

**NATIONAL
SPORT CLUB
SURVEY**



INTEGRITY IN COMMUNITY SPORT

**INSIGHTS FROM THE
2024 NATIONAL SPORT CLUB SURVEY**

**Prepared for the Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui
December 2025**

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**AUT SPORTS PERFORMANCE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEW ZEALAND**

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BACKGROUND

The National Sport Club Survey (NSCS) generates an annual snapshot of the management, operation and governance of sport clubs in Aotearoa, New Zealand. It is run through a partnership between the AUT Sport Performance Research Institute of New Zealand (SPRINZ) and the New Zealand Amateur Sport Association (NZASA). In 2024, 900 clubs out of 7,500 responded to the NSCS across 90 sports and all 16 regions of New Zealand. Chairs, Presidents, secretaries, and other leaders complete the NSCS on behalf of their club. Each year special topics are introduced, with the 2023 and 2024 NSCS featuring the topic of sport integrity.

Integrity in community sport matters. In New Zealand, the new Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui (the Commission) has recently been established (1 July 2024) with a key purpose to “enhance integrity within sport and physical recreation to promote and promote the safety and well-being of participants and the fairness of competition” (Integrity Sport and Recreation Act 2023, s. 3). In consultation with the prior Integrity Transition Programme, sport integrity questions were embedded within the 2023 NSCS to better understand integrity issues in community sport and assist the Commission in its development of sport



integrity codes (s. 13). In 2024, the NSCS retained key baseline questions with new questions added such as those relating to club awareness of the Commission, club integrity management systems, complaints escalation, member awareness and satisfaction, and club culture. These projects relate specifically to the governance of community sport within New Zealand's broader play, active recreation, and sport system.

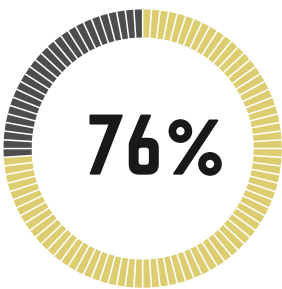
The over-arching purpose of the NSCS 2024 sport integrity topic was to review club committee's perceptions of the incidence of threats to integrity in community sport as well as further develop our understanding of community sport's preparedness (and associated needs) to effectively manage sport integrity issues or complaints. Questions of various types, ten closed (yes/no, scaled) and four open-text questions, were included in the 2024 NSCS. A new feature for 2024, was the inclusion of interviews, with club representatives invited to share their views, in particular, in relation to complaints escalation and club culture. With the Commission's publication of the Code of Integrity for Sport and Recreation (the Code) in February 2025, the project may also assist with associated Code communication, implementation and support strategies.

This high-level report presents key findings and offers insights intended to complement other evidence sources and support ongoing conversations about how community sport clubs can manage integrity matters more effectively. National averages reflect all participating regions and sports; however, regional and sport-specific insights are reported only where response numbers were sufficiently robust to support reliable interpretation.

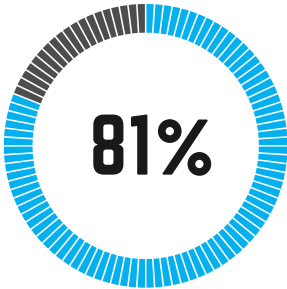


PREPARED

My club is well prepared to manage integrity issues



2023

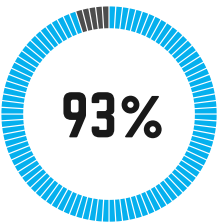


2024

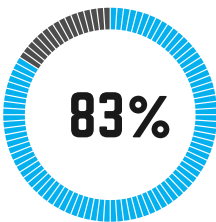
In the 2024 NSCS, 81% of responding clubs agreed to some degree that they are well prepared to manage integrity issues. This is an increase from the 2023 NSCS, when 76% of responding clubs reported that they are well prepared.

