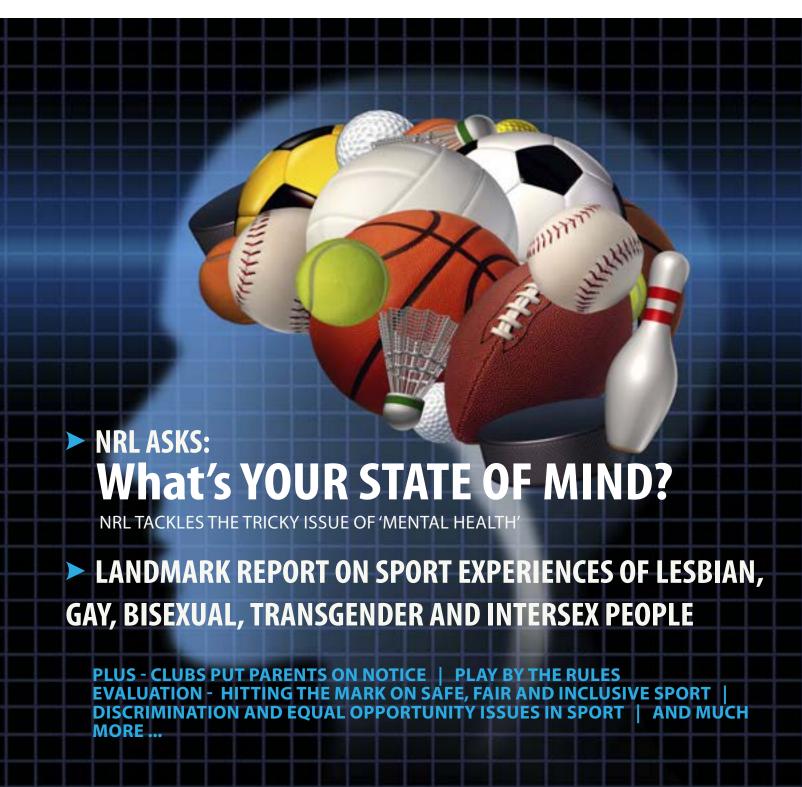


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#### THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the Play by the Rules magazine.

As usual we have a lot of content around safe, fair and inclusive sport that I hope you find useful. Behind the scenes we are busy looking at how we can improve and adapt to our ever changing environment. We completed a major evaluation project in June that gave us a really good starting point to look at how Play by the Rules might evolve into the future. One of the issues that was highlighted concerns the website itself. The website was first developed over 10 years ago and has been a great platform and resource for sport ever since. It's content rich and we have a very healthy flow of site visitors. But times have changed and the way people interact and access information online is vastly different than it was 10 years ago. Hence, work has commenced on making the site cleaner, more accessible and ready for more audio/visual content in the future. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any thoughts about the website and what you would like to see in the future - we'd love to hear from you.

Enjoy the 3rd edition of the magazine and thanks for your support.



Peter Downs Manager - Play by the Rules Please 'Like', 'Follow' and 'Subscribe' - a great way to support safe, fair and inclusive sport







# What's your STATE OF MIND?

he National Rugby League is leading the way in tackling one of the trickier issues in sport. 'Tricky' because mental health is not a subject that sport has really taken on in the past. Possibly as it's been in the 'too hard basket' for busy sports to address.

The **What's your State of Mind?** campaign brings together Australia's key mental health service providers under one umbrella to help break down stereotypes and stigmas in relation to mental health. Rugby League is an interesting sport to take this on - you can easily see the physiscal effects of the game but not so easy to see the mental effects and 'states of mind' of the people who participate or are involved in the game.

The aim of the program is to ensure a healthier environment with resultant positive benefits to the community and players from grass roots to the elite level. The NRL has partnered with Headspace, Beyond Blue, SANE Australia, Lifeline, the Black Dog Institute, Davidson Trehaire Corpsych, Kids Help Line and MensLine Australia on What's your State of Mind.

