SPORT NEW ZEALAND
IHI AOTEAROA

Sport Integrity Commission
Te Kahu Raunui

Memorandum of Understanding

Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa

and

Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui

Dated 13 May 2026

Version Control

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Dec 2025	Draft revision to account for transfer of strategic policy function, including that related to Sport Integrity Commission, to MCH in October 2025
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Memorandum of Understanding between Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa and the Integrity Sport and Recreation Commission

Purpose

1. The Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to clarify the working relationship between Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa including its subsidiary High Performance Sport New Zealand (Sport NZ) and the Integrity Sport and Recreation Commission (the Commission) and their respective roles and responsibilities to each other.

Background

2. Sport NZ is a Crown agent, and together with its wholly owned subsidiary, High Performance Sport New Zealand (HPSNZ), has a responsibility to promote, encourage and support physical recreation and sport as set out in the Sport and Recreation New Zealand Act 2002.
3. Sport NZ's responsibilities under the Sport and Recreation New Zealand Act 2002 include:
    a. to facilitate the resolution of disputes between people or organisations involved in physical recreation and sport other than disputes to which the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act 2023 apply (see paragraph 46 below)[1].
    b. provides the administrative arrangements for the Sports Tribunal, although the Sports Tribunal is a completely independent tribunal[2].

4. Sport NZ will be responsible for procuring HPSNZ's compliance with this MoU as applicable. In this MoU, "Sport NZ" should therefore be read as including HPSNZ in the MoU unless the context requires otherwise.

5. The Commission is an independent Crown entity established under the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act 2023. It has the statutory objectives of:
    - preventing and addressing threats to integrity in sport and organised physical recreation; and
    - promoting participants' trust and confidence in integrity within the sport and physical recreation sector.

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[1] See section 8 of the Sport and Recreation New Zealand Act 2002 as amended by section 61 of the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act 2023

[2] The Sports Tribunal has the functions set out in section 38 of the Sports Tribunal Act 2006. These functions now include determining disputes arising from the application of an integrity code; hearing an appeal against a decision of a disciplinary panel under subpart 4 of Part 4 of the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act 2023; and hearing an appeal against a decision of a disciplinary body established by an organisation that has adopted an integrity code

6. The Commission's functions include:
    - promoting, advising, and leading on integrity in sport and recreation and to coordinate with international bodies;
    - developing and issuing integrity codes;
    - providing mechanisms for complaints and dispute resolution in relation to integrity, conducting investigations, and providing a disciplinary process in certain cases;
    - issuing the Sports Anti-Doping Rules (SADR) and administering the implementation of the SADR and World Anti-Doping Code in New Zealand[33];
    - general functions, including advising the Minister from time to time on any matters related to integrity in sport and physical recreation.
7. Both organisations are monitored by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage Manatū Taonga (MCH) and the relevant appropriations for each organisation are administered by MCH under Vote Sport and Recreation. MCH are responsible for the strategic policy function related to Vote Sport and Recreation, including integrity related policy advice.
8. While this MoU sets out a commitment from the parties to act collaboratively, this does not compromise the legislative requirement for the Commission to act independently in performing its functions and duties and in exercising its powers[4].

Areas of common interest

9. As separate Crown entities each party is ultimately responsible for the day-to-day exercise of its independent statutory functions. However, Sport NZ and the Commission have significant areas of common interest or overlap where collaboration will be of mutual benefit to both parties and the sector where coordination will be required to reduce duplication or avoid interference with independent statutory functions.
10. The parties are therefore resolved to work collaboratively on matters relating to integrity, including by:
    - ensuring effective implementation of policy decisions;
    - encouraging sport and recreation organisations to adopt Integrity Codes issued by the Commission;
    - supporting sport and recreation organisations to have the necessary capability and capacity to prevent and address integrity issues;
    - ensuring integrity issues that come to the attention of Sport NZ are brought to the attention of the Commission as appropriate;
    - ensuring non-integrity complaints relating to sport and recreation that come to

[3] The functions previous contains in the Sports Anti-Doping Act 2006 have been brought into the Commission
[4] Section 9 of the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act 2023

the attention of the Commission are brought to Sport NZ's attention as appropriate;

- co-operating on integrity issues being dealt with by Commission involving a Sport NZ partner or an organisation funded by Sport NZ;
- co-operates with Commission investigations which involve Sport NZ;
- handling requests for information and sharing information effectively but lawfully to support the resolution of issues, and to support sector organisations to improve capability for addressing threats to integrity;
- supporting the monitoring and implementation of the Commission's recommendations where Sport NZ considers that necessary.

