Australian Eight Ball Federation (AEBF)

National Integrity Framework

Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy

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OFFICIAL

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1. Introduction

Australian Eight Ball Federation is committed to making Eight Ball a safe and fair place for all participants. To achieve this, Australian Eight Ball Federation has adopted the National Integrity Framework, which includes this Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy.

The National Integrity Framework is designed to assist with creating a safe and fair sporting environment for all by setting out the rules about the types of behaviour that are unacceptable in Eight Ball. These unacceptable behaviours are defined as Prohibited Conduct. The National Integrity Framework seeks to guide Relevant Persons and Relevant Organisations on what to do if they experience or witness breaches of these rules.

Nothing in the National Integrity Framework overrides a law of the Commonwealth, or a state or territory, which take precedence and must be complied with in the first instance. Relevant Organisations and Relevant Persons must inform themselves of any relevant requirements in their jurisdiction and ensure that they are complying with any additional legislative requirements that may exist in their state or territory.

2. Policy Intent

The purpose of this Policy is to protect the integrity of Eight Ball through the prevention, detection, and enforcement of rules relating to the manipulation of Eight Ball's sports competitions and associated illicit sports betting activity. Through this Policy, Australian Eight Ball Federation aims to ensure that its core values, good reputation and positive behaviours and attitudes are maintained.

3. Definitions

In this Policy the following words have the corresponding meaning:

Activity means a sporting contest, match, competition, event, or activity (including training), whether on a one-off basis or as part of a series, league, or competition, sanctioned or organised by a Relevant Organisation or by IEPF or another recognised member of IEPF.

Athlete means a person who is registered, or entitled to participate, in an Eight Ball contest, match, competition, event, or other sporting activity (including training) which is sanctioned or organised by a Relevant Organisation.

Benefit includes any advantage and is explicitly not limited to property[1].

Calcutta means a fundraiser and/or betting program where bidders participate in an auction format (or blind draw) for the 'ownership' of an Athlete or Team participating in an Activity. As the successful bidder, the 'owners' are entitled to a pre-determined portion of the auction funds should their Athlete or Team be successful during the Activity.

Club means any club that is affiliated with Australian Eight Ball Federation or an SSO or otherwise enters an Athlete or a Team to participate in an Eight Ball contest, match, competition or event which is sanctioned or organised by a Relevant Organisation.

Competition Manipulation means any intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at improperly altering the result or the course of a sporting Activity, in order to remove all or part of its unpredictable nature, with the purpose of obtaining a Benefit for oneself or others.

Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy means the policy adopted by Australian Eight Ball Federation for the handling and resolution of allegations regarding Prohibited Conduct.

[1] A benefit can include, but is not limited to; profiting from betting; obtaining an easier draw in the next round of competition; prize money; gifts; winning a title; or ranking points.

Contractor means any person or organisation engaged to provide services for, or on behalf of, a Relevant Organisation directly relating to the delivery of Eight Ball activities to Participants. This includes:

(a) agents, advisers and subcontractors of a Relevant Organisation; and

(b) Employees, officers, Volunteers, and agents of the Contractor or subcontractor.

Courtsiding means the real-time transmission of Activity data (such as live scores, points or outcomes) from within an Activity venue for the purpose of facilitating a betting advantage by exploiting the time delay between live events and the framing of in-play betting odds.

Data Scouting means the collection and transmission of Activity data (such as live scores, points or outcomes) from an Activity for commercial use, including supply to Wagering Service Providers in Australia and offshore. There are two forms of Data Scouting:

(a) Official Data Scouting occurs under a formal agreement between a Relevant Organisation and a data company or Wagering Service Provider; and

(b) Unauthorised Data Scouting occurs without such an agreement.

Eight Ball means the sport of Eight Ball, as governed by Australian Eight Ball Federation and IEPF from time to time.

Employee means a person employed by a Relevant Organisation.

Financial Speculation means any arrangement under which a person acquires a direct or indirect financial interest in the outcome, result, occurrence or conduct of an Activity, and includes but is not limited to:

- betting; and
- speculative trading, such as that through 'prediction markets' or similar markets;

For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include Calcuttas or auction sweeps.

Inside Information means any information connected to the conduct, management or organisation of a sporting event that is not generally available and if it were generally available, the information, would, or would be likely to, influence a person's decision to bet on the sporting event or in making any other betting decision.

IEPF means International Eightball Pool Federation, the international federation for Eight Ball.