There are some excellent resources on the website set up for the campaign. Well worth checking out regardless of the sport or what level you are involved in. As NRL Chief Dave Smith says 'Mental health does not discriminate' so this is an issue across sport.



Brilliant What's your State of Mind video with Paul Gallen and Nate Myles <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4S9zgiNa5lw">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4S9zgiNa5lw</a>



The website gives 10 Tips to Mental Wellness that is good advice for anyone involved in sport and who cares about mental health:

- 1. **Regular exercise** Keeping your body active and physically strong, provide benefits for your mental well-being as it plays a role in reducing and preventing stress. A win-win. Exercise does not have to consist of a workout at the gym. Alternatives may include: go for a walk, take a bike ride, work in the garden, do stretching and yoga, light weights.
- 2. Healthy eating Ensuring that we have a balanced diet and are getting the right nutrients to fuel our body supports our central nervous system and improves overall health.
- **3. Manage stress** We all have stresses in our lives but learning how to deal with them when they threaten to overwhelm us will maintain our mental health. Make yourself take a break.
- **4. Get plenty of sleep** It's important to get a good night's sleep, preferably eight hours of un-interrupted sleep. Sleep is a universal prerequisite to health and happiness. If you are experiencing problems with sleeping, you should seek help. There are all kinds of simple strategies to help you sleep better.
- **5. Make time for fun** Make time for leisure activities that bring you joy, whether it be reading, watching a movie, connecting with others or taking a bath. Your body needs time to take a break from your responsibilities and recharge.
- **6. Avoid alcohol, cigarettes and drugs** Keep alcohol use to a minimum and avoid other drugs. Sometimes people use alcohol and other drugs to "self-medicate" but in reality, alcohol and other drugs only aggravate problems.
- 7. Laugh Nothing makes you feel better about yourself or the world around you than a good laugh. It's a great medicine, especially if you can learn to laugh at yourself. Laughter can be very therapeutic so try to incorporate laughter into your day.
- 8. Care for others Doing things for others is a great tonic when you're feeling down. Helping a friend, family or a community organization can make you feel included and empowered.
- **9. Take things one at a time** It's easy to get caught up in the desire to do and experience new things, but having too much on your plate can be counter-productive. Try making a list. If possible, break large tasks into smaller, more manageable items that can easily be finished.
- **10. Build a strong support system** Surround yourself with positive people; avoid people or situations that drain your energy; ensure that your support team offers unconditional love; network with others who are motivated and aligned with your passions and purpose; and contribute genuinely to the group effort.

Take a look at the excellent website for What's your State of Mind - <a href="http://www.nrlstateofmind.com.au">http://www.nrlstateofmind.com.au</a>



## UNIVERSITY HAWKS SUPPORT AFL INDIGENOUS ROUND IN STYLE

In 2005 the Australian Football League (AFL) introduced an Indigenous Round to its season of football. The dedicated round aims to celebrate Indigenous culture and recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians to the game of AFL. During the round, players from each AFL team wear a commemorative guernsey incorporating Indigenous design.

This year, a local AFL team has followed in the footsteps of the national competition. The University Hawks, based in Townsville have been proudly promoting the Indigenous round for several years. This year, they decided to show their ongoing support by having their own Indigenous guernsey designed. But rather than engaging the services of a professional designer, the club ran a competition for students of Shalom

Christian College to design the commemorative guernsey. The University Hawks have spent the past few years building a relationship with Shalom Christian College, which has a predominantly Indigenous student base. The club has run training days at the College and assisted with sporting equipment in an effort to gain and maintain students' interest in the game of AFL. 'The natural next step was to involve the students directly in the Indigenous round', said University Hawks Vice President, Eddie Rawlings.