11. The parties have also agreed to a process for managing non-integrity complaints which may be referred to by the Commission.

Principles and values for working together

12. When dealing with each other both organisations will be guided by the following principles and values:
    - the parties should act with good faith when working together, which includes being active and constructive in establishing and maintaining a productive relationship in which the parties are, among other things, responsive and communicative;
    - the parties should respect each other's independent roles and responsibilities, including where the other party has the lead role or relevant statutory function; and wherever possible, the parties should support each other to fulfil their independent roles and responsibilities.

Policy advice and international relationships

13. Both organisations have operational policy and related functions which they must be able to exercise independently and in accordance with their governing legislation.
14. The parties are resolved to operate in the spirit of cooperation to ensure policy decisions that potentially impact the other party are informed by operational experience, and that those policies are effectively implemented.
15. The parties recognise that their positions on issues may be in concert, or that their positions may on occasion be different.
16. **Appendix A** sets out the various policy related functions and identifies the responsibilities of each agency, including recognition of the role of MCH as the strategic policy and monitoring agency for both Crown entities.

Ministerial servicing

17. Each party has Ministerial servicing responsibilities in support of the Minister in relation to the sport and recreation portfolio, except for in relation to appointments and monitoring of both entities. Both parties will be required to provide support to the Minister on questions from the public, media and Parliament which relate to the respective party. This includes:
    a. Responses to Estimates and Annual Review questions
    b. Written Parliamentary Questions
    c. Ministerial correspondence (eg responses to letters from members of the public)
    d. Official Information Act requests made to the Minister
18. In such cases, both parties should have consideration for the other where an issue/matter of mutual interest arises and provide relevant content when required for responses within the required timeframes.
19. It is noted that officials from both Sport NZ and the Commission will be required to appear and give evidence at Estimates and Annual Review hearings on request.
20. The parties will arrange separate written updates and meetings with the Minister (unless directed otherwise by the Minister) but may invite the other party to attend where appropriate.

Supporting organisations to adopt and comply with Integrity Codes

21. The Commission has a statutory function to develop and issue integrity codes. Organisations in the sport and recreation sector must choose to adopt an integrity code to be bound by it.
22. The Commission has the primary role of advice, support, education, and guidance to the sector to facilitate adoption of and compliance with integrity codes.
23. Sport NZ has a strong interest in sport and recreation organisations adopting Integrity Codes issued by the Commission.
24. To this end, Sport NZ and the Commission will work together wherever practicable to:
    a. ensure that messaging to the sector about the benefits of adoption are in alignment
    b. understand how widely and effectively integrity codes have been adopted and implemented
    c. promote the availability of the Commission's dispute resolution service
    d. promote the use of the Commission's integrity-related policies, guidance and training resources;
    e. encourage organisations to adopt and implement the standards in an integrity code, and
    f. promote any relevant Sport NZ activities (e.g. governance best practice).

When integrity issues that come to the attention of Sport NZ are brought to the attention of the Commission

25. From time to time, it is likely that Sport NZ will become aware of integrity concerns within a sector organisation. Sport NZ will not deal with integrity matters itself, rather it will encourage the sector organisations to deal with the matter appropriately, including by engaging with the Commission.
26. Sport NZ will put in place a policy for addressing integrity issues that come to its attention that include:
    - guidance for staff about what to do when becoming aware of an integrity issue;
    - guidelines for when a matter will be referred to the Commission.

Providing Sport NZ with awareness of integrity matters being dealt with by the Commission

27. It is expected that some of the integrity issues that come to the attention of the Commission will involve an organisation that is funded or works closely with Sport NZ[5].
28. There may be times when it would be important for Sport NZ to be aware of this because Sport NZ has a strong interest in the wellbeing of participants and ensuring that its investment partners are well functioning organisations. In some cases, Sport NZ in their capacity as an investor/partner, may choose to offer support to a partner in responding to integrity issues.
29. The Commission will consider on a case-by-case basis whether to share any information with Sport NZ about a complaint or investigation involving a Sport NZ partner or other funded organisation.
30. The Commission may also share with Sport NZ any instance of organisational non-compliance with the SADRs and World Anti-Doping Code by a Sport NZ partner or other funded organisation. The Commission will work with Sport NZ to support an appropriate response to such non-compliance.
31. The Commission may also bring any other case to the attention of Sport NZ that it considers relevant to Sport NZ's functions.
32. Sport NZ will ensure that it provides the Commission with an up-to-date list of its partners and funded organisations when requested to do so.

