



**National Policy on
Match Fixing
May 2013**

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DISCLAIMER

The preparation of this document is in no way a commitment from Touch Football Australia to provide funds or make any other contribution now or in the future.

Touch Football Australia policies and procedures are living documents which reflect progress in administrative requirements and industry standards. As such these documents to maintain currency, policy and procedures are periodically reviewed and updated. It is important the reader ensure they are reading and using the most up to date version. To confirm the version, please contact Touch Football Australia at www.austouch.com.au.

Touch Football Australia also welcomes suggestions or improvements to our policies and procedures, especially if a reader identifies any inaccuracies or ambiguities.

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Introduction

Touch Football Australia (TFA) recognises that betting is a legitimate pursuit, however illegal or fraudulent betting is not. Fraudulent betting on sport and the associated Match-fixing is an emerging and critical issue globally, for sport, the betting industry and governments alike.

TFA and its Member Organisations have a major obligation to address the threat of Match-fixing and the corruption that flows from that.

TFA and its Member Organisations have a zero tolerance for illegal gambling and Match-fixing.

TFA will engage the necessary technical expertise to administer, monitor and enforce this Policy.

The purpose of the National Policy on Match-fixing is to:

- i. protect and maintain the integrity of the Sport
- ii. protect against any efforts to impact improperly the result of any match or event
- iii. establish a uniform rule and consistent scheme of enforcement and penalties, and
- iv. adhere to the National Policy on Match-fixing in Sport as agreed by Australian Governments on 10 June 2011.

The conduct prohibited under this Policy may also be a criminal offence and/or a breach of other applicable laws or regulations. This Policy is intended to supplement such laws and regulations. It is not intended, and should not be interpreted, construed or applied, to prejudice or undermine in any way the application of such laws and regulations. Relevant Persons must comply with all applicable laws and regulations at all times.

TFA recognise that the opportunity to place bets with formal agencies is not currently accessible for Touch Football matches, but as identified in 1.e above TFA is committed to protecting the integrity of the sport through the implementation of this policy.

Application

2.1 Application of Policy

This Policy is made by the TFA Board of Management (*the Board*) and is binding on all Relevant Persons. It may be amended from time to time by the Board.

The Board may, in its sole discretion, delegate any or all of its powers under this Policy, including but not limited to the power to adopt, apply, monitor and enforce this Policy.

By virtue of their ongoing membership, employment or other contractual relationship with TFA, Relevant Persons are automatically bound by this Policy and required to comply with all of its provisions.

2.2 Relevant Persons

This Policy applies to any Relevant Person as defined from time to time by the Board. For clarity this includes, but is not limited to:

- i. National (Open) Team Athletes
- ii. National (Open) Team Coaches
- iii. National Referees (National Referee Squad) and Officials
- iv. Persons who hold governance positions with TFA or its Member Organisations
- v. National (Open) Team and Event Support Staff.

2.3 Education

All Relevant Persons must complete appropriate education and training programs as directed by the TFA from time to time.

All Relevant Persons as at the commencement of this Policy must undertake the education program located at www.regional.gov.au/sport/national_integrity/index.aspx.

All persons who become Relevant Persons after the commencement of this Policy must undertake the education program as part of their induction:

- i. prior to competing in any International Event, or
- ii. within two months of commencing employment (whether paid or voluntary).

2.4 Code of conduct

In addition to this Policy, all Relevant Persons are bound by TFA's anti-match fixing code of conduct (see [Annexure D](#)), as amended from time to time, which is underpinned by the following principles:

- Be smart: know the rules
- Be safe: never bet on your sport
- Be careful: never share sensitive information
- Be clean: never fix an event
- Be open: tell someone if you are approached.

Prohibited Conduct

A Relevant Person to whom this Policy applies must not directly or indirectly, alone or in conjunction with another or others breach this Policy or TFA's Anti Match-fixing [code of conduct](#) by:

- i. betting, gambling or entering into any other form of financial speculation on any International Event whilst representing Australia or
- ii. participating (whether by act or omission) in Match-fixing within an International Event by:
 - A. Deliberately underperforming or 'tanking' as part of an arrangement relating to betting on the outcome of any contingency within a International Event
 - B. Deliberately fixing, or exerting any undue influence on, any occurrence within any Competition or Event as part of an arrangement relating to betting on the outcome of any contingency within a International Event
 - C. Inducing or encouraging any Relevant Person to deliberately underperform as part of an arrangement relating to betting on the outcome of any International Event
 - D. Providing Inside Information that is considered to be information not publicly known such as Team or its members configuration (including, without limitation, the Team's actual or likely composition, the form of individual athlete or tactics) other than in connection with bona fide media interviews and commitment.
 - E. Ensuring that a particular incident, that is the subject of a bet, occurs.
 - F. Providing or receiving any gift, payment or benefit that might reasonably be expected to bring the Relevant Person or the Sport into disrepute.
 - G. Engaging in conduct that relates directly or indirectly to any of the conduct described in clauses 3 a. ii. A. to F. above and is prejudicial to the interests of TFA or which bring a Relevant Person or the Sport into disrepute.

