

Our transition to the integrity Commission

What's happening?

From 1 July 2024, Drug Free Sport New Zealand will become part of a new, independent Commission that will be responsible for protecting the integrity of sport and recreation in New Zealand.

While things will soon look a bit different, anti-doping processes and procedures will remain unchanged.

You'll deal with the same people and experience the same processes that you're used to. But things will look different.

In the coming months, we'll introduce you to the new Commission's name, its branding and a new website that you'll use (from 1 July) to access all anti-doping information, services and resources.

So, what do you need to know right now?

- From 1 July, anti-doping becomes the responsibility of the new Commission;
- You'll experience the same people and processes that you're used to, but things will look different;
- You'll see new branding, social media handles and a new website;
- Nothing changes until 1 July – and we'll keep you updated throughout the transition.

Why the change?

Following some troubling integrity issues in sport and recreation in New Zealand, the Government undertook a review and decided we must do better.

Research shows that many people who participate in sport and recreation are concerned about integrity issues and believe it is time to do something about it.

Threats to integrity in sport and recreation include doping, bullying and harassment, sexual misconduct, racism, discrimination, corruption, fraud and competition manipulation (match-fixing).

The Commission is being formed to deal with these threats. It will be independent from Sport NZ and HPSNZ.

About the Commission

The Commission will improve trust and confidence in sport and recreation at all levels by creating safer and fairer experiences for all.

Its purpose is to enhance integrity in sport and recreation, which will help increase the safety and wellbeing of participants and preserve the fairness of competition.

This includes delivering every aspect of NZ's anti-doping programme.

The Commission will support participants – such as athletes, administrators, coaches, instructors, volunteers - and organisations to create environments where everyone:

- can participate safely and enjoy all the benefits which sport and recreation has to offer;
- is respected for who they are, where they come from, and their inherent value;
- can trust each other, their organisations and the commission to behave with integrity; and
- has confidence that any harm will be taken seriously and people and organisations are held to account appropriately, including through restorative approaches.

Role of the Commission

The Commission will be responsible for anti-doping and participant protection and for responses to competition manipulation (e.g. match fixing and other gambling related misconduct) and fraud and corruption. It will ensure sport and active recreation organisations uphold high standards of behaviour.

It will set and monitor standards (through an Integrity Code) and provide education, training and guidance.

The Commission will operate a complaints and resolution service to ensure there is a safe and accessible way of raising and resolving issues independently.

It will also establish a disciplinary panel which will be able to determine whether a breach of the Integrity Code has occurred and impose sanctions.