

Integrity in Sport

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) holds 'integrity in sport' as the basis of sport's reputation for fair and ethical behaviour. DSR acknowledges that leadership from industry is critical to the maintenance of community confidence in the integrity in sport.

Background

'Integrity in sport' covers numerous ethical and moral issues confronting sport administrators, coaches, medical staff, players and officials. As community standards evolve on a range of issues, sport must constantly adapt, respond and, at times, lead ethical and moral responses to key issues including the:

- Continual evolution of community standards and willingness to redefine acceptable norms, e.g. racial vilification, harassment, child protection.
- Role of media in focussing on contentious issues, e.g. inappropriate behaviours.
- Development of new participation paradigms, e.g. inclusiveness.
- Commitment to universal codes of behaviour, e.g. anti-doping code.
- Prevalence of new and emerging moral and ethical issues in 'professional' sport, e.g. gambling.

Sport is a central part of active lifestyles enjoyed by Western Australians. At the individual level sport delivers leadership, discipline, teamwork, good health and lifetime friendships. At the community level sport delivers community cohesion and pride as well as the economic benefits of employment and investment.

DSR will use its influence (i.e. policy, funding, education) to maintain 'integrity in sport' for the benefit of future generations by ensuring that a fair, safe, ethical and inclusive culture pervades sport at all levels.

The response of sports administrators to these issues will determine community perceptions of 'integrity in sport'. The following examples illustrate the importance of sport's reputation:

- Sponsors will partner sport only whilst it enjoys a positive image with the public;
- Parents will only introduce their children to sport whilst it offers a safe and supportive environment; and
- Governments will fund sport only whilst it enjoys community support as a worthwhile investment for the outcomes of achievement and participation.

Contacts

Graham Brimage

(08) 9492 9829

graham.brimage@dsr.wa.gov.au

Resources

Australian Sports Commission - The Essence of Australian Sport: what we stand for (publication in preparation)

Useful Websites

Australian Sports Commission Integrity of sport - harassment-free sport and anti-doping in sport
<http://www.ausport.gov.au/media/factsheets/fshfs.asp>

Related position statements

- Drugs in Sport
- Harassment Free Sport
- Violence