Any attempt or any agreement to act in a manner that would culminate in Prohibited Conduct shall be treated as if the relevant Prohibited Conduct had occurred, whether or not the Prohibited Conduct actually occurred as a result of the attempt or agreement to act.

If a Relevant Person knowingly assists or is a party to 'covering up' Prohibited Conduct, that Relevant Person will be treated as having engaged in the Prohibited Conduct personally.

Nothing in this section 3 prevents the Board from enforcing any other Rules and Regulations or referring any Prohibited Conduct to a relevant law enforcement agency.

Reporting process

A Relevant Person to whom this policy applies must promptly notify the Chief Executive Officer or delegate if he or she:

- i. is interviewed as a suspect, charged, or arrested by police in respect of conduct that would amount to an allegation of Prohibited Conduct under this Policy
- ii. is approached by another person to engage in conduct that is Prohibited Conduct
- iii. knows or reasonably suspects that another person has engaged in conduct, or been approached to engage in conduct that is Prohibited Conduct
- iv. has received, or is aware or reasonably suspects that another person has received, actual or implied threats of any nature in relation to past or proposed conduct that is Prohibited Conduct.

Notification by a Relevant Person under this section 4 can be made verbally or in writing in the discretion of the Relevant Person and may be made confidentially if there is a genuine concern of reprisal. However, the Chief Executive Officer (or the Chair of the Board as the case may be) must record the fact of the reporting of Prohibited Conduct and particulars of the alleged Prohibited Conduct in writing within 48 hours of the report from the Relevant Person for presentation to the Board.

Any report by a Relevant Person under this section 4 will be dealt with confidentially by TFA unless disclosure is otherwise required or permitted under this Policy, by law, or if the allegation of the Prohibited Conduct is already in the public domain.

A Relevant Person has a continuing obligation to report any new knowledge or suspicion regarding any conduct that may amount to Prohibited Conduct under this Policy, even if the Relevant Person's prior knowledge or suspicion has already been reported.

Investigations

5.1 Allegations of Prohibited Conduct

If the Chief Executive Officer receives a report or information that a Relevant Person has allegedly breached this Policy including by engaging in actual or suspected Prohibited Conduct, the Board must, as soon as reasonably practicable refer that report or information and any documentary or other evidence that is available to it in relation to the alleged Prohibited Conduct by the Alleged Offender to the Disciplinary Hearing Panel.

If the Board or Chief Executive Officer has referred to the Disciplinary Hearing Panel a report or information that an Alleged Offender has allegedly breached this Policy including by engaging in actual or suspected Prohibited Conduct, the Board may, in its discretion and pending determination by the Disciplinary Hearing Panel suspend the Alleged Offender from any Event or activities sanctioned by the TFA or a Member Organisation.

Nothing in this section 5 prevents the Board or Chief Executive Officer from enforcing any other Rules and Regulations or referring any Prohibited Conduct to a relevant law enforcement agency.

5.2 Confidentiality and reporting

To maintain the confidentiality of the process, no parties will publically announce, comment on or confirm any of its investigative or subsequent hearings or appeals activities. Notwithstanding this provision, however, a general description of a process that may be instigated under this policy is permissible.

TFA must not disclose any specific facts of an allegation of Prohibited Conduct or breach of this Policy.

The identity of a Relevant Person against whom a finding of Prohibited Conduct is made may only be publicly disclosed after the Disciplinary Hearing Panel has notified the Relevant Person, TFA and any other interested party of its decision. Such disclosure will be by way of an official release by TFA.

Where any public announcement may be considered detrimental to the wellbeing of a Relevant Person, the Board will determine the most appropriate course of action in its sole discretion based on the circumstances of the Relevant Person.

All parties must maintain all information received in the course of any report, notice, hearing or appeal (other than a notice of decision by the Disciplinary Hearing Panel or an appeal tribunal) in relation to an allegation of conduct that is Prohibited Conduct as strictly confidential.

Clauses 5.2 a. to e. do not apply if the disclosure is required by law or TFA determines to refer information to a law enforcement agency.