Investigations which involve Sport NZ

33. From time to time, an investigation conducted by the Commission may involve Sport NZ.

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[5] As for the rest of this MoU, references to Sport NZ in this part include HPSNZ.

This could range from Sport NZ having a peripheral involvement in the case or acting as an information provider to the investigation to a case where the actions of Sport NZ or a Sport NZ staff member is under investigation.

34. Where the Commission is assessing whether to commence an investigation, Sport NZ may (as with any other party) wish to present arguments about the necessity for an investigation (for example an argument that the complaint or issue has already been dealt with, including through employment processes so further investigation or action is not necessary).
35. The final decisions about whether to investigate and the scope of that investigation are solely a decision for the Commission. Once a decision to investigate is made, Sport NZ undertakes to take all reasonable steps to cooperate with an investigation by the Commission and to facilitate the cooperation of its employees or contactors.

Requests for information in relation to an investigation

36. In some cases, Sport NZ may hold information that is relevant to an investigation the Commission is undertaking under the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act.
37. Sport NZ may be subject to a notice issued by the Commission requiring the provision of information or documents under section 34 of the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act.
38. It is anticipated that in many cases information sought from Sport NZ by the Commission will be provided by consent and without recourse to a section 34 notice.
39. However, where the conditions set out in section 34(2) of the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act apply, the Commission may take the step of using the formality of a section 34 notice without first making an informal request.
40. If Sport NZ considers it necessary to do so in a particular case, it may request that the Commission consider issuing a section 34 notice. The Commission will determine whether to issue a section 34 notice in accordance with the requirements of the provision.
41. Sport NZ is required to comply with a notice unless certain immunities or privileges apply[6]. The need to protect personal information under the Privacy Act 2020 and the usual grounds for withholding information under the Official Information Act 1982 cannot be relied upon. Failure to comply may be followed up with the seeking of a Court Order directing a person to provide the relevant information or documents[7].
42. Both parties would seek to avoid the need for Court action wherever possible. If Sport NZ has concerns about providing any information contained in a section 34 request, it should engage in discussion with the Commission with a view to resolving those concerns, for

[6] Section 45 of the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act
[7] Section 35 of the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act

example by Sport NZ better understanding the relevance of the information or by refining the request.

Supporting the monitoring and implementation of Commission recommendations where necessary

43. It is expected that on occasion, Commission investigations may result in recommendations that affect a sport or recreation organisation that the Sport NZ Group funds. The Commission could also make recommendations that have wider implications for a part or all of the sport and recreation sector.
44. The Commission will, wherever practicable, provide:
    - advance notice to Sport NZ before making public recommendations affecting a funded organisation;
    - information about the monitoring and implementation of these recommendations;
    - notice of any recommendations with wider sector implications.
45. The Commission may, on a case-by-case basis, also consult with Sport NZ in relation to any recommendations with sector-level implications or recommendations directed towards Sport NZ, and consider any feedback provided.
46. How Sport NZ responds to recommendations from an investigation is solely a decision for Sport NZ.
47. The Commission may request assistance in monitoring and implementation from Sport NZ if Sport NZ is in the best position to fulfil this role. Sport NZ undertakes to give serious consideration to any request for assistance from the Commission and will make reasonable endeavors to assist to the extent that available resources, other priorities, and Sport NZ's own legislative, policy and strategic settings and goals permit.

Non-integrity related complaints

48. The parties have agreed that the Commission will refer to Sport NZ any non-integrity sport and recreation related complaint that the Commission receives. Sport NZ is responsible for facilitating the resolution of these complaints and will determine how to manage each complaint on a case-by-case basis.