Approximately 40 students submitted designs in the competition, with Soraya Rankine's design being judged as the winner. The University Hawks will wear the newly designed guernsey during the Indigenous round for three years before running a further student design competition. 'Indigenous round is an opportunity to break down the racial and cultural barriers not only among football clubs but in society as a whole', Said Eddie Rawlings. 'The Uni Hawks are proud to have the opportunity to be a part of it'.

#### **NEW CSA FOR**

#### **RACISM: IT STOPS WITH ME**



Australian of the Year Adam Goodes is urging Australians to take a stand against racism and speak out when they hear racist comments.

The AFL legend features in a Community Service Announcement (CSA) developed by the Australian Human Rights Commission. The 30-second video clip is part of the Human Rights Commission's Racism. It Stops With Me campaign which supports the work of Play by the Rules.

Mr Goodes and supporters of all ages shot the anti-racism clip at the Sydney Cricket Ground just as news broke that the footballer had again been racially vilified during a game against Essendon.

Race Discrimination Commissioner Tim Soutphommasane said Adam Goodes is an inspiring ambassador for the campaign, which aims to empower people to respond to racism. "The vast majority of Australians reject racism. As a society, we must send a strong message that race-hate is unacceptable – not only through our laws but also through our everyday behaviour. "The Community Service Announcement released today reminds

us that there are practical things all of us can do to counter prejudice and discrimination," Dr Soutphommasane said.

Mr Goodes said he is proud to be part of the Racism. It Stops With Me campaign.

"Many of us have experienced racism first-hand. Some of us have seen or heard it directed at others," he said. "The message I'd like to give to all Australians is this: 'If you see something, say something. Let's all take a stand against racism."

Dr Soutphommasane said one in five Australians report being targeted by race-hate talk such as verbal abuse or racial slurs. More than one in 20 people say they have been physically attacked because of their race. Watch the clip on YouTube.



# CLUBS PUT PUERILE PARENTS ON NOTICE

here is no single silver
bullet for clubs looking
to deal with "problem"
parents on the sidelines
of children's sporting
events. However, a number of clubs
across the world have been trialling
various methods in a bid to best
support all of the parties involved
in sport.

This year, Sydney's Balmain Community Football Club—which has one of the biggest junior soccer members in Australia—took a new approach. The club cordoned off certain areas of the grounds to prevent parents from immediately abutting the sideline and potentially moving onto the field of play.

Of the move, club president Glenn Burge was quoted as saying it was vital to protect not only the children playing but the young referees and linesmen who are intimidated by adults shouting abuse at them. Irish junior football leagues have also used this technique, but went even further this year introducing a Some clubs have introduced compulsory parent meetings at the start of a season to discuss how parents can best support the children

"Silent Sideline" weekend. Centred on the message that a sports field is also a child's playground, the league encouraged clubs to support the campaign by:

- Providing a roped off, designated area for parents.
- Appointing sideline supervisors to keep people calm and make them aware of what was expected.
- Having a silent sideline ambassador.
- Supporting good play and effort with clapping only.
- Advising coaching staff to speak to players only at half-time and during changes.

• Handing out lollipops to keep parents' mouths busy with something other than shouting.

These moves come on the back of other initiatives introduced across many sports over the years.

Some clubs insist parents sign forms pledging not to shout at the coaches, referees or children or risk being barred from attending. Some have extended this to a "contract" for players and parents alike to sign saying that they have read through the club's policies together and promise to abide by its rules.

Others have adopted parental codes of conduct with associated



disciplinary breaches ranging from game forfeiture or season suspension.

Some clubs have introduced compulsory parent meetings at the start of a season to discuss how parents can best support the children. Still others have tried a modification of the silent sideline, allowing parents only to shout the word "ole" in support, or have taken the competition out of their leagues by banning ladders, tables and scoring for juniors.

Clubs that seem to be having the most success are those that have their approach embedded in their enrolment processes. This means that from the day a child is registered and enrolled to play a discussion is started allowing parents to gain an immediate understanding of the club's expectations on codes of behaviour, orientation programs, policies and sanctions.