Member includes both:

(a) **Member Organisations**, which means each company or incorporated association that is a member or affiliate of Australian Eight Ball Federation or an SSO – including each:

(i) SSO and Club Member; and

(ii) affiliate that is a member of an SSO.

(b) **Individual Members**, which means individuals who are registered as a member of a Relevant Organisation.

National Integrity Framework means the Australian Eight Ball Federation National Integrity Framework as developed by Sport Integrity Australia and consisting of the following five policies:

(a) Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy;

(b) Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy;

(c) Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy;

(d) Participant Protection Policy; and

(e) Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy.

Participant means:

(a) Athletes;

(b) coaches appointed, engaged, accredited, registered or otherwise approved by a Relevant Organisation to train an Athlete or Team;

(c) administrators who have a role in the administration or operation or activities of a Relevant Organisation, including owners, directors, committee members or other persons;

(d) officials including referees, umpires, technical officials, classifiers and related personnel, or other officials appointed by a Relevant Organisation, or any league, competition, series, Club or Team sanctioned by a Relevant Organisation; and

(e) support personnel who are appointed in a professional or voluntary capacity by a Relevant Organisation, or any league, competition, series, Club or Team sanctioned by a Relevant Organisation including sports science sports medicine personnel, team managers, agents, selectors, and Team staff members.

Policy means this Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy and any appendices.

Prohibited Conduct means the conduct proscribed at clause 5 of this Policy.

Relevant Organisation means any of the following organisations:

(a) Australian Eight Ball Federation;

(b) Member Organisations; or

(c) any other organisation that has agreed to be bound by this Policy.

Relevant Person means any of the following persons:

(a) Individual Member;

(b) Participant;

(c) Employee;

(d) Contractor;

(e) Volunteer; and

(f) any other individual who has agreed to be bound by this Policy.

SSO means each of

(a) Australian Capital Territory Eight Ball Association Incorporated;

(b) Eight Ball Association of South Australia Incorporated;

(c) Northern Territory Eight Ball Association Incorporated;

(d) The Queensland Eight Ball Federation Incorporated;

(e) NSW 8 Ball Federation Incorporated;

(f) Eightball Tasmania Incorporated;

(g) Pool Victoria Incorporated; and

(h) The West Australian Eight-Ball Federation Incorporated.

Team means a collection or squad of Athletes, registered with a Relevant Organisation or entitled to participate in an Eight Ball contest, match, competition or event which is sanctioned or organised by a Relevant Organisation.

Use of Inside Information means using Inside Information for betting purposes.

Volunteer means any person engaged by a Relevant Organisation in any capacity who is not otherwise an Employee or Contractor, including parents or carers that volunteer, directors and office holders, coaches, officials, administrators and support personnel.

Wagering Service Provider means any company or other undertaking that promotes, brokers, arranges or conducts any form of wagering activity in relation to Eight Ball.

Any capitalised term not defined in this Policy has the meaning given to it in the Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy.

4. Jurisdiction

This Policy applies to:

(a) Relevant Persons; and

(b) Relevant Organisations.

5. Prohibited Conduct

5.1 Prohibited Conduct of Relevant Persons

A Relevant Person commits a breach of this Policy when they, either alone or in conjunction with another or others, engage in any of the following conduct:

(a) Participate in Competition Manipulation by improperly altering the result or the course of an Activity, including by[2]:

(i) the direct, pre-meditated or planned interference with the natural course of an Activity or element of an Activity[3];

(ii) providing modified or false information related to an athlete's identity or personal information;

(iii) intentionally modifying playing surfaces, equipment or athletes' physiology to improperly influence the natural course of the event[4];

(b) Place, or facilitate or assist with the making of[5], a bet, or enter into any other form of Financial Speculation, on any Activity, or on any incident or occurrence in an Activity, which they have a direct or indirect connection to[6]. For the avoidance of doubt:

(i) any bets placed by a betting syndicate or group, such as a 'punter's club', of which the Relevant Person is a member;

(ii) an interest in any bet, including having someone else place a bet on their behalf; or

(iii) allowing another person to place a bet using a Relevant Person's account,

shall be treated as if the bet was placed by the Relevant Person as an individual;

(c) Disclosure of Inside Information or Use of Inside Information, other than as required as part of their official duties;

(d) Accept, request, seek, offer, or provide a Benefit to incite, cause or contribute to any breach of this Policy, or which might reasonably be expected to bring the Relevant Person, Relevant Organisation, or Eight Ball into disrepute;

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[2] 'Improperly' in this context means not in accordance with standard sets of behaviour accepted in the participant's sport. Some practices in a sport may, when applying a strict interpretation without context, be seen as Prohibited Conduct, however, given the behaviour is culturally acceptable among participants and spectators of the sport, this conduct is, therefore, deemed not 'improper'. Refer to Annexure A for examples of acceptable and improper practices.