BY SPORT

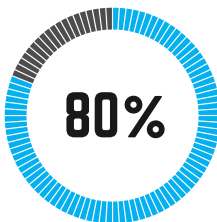
TENNIS



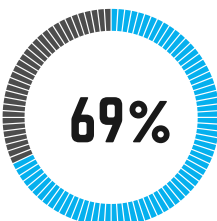
FOOTBALL



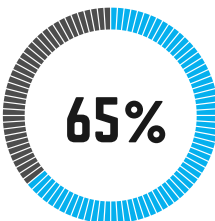
HOCKEY



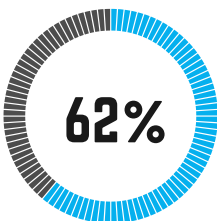
CRICKET



RUGBY UNION

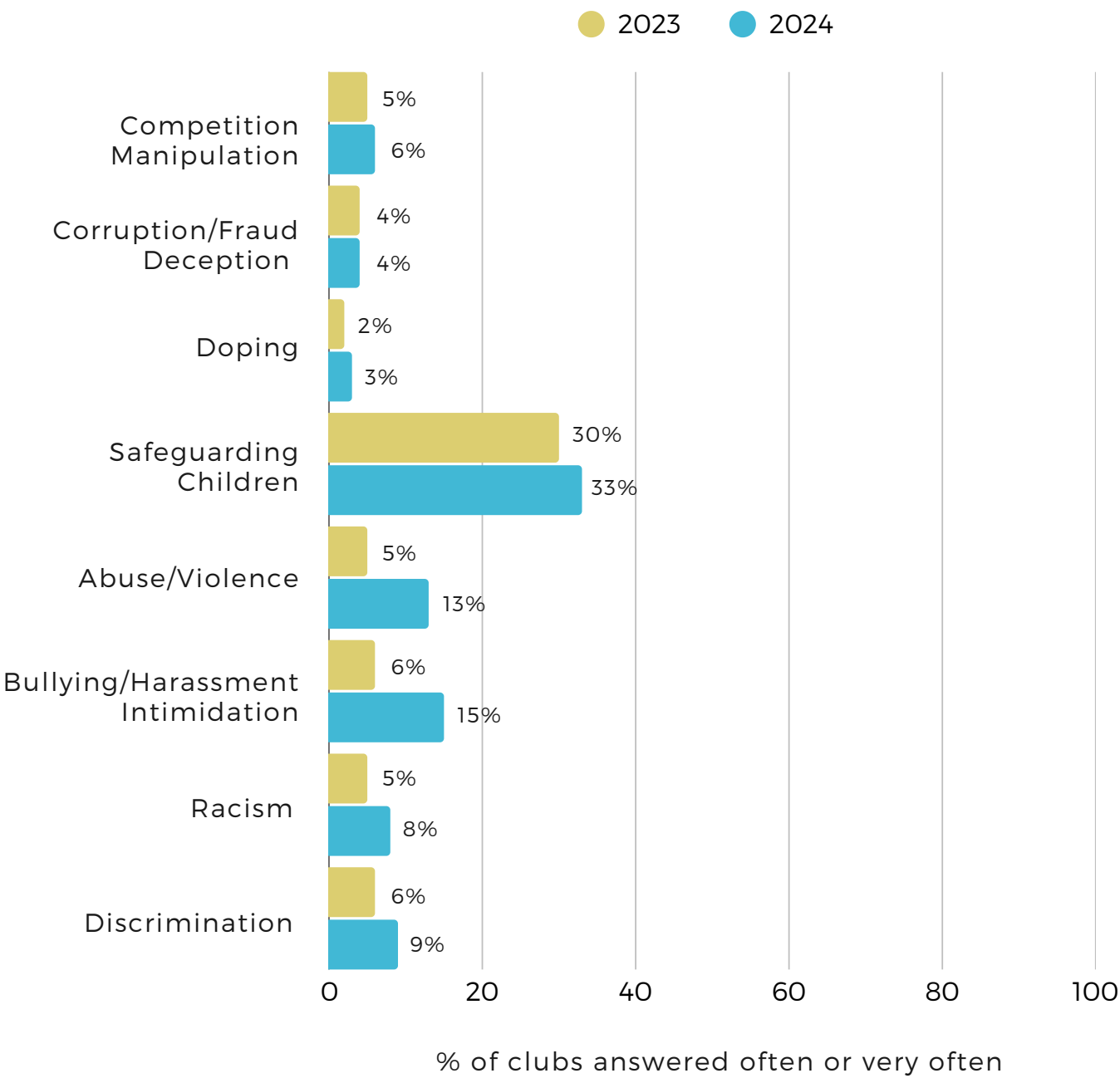


BADMINTON



DISCUSSION

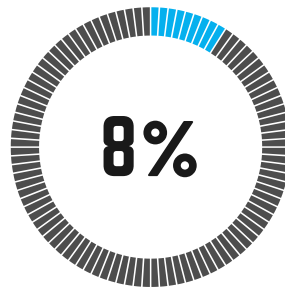
Rate these integrity issues on how often they have been discussed at your club’s committee/board meetings





AWARENESS

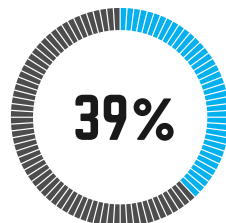
Is your club's committee/board aware of the new Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui (operational from 1 July 2024)?



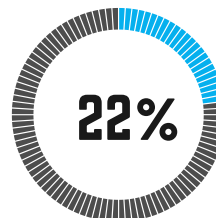
Of responding club's committee/board are aware of the new Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui (as of September 2024)