The NSW Office of Communities,
Sport and Recreation recommends
clubs do some "pre-season"
groundwork, putting in place
critical policies, process and
personnel, outlining six important
tasks and providing templates and
examples.

The <u>Play by the Rules resource</u> <u>library</u> also has some interactive tools for clubs on managing risks,

dealing with complaints as well as template codes and policies for clubs to download and adapt for their own use.



### LANDMARK REPORT SHEDS LIGHT ON SPORT EXPERIENCES OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX PEOPLE IN THE ACT

ccording to the report, many same-sex attracted and gender diverse people experience harassment and bullying while involved in sport, or fear the possibility of it occurring. The homophobic language used and bullying behaviour of some people in sport also contributes to many same-sex attracted and gender diverse people feeling isolated, unwelcome, ashamed and unsafe while engaged in sport and recreation activities.

"While much has been done to improve sport opportunities for other disadvantaged groups such as people with a disability, Indigenous Australian, ethnic groups and women and girls, much less has been done for LGBTI communities," said Andrew Barr MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation.

"In undertaking the research, the ACT Government wanted to understand the sport experiences of local same-sex attracted and gender diverse people and find out if there are barriers to their participation. Ultimately we want to work with sports to increase and improve the sport experiences for LGBTI people in the ACT and the report provides us with guidance and direction so this can be achieved." Local sporting organisations including Capital Football and Hockey ACT support the work being undertaken by ACT Government to address discrimination, harassment and bullying in sport, based on sexuality and gender identity.

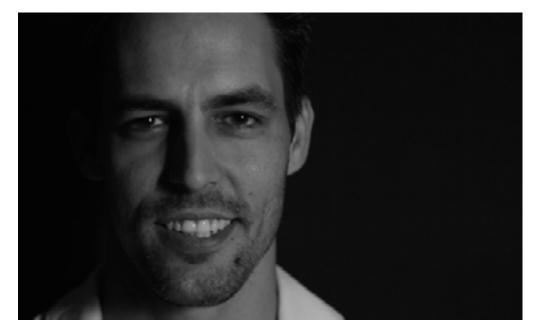


"This research is really valuable," said Heather Reid, CEO of Capital Football.

"It is about the ACT and gives my organisation a whole of sport and a football-specific understanding of the experiences of same-sex attracted and gender diverse people."

"We want to make sure that all our members are accepted, treated fairly and feel safe when participating in hockey," said Gavin Hunt, CEO of Hockey ACT.

"They cannot enjoy their hockey if they are fearful of being harassed, bullied or discriminated against. So we will certainly review the report findings and strive to make hockey more inclusive and welcoming for everyone, including same sex attracted and gender diverse people."



" Give me a break - if you can
play, you can
play... let's keep
homophobia out of sport"

> Mitchell Johnson supports the You Can Play campaign

The survey undertaken by Sport and Recreation Services follows closely the launch in April of the You Can Play campaign by Play by the Rules. High profile athletes across a range of popular sports, including David Pocock from the Brumbies and Lauren Jackson. from the Capitals, are featured in the campaign. The key message from You Can Play is that ability, attitude and effort are what count in sport and whether a person is gay or straight, shouldn't matter.

The campaign has the support of Australia's five professional codes, who have together committed to rid their sports of homophobia. In an international first, the Australian Rugby Union, National Rugby League, AFL, Football Federation Australia and Cricket Australia announced in April that they will together develop an Anti-Homophobia and Inclusion Framework prior to Sydney hosting the Bingham Cup. The Bingham Cup is the gay world Cup and kicks off in August.

"Put simply, we believe that every individual - whether they're players, supporters, coaches or administrators should all feel, welcome and included, regardless of race, gender and sexuality," ARU chief executive Bill Pulver said at the announcement.

