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Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development
Minister for Sport
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MEDIA RELEASE

June 10, 2011

MINISTERS TAKE UNITED STAND AGAINST MATCH-FIXING

Australia's Sports Ministers today reached an historic agreement to address match-fixing and protect the integrity of sport.

Federal Minister for Sport Mark Arbib said the National Policy on Match-Fixing in Sport would provide the foundation for all Australian governments to work with sports and betting companies to deter and deal with corruption in sport.

Key features of the policy are:

- Agreement to pursue nationally consistent legislative arrangements;
- Legal arrangements and integrity agreements between sports and betting companies which will include requirements to share information, provide sports with a right to veto bet types and provide a financial return from sports betting to sports;
- The adoption of codes of conduct by sports;
- The establishment of a National Integrity of Sport Unit to oversee the national arrangements and provide support for smaller sports; and
- That Government funding will be contingent on sports implementing appropriate anti-match-fixing and anti-corruption policies and practices.

"This is an outstanding result for sport. I am pleased that all Australia's governments are presenting a united front against the scourge of match-fixing," Senator Arbib said.

"The only way we can deal with this threat is by working together to ensure we have a national policy underpinned by legislation, codes of conduct and industry standards.

"Today's was an important meeting. The Australian Crime Commission gave Sports Ministers a detailed briefing about the impact of organised crime internationally and the potential impact on the Australian economy and our sports.

"The Crime Commission advised that currently in Australia its concern was for individual athletes and sports, rather than the sports industry as a whole. But as betting volumes increase, sport is vulnerable to organised crime, to launder money and conceal illegal activity.

"Ministers recognise that the most important thing is for Australian sports lovers to have confidence that our sports are played fairly and that all players are giving their best."

In bringing forward this proposal, Minister Arbib acknowledged the essential input of Australia's leading sports and betting companies.

"I want to thank all of the sports which have contributed to this policy and had input into its formation, particularly the Coalition of Major Professional and Participation

Sports (COMPSS) through Malcolm Speed and the Australian Olympic Committee through John Coates," Senator Arbib said.

"I also received great cooperation from the betting companies which acknowledge the impact corruption could have on sport.

"I would also like to thank my Ministerial colleagues from across Australia for their commitment to this issue."

Minister Arbib said a working party would now develop a detailed implementation plan for Sports Ministers to consider in three months.

"The next step is for the Attorneys General to begin work on the nationally consistent legislative arrangements, when they next meet in July."

SPORT AND RECREATION MINISTERS' COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ

MINISTERS SIGN OFF ON NATIONAL POLICY ON MATCH-FIXING IN SPORT

GOLD COAST, 10 JUNE 2011

Today at the Gold Coast, Sports Ministers signed on behalf of their governments a National Policy on Match-Fixing in Sport which aims to preserve the integrity of one of Australia's greatest assets – our national sporting heritage.

Match-fixing and corruption in sport has emerged as the critical issue facing Australian and international sport.

Australia's National Policy on Match-Fixing in Sport represents a commitment by the Commonwealth and state and territory governments to work together to address the issue of inappropriate and fraudulent sports betting and match-fixing activities with the aim of protecting the integrity of sport.

The Policy is underpinned by the following agreed principles:

- A nationally consistent approach to deterring and dealing with match-fixing in Australia;
- Information sharing and highly efficient networks between governments, major sports, betting operators and law enforcers;
- Consistent national code of conduct principles for sport; and
- Active participation in international efforts to combat corruption in sport including an international code of conduct and in international body.

The Policy will also provide the basis for Australia to actively participate in international reforms to achieve similar international outcomes.

Ministers acknowledged the strong support the major sporting organisations including the Australian Olympic Committee and those represented by the Confederation of Major Professional and Participation Sports and the sports betting industry have shown throughout the development of this policy.

A cross jurisdictional working group will provide an implementation work plan to Sports Ministers within three months, which will include an assessment of readiness of the sporting organisations and the betting industry to pursue the requirements under this Policy.

All partners will now work together in the implementation of this Policy which will deter match-fixing, and deal with it should it arise, and in doing so safeguard Australian sport.

At today's meeting, Ministers also made some other key decisions.

Ministers, except NSW, today also endorsed the National Institute System Intergovernmental Agreement. The Agreement has been established to implement the new national partnership between State and Territory institutes and academies of sport and the Australian Institute of Sport. Through the Agreement, the institutes and academies will work together with

identified national sporting organisations to improve support for their athletes through national agreed high performance plans.

Ministers endorsed the National Sport and Active Recreation Policy Framework, which was developed in consultation with national sport and active recreation organisations. The framework provides a guide for the development and alignment of policies and initiatives by governments in pursuit of a high performing sport and active recreation system. The system will deliver increased participation, success in international competition and strong national sporting competition.

Ministers again recognised the importance of sport and physical activity in school education and will continue to engage with Education Ministers and the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority.

Ministers also received a briefing on the Gold Coast's bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games from Mark Peters, CEO of the Gold Coast bid.