BY SPORT

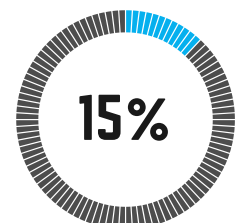
YACHTING



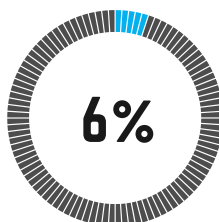
TENNIS



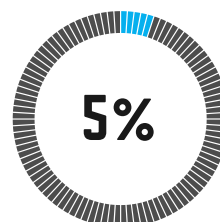
BADMINTON



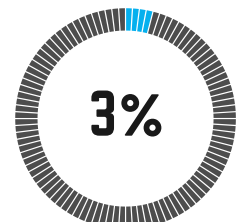
NETBALL



RUGBY UNION



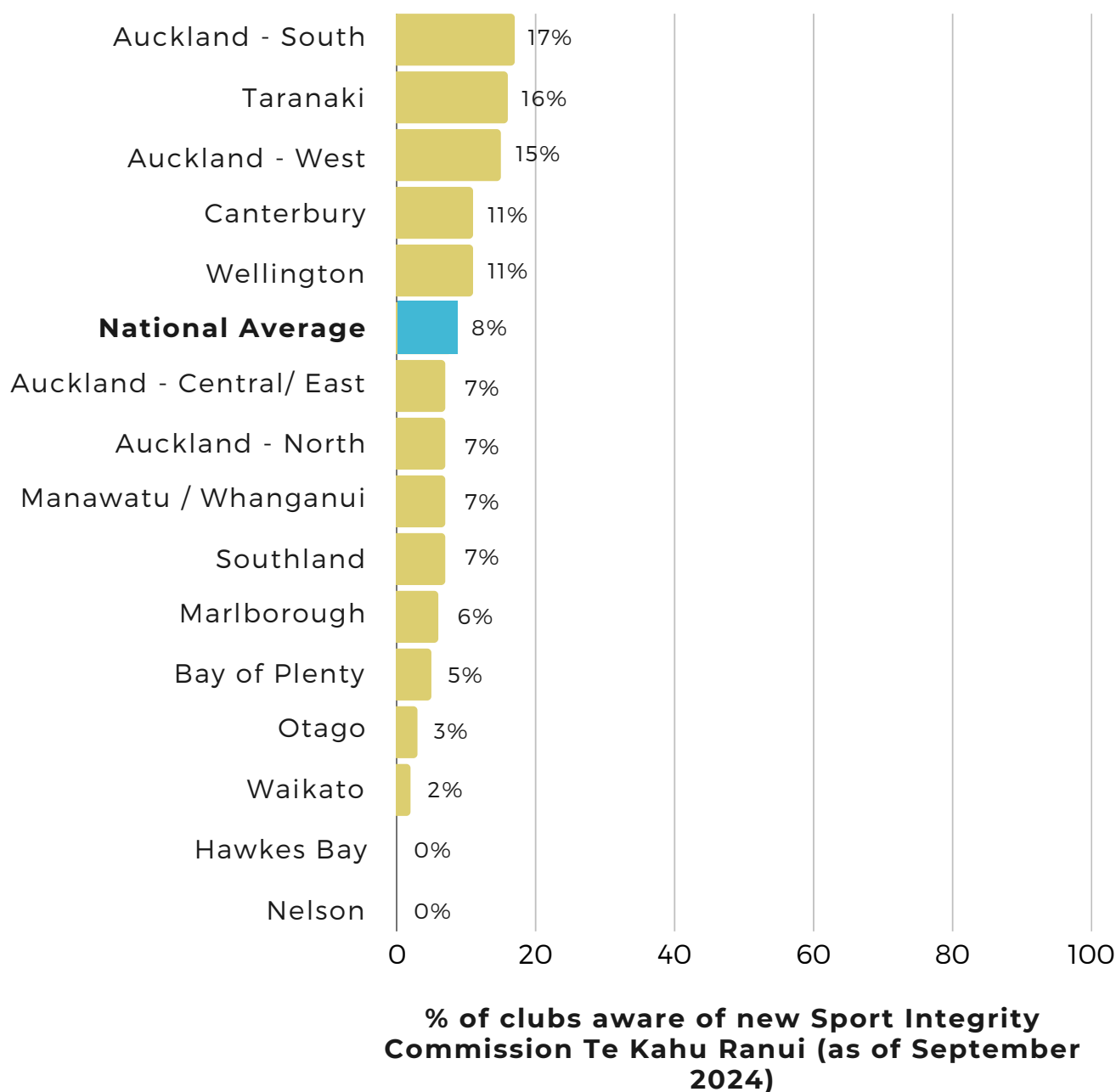
FOOTBALL



No athletics, equestrian, squash or swimming clubs reported being aware of the Sport Integrity Commission

AWARENESS

BY REGION



*Insufficient number of Northland, Gisborne, Tasman and West Coast based clubs completed survey to provide accurate regional results

INFORMATION

What information has your club received from your NSO or any other organisation about the resources and services available from the Sport Integrity Commission?

COMMUNICATION & SUPPORT

“Comms about the Commission and offer of assistance in setting up protocols if RSO’s don’t already have them”

“Email from [NSO] advising of launch with link to website and inclusion of 0800 number”

“RSO attended a workshop by Sport Waikato with Sport NZ and then shared back to club committee”

SOURCED INFORMATION THEMSELVES

“We sourced it ourselves in the process of working on our new constitution to meet with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022”

NOTHING, BUT WANT INFORMATION

“None - I have asked [our NSO], however, no reply”

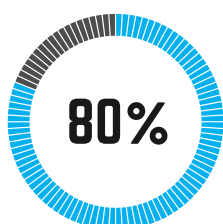
“Nothing to date unfortunately - would be interested”

*Themes are listed in order of weighting, based on the number of clubs that responded under each category

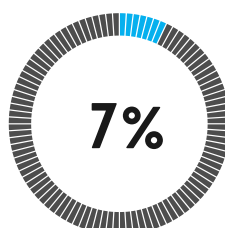
ESCALATION

What organisation has your club escalated an integrity issue up to?

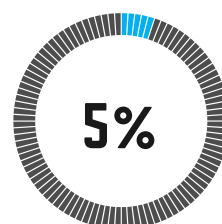
**NOT
ESCALATED**



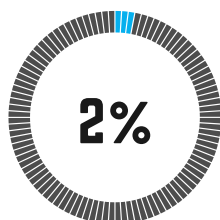
**NATIONAL SPORT
ORGANISATION**



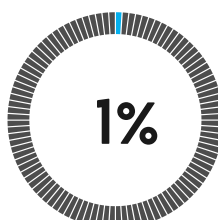
**REGIONAL SPORT
ORGANISATION**



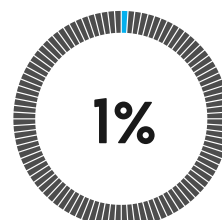
SPORT NZ



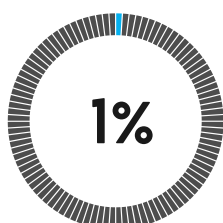
POLICE



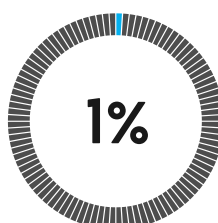
**REGIONAL
SPORT TRUST**



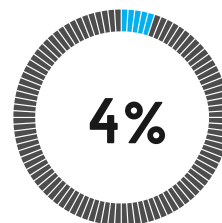
**DRUG FREE SPORT
NZ**



**SPORTS TRIBUNAL
OF NZ**



OTHER*

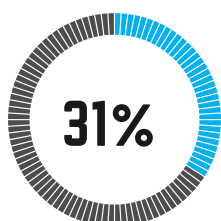


*Those that selected other listed largely listed the name of their regional or national sport organisation.

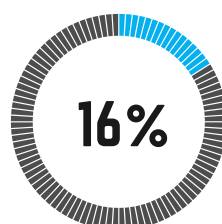
ESCALATION

What organisation would your club escalated an integrity issue up to?

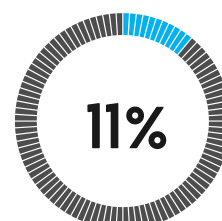
NATIONAL SPORT ORGANISATION



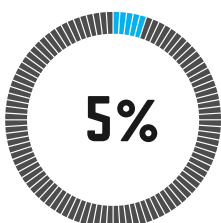
REGIONAL SPORT ORGANISATION



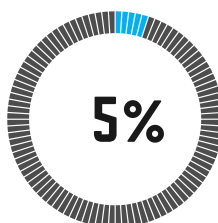
SPORT NZ



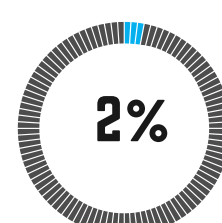
REGIONAL SPORT TRUST



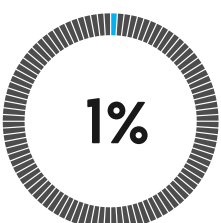
POLICE



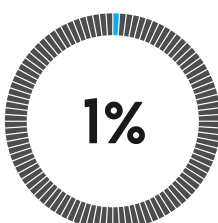
SRCMS*



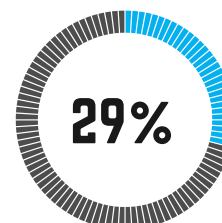
SPORT INTEGRITY COMMISSION



DRUG FREE SPORT NZ



OTHER**



*Sport and Recreation Complaints and Mediation Service

**Those that selected other listed largely listed the name of their regional or national sport organisation.

ESCALATION

In what situation would your club escalate an integrity issue to another organisation?

