



## **MANAGING RISKS: PLAYERS INFORMATION SHEET**

### **Treat people fairly and respectfully**

As an athlete you should:

- be a good sport
- act within the rules and spirit of the game
- give positive comments to others
- respect coaches' and officials' decisions
- respect other players and participants

Don't form opinions or make decisions about people based on stereotypes and irrelevant personal characteristics e.g. he won't be any good as player because he's gay; she shouldn't play sport because she's pregnant.

You can learn about the negative impact of stereotypes and discrimination by:

- completing the free online learning and short scenarios on discrimination and harassment
- finding out more issues that challenge your personal beliefs and values and looking at strategies for responding positively.

### **Do not harass or bully others**

Bullying and harassment have no place in sport. Racist and sexist jokes or comments about someone's sexual preferences aren't 'fun' – they're a form of harassment, as is sledging, racist and sexist taunts, taking or sending offending pictures or texts and isolating and intimidating behaviour. You should keep your emotions in check and not use put-downs, harassment, ridicule or bad language.

### **Recognise people's physical boundaries**

It's important that you recognise other people's physical boundaries and that you don't touch others in ways that make them feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. Respect their privacy and never engage in activities designed to humiliate or demean someone (e.g. as part of a team bonding exercise or initiation activity).

You need to be aware that drinking alcohol can increase the risk of inappropriate behaviour.

### **Maintain appropriate relationships**

Sport is a great way to get to know people and many lasting relationships have been formed through a person's association with sport. Yet there are some limitations. As a player:



- avoid having an [intimate relationship](#) with your coach
- avoid intimate relationships on overnight trips, particularly if alcohol is consumed or if you are under the age of consent (even if the person you're with is the same age).

It is important that both coaches and players take responsibility for maintaining appropriate boundaries.

### **Accept people's right to complain about you**

Everyone has a right to be treated fairly and to speak up if they feel they've been discriminated against, harassed or mistreated. If someone complains about your behaviour, cooperate with any investigation. You'll be given the opportunity to tell your side of the story. Find out about how your club deals with complaints and make sure you know your rights.

It's important that you do not victimise the person who has made the complaint against you (by ostracising, bullying or harassing them).

Play by the Rules is supported by the Australian, State and Territory Governments. The information on Play by the Rules is not intended as a substitute for legal or other professional advice. ©