

Play by the Rules Magazine Issue 44

* Inclusive club builders: Women leading the way for disability participation in sport
* Intersectionality in sport: The 2024 Diversity and Inclusion in Sport Forum
* Thinking differently: Autism inclusion in sport
* The new MPIO course: Check out what’s in the update

Contents

[Acknowledgement of Country 2](#_Toc171686803)

[Editor’s Note 3](#_Toc171686804)

[Inclusive Club Builders 4](#_Toc171686805)

[Case Study 6](#_Toc171686806)

[Key Initiatives 6](#_Toc171686807)

[DISA Forum 2024 Recap 8](#_Toc171686808)

[Intersectionality and community sport 8](#_Toc171686809)

[Intersectionality and organisation leadership 9](#_Toc171686810)

[A strength-based approach 9](#_Toc171686811)

[The DISA Forum 2024 10](#_Toc171686812)

[Panellists 10](#_Toc171686813)

[Thinking Differently 12](#_Toc171686814)

[Obstacles and enablers for neurodivergent participation 14](#_Toc171686815)

[What are some obstacles? 14](#_Toc171686816)

[What are some enablers? 14](#_Toc171686817)

[What is Autism and neurodiversity? 15](#_Toc171686818)

[Who is Aspect? 15](#_Toc171686819)

[Member Protection Information Officer The new eLearning course 16](#_Toc171686820)

[Play by the Rules Courses 18](#_Toc171686821)

[Subscribe to Play by the Rules 19](#_Toc171686822)

[Back Issues 19](#_Toc171686823)

[Share and spread the word 19](#_Toc171686824)

[About Us 19](#_Toc171686825)

## Acknowledgement of Country

Play by the Rules acknowledges the land upon which this magazine was published, Ngunnawal Country, and the lands from which our contributors work in.

We pay our respects to the custodians of these lands and First Nations cultures past and present and thank Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for their contributions to Australian Sport.

# Editor’s Note

Tom Dixon, National Manager – Play by the Rules

Welcome to Issue 44 of the Play by the Rules Magazine!

This is the first edition since I commenced in my role with Play by the Rules. It has been an immense pleasure working with the wide array of Play by the Rules partners across the country.

The Play by the Rules team is growing! Alongside myself, Nadine Sadler – Education Advisor, and Sarah Wheadon – Senior Education Advisor, make up the other two-thirds of the Play by the Rules team. A huge shout out goes to Nadine for her work producing this magazine!

Thanks also to the people and organisations who contributed articles for this edition, in which we explore current approaches to the inclusion of people with disability in sport by highlighting the impact of Disability Sport Australia’s Club Builder program and how the Aspect Research Centre for Autism Practice supports sport organisations to be inclusive of neurodivergent people.

On the topic of diversity and inclusion, we also revisit the very successful 2024 Diversity and Inclusion in Sport Alliance (DISA) annual forum. The DISA alliance is a key way in which Play by the Rules helps drive forward important conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion in sport, and we have exciting things brewing with that group for 2025!

Finally, we promote the new Member Protection Information Officer training, which was re-launched in March 2024. The content is designed to reflect the modern integrity landscape of Australian sport and help build the confidence and capacity of sport volunteers and administrators to create safe, more trusting environments across all sports.

At Play by the Rules, we’re getting set for a very big 12 months, with innovations taking place in the digital space and a brand strategy project about to get underway. I can assure you that 2025 will see some exciting progress in how we support sport to be more inclusive, safe and fair!

If you would like to reach out to discuss anything, reach me via:

playbytherules@sportintegrity.gov.au

# Inclusive Club Builders

Women leading the way for disability participation in sport

Elle Steele knows what leaders need to do to create safe and inclusive spaces for athletes with disabilities – she has lived experience being both.

“I was really lucky as a swimmer because I was just placed in a lane with every other athlete. This action by my coach was quite inclusive and innovative back in the day because it was in the 90s,” Elle said.

“Funnily enough, when I moved to another swimming club later in my career, in 2002, all the disabled athletes were segregated into a separate lane whilst training. Looking back now, it felt like we were put aside, I know it was seen as ‘easier’ for the coaches, but it made it harder to bond relationships with other athletes.”