The Inclusive Sport Survey is a component of the Inclusive Sport Project, which addresses discrimination, harassment and bullying in sport and recreation using the resources available from the Play by the Rules website. Based on the survey recommendations, ACT Government will develop a range of resources addressing homophobia and transphobia in sport, to compliment those available on the Play by the Rules website, investigate partnerships and opportunities with other government, educational and sport, recreation and fitness agencies and roll- out awarenessraising activities later in the year.

#### **Key findings from the Inclusive Sport** Survey:

The most common 'main' sport or recreational activity for LGBTI Canberrans is football/soccer (12.9%), followed by weights/circuits (8.4%) and group fitness (7.1%).

37% of respondents were 'not out'

regarding their sexuality and/or being transgender.

- Over 40% of respondents have felt unsafe in a sporting environment.
- 32% of respondents experienced verbal homophobia/bullying in sport.
- 7% of respondents experienced verbal harassment/bullying in sport based on being transgender or intersex.
- More than 4% of survey respondents experienced physical assault in sport.
- Over 50% of respondents don't know if their club or recreation provider has policies around safety and inclusion for LGBTI people, or antidiscrimination policies regarding sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

For more information on The Inclusive Sport Survey visit the ACT Government's Sport and Recreation Services website http://economicdevelopment.act.gov. au/sport and recreation or contact Kathy Mumberson the Play by the Rules Officer in the ACT by emailing kathy. mumberson@act.gov.au.



# HITTING THE MARK ON SAFE, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE SPORT

As you most likely know if you are reading this - Play by the Rules is all about safe, fair and inclusive sport. There are a lot of resources in Play by the Rules to help people at the grass roots of sport ensure their club or association is what they want it to be - a safe place to be providing fair sporting activities to people in their community. There are online courses, interactive scenarios to test yourself, plus templates and guidelines. You can see and use the media campaign materials on racism and homophobia in sport.

The regular feedback that we get is very positive and helpful. We believe that Play by the Rules plays a significant role in Australian sport. But, we do need evidence to support what we do. We need to know directly from end users if Play by the Rules is making an impact and is valued.

So, in late 2013 we embarked on a major project to evaluate Play by the Rules. We wanted to do three things:

- determine the impact of Play by the Rules on increasing the capacity of people and organisations to ensure their environment is safe, fair and inclusive;
- determine the impact of Play by the Rules on increasing confidence of people and organisations to ensure their environment is safe, fair and inclusive
- determine the impact of Play by the Rules on changing behaviours of people and organisations

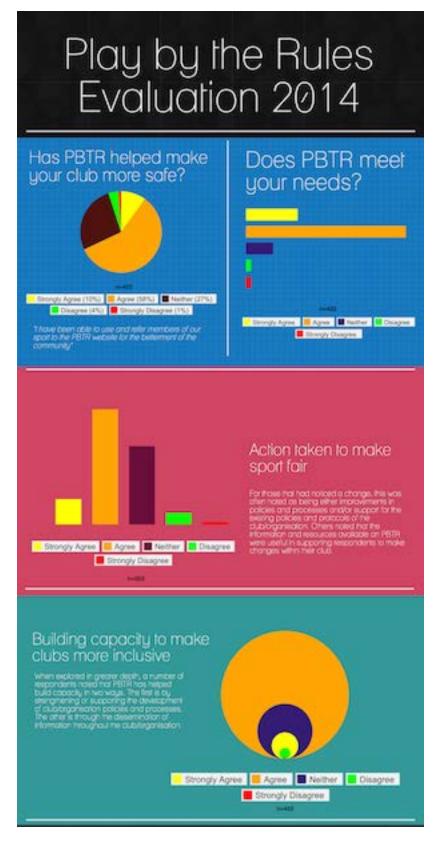
to ensure their environment is safe, fair and inclusive.

We engaged the Melbourne based organisation <u>Synergistiq</u> to conduct the evaluation. In short, Play by the Rules (PBTR) is hitting the mark on safe, fair and inclusive sport!

