

Victorian Sport Integrity Capability Analysis

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Overview

Project Aim: To assess Victorian sport sector capability to ensure sport integrity

Focus:

- Sub-elite and community sport
- Gambling, match-fixing, performance enhancing drugs, illicit drug use

Key components:

- Literature review
- Survey (administrators)
- Focus groups (athletes, >18 yrs of age)
- Assessment tools
- Recommendations to increase sport integrity readiness

Key Findings

- Lack of awareness depth (among administrators and athletes) related to integrity issues, reporting mechanisms and prevention strategies.
- Athlete awareness that gambling, match-fixing, doping may be problematic in their sport generally, but less so or not at all at their level of participation.
- Illicit drug use may be of greater concern than performance enhancing substance use.
- Supplements and medications used often for injury recovery, but with little awareness or regard for their appropriate use.

Key Conclusions

- Lack of awareness depth related to integrity issues, reporting mechanisms and prevention strategies might exacerbate the risks to sport integrity.
- Awareness of illicit drug use issues, but not those related to gambling, match-fixing and doping at the local level, can increase vulnerability.
- The use of supplements and medications for injury recovery (rather than performance enhancement) makes training regimes and injury management a potential risk factor.
- Frequent and potentially inappropriate supplements and/or medications use for injuries can increase health and other integrity risks to the athlete and the sport.

Key Recommendations

1. Education

- Development and implementation (in conjunction with respective NSOs, SSAs, integrity officers, schools, Victoria Police and other agencies) of administration and club-level sport integrity readiness training programs.
- Education programs to be informed in part by athlete welfare and harm minimisation approaches.
- Development and implementation of club-level sport integrity leadership and organisation/culture building programs.

Key Recommendations

2. Monitoring and Accountability

- **Assessment Tool** - for use by SRV and/or SSAs to identify 'at-risk' clubs, based upon a register of vulnerability markers such as: irregular competition results, injuries and training loads, behaviour complaints.
- **Self-Assessment Tool** – for use by local clubs to identify and manage integrity matters related to policy, code of conduct, training/injury management procedures, club culture.

Key Recommendations

3. Communications

- Development of a clear organisation chart and structured communication network to link relevant contact persons at NSOs, SRV, SSAs and community-based clubs. This will facilitate information transfer, incident reporting and the monitoring of the success of information/education programs.
- SRV work with SSAs and local clubs to develop clearer points of contact and navigation procedures for those (e.g., athletes, coaches, parents) seeking more information or registering complaints about integrity matters at the local level.

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