Seeing what happens when exclusion is the default practice, Elle became a part of the change to make disability inclusion the better option. Combining efforts from Victoria University, Disability Sports Australia (DSA), and the Federal Government, the Building Inclusive Sporting Clubs program was created.

“The Building Inclusive Sport Clubs Program goes beyond policies. It’s about transforming cultures within community sport organisations.

“I became involved in the DSA and Building Inclusive Sporting Clubs Program because I’m the National Project Manager of the project. It’s safe to say that the project wouldn’t have happened if it wasn’t for the amazing team of dedicated people from Disability Sport Australia as well as our project lead Clare Hanlon from Victoria University. These people see there is a gap in the market for access and inclusion within sports clubs and have dedicated their time to creating change in the sector.”

The program employs women facilitators with disabilities to provide knowledge and experience to participating clubs across Australia. Their individualised support guides clubs to develop sustainable disability-inclusive practices and programs, with the ultimate goal of making sport more accessible for people with disabilities.

After 12 months of the program, forums were held in March to celebrate the success of the participating clubs, with the aim to encourage, educate, and inspire sports clubs and organisations to create accessible and inclusive practices for their community members with disabilities.

“The project team wants sports clubs and organisations to walk away feeling like they have all they need to create inclusive and accessible spaces and places for people with disability within their clubs and organisations.”

One club that participated in the program is a Mornington Peninsula mobile croquet club, RNB Croquet Club, who have been helping people with disabilities and mental health issues find joy through croquet for the past six years.

“Our club provides free croquet sessions to people who normally wouldn’t have the chance to; we started working with men’s groups with health and wellbeing issues and it went from there,” said RNB Croquet Club President Terri Manwaring.

The club was looking for a way to grow and improve their membership offering when they were invited to get involved with the Building Inclusive Sports Clubs program. “I thought that maybe this is another avenue that can help us be able to expand what we’re doing and make our base firmer,” said Terri.

Participating in the program over eight months, Terri found that the club’s purpose aligned with the program’s goals. “It’s prepared us for the future, there’s stuff stuck in the back of my mind that I can pull out and use later when the time comes.

“I think the biggest thing that we’ve gained is that I feel that I’m not alone, there are others out there who have struggled to get things up and running. A sense of support, listening to others has encouraged me to keep going. It’s kept us pushing forward and given us that resolve.”

The club has also engaged with community services like Peninsula Health and Amity Care Services to find members who might not think that croquet can be for them as well.

“We have people who play with walking frames and wheelchairs. They can play two hoops out of twelve then can sit down and have a rest until they’re ready to go again.

“The members who stick with us come through word of mouth or just see us playing as they’re walking by with their dog and have a chat, even if it’s just for 5 seconds we invite them to have a go. The biggest thing for us it to make sure they’re having fun; if they’re having fun, they’ll come back,” said Terri.

The program is all about making space for people with disabilities so they can participate in community sport.

“Inclusion to me is acceptance of all different types of humans and welcoming and creating space for these humans in a community that they may have not been a part of before,” said Elle.

“We’re creating safe and welcoming spaces for everyone to thrive and enjoy the benefits of sport.”

## Case Study

The Fremantle Cockburn Hockey Club (FCHC) has embarked on an ambitious journey to weave inclusivity into the very fabric of its operations. The club has created innovative strategies and collaborative efforts to ensure every member, regardless of ability, feels valued and supported.

### Key Initiatives

**Flyer and Communications**

* FCHC reimagined their communication materials to better convey the club’s inclusivity. Flyers were redesigned, making the club’s inclusive events and award nights more accessible.
* Visual resources for “coming to hockey” and “what you need for hockey” were created and sent to players coming to play for the first time. Visual resources for within hockey sessions have also been created.
* An adapted visual menu is being developed for the kiosk, enabling players with communication difficulties to make their selections effortlessly.

**Inclusive Communication**The clubhouse has become a canvas showcasing the club’s diversity. Images reflecting the members’ diversity are displayed, fostering a welcoming environment where all players, especially children, feel represented and included.