The aggregate findings from the data collection strategies (692 completed surveys and 62 participants in focus groups and interviews) indicate that, on average, PBTR is meeting its objectives, in particular:

- The majority of respondents either agreed, or strongly agreed, that PBTR had increased their understanding of having a safe, fair and inclusive sports environment for all people
- PBTR has also provided those individuals with greater confidence to discuss and/or implement strategies to make their environment more safe, fair and inclusive for all people
- The resources contained within PBTR are increasing the capacity of engaged organisations and individuals to ensure their environments are safe, fair and inclusive for all people
- To a less, though still positive extent, clubs and organisations report they have taken steps to make their environment more safe, fair and inclusive as a result of PBTR.

These findings were supported by the discussions held at site visits, with numerous examples of how PBTR resources and messages have been applied at various sporting clubs and organisations discussed. It is also clear that the provision of high quality, and accessible, tools and resources are at the foundation of these findings.



Here is a snapshot of the major findings from the report.

- 65% of respondents considered the 'resources' section on PBTR to be the most useful:
- The main reason for using the website was 'to assist me in my role to better support my club';
- 86% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the website met their needs;

"It's a great framework so clubs don't have to reinvent the wheel. It shows areas that the club is up to date and those we need to improve. It gives us a credible body we can refer to and give reference to when presenting policy and information to stakeholders."

- 91% of respondents were either satisfied or extremely satisfied with the content of the website;
- 87% of respondents were either satisfied or extremely satisfied with the useability of the website;
- 81% said they had recommended the website to others;
- 85% of people agreed or strongly agreed that PBTR had increased their understanding of the benefits of having an inclusive sports environment for all people.

"I have information that I can pass on and provide a link & explanation of where the information came from, which therefore provides a more legitimate source than myself."

To get the full copy of the Play by the Rules Evaluation Report simply go to <a href="https://www.playbytherules.net.au">www.playbytherules.net.au</a> and click on the infographic.

#### **LEGAL STUFF**



# Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Issues in Sport: Membership of Private Sporting Organisations

porting clubs often ask lawyers to consider the extent to which they must accommodate potential members with disabilities.

This article summarises some of the legal considerations that need to be taken into account by private sporting organisations in determining membership so as to avoid a potential discrimination claim.

#### How are sporting clubs governed?

Sporting clubs are governed by their own internal laws (e.g. the club's constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations and policies and procedures), as well as by external laws in the form of the common law and legislation.

In terms of discrimination, private sporting organisations throughout Australia are subject to anti-

discrimination laws. In Victoria the relevant law is the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) (the EO Act).

#### What constitutes discrimination?

Discrimination involves treating or proposing to treat a person less favourably because of a personal characteristic or 'attribute' protected by the law.

Protected attributes are set out in section 6 of the EO Act, and include a person's age, sex, race, religion, and, relevantly for this article, disability. The EO Act protects people from discrimination in all areas of public life, including workplaces, schools, shops and clubs.

Specifically, section 64(c) of the EO Act prohibits discrimination by clubs in refusing a person's application for membership to a club.

Therefore, if a sporting club refused an applicant's membership request on the basis of the applicant's disability, at first glance it would appear that the sporting club has engaged in discrimination prohibited by section 64(c) of the EO Act.

#### Are there exceptions?

Section 13 of the EO Act provides that discrimination can be lawful in certain circumstances. Different categories of discrimination (e.g. discrimination in employment, discrimination in schools, discrimination in accommodation, etc.) contain specific exceptions to the prohibition on discrimination.

For example, Division 6 of the EO Act deals with discrimination by clubs and club members, and provides specific exceptions

for particular types of clubs to discriminate in determining membership. These exceptions apply to clubs for minority cultures, clubs for political purposes, clubs for particular age groups, single sex clubs and clubs which provide separate access to benefits for men and women. Accordingly, an-all female tennis club that refuses an applicant's membership request on the basis that the applicant is a male would be able to rely on the exception to discrimination in section 68 of the EO Act.

