

Basketball Australia National Integrity Framework – Q & A

Why has Basketball Australia developed a National Integrity Framework?

In 2016, Basketball Australia – together with the National Integrity of Sport Unit (NISU) and the Australian Sports Commission – completed a review of Basketball's integrity framework and related policies.

The review led to the development of new policies aimed at mitigating potential risks as they relate to the integrity of basketball in Australia. These policies have been approved by the BA board and now become operational

The National Integrity Framework is the umbrella term for the suite of policies, educational materials and other resources that protect basketball from corruption. The Framework applies to all competitions and events conducted under the auspices of Basketball Australia or a member state/territory association, including the National Basketball League.

It all seems pretty serious. Have there been lots of issues going on behind the scenes?

No, but we don't want to get complacent.

Basketball Australia acknowledges that the sport of basketball, like many other sports, is not immune from the risks of corruption, match-fixing, doping, illicit drug use and other issues that jeopardise the integrity of the sport.

Basketball Australia therefore seeks to take a proactive approach to mitigate the risks and provide a safe, fair and trustworthy environment for all participants at all levels of the sport.

What's the National Integrity Framework all about?

Ultimately, it's about making sure basketball stays fair and honest, and a source of national pride for all Australians as well as protecting our people and enabling them to be the best they can be.

The National Integrity Framework outlines what you need to know and what you need to do to make sure the behaviour of all Australian basketball participants – players, coaches, referees, administrators and volunteers alike - is fair, honest and good for our game.

The National Integrity Framework includes policies relating to:

- Code of Conduct ([link to relevant Q&A](#)),
- Gambling and Match Fixing ([link to relevant Q&A](#)),
- Illicit Drugs ([link to relevant Q&A](#)),
- Anti-Doping ([link to relevant Q&A](#)),
- Member Protection ([link to relevant Q&A](#)),
- Sport Science and Sport Medicine ([link to relevant Q&A](#)), and,
- Whistleblowing ([link to relevant Q&A](#)).

Each policy outlines conduct that is specifically prohibited under the National Integrity Framework as well as outlining consistent reporting, investigatory and sanctioning procedures.

Why does basketball need such a comprehensive integrity framework?

The National Integrity Framework certainly is comprehensive, and it can seem a bit overwhelming. However, the extensive nature of the framework makes basketball a national leader in sports integrity. All of us as custodians of basketball in Australia should be proud of our efforts to promote integrity in the game.

To help understand the framework, Basketball Australia has developed a number of summary pages ([link](#)) and Q&As ([link](#)) to explain what everyone needs to know to comply with the policies in the framework and make understanding the framework easier for everyone.

I play at a local level with friends and sometimes help out coaching my daughter's team. Who does the National Integrity Framework apply to?

The National Integrity Framework has been designed to protect everyone involved in the sport. All of us who love the game also have an important role to play to protect the game and its participants.

All of us – whether players, parents, coaches, referees or volunteers – are the custodians of the sport of basketball and therefore have an obligation to know and adhere to the National Integrity Framework.

Each policy within the National Integrity Framework specifies to whom its provisions apply and the rights and obligations set out in the Framework are intended to be proportionate to the risks and level of commitment of participants at different levels.

Are junior participants protected by the framework?

The Integrity Framework applies to all competitions and events conducted by Basketball Australia, including junior leagues and competitions. Basketball Australia's education program also incorporates age appropriate education courses for junior participants.

Basketball Australia is committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people who participate in our sport. We support the rights of the child and will act at all times to ensure that a child-safe environment is maintained. Basketball Australia ensures that Working with Children Checks are conducted for all employees and volunteers who work with children, where an assessment is required by law.

In **any and all** instances of inappropriate conduct towards a child, follow Attachment D5 of Basketball Australia's Member Protection Policy, which sets out a 4 step guide for handling allegations of child abuse.