5.3 Criminal offences

Any alleged Prohibited Conduct by an Alleged Offender which is considered by the Board or Chief Executive Officer as a prima facie unlawful offence will be reported to the police force in the jurisdiction the offence is alleged to have occurred and/or the Australian Federal Police.

5.4 Privilege

Notwithstanding anything else in this Policy, a Relevant Person who is interviewed under suspicion, charged or arrested by a law enforcement agency in respect of a criminal offence that is, or may be considered to be conduct that is Prohibited Conduct under this Policy shall not be required to produce any information, give any evidence or make any statement to the Board if they establish that to do so would breach any privilege against self-incrimination, or legal professional privilege.

Clause 5.4 a. does not limit the Board from enforcing any other Rules and Regulations.

Disciplinary process

6.1 TFA Disciplinary Regulations Manual

The TFA [Disciplinary Regulations Manual](#) outlines for Touch Football the foundation of how unacceptable conduct is managed within the sport. Any breach of the *National Policy on Match Fixing* will be handled accordingly through the Regulations.

The identified **Section 3. Authority of a Disciplinary Tribunal, clause b**, outlines the Jurisdiction for investigating or determining charges;

(b) It is an offence for any person to:

(i) breach, fail, refuse or neglect to comply with a provision of:

- (A) the Constitution (as amended from time to time);*
- (B) the Regulations (as amended from time to time);*
- (C) the TFA Code of Conduct (as amended from time to time)*

- (D) *the play rules set out in TFA Playing Rules and Referee Signals (as amended from time to time); or*
 - (E) *any other resolution or determination of the Board or duly authorised commission or committee;*
- (ii) *act in a manner unbecoming of a Member or prejudicial to the Objects or the interests of TFA and/or Touch Football; or*
- (iii) *prejudice TFA of Touch Football or bring TFA or Touch Football into disrepute.*

Sanctions

7.1 Penalties

If a Relevant Person admits they engaged in Prohibited Conduct or there is a finding that a Relevant Person has engaged in conduct that is Prohibited Conduct under this Policy or the TFA Code of Conduct, the Board, the Disciplinary Hearing Panel or the Appeal Tribunal, as the case may be, may order that the Relevant Person:

- i. be fined
- ii. be suspended from participating in any Competition or Event connected with TFA
- iii. be banned from participating in any Competition or Event connected with TFA
- iv. be reprimanded for their involvement in the Prohibited Conduct
- v. lose accreditation to continue their involvement in the Sport
- vi. be ineligible, for life, from participating in any Competition or Event connected with TFA or from any other involvement in the Sport
- vii. be counselled and/or required to complete a course of education related to responsible gambling and harm minimisation, or
- viii. subject to the terms and conditions of any contract between TFA and the Relevant Person, have that contract terminated.

Notwithstanding the provisions of [clause 7.1](#), the Board, the Disciplinary Hearing Panel or the Appeal Tribunal(s) may impose any other such penalty as they consider appropriate in their discretion. Please note there are two levels of Appeal Tribunal, as outlined in the [TFA Disciplinary Regulations Manual](#).

In addition to the penalties set out above, the Board, the Disciplinary Hearing Panel or the Appeal Tribunal(s) may impose any combination of these penalties in their absolute discretion taking account of the gravity of the Prohibited Conduct.

Further, the Board, the Disciplinary Hearing Panel or the Appeal Tribunal(s) may, depending on the circumstances of the Prohibited Conduct, suspend the imposition of a penalty in their absolute discretion.

All fines received pursuant to this Policy must be remitted to TFA for use by TFA for the development of integrity programs or as otherwise deemed appropriate.

Information sharing

8.1 Monitoring by Betting Operators

If/when required the following items will apply:

Relevant Persons to whom this Policy applies must disclose information to TFA of all their business interests, and connections with Betting Operators.

TFA will work with Betting Operators to help ensure the ongoing integrity of the Competitions and Events played under the auspices of TFA and Authorised Providers. Betting Operators

will monitor and conduct regular audits of its databases and records to monitor the incidents of suspicious betting transactions (including single or multiple betting transactions or market fluctuations) that may indicate or tend to indicate that Relevant Persons have engaged in conduct that is Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.

In order to enable the Betting Operator to conduct such audits, TFA may, from time to time and subject to any terms and conditions imposed by TFA (including in relation to confidentiality and privacy), provide to Betting Operators details of Relevant Persons who are precluded by virtue of this Policy from engaging in Prohibited Conduct.

Betting Operators must provide the Board with regular written reports on incidents of suspicious betting transactions (including single or multiple betting transactions or market fluctuations) that may indicate or tend to indicate that Relevant Persons have engaged in conduct that is Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.

