

POLICY 15

Name of organisation:

Match-fixing Policy

Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

(insert name of organisation) recognises Te Tiriti o Waitangi as Aotearoa New Zealand's founding document.

(insert name of organisation) is committed to upholding the mana of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the principles of Partnership, Protection and Participation.

Values

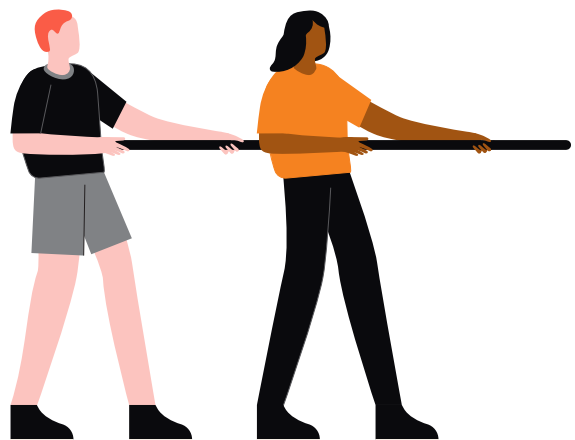
Everyone involved in sport joins with good intentions and we are all expected to do our best to treat each other with respect and comply with our policies and rules.

Children and young people in particular must be cared for, treated with respect and their welfare placed at the centre of everything we do in the sport.

(insert name of organisation) knows everyone involved in the sport is here because of a shared passion for the sport and care for the people involved.

We all want to be fair, impartial, responsible and trustworthy in all our actions for the sport.

We need to protect and uphold the integrity of the sport and those who work and play within it, against the risks that arise from match-fixing. Match-fixing has no place in our sport.



Purpose

Match-fixing is a type of competition manipulation in sport because it involves deliberately changing how sport is played and the outcome of a match, for individual gain. While it has not been a major problem for sport in Aotearoa New Zealand in the past, we all must be vigilant in keeping an eye out for it, so it doesn't become common.

This policy aims to:

- give clear guidance on how to identify match-fixing (including spot-fixing)
- give clear guidance on what to do if anyone identifies match-fixing in the sport
- help keep people in the sport safe from match-fixing
- support a culture of speaking up in our sport
- make sure the approach taken to dealing with match-fixing is fair and consistent, including enabling culturally appropriate responses and processes.

Application

This policy applies to anyone involved in

(insert name of organisation). This includes: volunteers, participants, supporters, club members, employees, service providers, and families/whānau of participants.

What is match-fixing?

Match-fixing is a form of competition manipulation that threatens the integrity of sport. Match-fixing means any improper alteration of a competition that can be gambled upon, such as bets placed on arranged outcomes for money. Match-fixing is a crime.

Match-fixing is:

- where a person tries to improperly influence the overall result, or part of a sports match, game, race, or event for personal benefit
- not for tactical sporting reasons.

When a person tries to improperly influence a specific part of a match, game, race or event, it is called spot-fixing. Spot-fixing is considered part of match-fixing.

There are many ways a person may try to influence part of a sports match, game, race, or event, or the overall result. For example, when done deliberately and for personal gain:

- a touch judge makes calls in favour of one team, even when the call is wrong
- a tennis player double faults at key points in a game
- a cricketer runs slowly between wickets causing a top ranked batsman to be run out
- first stoppage, penalty, yellow card or goal
- number of mistakes, errors or missed shots
- more points or goals for a particular athlete or team
- an athlete becoming injured or leaving the game
- a coach fields a weakened team
- [tailor the examples to match your activity/code].

A person can personally benefit from match-fixing in many ways, not limited to financial gain. For example:

- a promotion within the sport code
- an official could be offered the opportunity to officiate in more prestigious events
- a participant is offered new expensive sports kit
- a participant is offered a scholarship
- [tailor examples to match your code].

Some sport activities may look like match-fixing but are not. Any situation where a participant, team or coach is acting in a certain way to gain a sporting tactical advantage is not match-fixing. For example:

- deliberately committing a fault to be disqualified to ensure a better game pool
- throwing or deliberately losing a game or points to gain an advantage (tanking)
- a coach fields a weaker team to keep the stronger players fresh for a game later in the pool
- [tailor examples to match your activity/code].

These examples may, however, break other rules in the sport.

Inside information

Sometimes our position in the sport, such as being an official for a team, a participant or a referee can give us access to exclusive information about a team or participant that is not public and is of interest to corrupt gambling organisations (e.g. tactics, injuries, etc.). Passing on that information is misuse of inside information and is a form of corruption.

Betting prohibition

Participants, officials and referees should not bet on a competition they are involved with, as they will have access to information that isn't available to the general public. Knowing the information may mean they are in a better position to accurately predict the outcome of the match. It is not match-fixing as the information is not used to influence the outcome of a match, but it breaks the rules about not betting on their own sport or competition.

Risks of match-fixing

People breaking the rules by match-fixing risk severe penalties, including a potential lifetime ban from their sport. They could also face criminal investigation and prison.

Match-fixing and spot-fixing are crimes under the Crimes Act 1961. The NZ Police can take proceedings against the people involved in match-fixing. The maximum penalty is seven years' imprisonment.

In addition

(insert your NSO) and international sport federations have sport specific penalties which they use to penalise match-fixers. Penalties may include lifelong suspensions from the sport, financial penalties and loss of employment.

There may be other wider consequences for a person found guilty of match-fixing. For example, a loss of reputation and the distrust of the sporting and wider community.

There can also be consequences for their organisation. For example, a sponsor may pull out of supporting the

(insert name of organisation) as it does not want its brand associated with match-fixing.

There may be a loss of reputation to the [sporting code] causing people to give up the sport and young people to choose other sports.

Protect yourself against match-fixing

Be smart. Know your sport's rules for match-fixing, and your obligations: [Insert link to relevant website].

Rules can and do change. Make sure you check for any updates to the rules at the beginning of the season. If you are in charge of athletes, particularly younger athletes, make sure they are aware of the rules.

Be safe:

- Do not bet on a sport or competition you are involved in.
- Don't share sensitive information.
- Do not ask someone to bet on a match you are involved in.
- Ensure all actions you take during a match are for the right reasons.
- Never give or take a gift, reward or payment that might be viewed as improper.

Be clean:

- Never fix a match.
- Play fairly, honestly and to the best of your abilities.
- Never pressure another person to spot- or match-fix.
- Never try to make another person spot or match-fix by offering money or other incentives.

Speak up:

If someone approaches you to fix a match, or part of a match, say no and report it immediately to a coach, club member or official. You will be helping yourself and stopping a more vulnerable person being approached next.

Be open:

If you know of match-fixing or suspect match-fixing, report it to the designated person within [NSO], the competition organiser, [relevant person] within

(insert name of organisation) or the NZ Police. If you ever feel threatened or unsafe, we encourage you to go straight to the Police.

Education

If you have any questions about match-fixing, talk to someone at

(insert name of organisation). If they do not know the answers, they will be able to direct you to someone who does.

Sport New Zealand is also here to help. It has online e-Learning courses to support you to make the right decisions.

Sometimes problem gambling can lead us into activities like spot- and match-fixing. If you have a gambling problem or feel you may have there are organisations who can give you confidential help. See [Gambling and Sport Betting Policy - Support services for problem gambling](#).



Level 1, Harbour City Centre
29 Brandon Street
Wellington 6011, New Zealand
PO Box 2251 Wellington 6140
Phone: +64 4 472 8058

sportnz.org.nz

New Zealand Government

October 2020