[3] Examples may include, but not limited to, intentionally conceding points, pre-arranging the outcome of a competition, deliberate underperformance (also known as 'tanking') in any manner (through selections or not playing to a person's merits), influencing athlete selections and strategy, or intentional unfair or incorrect officiating. Refer to Annexure A for examples.

[4] For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include any matters dealt with under other relevant policies relating to anti-doping, eligibility, gender identity or selection criteria.

[5] Facilitating or assisting includes communicating in any way, including but not limited to in-person communication, using a mobile phone, computer or other electronic device, information that might give another person an unfair advantage if they were to engage in betting related to that information, other than as required as part of their official duties.

[6] For the purposes of part 5.1(b), the words 'directly or indirectly connected to an Activity' are to be given the broadest possible meaning. Refer to Annexure B for examples of direct and indirect connections.

(e) Facilitate, assist, aid, abet, encourage, induce, cover-up or be complicit in any Prohibited Conduct;

(f) Facilitate or engage in any Courtsiding or unauthorised Data Scouting in connection with an Activity;

(g) Agree, conspire, plan or attempt to engage in any conduct which would be Prohibited Conduct if successful; or

(h) Fail to promptly report, to the fullest extent of their knowledge (or of which they ought to have been reasonably aware) to the Australian Eight Ball Federation or responsible Relevant Organisation if they:

(i) are interviewed as a suspect, charged, or arrested by a law enforcement body in respect of conduct that falls within the definition of Prohibited Conduct[7];

(ii) have been approached by another person, whether or not that person is bound by this policy, to engage in Prohibited Conduct;

(iii) have, or is aware or reasonably suspects that another person has, received actual or implied threats of any nature in relation to any past or proposed Prohibited Conduct; or

(iv) have or obtain any new knowledge or suspicion regarding any possible Prohibited Conduct under this Policy, even if the Relevant Person's prior knowledge or suspicion has already been reported.

5.2 Prohibited Conduct of Relevant Organisations

A Relevant Organisation commits a breach of this Policy when they engage in the following conduct:

(a) Facilitate, assist, aid, abet, encourage, induce, cover-up or be complicit in a breach of clause 5.1.

6. Reporting and Complaints

(a) Allegations relating to any form of Prohibited Conduct under this Policy should be submitted to Australian Eight Ball Federation.

(b) Complaints or Reports of Prohibited Conduct under this Policy will be managed in accordance with the Australian Eight Ball Federation Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy.

(c) Notification by a Relevant Person under clause 5.1(h) may be made verbally or in writing by the Relevant Person and may be made anonymously if there is a genuine concern of reprisal. A Relevant Person who makes a report anonymously is responsible for keeping a record that will allow them to confirm that they have met their obligations under clause 5.1(h).

7. Other Matters

7.1 Education

(a) To prevent breaches of this Policy, build positive behaviours in sport and protect participants from competition manipulation and associated sports betting threats, Australian Eight Ball Federation is responsible for developing and implementing an education plan addressing the content and subject matter of this Policy.

(b) Australian Eight Ball Federation should engage Sport Integrity Australia to assist in the design, implementation, and maintenance of the education plan and to determine priority education groups and associated interventions.

(c) A Relevant Organisation may, from time to time, direct certain Participants to undertake education, which will be relevant and proportionate to their level of participation in Eight Ball and the associated integrity risks.

(d) Sport Integrity Australia has developed a range of education resources and training material to support the National Integrity Framework which can be found here.

[7] This does not apply if the reporting is not permitted by law.

7.2 Information sharing

(a) A Relevant Organisation may share information (including Personal Information as defined in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)) at any time relating to Relevant Persons with Wagering Service Providers, law enforcement agencies, government agencies or other sporting organisations to prevent, identify and investigate alleged Prohibited Conduct, or to comply with relevant state and territory or national regulation or legislation, subject to the Privacy Act.

(b) Subject to the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth), Relevant Organisations may share information they receive relating to Competition Manipulation and sports betting with Sport Integrity Australia to enable Sport Integrity Australia to effectively perform its functions.

(c) In sharing information, Relevant Organisations will remain bound by the legal obligations contained in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and the Relevant Organisation's Privacy Policy.

