

## Football Australia Sports Betting and Match Manipulation Guidelines

### 1. BACKGROUND

---

This document sets out the guiding principles and provides general advice to all football participants in Australia on the issues surrounding the integrity of football and betting.

These guidelines are to be read with the Football Australia National Code of Conduct and Ethics and are designed to underpin Football Australia's education programme for football participants (including both players and officials).

These guidelines will be reviewed regularly by FA to ensure they maintain their relevance.

### 2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

---

#### 2.1 Know the rules

Before the start of each season, Football Australia recommends that you familiarise yourself with the rules and regulations in respect of betting on football.

The National Code of Conduct and Ethics can be found here:

<https://www.footballaustralia.com.au/governance/statutes-and-regulations>.

The FIFA Code of Ethics can be found here: <https://www.fifa.com/legal/documents>.

#### 2.2 Do Not Bet On Football

Football participants are prohibited from betting on football. The message Football Australia therefore delivers to its participants is clear: if you wish to engage in sports betting, pick another sport.

You must never bet on any match you or your team is involved in as it would trigger a conflict of interest that seriously compromises the integrity of football. If you bet on yourself or your opponent you risk having your image and reputation tarnished, being banned from all football related activities (possibly for life) and potentially becoming the subject of a criminal investigation and/or prosecution.

#### 2.3 Be careful about handling sensitive information

As a football participant, you will have access to information that is not yet available to the general public, including information about player injuries or the team and starting line-up. Football Australia considers this to be sensitive or inside information where it is not publicly known. This information is likely to be useful for people betting on football who want to secure an unfair advantage.

You may also know and/or be friends with many other people involved in football in Australia and overseas which may mean that you or they are exposed to confidential or sensitive information about football matches or competitions which is not known by the wider public.

Use of this information for the purpose of betting, or providing it to another person for a benefit, is strictly prohibited under Football Australia's National Code of Conduct and Ethics. It may also constitute a crime in certain jurisdictions. You should always act with caution in dealing with such confidential or sensitive information.

It is important to note that there is nothing wrong with having access to sensitive information; it is what you do with it that matters. Most athletes know that they should not discuss team tactics with anyone outside of the team. The same is true of sensitive information.

The following guidance is intended to protect football participants from potential problems.

- You should never swap sensitive information about you, your team or football for reward, gifts or favours.
- It looks suspicious if you repeatedly pass on information to a person, even if there is no obvious reward.
- You should exercise caution in disclosing sensitive information. Even if it is not intended, the recipient could use that information to gain an advantage in a betting market, which could land you in trouble.

#### **2.4 Match Manipulation (or "Fixing")**

Manipulating or fixing a match goes against the rules of football and may be a crime. It is a serious threat to the integrity of football. Match manipulation or fixing may come in a variety of forms in football, including:

- fixing the result (such as deliberately losing a match);
- manipulating the number of goals scored or other aspects of the match (such as cards, corners, throw ins etc);
- a player's deliberate under-performance;
- a match official's deliberate misapplication of the Laws of the Game; and
- interference with the play or playing surface.

Fixing a match (or aspects of a match or competition) could result in serious consequences including a lifetime ban from all football related activities and possibly criminal sanctions.

Whatever the reason, do not seek to manipulate or fix any aspect of a match. Do not put yourself in a situation which would bring you, or even force you, to adversely influence the natural course of a match.

Football Australia recommends that you do not put yourself at risk by:

- always performing to the best of your abilities;
- not letting yourself be manipulated - certain individuals might try to develop a relationship with you built on favours or fears, or targeting weaknesses (such as financial strain), that they will then try to exploit for their benefit in possibly manipulating a match or matches. This can include the offer of gifts, loans and other forms of support.

- staying clean – do not breach other rules such as the prohibition on betting on football.
- if you're unsure, raising any concerns about anyone making offers to you with someone, such as your coach, a senior player or directly with Football Australia.
- if approached, remember the three "Rs":
  - RECOGNISE – look for the signs of an approach, such as unsolicited offers of gifts, support, friendship or attempts at exploitation;
  - RESIST – refuse any such offers or engagement with the person; and
  - REPORT – immediately report the matter to Football Australia via our confidential online reporting platform:  
<http://www.footballaustralia.com.au/report>.

## **2.5 Educate yourself further about the risks**

Football Australia has required education programmes for certain levels of football. However, we recommend that every football participant in Australia complete Sport Integrity Australia's online eLearning programme "Introduction to Match Fixing" available at [elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/](http://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/).

## **3. GENERAL ADVICE**

---

### **3.1 Family and friends**

Your family and friends' betting behaviours or relations with certain individuals could create problems for you. For example, if someone you know is betting on you or your club to win or lose this could be traced back to you and will raise suspicions.

### **3.2 Detection**

Betting operators and Football Australia's integrity partners use sophisticated security measures to enable bets to be traced and reported to Football Australia or relevant authorities. Betting operators can also record and trace your bets for fraud prevention purposes.

### **3.3 Responsible betting**

Underage betting is illegal. If you are under 18 you must not access a sports betting website or app.

Be aware that gambling and/or betting could be harmful if not controlled and kept in moderation.

If you need support or advice then ask for help. Betting sites will also have details of a confidential helpline number or you can visit [www.gamblinghelponline.org.au/](http://www.gamblinghelponline.org.au/)

### **3.4 If in doubt – tell someone**

If you have reason to suspect someone is acting in an inappropriate manner, then trust your instinct and tell someone – either your club, coach, team manager, Member

---

Federation or Football Australia. It is also important to keep a record of these communications. Any threats should always be reported.

If you have any queries on sports betting issues do not hesitate to contact Football Australia's Integrity Officer at [Integrity@footballaustralia.com.au](mailto:Integrity@footballaustralia.com.au).