ESCALATION AS REQUIRED

“If we felt the matter was beyond the expertise of our own responsible members to resolve it internally”

“If we didn’t feel as though we could achieve an outcome within our club between ourselves”

“When it requires support or guidance from someone impartial to our club”

ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

“If abuse of member, especially children, was disclosed. If there was some fraud or malfeasance on the part of somebody in a position of trust”

“Illegal and inappropriate activities or behaviours”

“Criminal, offensive or dangerous activities or behaviours”

ABUSE AND OTHER CLUBS

“If it involves another club or their members, we would escalate abuse, bullying, racism and discrimination”

“Where there is abuse, theft, violence that we believe other clubs should be warned about”

“Bullying - harassment that could not be resolved”

CHEATING

“Continuous dishonesty, deliberate breach of golf rules or club code of conduct”

“If there is cheating, bad behaviour, not following the rules”

“If there was a significant breach in our code of conduct. [Our NSO] usually deal with these and we as a club have rules that impact players for these issues as well”

UNSURE

“No idea until an issue occurs”

“Unsure if we would. The spirit of the game is the backbone of [our sport] which means these issues don’t show up”

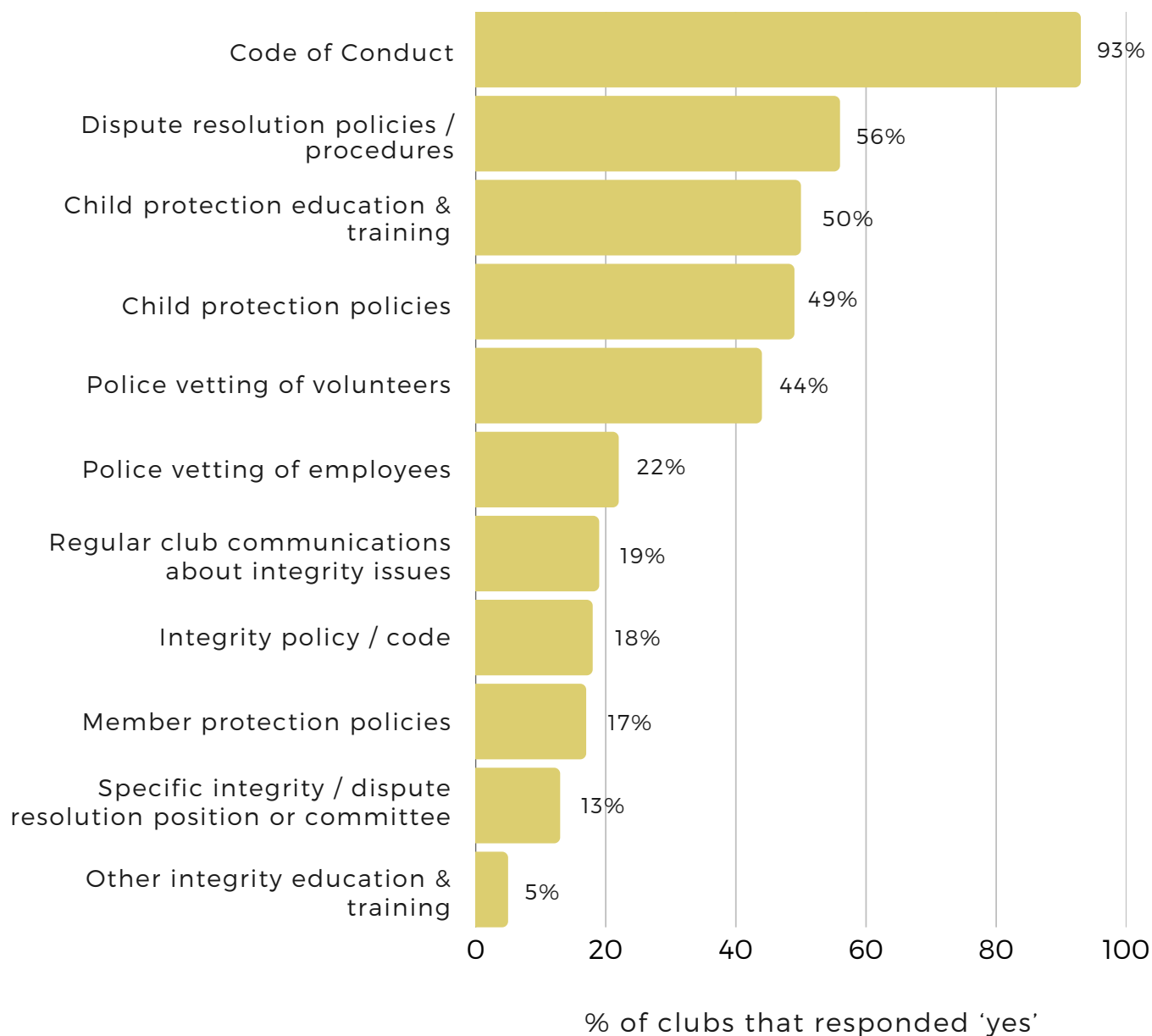
“We have not had any problems, so unsure. Most things are dealt with within the club”

*Themes are listed in order of weighting, based on the number of clubs that responded under each category



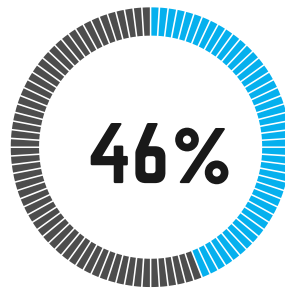
INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT

Which of the following are currently part of your club's sport integrity management system?



MEMBER KNOWLEDGE

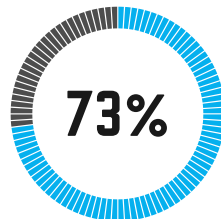
Our club's committee / board is confident that our members know how to raise an integrity issue.



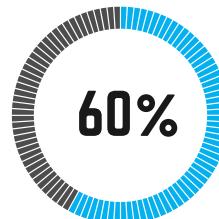
Of responding club's committee/board agree or strongly agree that they are confident that their members know how to raise an integrity issue