(d) Relevant Persons must disclose information to Australian Eight Ball Federation regarding all of their commercial agreements, interests, and connections with Wagering Service Providers. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include the disclosure of accounts that Relevant Persons may hold with Wagering Service Providers.

(e) A Relevant Organisation may request information from Wagering Service Providers 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 Relevant Persons have engaged in Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.

(f) To enable the Wagering Service Provider to provide such information, a Relevant Organisation may, from time to time and subject to any terms and conditions imposed by a Relevant Organisation (including in relation to confidentiality and privacy), provide to Wagering Service Providers details of Relevant Persons who are precluded by this Policy from engaging in Prohibited Conduct.

(g) All requests for information or provision of information by a Relevant Organisation or a Wagering Service Provider 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 this Policy, is permitted by the responsible Relevant Organisation or Wagering Service Provider, or where information is already in the public domain other than because of a breach of this Policy.

8. Companion Guide

(a) This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Companion Guide: Competition Manipulation and Sports Betting Policy.

(b) The Guide supports sporting organisations and personnel with the implementation of this Policy.

(c) A failure to comply with the Guide is not inherently a breach of this Policy, but non-compliance increases the risk that a breach may occur.

Annexure A: Examples of Prohibited Conduct

1. For the purposes of clause 5.1(a) of this Policy, examples of Prohibited Conduct whereby a Relevant Person 'participates (whether by act or omission) in improperly altering the result or the course of an Activity in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the Activity to obtain a Benefit for themselves or others' include, but are not limited to:

    (a) intentionally conceding points;

    (b) influencing athlete selections or strategy with the intent to improperly alter a competition's course or outcome, beyond achieving a legitimate competitive objective (i.e., winning the competition);

    (c) deliberate underperformance (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;

    (d) providing false information about an athletes age to gain an unfair advantage; or

    (e) intentional unfair or incorrect officiating.

2. However, 'improperly' in this context means contrary to the standards of conduct expected of a relevant person by reasonable persons within Eight Ball. Some practices in Eight Ball may, when applying a strict interpretation without context, be seen as Prohibited Conduct; however, that conduct is in accordance with standard sets of conduct accepted in Eight Ball. The following does not constitute Prohibited Conduct, including but are not limited to:

    (a) selecting specific athletes for a qualification event to maximise entry quotas of the associated club or representative team/squad;

    (b) resting players/athletes for a legitimate competitive objective such as the development of the team or other players, or the management of player fatigue or injuries;

    (c) resting players/athletes from a match or race of a competition to maximise a team performance in the finals; or

    (d) not selecting a player for an entire series or tour to provide them with an extended rest period in preparation for a future series or tour.

Annexure B: Examples of Direct and Indirect Connections for a Relevant Person

1. A Relevant Person has a direct connection to an Activity if they are:

   (a) an Athlete participating/competing in the Activity;

   (b) a coach or support personnel of a Team or Athlete participating in the Activity;

   (c) a trainer/para-medical of a Team or Athlete participating in the Activity;

   (d) a referee, umpire, technical official, judge, or official, of the Activity appointed by a Relevant Organisation;

   (e) an Employee, Contractor, or Volunteer involved in the organisation of the Activity;

2. A Relevant Person has an indirect connection to an Activity if (but not limited to):

   (a) the Activity is a single race, match, or competition the Relevant Person does not directly participate in; however, it is a part of a series, tournament, or season competition, of which the Relevant Person participates in, or is directly connected to. For example, if a Relevant Person's team competes in the state Eight Ball series which involves another nine teams in a 10-round draw, that Relevant Person is prohibited from betting on any match in the entire state Eight Ball series.

   (b) they are an Employee, Contractor, or Volunteer with a Relevant Organisation organising the Activity. For example, if the Relevant Person is an Employee, Contractor, or Volunteer of Australian Eight Ball Federation and the Australian Eight Ball Federation organises the national championships, the Relevant Person is prohibited from betting on any competition, match, or race of that national championships.

   (c) the Activity includes participants competing on behalf of a Relevant Organisation and the Relevant Person is an Employee, Contractor, or Volunteer of that Relevant Organisation. For example, if a regional representative team is competing at the state championships, an Employee, Contractor, or Volunteer of the relevant regional association is prohibited from betting on any Activity at those state championships.

   For the avoidance of doubt, simply being an Individual Member of a Relevant Organisation does not imply an indirect relationship to the Activity. For example, an Individual Member of a Member Organisation, in the absence of any direct or indirect connection, is not prohibited from betting on an Activity that includes state or national Participants.