organisations, and sport organisations can write anti-corruption measures into their constitutions and codes of conduct. Setting clear regulations and being open in player transfers will also protect the employment market.

Sport NZ role

Sport NZ leads an inter-agency group which includes a number of government agencies and sport organisations with an interest in integrity issues. These include:

- Drug Free Sport NZ (DFSNZ)
- New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC)
- Ministry of Health – Medsafe
- New Zealand Police (NZ Police)
- Organised Financial Crime Agency of New Zealand (OFCANZ)
- New Zealand Customs Service (NZ Customs)
- National Drug Intelligence Bureau (NDIB)
- Serious Fraud Office (SFO)

Sport NZ has a focus on match-fixing, doping and corruption in sport, and is the lead sport policy advisor to the government. It also helps build the capability of its partners in areas including governance, managing conflicts of interest and financial management.

View all resources online at www.sportnz.org.nz/integrity
Sport Integrity Framework: 
Match-fixing

Sport should always be a fair contest. But around the world, sport is increasingly being targeted by criminals seeking to make money through match-fixing and other illegal and unethical gambling activities. This tarnishes the reputation of sport and undermines its value.

Summary

In 2014, Sport NZ led work to amend Section 240 of the Crimes Act to include match-fixing as a form of deception under the Act – the offence of obtaining a benefit or causing a loss by deception.

Sport NZ developed the national policy on sports match-fixing, which provides for a coordinated approach across government agencies, the sport sector and betting industry to prevent and address match-fixing risks. National Sport Organisations (NSOs) can adapt or adopt the policy, along with rules, sanctions and an education programmes to address match-fixing.

Sport NZ role

Sport NZ has ownership of the national match-fixing policy and sets the requirements for NSOs and its own Board and staff. It leads the Sport Integrity Inter-Agency Group, which focuses on match-fixing, doping and corruption in sport, and is the lead sport policy advisor to the government. Sport NZ also provides educational tools to athletes via the Sport NZ website.

View all resources online at www.sportnz.org.nz/integrity
Sport Integrity Framework: Doping

Doping in sport is both unhealthy and contrary to the ethics and spirit of sport. New Zealand fully supports the position of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) against the use of banned substances and methods to gain an unfair advantage.

Summary

Doping in sport is a global issue impacting athletes, coaches, managers, sports organisations and sports fans. Athletes who dope to enhance their performance and gain an advantage over their fellow competitors are cheating.

They devalue the honest efforts of clean athletes; deny others the ability to compete on a level playing field; fail to compete in the true spirit of sport; and undermine the integrity of competitive sport.

Drug Free Sport NZ is the primary agency responsible for ensuring that New Zealand athletes compete in a drug-free environment. The aim is to ensure that our athletes' achievements are a result of hard work, skill and talent.

WADA drives the international anti-doping programme, with UNESCO setting the framework within which it operates. The Minister for Sport and Recreation is a permanent member of WADA’s Foundation Board, and every third year is the Oceania Public Authority representative on WADA’s Executive Committee.

The International Anti-doping Agreement (IADA) is an inter-governmental alliance which also exercises active influence on the development of the WADA Code and Standards.

Sport NZ role

Sport NZ administers the Sports Anti-Doping Act 2006 and provides support to Drug Free Sport NZ. It also requires the organisations it funds to adhere to the anti-doping rules and offers supplements advice to athletes via High Performance Sport NZ. It is also the lead strategic policy agency on anti-doping matters and gives advice and support to the Minister for WADA meetings.

View all resources online at www.sportnz.org.nz/integrity
Sport Integrity Framework: Player welfare

Ensuring the welfare of players both on and off the field, and at all levels of sport, is a critical element in the provision of sport.

Summary

For sport to enrich the lives of New Zealanders, player welfare should be front of mind for all those who deliver sport from grass roots through to high performance. Management, officials, coaches, medical personnel and many others have a role to play in supporting the health, safety and well-being of all those involved both on and off the field.