BY REGION

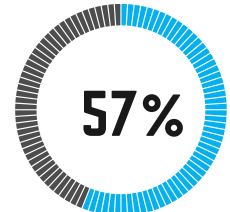
HAWKES BAY



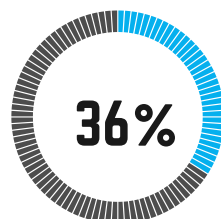
AUCKLAND WEST



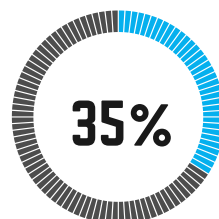
NELSON



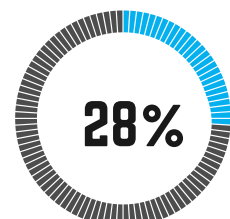
AUCKLAND NORTH



WELLINGTON

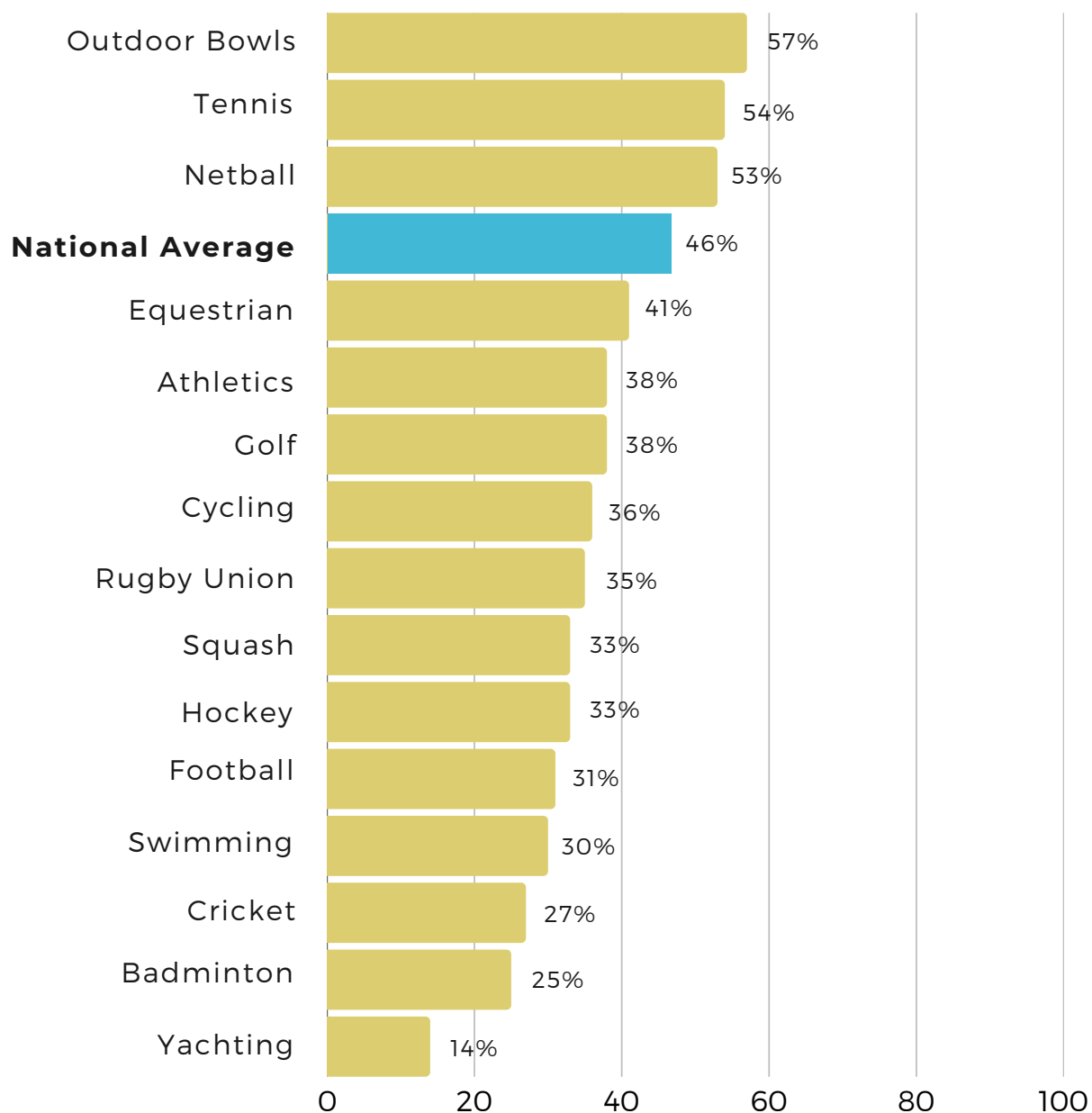


TARANAKI



MEMBER KNOWLEDGE

BY SPORT

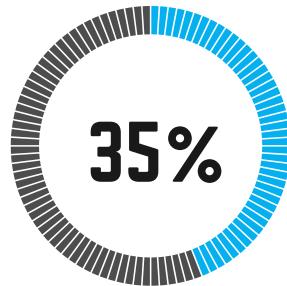


% of clubs that agree or strongly agree that they are confident that their members know how to raise an integrity issue



MEMBER SATISFACTION

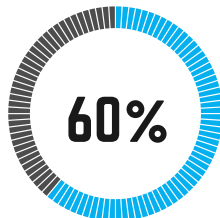
Our club's committee / board is confident that our members are satisfied with how integrity issues are managed by our club



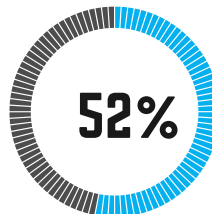
Of responding club's committee/board agree or strongly agree that they are confident that their members are satisfied with how integrity issues are managed by their club