**Funding and Resources**A grant from Hockey WA has enabled the enhancement of inclusive programs and FCHC are planning to acquire adaptive equipment for their players. FCHC have created quiet areas with sensory resources like fiddle toys.

**Social Media Engagement**FCHC’s adept use of social media has played a crucial role in engaging the community. Future content aims to integrate stories of children with diverse abilities into the broader club narrative. FCHC is working with Hockey WA and Hockey Australia to develop media and educational content for increased visibility.

**Community Engagement and Infrastructure**The committee, featuring a diverse group of professionals, has proposed improved physical access to the club including modifying carpark access to improve ramps and kerbs, the usability of doors, and ensuring universal access.

**Collaborative Efforts and Future Directions**

* FCHC is receiving support from local organisation WA Disabled Sport Association (WADSA) to support volunteers and provide ideas for adaptations.
* The FCHC committee’s collaboration extends to on-ground assessments, with plans for a walkthrough to identify further accessibility improvements.
* The club is preparing for a follow-up session next year to continue this momentum, indicating a sustained commitment to inclusivity.
* These strides towards inclusivity not only enhance the club’s ethos but also reinforce the message that hockey is a sport for everyone, where every player can find a place to call home.

# DISA Forum 2024 Recap

Understanding intersectionality in sport

Intersectionality is a term that’s used frequently but often misunderstood.

Put simply, intersectionality is way of looking at how people are represented and treated based on the different parts of their identity. The Diversity and Inclusion in Sport Alliance (DISA) Forum 2024 in Melbourne earlier this year set out to see how the concept can be used by sport.

The DISA Forum is an interactive event held in-person and streamed online where panellists with varied involvement in sport come together with sports administrators, volunteers and diversity and inclusion professionals to discuss ways to make sport more inclusive and accessible to everyone. For the 200+ in-person attendees and 600+ people tuning in online, it was a lesson in how to use the concept of intersectionality to make their sport more inclusive.

## Intersectionality and community sport

When it comes to community sport, intersectionality plays a role in how a person accesses and takes part in sport. A child living in the outer suburbs with immigrant parents is going to have a different experience in sport than a child living in a high socio-economic, inner-city area, and additional identities like their race, gender expression, and language spoken at home will further shape that experience. The intersections of their identities means that they each will have their own barriers and enablers to participation, and each will have a unique experience of sport. Making intersectionality a part of your sporting organisation’s practice is recognising these barriers and working to reduce their effect on how inclusive, safe, and fair your sport is for those individuals.

Panellist and Executive Director of Helping Hoops Teuila Reid doesn’t use the word ‘intersectionality’ when explaining the concept to the coaches in the program at Dandenong. “The language I use is around focusing on the whole athlete. We coach the whole person, the whole child.”

“We never have that expectation that after knowing something for a week, you’re going to be the best at it. We know that it takes consistent application, discipline, the right people, the right situations, all of those things that ultimately can culminate in success and performance. It’s the same thing when thinking about a framework that we define as intersectionality today,” Ms Reid said.

For Ms Reid, practising intersectionality involves trial and error while we each figure out what it means to us, rather than getting a list of “five hacks to intersectionality” and having an inclusive and intersectional sporting organisation overnight.

DISA member and Play by the Rules National Manager Tom Dixon develops strategies that use the concept in his day-to-day work, but also has the experience of being a committee member at a local footy club and knows that it’s achievable to include intersectional approaches to how the club operates.

“The concept of intersectionality offers lots of opportunities for decision making at all levels of sport management to better reflect the diversity of Australia’s community, the diversity of experiences, and the barriers and discriminations faced by people – barriers that continue to deny people sporting opportunities to this day,” said Mr Dixon.

“For me, the 2024 DISA forum represented a great step forward in how the sport and recreation industry frames diversity and inclusion over the next decade. In my experience in sport, the topic of intersectionality is not widely used, so just having this concept explained and explored was really useful for me, and for people attending in person and online.”

