

Why do we need to improve integrity in sport and recreation?

He kupu whakataki | Introduction and overview

Sport and recreation is really important in helping Māori to achieve well-being as tangata whenua.

But issues, such as bullying, unfair treatment, discrimination, and racism can have a serious and detrimental impact on those involved. It can lead to people dropping out of teams and other recreation activities they really enjoy and would otherwise be involved in. We want to better understand how we can improve people's experiences, in a day-to-day setting, and the best way to address poor behaviour when it does occur.

Other examples of integrity issues can include things like doping, corruption or match fixing, such as a player in a professional competition deliberately missing a goal or throwing a game.

You might have heard about high-profile examples of integrity issues across a number of sports, which led to reviews, including for football, hockey, rugby, cycling and gymnastics.

To improve integrity, the Government is establishing a new Sport and Recreation Integrity agency to provide a one-stop shop that will include providing guidance, information and tautoko, as well as responding to integrity related issues. A new national Code of Integrity, or set of integrity standards, for sport and recreation will also be developed.

The Code will be designed to help protect tāngata whenua involved in sport and recreation, and guide organisations on what good looks like while supporting them to meet those standards.

Kōrero mai

We want to hear from you

We want to hear from Māori about their experience of integrity issues – both good and bad – while playing sport or being involved in recreation. This can include your experiences being part of a sports team, or club, through to involvement in everything from kapa haka to dragon boating, and touch rugby to netball.

The new integrity agency is also expected to operate in a way that upholds Te Tiriti o Waitangi and respects tikanga Māori. This will include, for example, having Māori representation on the Board of the new integrity agency. At the same time, we want to hear from Māori about how this could best be done to ensure that Māori meaningfully inform how the agency operates and what the agency can do to support equitable integrity outcomes for Māori in sport and recreation.

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua

'I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past'

We want to understand what worked well when an integrity issue was raised, and what didn't, so we know what our priorities should be to create a safer and fairer environment for tāngata whenua.

Māori play important roles at all levels of sport and recreation in Aotearoa. Everyone, from leaders through to people who only occasionally get involved in sport or recreation, can help to shape safer and fairer environments for the future.



We'd like you to think about a few key pātai:

- ❖ Have you experienced poor behaviour or lack of fairness while playing sport or being active, and how have those experiences made you feel?
- ❖ What would you like to see change or be different in the future?
- ❖ What would you like to remain the same? (This could include how a poor experience was handled well, so that we ensure that approach is more widely used).
- ❖ Where should we put our focus, and what should be the priority, i.e. a particular behaviour or issue you might have experienced?
- ❖ What changes would have the most impact making sport and recreation safer and fairer for Māori
- ❖ How should Aotearoa move forward in dealing with integrity challenges?
- ❖ How do you think complaints and disputes should be handled?
- ❖ How should tikanga Māori be incorporated into these processes?
- ❖ How do you think tikanga Māori and/or Te Tiriti o Waitangi can be reflected in how the new agency operates?
- ❖ What would you like to see in a national Code of Integrity (or set of behaviours and values) for sport and recreation?