BY REGION

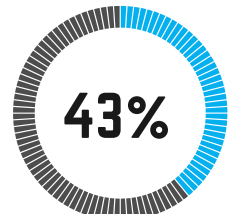
**AUCKLAND
WEST**



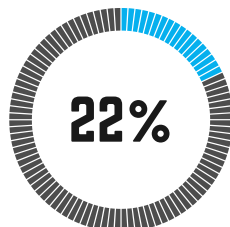
NELSON



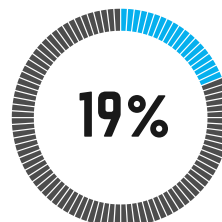
**MANUWATU
WHANGANUI**



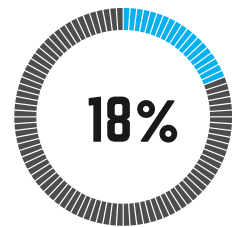
TARANAKI



**AUCKLAND
NORTH**

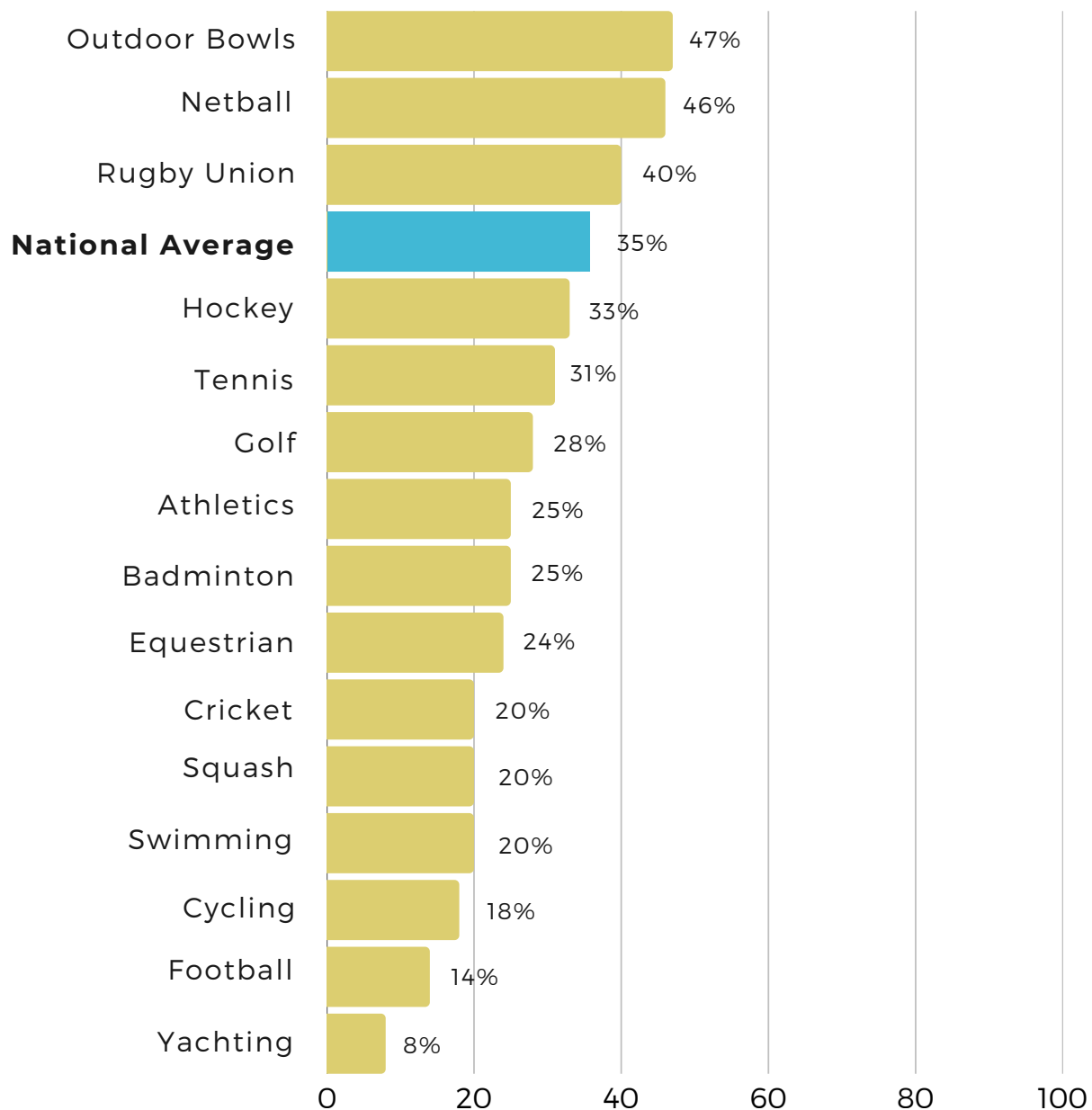


SOUTHLAND



MEMBER SATISFACTION

BY SPORT

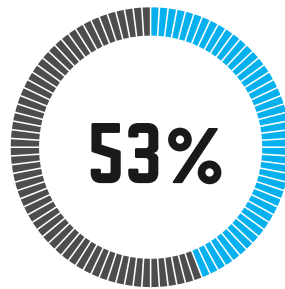


% of clubs that agree or strongly agree that they are confident that their members are satisfied with how integrity issues are managed by their club



CULTURE

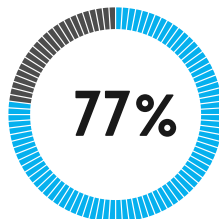
Is your club taking any steps to proactively promote a culture where sport integrity is well understood, valued and/or practiced by all?



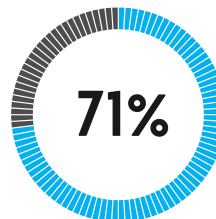
Of responding clubs believe they are taking steps to proactively promote a culture where sport integrity is well understood, valued and/or practiced by all

BY SPORT

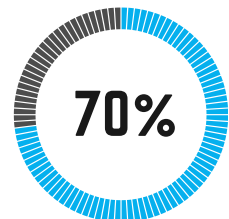
NETBALL



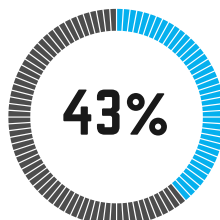
EQUESTRIAN



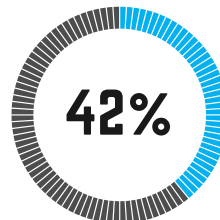
SWIMMING



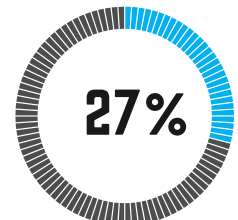
YACHTING



GOLF



BADMINTON



CULTURE

Please explain the steps your club is taking to proactively promote a culture where sport integrity is well understood, valued and/or practiced by all

COMMUNICATION

“Through social media, newsletters and club events we share expectations on how we behave, practice and value our integrity as a club”

“Constant communication with members and if any issues arise this is communicated to subcommittee level initially and if required, this will be addressed at the board level”

“Frequent communication with our members - this includes email to the database, social media posts and direct communication with the members at games”

EMPHASIS ON FAIR PLAY

“We have a Fair Play charter and this is taught to all members”

“Fair play is encouraged at all levels by committee, coaches and managers”

“Supporting and uplifting players to achieve fair and reasonable play / development”

“Our initial coaching of new members stresses fair play and lawn etiquette”

CLUB POLICIES

“We are currently reviewing all our policies and procedures as part of our strategic planning and have identified the need to look at all items relating to integrity as we only have a basic code of conduct”

“We educate our coaches, players and spectators with our code of conduct at the beginning of the season and share our club expectations. We give gentle reminders throughout the season. Any player or spectator not following the code of conduct will be removed from the courts”

“Club meeting about our culture. Parents are informed about our safeguards. Code of conduct is kept up to date and circulated to all parents - no signature, no swim”

“Coaches are engaged in discussions re: code of conduct - expected relationships between players and coaches”

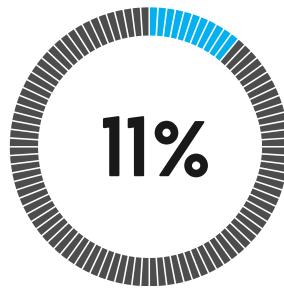
*Themes are listed in order of weighting, based on the number of clubs that responded under each category





MĀTAURANGA

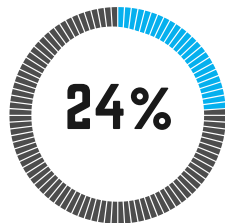
Does Mātauranga/tikanga (or any other cultural approach) play a role in the promotion of sport integrity at your club?