## Intersectionality and organisation leadership

Positive duty plays an important role in practicing intersectionality in sport. Panellist and internationally renowned human rights and gender equality activist Maria Dimopoulos AM noted the steps being taken to make intersectionality accessible to sport. A key action is through the Australian Sports Commission’s series of consultations into what an Intersectionality Framework in Sport would look like, and how it could help create culture change in sport governance and leadership to facilitate the inclusion we all want to see in our organisations.

When discussing best practice for conducting these consultations, Ms Dimopoulos referred to the Sex Discrimination Commissioner Kate Jenkins’ Respect@Work national inquiry. “[The inquiry] recognised the significance of the fact that identities don’t operate in this singular way, ultimately the contribution of the positive duty aspect.”

“It turns our attention to the important role that leadership and boards play, and it provides us with a critical inquiry model that says, you not only need to be responsive to complaints, you need to be able to anticipate the potential of systems to oppress, to exclude, to invest power over some groups,” said Ms Dimopoulos.

## A strength-based approach

Panellist and Paralympic Swimmer Ahmed Kelly shared that when it comes to intersectionality “it’s just about seeing the person… just look at the person and the ability they can do.”

“Like growing up, I didn’t think I was any different. I had no arms and no legs, but I honestly didn’t feel like it was any different to me, and I wanted to be able to join my friends and nothing was gonna hold me back; certainly not my arms and legs, that’s for sure,” said Mr Kelly.

“I remember the first time playing Aussie Rules footy. I’d been playing with my friends at school and it was the first time I thought, okay, I wanna take this serious and play for a local football team. My mum thought I was absolutely crazy, but I was just so passionate about it. I had an amazing coach as well… He was full of enthusiasm, and he was really accepting about everybody, which is fantastic. He didn’t see me as anyone different – that was probably what set the tone for every one of those athletes. He said, ‘Ahmed wants to join the group, everybody meet Ahmed, let’s play footy.’”

## The DISA Forum 2024

This year the Forum was hosted on 23 January by CMSport in partnership with Play by the Rules, Pride in Sport and Tennis Australia, with 10 speakers and moderators discussing the topic “what is intersectionality and how can sport use the concept?”

The host on the day was Beau Newell, National Program Manager at Pride in Sport, who is a champion of inclusion, an LGBTQ advocate with extensive experience in sports and a steadfast commitment to human rights.

The panel discussed topics at the forefront of the role intersectionality plays in sport, how we need to decolonise sport and break down access barriers for participants, and what results you see when you simply have a go.

## Panellists

**Maria Dimopoulos**
A nationally and internationally recognised expert, specialising in intersectionality and inclusion. She has worked across all tiers of government, advocating for human rights and social justice informed policy responses.

**Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli**
A nationally and internationally recognised writer, researcher, lecturer and consultant in the issues of cultural diversity, gender diversity, sexual diversity, family diversity, HIV/AIDS, and social diversity in health and education, with a specific focus on adolescence and young people.

**Teuila Reid**
The Executive Director of Helping Hoops, a NFP which runs programs instilling community cohesion through the vehicle of basketball. Teuila has served community, family and sports-based groups throughout Naarm over the past 10 years.

**Jessica Crofts**
The Manager of Gender Equity at Sport and Recreation Victoria in Naarm, Jessica coordinates the Preventing Violence Through Sport Grants Program. She is an experienced trainer, researcher and project manager, with a PhD in sociology and gender studies.

**Radmila Dyson**
Adriving force for positive change within the Officer City Soccer Club, Radmila emerged as a passionate advocate for female inclusion in sports after participating in a Football Victoria leadership program.

**Jacara Egan**
A proud Muthi Muthi and Gunditjmara former athlete, Coach and Mental Health Social Worker, Jacara has a passion for educating and creating culturally safe environments so all First Nations young people and their families have access to all levels of sport and mental health care.

**Ahmed Kelly**
A three-time Paralympian who has overcome many obstacles in his life. Born in Baghdad with significant disabilities in all four limbs, humanitarian Moira Kelly and her charity brought Ahmed and his brother Emmanuel to Australia for medical procedures in the early 2000s, which led Ahmed to a passion and professional career in sports.