Reporting allegations of child abuse is different in each state and territories. For fact sheets on what to do in your state see www.playbytherules.net.au

How can I learn more about the framework?

Basketball Australia has developed an integrity communication and education strategy to inform participants about the framework. Additional information can be also be found at <http://basketball.net.au/integrity/>

If I see something that might breach the Integrity Framework, what should I do?

Speak up! We all have a duty to speak up when we see something that we think might be a breach of the National Integrity Framework.

There are six ways you can contact the Basketball Australia Reporting Service:

- **Online:** <http://basketball.stoplinereport.com/>
- **Smartphone app:** Search for STOPLine in the iTunes App Store or Google Play
- **Telephone:** 1300 30 45 50 – Australia +61 3 9811 3275 – Overseas (reverse charges)
- **Fax:** Attention: Case Manager C/O The Stopleveline +61 3 9882 4480
- **Email:** - basketball@stopline.com.au
- **Post:** C/O The Stopleveline Locked Bag 8 Hawthorn Vic Australia 3122

When making a report you will need to include as much information as possible about the suspected misconduct as possible. All reports are kept confidential.

Is there an investigation process into reported breaches?

Yes. The Basketball Australia Integrity Unit has the power to conduct investigations in whatever lawful manner it thinks fit into the activities of any Participant or Club who is suspected of having breached the Code of Conduct. An Independent Investigator maybe be appointed to conduct or assist with an investigation if necessary.

If there is an allegation made about me, or I am investigated for breaching the Integrity Framework, what opportunities do I have to defend myself? Is there a hearing process and can I be represented?

Yes, if there is an allegation made against you and you wish to contest the allegation(s), the Integrity Framework outlines that there is to be a hearing (closed to the public) of the allegations conducted by the Basketball Australia Hearing Panel.

The purpose of the hearing is to:

- determine whether you have engaged in prohibited conduct, and,
- if the Hearing Panel considers that the you have engaged in Prohibited Conduct, consider the imposition of any penalty (in the Hearing Panel's discretion).

You are allowed to be represented at the hearing (at your own expense) and you also have the right to address the Hearing Panel to make your case.

Who sits on a Hearing Panel?

The Hearing Panel is comprised of three suitably qualified persons who have no prior involvement in the matter. Basketball Australia maintains a pool of Hearing Panel candidates who may be called upon to hear a matter.

Do I have to cooperate with an investigation?

Yes. It is a condition of your registration and participation in the sport to cooperate with investigations into alleged Prohibited Conduct. Failure to cooperate may be considered during a hearing and lead to more severe sanctions.

What do I have to do to cooperate with an investigation?

You must provide any information reasonably requested during an investigation, including, but not limited to, copies of or access to telephone records, bank statements, internet services records, computer hard drives, electronic devices or other information storage equipment.

You may also be required to attend an interview with the Integrity Unit or an independent investigator.

What sanctions can be issued under the Framework?

A Hearing Panel or Appeal Tribunal may issue any sanction they deem appropriate in the circumstances, including reprimands, suspensions and fines.

I have received a sanction; can I lodge an appeal?

Yes, on certain grounds. You will be issued with a notification of the findings of the Hearing Panel, which will include information about how to lodge an appeal.

How are member protection issues managed?

Different procedures apply to complaints made under the Member Protection Policy and you should refer to the provisions of that policy.

How are anti-doping matters managed?

Different procedures apply to anti-doping matters and you should refer to the provisions of that policy.

For more information on Basketball Australia's Integrity Framework:

<http://basketball.net.au/integrity/>

This publication is intended to provide a summary of some of the key messages of the National Framework for Ethical Behaviour and Integrity in Basketball only and must not be relied on in place of the National Framework for Ethical Behaviour and Integrity in Basketball. The National Framework for Ethical Behaviour and Integrity in Basketball must be read in full. BA is not liable to users of this publication for any loss or damage however caused resulting from the use of this publication. BA reserves all of its rights.