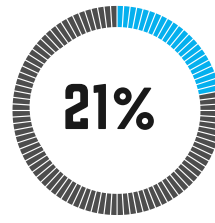
Of responding clubs reported that Mātauranga/tikanga, or another cultural approach, plays a role in their promotion of sport integrity at their club

BY SPORT

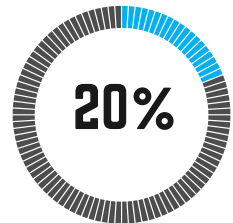
NETBALL



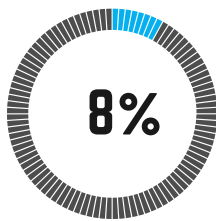
RUGBY UNION



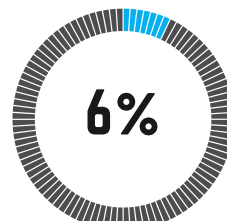
CYCLING



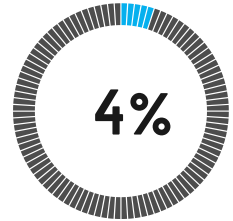
GOLF



OUTDOOR BOWLS



FOOTBALL



No squash, yachting or indoor bowls clubs reported that Mātauranga/tikanga, or another cultural approach, plays a role in their promotion of sport integrity at their club

MĀTAURANGA

Please explain what role Mātauranga/tikanga (or any other cultural approach) plays in the promotion of sport integrity at your club.

VALUES DRIVEN

“Manaaki, whanaungatanga, pono, tika - are all values we continuously abide by throughout all sports and at events”

“Our values form part of tikanga - you can't have one without the other”

“Knowledge of the protocols of tikanga is priority as tikanga governs the way we behave in our relationships with others”

“As part of our strategic planning we are looking at our club culture, tikanga and values and how that works within our community. We want to make [our sport] accessible to everyone and need to look at any barriers which may be preventing people taking part”

MAORI CUSTOMS

“The club has a motto and a haka that teaches and communicates the values and expectations of each player and team. Reiterated by coaches and the executive committee”

“Building Manaakitanga showing compassion within our club. Embracing the use of Te Reo with greetings, farewells. Treating our community as whanau, nurturing and supporting”

CELEBRATING ALL CULTURES

“[Our sport] has a high ethnicity following. We value all ethnicities the same and treat everyone as equals”

“Respecting cultural differences and approaching any issues on its merits - so not one solution for everyone”

“We respect the beliefs of any and all cultures within our club. If parents inform us of things that would help better their child, we enact it and incorporate it into training routines”

*Themes are listed in order of weighting, based on the number of clubs that responded under each category



INTERVIEWS

The invitation for club representatives to share their perspectives about community sport integrity resulted in 13 club representative interviews (October to December 2024) including those from 14 different sports and 9 different regions. The initial interview questions focussed on club culture (to promote sport integrity) and complaint management (including the escalation up/cascading down of integrity issues).

WHAT IS SPORT INTEGRITY?

Continuing the theme from the 2023 NSCS, there was some evidence of the novelty and/or ambiguities attached to the term 'integrity'.

"I guess integrity is important...[it] might be seen as a bit more optional [than health and safety]..."

"What's in scope when we talk about integrity? Because at club level elements like doping and match-fixing are not really relevant"

"It's really hard to define...it should be super important but I think that it's a really grey area"

Others referenced sport integrity and/or integrity risks as including financial matters, like money mismanagement, conflicts of interest, inter-member disputes, child-safeguarding, youth coaching youth, coach-player relationships, sideline behaviour, off-court behaviour, inter-player bullying, sports rage, player eligibility, cheating, gender equity, ageism, sexism, homophobia, racism and inter-racial tensions, social media defamation, and athlete welfare.

So, whilst club representatives recognised a range of integrity issues, it appears that a need remains for industry education relating to the nature, scope, and importance of sport integrity.

COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

Consistent with the 2023 NSCS responses, there were multiple references to the use of policies and code of conduct, with some references to an 'open door' environment to encourage the voicing of any concerns. One representative described their member protection officer position and noted the importance of the appointee being a non-member with an anonymous email address. Another representative notes the importance of their club captain role (a respected non-committee member) in the early resolution of disputes.

Informal resolution was the most common approach, with some matters escalated to a club committee, as required. Many referenced the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and welcomed the requirement to include a dispute resolution process in their new constitution.

In terms of the external escalation of sport integrity issues, most of the club representatives felt comfortable approaching their RSO or NSO for help. Vertical escalation involved help sought (most commonly by the club, but in one instance by a member) from the RSO, NSO, RST and/or the Police. In one case, the club shared resources up to the NSO. There was one reference to the 'cascading down' of a complaint from the NSO back to the club. There was also reference to the 'horizontal' sharing with some club-club and NSO-NSO sharing of resources/templates and club representatives from other codes sitting on each other's complaints panels. Triggers for escalation included the seriousness of the complaint and the involvement of another club, with one reference to leap-frogging the RSO (straight to the NSO) where there was a lack of confidence in their RSO.

"The backup that we have from our RSO and our NSO are fantastic"

"It'd be with support from Sport Auckland because we have a good relationship with them"

"We wouldn't have anywhere to go [with an intractable interpersonal issue]...it's not really sport [NSO] related or assault [Police]"

Other types of support included NSO policies, guidelines for penalties for on-court behaviour, rule interpretations and breaches, registration of banned players, police vetting, RSO advice and complaint processes, and RST campaigns, and support on complaints panels. There was also mention of clubs with paid staff being 'streets ahead' and those purely volunteer clubs being 'well behind' with integrity often left at the 'bottom of the pile'.

Collectively, this suggests that clubs are open to the Commission's preferred position of 'cascading down' policy and constitution clause template resources from the NSOs to the regional and local levels

CLUB CULTURE

The most common response was that club culture 'tends to happen naturally'. However, there were also references to diversity and inclusion based on age, gender, ethnicity, and disability. Some tangible strategies included zero tolerance policies and practices, the promotion and signing of codes of conduct at the beginning and throughout the season, supporting coach education, the RST 'suck it up' lollipop with barcode sideline behaviour campaign, and restorative justice (integrity) projects with associated reduction in infringement penalties.

In terms of Māori or other culture-specific approaches, the lack of Mātauranga and Pasifika approaches was acknowledged.

"We're 80% Pasifika, and you couldn't even find a Pasifika word in our club...which is a real shame"

Two club representatives referenced the promotion of an overt vision and/or values.

