Police vetting for sports

Background

### While a number of sports in New Zealand currently undertake police vetting of coaches, each sport has to decide for itself if this is something it wants to do.

Police vetting can provide a sport with a judgement by the Police about a person’s suitability to work with children or adults based on the limited information it holds, but it should be seen as part of a wider approach to making sport a safe and enriching experience for everyone involved, including participants, parents, officials, coaches and administrators.

Some questions for sports to consider

When thinking about introducing police vetting for your sport it may be helpful to consider the following questions. This is not an exhaustive list but the answers to these questions may help you decide if police vetting is right for you. It is also recommended you contact other sports which use police vetting to find out what their experience has been (see the *Police vetting sport examples* sheet):

1. Are we clear on the purpose and need for police vetting in our sport?
2. What other policies are in place around safety and integrity in our sport?
3. What are the risks of doing and not doing police vetting?
4. Do we need to police vet everyone or just selected groups?
5. Do we have the administrative resources to manage police vetting?
6. How often should we do police vetting?
7. Does out constitution address or support police vetting?
8. If a police check came back with a ‘result’, do we have a published process in place to deal with this, including who sees the results and who makes a decision?
9. Do we have the capacity to engage legal representation if needed?
10. Are we clear about the limitations of police vetting?

Safe Sport for Children

Sport NZ’s Safe Sport for Children guide includes a reference to police vetting and specifically notes the following points:

* A person must provide his/her written consent before an organisation can request a police vetting check on that person
* Individuals cannot request a police vet on themselves. An individual can access information held about him/her by making a request under the Privacy Act 1993
* Police vetting is not a complete background check and can only make up part of a robust recruiting and screening process.

See:

Sport NZ’s Safe Sport for Children guide:

<http://www.sportnz.org.nz/managing-sport/guides/safe-sport-for-children>

## For more detailed information on police vetting go to:

## <https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/businesses-and-organisations/police-vetting/ask-police-vetting>

<https://www.police.govt.nz/advice/businesses-and-organisations/police-vetting/tips-and-hints>