# Football Australia Sports Betting and Match Manipulation Guidelines

## 1. BACKGROUND

Football Australia acknowledges gambling on sport is a common activity for many Australian adults which, when undertaken responsibly may be enjoyable. However, betting does present a risk to the integrity of football.

Football Australia is committed to protecting the integrity of football through the prevention, detection, and enforcement of rules relating to the manipulation of football competition and associated illicit sports betting activity. The Football Australia National Code of Conduct and Ethics and the FIFA Code of Ethics impose obligations and restrictions on Players and Officials (such as coaches, referees, medical staff, administrators and volunteers) in relation to betting, misuse of inside information and match manipulation or fixing – including that you must not bet on football matches.

This document sets out the guiding principles from these Codes 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.

(together, the ***Codes of Ethics***)

### 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 Information sharing with Betting Organisations

Pursuant to clause 4.2 of the National Code of Conduct and Ethics, Football Australia may share information relating to you (including Personal Information as defined in the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth)) at any time with betting organisations, law enforcement agencies, government agencies or other sporting organisations to prevent, identify and investigate alleged breaches of the Codes of Ethics, or to comply with relevant state and territory or national regulation or legislation, subject to the Privacy Act.

In sharing information, Football Australia will remain bound by the legal obligations contained in the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and Football Australia's Privacy Policy.

Football Australia may request information from betting organisations to identify incidents of suspicious or prohibited betting transactions (including single or multiple betting transactions or market fluctuations) that may indicate or tend to indicate that you have engaged in conduct prohibited by the Codes of Ethics.

To enable the organisations to provide such information, Football Australia may, from time to time and subject to any terms and conditions imposed by Football Australia (including in relation to confidentiality and privacy), provide your details as a football participant to betting organisations.

All requests for information or provision of information by Football Australia or a betting organisation shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be divulged to any third party or otherwise made use of, except where required by law or by the Codes of Ethics, is permitted by Football Australia or Wagering Service Provider, or where information is already in the public domain other than because of a breach of this Policy.

### 2.4 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.

**2.5 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 (also known as ‘tanking’) in any manner (through selections or not playing to a person’s merits), including for the intention to progress to an easier draw, or for the intention of benefiting a ‘friendly’ opponent;
- 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.

### 2.6 Educate yourself further about the risks

In order to prevent breaches of the Codes of Ethics, build positive behaviours in sport and protect football participants from competition manipulation and associated sports gambling threats, Football Australia has:

(a) developed resources and materials to address the content and subject matter of these guidelines (further information is available at https://www.footballaustralia.com.au/governance/integrity-framework); and

(b) required education programmes for certain levels of football.

However, regardless of whether your level of football requires you to complete Football Australia's education programmes, 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/.

If you have any queries on sports betting issues do not hesitate to contact Football Australia's Integrity Officer at Integrity@footballaustralia.com.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/

### 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.

Reports in relation to potential breaches of the National Code of Conduct and Ethics and FIFA Code of Ethics, including manipulation of matches and misuse of inside information, should be made to Football Australia via the confidential online reporting platform at footballaustralia.com.au/report or by calling 1800 571 850. Reports may be made anonymously if there is a genuine concern of reprisal. Such reports will be managed in accordance with clauses 4 and 6 of the National Code of Conduct and Ethics.

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