All requests for information or provision of information by TFA or a Betting Operator shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be divulged to any third party or otherwise made use of except where required by law or where information is already in the public domain other than as a result of a breach of this Policy.

8.2 Sponsorship

TFA acknowledges that betting is a legal activity, and recognises that Betting Operators may wish to enter Commercial Partnerships to promote their business.

TFA may enter Commercial Partnerships with Betting Operators from time to time, subject to any applicable legislative requirements.

A Member Organisation or any Team may enter into a Commercial Partnership with a Betting Operator with the written consent of TFA. Such consent may be withheld at the discretion of TFA and specifically where the proposed Commercial Partnership:

- i. conflicts with an existing Commercial Partnership held between TFA and a Betting Operator(s), and/or
- ii. is with a Betting Operator with whom TFA has not entered into an integrity agreement as required under the National Policy on Match-fixing in Sport and recognised by the applicable state gambling regulator.

Subject to clause 8.2 c. above, a Relevant Person shall not be permitted to:

- i. enter into any form of Commercial Partnership with a Betting Operator, or
- ii. promote a Betting Operator, or
- iii. have any form of commercial relationship with a Betting Operator.

Interpretations and definitions

9.1 Interpretation

Headings used in this Policy are for convenience only and shall not be deemed part of the substance of this Policy or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.

Words in the singular include the plural and vice versa.

Reference to 'including' and similar words are not words of limitation.
Words importing a gender include any other gender.

A reference to a clause is a reference to a clause or subclause of this Policy.

Where a word or phrase is given a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or phrase have corresponding meanings.

In the event any provision of this Policy is determined invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall not be affected. This Policy shall not fail because any part of this Policy is held invalid.

Except as otherwise stated herein, failure to exercise or enforce any right conferred by this Policy shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any such right nor operate so as to bar the exercise or enforcement thereof or of any other right on any other occasion.

9.2 Definitions

In this Policy unless the context requires otherwise these words mean:

Alleged Offender means a person accused of engaging in Prohibited Conduct under this Policy, prior to a determination by the Disciplinary Hearing Panel.

Athlete means any person identified within TFA's national athlete framework ([Annexure A](#)) as amended and updated from time to time.

Authorised Providers means TFA's Member Organisations, Affiliates, or other organisations from time to time that conduct Events (for example the Australian Commonwealth Games Association or a private event management company operating an Event on behalf of TFA).

Betting Operator means any company or other undertaking that promotes, brokers, arranges or conducts any form of Betting activity in relation to TFA

Coaches means any person described in TFA's national coach framework ([Annexure B](#)) as amended and updated from time to time.

International Event means a TFA sanctioned International Test Match.

Disciplinary Hearing Panel means the Panel appointed by the Board to hear and determine allegations of Prohibited Conduct.

Inside Information means any information relating to any Competition or Event that a Relevant Person possesses by virtue of his or position within TFA. Such information includes, but is not limited to, factual information regarding the competitors in the Competition or Event, tactical considerations or any other aspect of the Competition or Event but does not include such information that is already published or a matter of public record, readily acquired by an interested member of the public, or disclosed according to the rules and regulations governing the relevant Competition or Event.

Member Organisations means those entities recognised by TFA's constitution as its member organisations.

National Policy on Match-fixing in Sport means the Policy endorsed, on 10 June 2011, by all Australian sports ministers on behalf of their governments, with the aim of protecting the integrity of Australian sport.

Official means any person identified within TFA's national officials framework ([Annexure C](#)) as amended and updated from time to time.

The Sport means Touch Football Australia Incorporated

Touch Football means the Sport and game of Touch Football as determined by the Touch Football Australia and the Federation of International Touch (FIT) with such variations as may be recognised from time to time.

Policy means TFA's National Policy on Match-fixing as amended from time to time.

Prohibited Conduct means conduct in breach of [clause 3](#) of this Policy.

Relevant Person means any of the persons identified in [clause 2.2](#), or any other person involved in the organisation administration or promotion of Touch Football whose involvement in Gambling would bring TFA or the Touch Football into disrepute.

Team means a collection of Athletes and includes a national representative team, National Institute Network Teams, including the Australian Institute of Sport and State/Territory Institutes/Academies' of Sport or Member Organisation team that competes in Competitions or Events.

Annexure A—athlete framework

National Athletes include the following:

- the National Training Squad (Men's Women's and Mixed Open Squads approximately 75 athletes)

Annexure B—coaches framework

National Coaches include the following:

- the National Training Squad Head Coaches
- the National Training Squad Assistant Coaches

Annexure C—officials framework

National Referees and Officials include the following:

- the National Referee Squad (12 Members)
- National Referee Coach and assistant coaches
- Program Officials – such as High Performance Director, Referee Director and any Open Team and Tour Managers
- Touch Football Australia employed Staff.