"Our mission and vision to be more than just a [sports] club, open to all, a real family focus"

"We've got four values, respect, integrity, teamwork, and enjoyment. It's a really good umbrella to underline good practice, good decisions, upholding club values. It really can help when it comes to driving behaviour"

However, the challenge of embedding and activating these values was acknowledged. One club committee seeks to be intentional and constantly revisit their values in committee meetings promoting the need for it *“to be everything you do if you want to get genuine change”*.

MESSAGES FOR THE COMMISSION

One club representative was skeptical of the Commission’s intent or ability to make a real difference at grassroots with concerns that the investment could be better directed into actual sport delivery for young people. Another representative did not think they required any support from the Commission as integrity (anti-doping) was not relevant for them. However, most acknowledged the benefit of national level support with requests for tangible resources such as a step by step flowcharts (covering different levels of seriousness), simple, realistic club level templates, a prioritised ‘to do’ list, and downloadable handbooks. One representative highlighted the challenges of moving from ‘by-standing’ to ‘up-standing’ when confronted with bad behaviour. There may be a need for upskilling club member and officials in this area.

“I find it reasonably challenging at times to deal with those issues [racism and sexism] without being too confrontational”

“Are there some core requirements that a club should enforce or be required to do? Perhaps that you must do X, Y, and Z, or your business plan or strategic plan should include those integrity parts”.

“The more resources there can be provided at our national level for clubs to draw down on, I would say, the better”

One club representative did observe the challenge of such resources *‘staying at the bottom of the bag’*. Further club level feedback may be required to ascertain the types of resources that can be used in a practical sense and how they can be embedded and activated at all levels of the organisation.

*Themes are listed in order of narrative flow (not weighting)



FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Informed by the 2023 and 2024 NSCS results, other academic studies (see 2023 NSCS report) and consultation with the Commission, future considerations for this project and the enhancement of sport integrity at the community club level could include:

COMMUNITY SPORT

Sport integrity for club committees and policy makers

1. **Recognise** - the absence of reporting does not mean there are no integrity issues. In this context no news is not necessarily good news.
2. **Culture** - focus on positive culture reinforcement to reduce the need for integrity issue punishment-redress.
3. **Educate** - everyone, about club culture/values and what 'counts' as an integrity issue, and where/how to progress an issue.
4. **Communicate** - regular updates about club culture/values, sport integrity issues, complaints systems and contact points.
5. **Monitor** - the promotion of club culture/values and the identification and redress of sport integrity issues/complaints.
6. **Appoint** - sport integrity/club culture champions (officers/contact points).
7. **Club accreditation** - include integrity measures in any club accreditation system.

In light of calls for actionable priorities, the 2024 NSCS results and associated Commission priorities suggest an immediate club emphasis on items 2, 3, 4, and 6 above. The Commission can play a guidance and resource development role to help clubs embed and activate these priorities at grassroots levels



NATIONAL SPORT CLUB SURVEY

Sport integrity for the Commission's consideration

1. What is sport integrity and what is its relevance at club level? Inconsistent and incomplete understandings of these concepts suggest this is a key piece of club level education for the Commission.
2. 2023 and 2024 NSCS provide baseline information. Noting the availability of the Code for adoption from 12 March 2025, we recommend annual collection and comparison of this baseline data with biennial collection of more targeted priority data.
3. Future NSCS iterations could also explore:
 - a. The Commission's education and resource development initiatives, and impact on the recommended club culture, education, and communication priorities.
 - b. Club needs in relation to the 'monitoring' recommendation for positive club culture and integrity breach identification.
 - c. Demographic and socio-economic context. The impact of deprivation.
 - d. Mātauranga as a potential context for re-framing club integrity systems to focus on positive 'holistic' culture reinforcement.
 - e. Recruitment of participants for case study/action research projects on priority topics such as club culture (including Mātauranga initiatives), education initiatives and club member experiences.

SPORTS

Sports represented in the 2024 National Sport Club Survey.

AFL (n=3)	Jiu-Jitsu (n=1)	Squash (n=13)
Aikido (n=1)	Judo (n=3)	Surf Life Saving (n=8)
American Football (n=2)	Karate (n=5)	Surfing (n=2)
Archery (n=10)	KartSport (n=1)	Table Tennis (n=4)
Athletics & Harriers (n=23)	Kendo (n=1)	Taekwon-do (n=1)
Badminton (n=18)	Kung Fu Wushu (n=1)	Tennis (n=44)
Baseball (n=3)	Lacrosse (n=2)	Tenpin Bowling (n=4)
Basketball (n=14)	Marching (n=2)	Touch Rugby (n=6)
Billiard Sports (n=4)	Motorcycling (n=10)	Triathlon (n=4)
Bowls (Outdoor) (n=88)	MotorSport (n=10)	Ultimate Frisbee (n=3)
Bowls (Indoor) (n=45)	Netball (n=32)	Underwater Hockey (n=3)
Boxing (n=7)	Offroad (n=5)	Volleyball (n=8)
Bridge (n=26)	Orienteering (n=2)	Waka Ama (n=7)
Canoeing (n=2)	ParaSport (n=1)	Water Polo (n=8)
Climbing (n=2)	Petanque (n=13)	Water Skiing (n=1)
Cricket (n=19)	Polo (n=3)	Weightlifting (n=2)
Croquet (n=33)	Pony Club (n=6)	Yachting (n=19)
Curling (n=2)	Radio Yachting (n=3)	Other (n=23)
Cycling (n=19)	Rodeo (n=5)	
Darts (n=14)	Rowing (n=12)	
Disability Sports (n=6)	Rugby League (n=8)	
Diving (n=1)	Rugby Union (n=35)	
Dragon Boating (n=5)	Skate (n=7)	
Equestrian Sports (n=21)	Shooting (Clay Target) (n=13)	
Fencing (n=3)	Shooting (Pistol) (n=7)	
Floorball (n=2)	Shooting (Rifle) (n=9)	
Flying (n=6)	Shooting (Target) (n=13)	
Football (n=39)	Snow Sports (n=2)	
Gliding (n=5)	Softball (n=18)	
Golf (n=54)	Swimming (n=17)	
GymSports (n=17)	Syncro / Artistic	
Hang Gliding (n=1)	Swimming (n=3)	
Inline Hockey (n=3)	Special Olympics (n=7)	
Hockey (n=22)	Speedway (n=5)	
Ice Figure Skating (n=2)	Sport Fishing (n=4)	
Ice Hockey (n=3)		

*Not all respondents reported the sport of their club

**12% of responding clubs reported that they are associated with more than one sport



FURTHER INFORMATION

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