Additionally, Part 5 of the EO Act contains a number of general exceptions and exemptions which apply to all categories of discrimination. One exception that often arises in the context of disability is the 'health and safety' exception in section 86 of the EO Act.

Section 86(1)(a) of the EO Act provides that a person may discriminate against another person on the basis of disability if the discrimination is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of any person (including the person discriminated against) or of the public generally.

It is often contentious whether the discrimination is reasonably necessary to protect health and safety of the person and others. Essentially, the determination of this issue comes down to an objective



assessment of the facts and circumstances of a given case. Another issue that may raise disrimination considerations is where sporting clubs seek to discriminate against members with disabilities by treating them differently to other members.

For example a private golf club may seek to offer an intellectually disabled person a modified membership. The terms of the person's modified membership might provide that he or she is only allowed to play golf on the putting green and practice fairway, rather than on the entire golf course on the basis that modifications to the membership terms are intended to address potential safety concerns relating to the person and other users of the golf course.

Whilst offering the person a membership on modified terms would constitute discrimination under section 64(e) of the EO Act, it may not be unlawful for the club to take 'special measures' (i.e. differential treatment) in order to

promote substantive equality.

Section 12 of the EO Act provides that special measures must:

- be undertaken in good faith to help promote or achieve substantive equality for members of the group;
- be reasonably likely to achieve this purpose;
- be a proportionate way of achieving the purpose, and
- be justified because the members of the group have a particular need for advancement or assistance.

As this example illustrates, there are a variety of steps that can be taken in order to address and resolve potential discrimination issues relating to membership of a private sporting organisation.

Mark Dunphy, Partner, Hall & Wilcox Lawyers
Michelle Berry, Graduate Lawyer,
Hall & Wilcox Lawyers

#### **AROUND THE GROUNDS**



NSW Health recently launched an exciting new program to encourage children who participate in junior community sport to eat healthy and drink water after sport.

There are some terrific resources available for clubs and parents that even include healthy recipes and fact sheets to help clubs 'green up' their menu ideas.

The best way to keep up-to-date is to either visit the website - <a href="http://www.rightstuff.health.nsw.gov.au">http://www.rightstuff.health.nsw.gov.au</a> and/or Like them on their Facebook - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/RightStuffNSW">https://www.facebook.com/RightStuffNSW</a>

#### Fair Enough - everyone deserves respect videos

The Office for Recreation and Sport in South Australia 'Fair Enough' program is designed as an induction program for new players, coaches and parents on the values of Respect for All. There are some great resources available, including videos and posters to promote Fair Enough.

You can see Fair Enough videos from Hockey, AFL, Touch Football, Cricket, Basketball, Baseball, Netball and AFL on the Play by the Rules Youtube channel - <a href="http://youtube.com/playbytherulessport">http://youtube.com/playbytherulessport</a>

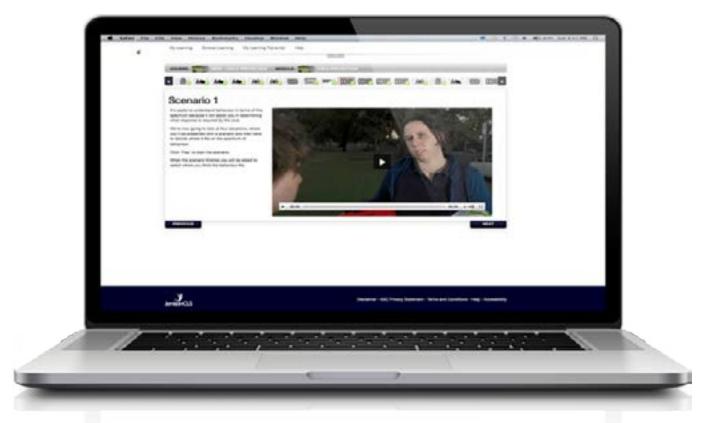


#### Bystander Intervention Project

Football Federation Victoria and VicHealth have completed a series of resources to help combat racism under the **Don't Stand By. Stand Up!** banner. It's all about what you can do if you are a witness to racism. There is an excellent information pack free to download and promotional videos - supporting the national Racism: It Stops with Me campaign - go check it out:

Don't Stand By. Stand Up!