Regular meetings and sharing information effectively

49. The Commission and Sport NZ will ensure there is a primary point of liaison. The liaison's role is to act as the key connection for the exchange of information and oversee the

relationship between the two organisations, addressing any roadblocks to ensure it operates effectively. The liaisons will connect regularly with matters such as:

- progress on any serious matters referred to the Commission by Sport NZ where Sport NZ has an ongoing interest;
- any assistance either party requires from the other;
- a high-level summary of the issues coming to the attention of the Commission and areas of focus for the Commission;
- any issues of note concerning a Sport NZ partner or funded organisation; and
- any issues that should be referred to the respective Chief Executives, for example a disagreement that cannot be resolved.

50. In addition, the Sport NZ Group Policy Manager and an appropriate person with responsibility for policy related matters within the Commission will maintain a connection in relation to management of policy-related interests as set out in paragraphs 13 to 16 above.

Media and communications

51. The parties agree to, where reasonably practicable:
    - consult the other party in advance if planning a media release that mentions or potentially could raise media interest in the other party (see also para 42 above)
    - advise the other party if featuring in media that could reflect poorly on the other.
52. The parties will also consider opportunities for joint media and communications where relevant and for Sport NZ to utilise its channels to promote the Commission's messaging (for example the availability of dispute resolution services) where appropriate.
53. The parties will also consider the need to advise the other if they become aware of a potential media story that may impact on the other party, for example a story about an integrity issue with a Sport NZ partner.

Disputes

54. The parties agree to seek to resolve any disputes in good faith and informally wherever possible.
55. Any disagreement between the parties that cannot be resolved in the first instance should be escalated to the relationship managers, and if necessary, the respective Chief Executives.
56. If the matter cannot be resolved at Chief Executive level, the parties will determine a mutually agreed process to resolve the matter.

Review and term of agreement

57. The parties agree to review this MoU after the first year of operation and annually thereafter.

58. This MoU remains in force until revoked by either party.

Signed:  Date: 15 May 2026

Raelene Castle
Chief Executive

Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa

Signed:  Date: 19 MAY 2026

Rebecca Rolls
Chief Executive

Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui

Appendix A: Policy functions

Function	Commission	Sport NZ	MCH
Administration of legislation	No	No	Yes
Policy advice to Ministers and Government on sport and recreation integrity matters	No - but may advise the Minister "from time to time" on integrity. Not a policy role as such, but an operational assessment of current environment, trends, etc. May also express a view on wider system, including legislation, but not in official policy capacity.	No – but may advise the Minister "from time to time" on matters impacting the sector, current environment, trends etc. May also express a view on wider system, including legislation, but not in official policy capacity.	Yes - Policy advice role in terms of primary legislation and whether overall policy settings are achieving effective system. Advises government in relation to international obligations (see below).
Budget bids for funding for the Commission	Identifies budget needs. May prepare and propose a bid. Can also brief Minister directly if concerned about budget.	Provide support if requested by either the Commission or MCH	Primary responsibility
International obligations/relationships on sport and recreation integrity matters	Statutory function to coordinate with relevant international bodies in relation to sport integrity. Primary role in operational matters and technical committees/working groups. Has a key relationship with WADA as NZ's National	No – but kept informed as necessary	Primary role to represent New Zealand's policy interests overseas.

	Antidoping organization and works closely with associated international networks.		
Making and implementation of Anti-Doping Rules	Yes	Consulted	Consulted Advises Minister on any misalignment with international obligations (in consultation with Commission)
Development, implementation and review of Integrity Codes	Yes	Consulted where appropriate	Consulted
The Commission's operational policy (e.g. operating guidelines, legislative compliance)	Yes	Consulted where appropriate	Consulted where appropriate
Ministerial servicing on sport and recreation integrity matters	No, but supports ad hoc requests (e.g. provide information, supply documents stored in system that are also held by Minister in case of an Official Information Act request) Must be able to comply with its own obligations under the Official Information Act (i.e. if the Commission receives a request for information it holds, it must be able to respond to this and cannot	No – support when requested to do so	Yes, current responsibility for Ministerial servicing (e.g. answering Written Parliamentary Questions, supporting Official Information Act responses to Minister, and coordinating select committee responses related to the Vote etc.)

	outsource its obligations)		
Performance monitoring of the Commission	Required to provide accountability information	No – unless requested to support	Yes
Advising and reporting to Parliament (& Parliament Committees) on the Commission and sport and recreation integrity matters	If requested to do so, including appearance at Estimates Review and Annual Reviews	If requested to do so.	Yes, in respect of any legislative amendment or system review.