On the field this means focusing on things like minimising risk and appropriately managing injuries. Off the field this includes providing support and advice around issues that are both sport specific, and some that impact wider society. These might include drugs, prescription medication, relationships, gambling and social media use.

Sport NZ role

Sport NZ provides some support and high-level advice both to its partners and the wider sport system on many areas of player welfare. Sport NZ also supports the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand which provides dispute resolution services for athletes and the wider sector. High Performance Sport NZ (HPSNZ) provides an extensive range of support services to targeted high performance athletes, including medical, physiotherapy, sports psychology and nutrition and supplements advice. It also runs the Athlete Friendly Network which connects athletes with businesses providing quality services, resources and expertise of use in and out of the sport environment. HPSNZ also has a comprehensive Code of Conduct in place for staff working with high performance athletes.

View all resources online at www.sportnz.org.nz/integrity
Sport Integrity Framework: Member protection

Every person involved in sport has the right to be treated with respect and dignity, and to be safe and protected from abuse. Sport providers have a responsibility to ensure that everyone involved in their activities is aware of his or her legal and ethical rights and responsibilities.

Summary

Anyone who delivers sport has a responsibility (or duty of care) to ensure that their activities are safe, fair and inclusive. This is even more important when it comes to children (see Child protection).

They also have legal obligations to ensure health and safety, to prevent and address discrimination and harassment of their members and to protect participants from harm.

Aside from compliance, it’s good practice to promote respectful and positive behaviour both on and off the field to preserve the value of sport.

Note: Member protection, Child protection, Player welfare and Supporting diversity all overlap, but involve their own distinct focus.

Sport NZ role

Sport NZ is an advocate through promoting the value of sport and working with partners to ensure that legal obligations are met. It also makes submissions on relevant legislation on behalf of the sector.

Sport NZ provides on-line health and safety training and information, and supports ‘Good Sports’, an Active Communities project managed by Aktive Auckland, which deals with side-line behaviour. Sport NZ also provides a governance framework for the sector, runs seminars and supplies resources.

View all resources online at www.sportnz.org.nz/integrity
Sport Integrity Framework: Child protection

Every child has the right to participate in a sporting environment that is safe and supportive, where they are encouraged to be the best they can be, can enjoy what they are doing and be free from harm. This will increase the chances of instilling a lifelong love of sport and active recreation.

Summary

Sport NZ subscribes to the child-centred approach which means that the development needs and interests of children are catered for in the planning and provision of sports activities. This requires an awareness of the potential for harm in an activity and the processes put in place to remove or minimise it.

Sport NZ role

Sport NZ is an advocate for improved child protection practices in New Zealand sport and recreation through the provision of its child protection guidelines – Safe Sport for Children. Child protection is also embedded in the Community Coaching Plan.

Safe Sport for Children provides guidance to sport organisations and a Good Practice Principles guide and educational videos have been designed to help organisations become more child-centred.

Sport NZ also supports ‘Good Sports’, an Active Communities project managed by Aktive Auckland which focuses on creating a positive environment for children’s sport.

View all resources online at www.sportnz.org.nz/integrity
Sport Integrity Framework: Supporting diversity

Every Kiwi has the right to participate in sport and recreation within a welcoming and inclusive environment, and to be treated with respect, empathy and positive regard irrespective of age, ability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs or socio-economic status.

Summary

All those who deliver sport should ensure they create an environment which is inclusive and supports diversity - understanding that each individual is unique, and recognising, and responding to, our individual differences and needs.

Sport NZ’s participant-centred approach provides a starting point for encouraging diversity in sport and requires consideration of the social and physical environment that must be created to ensure that the needs of all participants can be met.

Sport NZ role

Sport NZ provides the sector with advice on all aspects of diversity, and tools and resources in areas of particular focus, such as gender diversity on Boards, as well as supporting various diversity initiatives in the sector.

View all resources online at www.sportnz.org.nz/integrity