#### ONLINE COURSE UPDATE



The 'spectrum of behaviours' is a useful tool to help you in determining what response is required to protect children.

f you have completed the Play by the Rules Child Protection online course it is well worth revisiting from time to time. If you have not done the course then we highly recommend you do as there is some great information and tools to help create child safe environments at your club.

One of the most useful exercises in the course is a series of four video scenarios that explore the 'spectrum of behaviours'. This spectrum ranges from 'child safe bahaviour' to 'sexual abuse'. The videos tell a short story and users are asked to identify where on

the spectrum of behaviours each story might fit. What would be the appropriate response? At the completion of the video you can select one of six behaviours on the spectrum to see if you've identified it correctly.

This is just one example of the range of interactive tools available inside the Play by the Rules online courses.

If you want to revisit or take the course for the first time simply enrol direct from here.

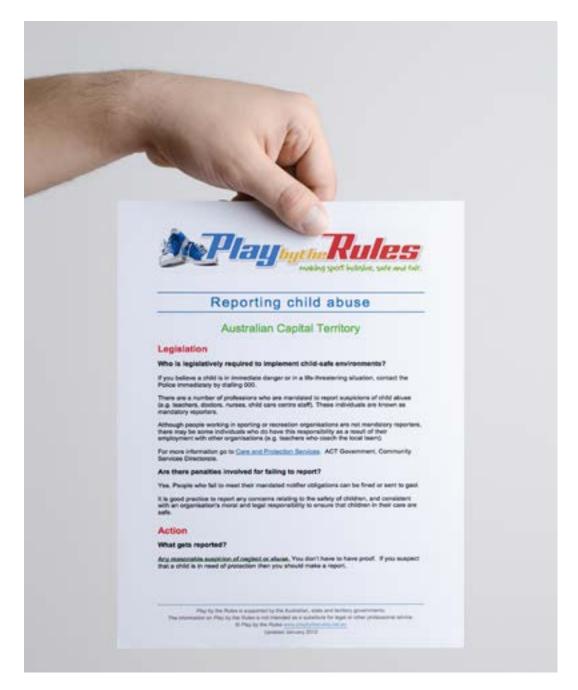
## RESOURCE PROFILE

One of the most popular sections of the Play by the Rules website is, not surprisingly, the 'Resources' section. Here you can find a lot of free downloadable material. We are currently updating our print ready postcards. Here's a sample below.

#### Postcards



Visit the Resources section to download your free postcards http://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/posters-cards



#### Reporting Child Abuse

In the Play by the Rules Resources section you will find a series of state/territory specific Information Sheets on reporting child abuse. Each sheet outlines the legislation, what action can be taken and provides a lot of useful information, such as, what does creating a child safe environment involve?

Visit <a href="http://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/reporting-child-abuse-info-sheets">http://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/reporting-child-abuse-info-sheets</a> to download your relevant Information Sheet.









## **PARTNERS**





id you know that Play by the Rules is one of the best examples of a Collective Impact approach to addressing sport issues in the country? If not the best. Play by the Rules is a collaboration between multiple partners.



























# Ask people to subscribe to Play by the Rules It's a great way to promote safe, fair and inclusive sport

#### Subscribe to the Play by the Rules Magazine

Keep up to date with safe, fair and inclusive sport by subscribing to the Play by the Rules Magazine. It comes out every two months - it's free to subscribers and will arrive direct to your inbox. Just click on the image and sign up - it's that easy!