**Shelley Ware (Moderator)**
A proud Yankunytjatjara, Kokatha and Wirangu woman from Tandanya who currently lives in Naarm, Shelley is a highly regarded AFL media presenter and MC. She is also a teacher, author, curriculum writer and facilitator, passionate about embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture into the national curriculum.

**Kate Jenkins AO**
A leader who has led cultural reform and advanced diversity, inclusion and performance in Australian workplaces, sport, parliament, education and the security sector.

Watch the Forum in full: <https://www.vimeo.com/playbytherules/disaforum24>

# Thinking Differently

Including kids with autism in sport

Organised sport is a great way to get fitter, improve mental health and find social connections, but when you are one of the 1 in 40 Australians who are Autistic it can be difficult to navigate. If you are an activity organiser or coach, it’s likely that neurodivergent people will be a part of your sport. So how can we make their experience a positive one?

In a study by the Aspect Research Centre for Autism Practice (ARCAP) this year , it was found that 74% of Autistic children and 69% of Autistic adults would like to participate in more organised physical activities than they currently were. The research identified many barriers including a lack of training for coaches.

“I think one issue is that many coaches are volunteers and try their best, but they have never received any training or been given any support in how to adapt what they do to make it more inclusive” said Aspect Executive Manager Tom Tutton.

Common challenges include issues like anxiety and physical difficulties, difficulties in communicating with non-autistic people, and broader societal issues such as a lack of inclusive opportunities and insufficient awareness about autism. These barriers can exacerbate anxiety and may ultimately lead to the individual withdrawing from the sport entirely.

“When sports organisations engage with players or their parents to discuss the player’s needs for feeling comfortable and included, especially if the player is Autistic, they should focus on understanding and respecting each player’s unique sensory and access needs. This involves addressing potential sensory sensitivities, physical challenges, and creating supportive environments that facilitate easier participation,” said Dr Chris Edwards of ARCAP.

“The goal is to make sure everyone can join in safely and enjoyably, which might mean making some changes to the activities, the place where they happen, or the equipment used. These talks are about working together to find the best ways to help every player have a good time and feel included. They also might discuss how the organisation is prepared to support players with different needs, including training their staff to be more understanding and accommodating.”

Lucy Steen has three boys that she encourages to get active and social through sport and believes that coaches have the most important role to play when it comes to including every player and working to their strengths.

“I let the coach know that my middle son, James , is Autistic, and the coach asked me what he could do to accommodate him. I told him that James going to find some things difficult, and he may find some situations stressful and get anxious. Let him have a calm moment, be encouraging, be supportive of him.

“He’s not good at running but he had a strong build so they made him front rower and gave him clear instructions in a way so he could understand. The coach was great and made him feel really included and doesn’t get tied up in winning. He builds the boys up and gives them all a place. Everyone has strengths and weaknesses, and everyone can have a role in that game,” said Lucy.

Sport for Lucy’s family has been a positive experience, but there was one instance when her eldest son, Isaac, was bullied by other boys on the team. “Once we knew what was happening, my husband wrote a firm but kind letter advocating for Isaac and emailed it to the team manager and the coach; they were parent volunteers as well,” Lucy said.

“The parents’ responses were awesome. The boys involved were pulled aside, away from Isaac so he wasn’t embarrassed, and had a chat to explain what it is to be a team player.

“It teaches young boys that this bullying behaviour isn’t acceptable. It’s not just sport, this toxic behaviour isn’t acceptable anywhere, and sport can be a great place to learn those skills.”

For parents of neurodivergent kids, Lucy shared that it’s important to be clear and advocate for your child upfront. “It doesn’t matter what the sport is, as long as they’re active and having fun and feeling supported; don’t be afraid to ask for accommodations for them, and don’t accept any discrimination.”

Sports are taking this feedback on board but there’s always more to be done.

Tom Tutton from Aspect said, “many organisations do this work really well in small pockets of practice but aren’t yet confident in claiming expertise or high quality broadly.”

“Our passion is that inclusion occurs so that anyone of any ability can participate in a way that works for them and makes them happy – for many this might be a mainstream sporting activity and for others it might be a smaller and more supported occasion.