Annexure D—code of conduct

Anti-Match-Fixing Code of Conduct

Preamble

TFA recognises that betting is a legitimate pursuit, however illegal or fraudulent betting is not. Fraudulent betting on sport and the associated Match-fixing is an emerging and critical issue globally, for sport, the betting industry and governments alike.

Accordingly, TFA and its Member Organisations have a major obligation to address the threat of Match-fixing and the corruption that flows from that.

TFA and its Member Organisations have a zero tolerance for illegal gambling and Match-fixing.

TFA has developed a National Policy on Match-fixing to:

- protect and maintain the integrity of the Sport
- protect against any efforts to impact improperly the result of any match
- establish a uniform rule and consistent scheme of enforcement and penalties
- adhere to the [National Policy on Match-fixing in Sport](#) as agreed by Australian Governments on 10 June 2011.

A copy of the National Policy can be obtained from TFA upon request, and is available on the TFA website www.austouch.com.au in the policies section.

TFA will engage necessary technical expertise to administer, monitor and enforce this Policy.

Application

The National Policy, as amended from time to time, includes a defined list of Relevant Persons to whom this code of conduct applies.

Code of conduct - rules of behaviour

This code of conduct sets out the guiding principles for all Relevant Persons on the issues surrounding the integrity of sport and betting.

Guiding principles

1. Be smart: know the rules
2. Be safe: never bet on your sport
3. Be careful: never share sensitive information
4. Be clean: never fix an event
5. Be open: tell someone if you are approached

Be smart: know the rules

Find out TFAs betting integrity rules of the Sport (set out in TFAs National Policy) prior to each season, so that you are aware of TFA's most recent position regarding betting.

If you break the rules, you will be caught and risk severe punishments including a potential lifetime ban from your sport and even being subject to a criminal investigation and prosecution.

Be safe: never bet on your sport

Never bet on yourself, your opponent or your sport. If you, or anyone in your entourage (coach, friend, family members etc), bet on yourself, your opponent or your sport you risk being severely sanctioned. It is best to play safe and never bet on any events within your sport including:

- never giving or receiving any gift, payment or other benefit in circumstances that might reasonably be expected to bring you or your sport into disrepute,
- never ensuring the occurrence of a particular incident, which is the subject of a bet and for which you expect to receive or have received any reward,
- never instructing, encouraging or facilitating any other party to bet on sports you are participating in, and
- never betting or gambling on your own matches or any competitions in your sport; including betting on yourself or your team to win, lose or draw as well as any of the different spot bets (such as first goal scorer, most valuable player, etcetera).

Be careful: never share sensitive information

As a Relevant Person you will have access to information that is not available to the general public, such as knowing that team mate is injured or that the coach is putting out a weakened side. This is considered sensitive, privileged or inside information. This information could be sought by people who would then use that knowledge to secure an unfair advantage to make a financial gain.

There is nothing wrong with you having sensitive information; it is what you do with it that matters. Most Relevant Persons know that they should not discuss important information with anyone outside of their club, team or coaching staff (with or without reward) where the Relevant Person might reasonably be expected to know that its disclosure could be used in relation to betting.

Be clean: never fix an event

Play fairly, honestly and never fix an event or part of an event. Whatever the reason, do not make any attempt to adversely influence the natural course of an event or competition, or part of an event or competition. Sporting contests must always be an honest test of skill and ability and the results must remain uncertain. Fixing an event or competition, or part of an event or competition goes against the rules and ethics of sport and when caught, you may receive a fine, suspension, lifetime ban from your sport, and/or even a criminal prosecution.

Do not put yourself at risk by following these simple principles:

- Always perform to the best of your abilities.
- Never accept to fix a match. Say no immediately. Do not let yourself be manipulated—unscrupulous individuals might try to develop a relationship with you built on favours or fears that they will then try to exploit for their benefit in possibly fixing an event. This can include the offer of gifts, money and support.
- Seek treatment for addictions and avoid running up debts as this may be a trigger for unscrupulous individuals to target you to fix competitions. Get help before things get out of control.

Be open: tell someone if you are approached

If you hear something suspicious or if anyone approaches you to ask about fixing any part of a match then you must tell someone at TFA (this person is stipulated in the National Policy) straight away. If someone offers you money or favours for sensitive information then you should also inform the person specified above. Any threats or suspicions of corrupt behaviour should always be reported. The police and national laws are there to protect you. TFA has developed the National Policy and the procedures contained in it to help.