“These more highly supported events can, for some people, be stepping stones to regular sport and activity. Some sports like social running, for example at parkrun, lend themselves more to broad inclusive activities whilst other sports that are more competitive, team based, et cetera, can benefit from more variety in offering.”

Aspect works with clubs to assist them in building guidelines for Autistic inclusion that fit the sport. “Guidelines are made specific to specific sports in partnership with key agencies and organisations within that sport – including Western Sydney Wanderers for soccer or Sydney Dance Company for dance – and developed via pilot programs where we work directly with Autistic people participating in sport,” said Tom.

“We teach people about a comprehensive framework of supports that include an explicit culture of welcome, sharing information ahead of time to support people to prepare for and predict what is going to happen, developing organised and well-structured activities, teaching skills step by step, sensory and communication adaptations and stress and challenge management. Every approach is taught using sport specific examples and teaching done with Autistic staff who share lived experience.”

## Obstacles and enablers for neurodivergent participation

### What are some obstacles?

* Inflexible training programs: The one-size-fits-all approach to training often overlooks the diverse needs of Autistic individuals, leading to discomfort and disengagement.
* Communication differences: Autistic individuals may have unique communication styles that are misunderstood or ignored in typical sporting environments.
* Sensory sensitivities: Many Autistic people have heightened sensory experiences, making traditional sports settings overwhelming or painful.
* Limited autism awareness: Insufficient education and training for coaches and staff about neurodiversity can result in a lack of appropriate support and inclusion.
* Systemic exclusion and discrimination: Autistic individuals frequently encounter both direct and indirect exclusion from sports, whether through overt discrimination or systemic barriers that fail to accommodate their needs.

### What are some enablers?

* Predictable activities: Sharing information about training or competitions ahead of time can reduce anxiety and improve participation.
* 1:1 coaching: Step-by-step instruction with a coach can help with understanding and help players feel included.
* Sensory and access needs: Open, non-judgmental communication between players, parents, and coaches helps manage expectations and needs. This may include uniform modifications, training adjustments, and changes in how instructions are delivered.
* Organisational support: Assisting with transportation, sign-ups, schedules, equipment readiness, and session reminders can aid participation.
* Support person involvement: Allowing a parent or carer to be present during training or competition provides essential communication and support.

*Adapted from Aspect Australia:
https://www.aspect.org.au/about-autism/our-research/physical-activity*

## What is Autism and neurodiversity?

Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental difference. Autistic people experience differences in the way they process information and interact with their environment compared to non-Autistic people. This means the way that Autistic people communicate, connect with others, and engage with aspects of day-to-day life are different to those of non-Autistic people.

Neurodiversity is a non-medical term that describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one “right” way of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits. Neurodivergent people are not always autistic; the term neurodivergent can refer to people with ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, Tourette’s, or mental health conditions like obsessive-compulsive disorder.

## Who is Aspect?

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is Australia’s largest autism-specific service provider, with one of the biggest autism-specific school programs in the world. A not-for-profit organisation, they work in partnership with people of all ages on the autism spectrum, and their families to deliver evidence-informed solutions that are person-centred, family-focused and customer driven.

[www.aspect.org.au](http://www.aspect.org.au)

# Member Protection Information OfficerThe new eLearning course

In March 2024 the newly updated Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) training was launched to meet the current needs of our sporting community.

Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs) are an integral part of all levels of Australia sport, especially grassroots sport. MPIOs are there to listen to issues raised by members of members of any sport before triaging and referring them to the right place to find a resolution. The MPIO is responsible for providing information about a person’s rights, responsibilities and options to an individual making a complaint or raising a concern, as well as support during the process.

MPIOs:

1. Are trained to be the first point of contact for any person considering making a complaint under the sport’s Integrity Framework
2. Listen and provide confidential, impartial and timely information and support.
3. Depending on the nature of the issue raised, they provide referral options to the member which may include Sport Integrity Australia, a National Integrity Manager or an external agency for further information.

MPIOs don’t handle complaints or investigate grievances, and they don’t mediate between members or stakeholders. They’re also separate from the Integrity Manager or the Complaints Officer in your sport. MPIOs are an impartial party who are there to help guide people in the right direction.

MPIOs can be based within a club, a State Sporting Organisation, a National Sporting Organisation, or a National Sporting Organisation for People with Disability.

***What is the value of an MPIO?***

MPIOs are there to provide a safe space and remove barriers to addressing complaints within a sporting organisation, and they can make the difference between an issue being resolved and a disclosure or complaint not being made at all.

In times of difficulty, individuals want to be able to find someone to ask questions and seek guidance. As an MPIO, you will be a point of contact and source of information on issues in sport, including things like child safeguarding, bullying, harassment, vilification, discrimination, and social media abuse.

It’s important that people report poor behaviour as soon as they see or hear about it. This can stop that behaviour from continuing or getting worse. If people see poor behaviour go unchallenged, it can create negative cultures and environments where people can be harmed.

Unfortunately, not everyone feels comfortable speaking up, and people may be reluctant to act about a concern or a complaint because they:

* are unaware of their rights
* fear victimisation
* lack confidence
* do not want to be labelled
* blame themselves
* don’t trust the process.

With the right communications skills, MPIOs will have the ability to mitigate or lessen the impact of such barriers.

With thousands of MPIOs across the country and hundreds completing the training each year, the updated online course and face to face workshop provide comprehensive training on being the first point of call for issues in a community sport club.

MPIO training covers:

* The role and responsibilities of an MPIO
* How MPIOs can help triage member protection and child safeguarding issues within a club
* Where to refer people if they have a complaint
* Trauma-informed listening practices
* How to create an inclusive, safe, and fair sporting club environment.

To support the updated training, there is a new suite of resources available including guides, templates, and social media content.

To find out how you can become an MPIO or recruit one for your club, visit:

[www.playbytherules.net.au/mpio](http://www.playbytherules.net.au/mpio)

# Play by the Rules Courses

PBTR courses have now been integrated into the Sport Integrity Australia eLearning hub which is co-branded with Play by the Rules.

You can now find all of these PBTR courses in one, easy to find place:

* Revised Child Protection Online Course (now part of the Sport Integrity Australia branded courses and called the Safeguarding Children & Young People Introduction)
* Harassment and Discrimination Online Course
* Member Protection Information Office Course
* Complaint Handling Training
* Inclusive Coaching
* Creating an LGBTI+ Inclusive Club
* All mini-courses

Hosting the Play by the Rules online training modules on the Sport Integrity Australia eLearning hub creates a single destination for all sporting codes and administration staff to access the appropriate educational materials and training on sport integrity and will vastly improve the user experience in the process.

[elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au](https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/)

# Subscribe to Play by the Rules

[**Subscribe**](https://www.playbytherules.net.au/subscribe) and join the 180,000+ subscribers to Play by the Rules. It’s a great way to keep up to date with safe, fair and inclusive sport!

## Back Issues

You can access each back issue for this magazine by visiting the [**Magazine**](https://www.playbytherules.net.au/magazines) page on the Play by the Rules website. All the feature articles and significant news items are listed on our [**Articles**](https://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/articles) page.

## Share and spread the word

One easy way to keep up to date and support safe, fair and inclusive sport is to share Play by the Rules across social media. You can find us on [**Facebook**](https://www.facebook.com/playbytherules/), [**Instagram**](https://www.instagram.com/playbytherulessport/), [**Twitter**](https://x.com/playbytherules) and [**LinkedIn**](https://www.linkedin.com/company/playbytherules), as well as [**Vimeo**](https://vimeo.com/playbytherules).

# About Us

Play by the Rules is a unique collaboration between Sport Integrity Australia, Australian Sports Commission, the Australian Human Rights Commission, the eSafety Commissioner, all state and territory departments of sport and recreation, all state and territory anti-discrimination and human rights agencies, the Office of the Children’s Guardian (NSW) and the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW. These partners promote Play by the Rules through their networks, along with their own child safety, anti-discrimination and inclusion programs.

Play by the Rules provides information, resources, tools and free online training to increase the capacity and capability of administrators, coaches, officials, players, parents and spectators to assist them in preventing and dealing with discrimination, harassment, child safety, inclusion and integrity issues in sport.