

# **SPORT INTEGRITY THREAT OVERVIEW**

# **Athletics Australia**

August 2014

#### ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The Sports Integrity Threat Assessment Methodology incorporates advice from the National Sporting Organisation on integrity issues in relation to their sport, combined with input from law enforcement, regulators and the NISU, to produce ratings for key individual integrity threats and an overall **Integrity Threat Assessment Rating.** The threat ratings are combined with the current status of governance, oversight and financial management mechanisms within the sport to provide **Vulnerability Assessment Ratings**. The vulnerability assessment is designed to assist NSOs with treatment and mitigation strategies to reduce vulnerability in the contemporary integrity threat environment. Each vulnerability and threat criteria is rated on a scale from Negligible to Very High.

#### Overview

The overall threat to the integrity of athletics in Australia is assessed as LOW.

The integrity of athletics in Australia is protected to some degree by the lack of a large wagering market on the various track and field events which fall under the jurisdiction of Athletics Australia.

While the sport has a low risk of match fixing or organised criminal infiltration, there is a medium risk of doping and illicit drug use, both of which create the potential for athletes to be corrupted or coerced into manipulating outcomes or contingencies.

While the IAAF has strict policies in relation to betting by athletes, the acceptance by Athletics Australia of betting by athletes on events, albeit events in which they are not involved, is inconsistent with national and international good practice and has the potential to undermine the integrity of athletics in Australia.

Despite the low threat to the integrity of Athletics Australia, there are significant vulnerabilities, particularly in relation to the oversight of athletes and officials. The exploitation of these vulnerabilities is unlikely at present given the limited wagering markets on athletics and limited motivation for organised crime to infiltrate and exploit the sport.

Should there be any significant change in the scale of wagering on athletics events, the integrity threats are likely to increase significantly given the vulnerabilities across athletics in Australia.

## **Threat Ratings**



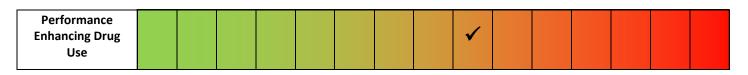
The threat of match fixing in athletics in Australia is assessed as LOW.

Athletics in Australia is largely protected from match fixing due to the comparatively small wagering markets<sup>1</sup> and, therefore, the limited ability to secure large amounts of money on contrived or manipulated event outcomes or contingencies. Additionally, limited bet types are offered on athletics by bookmakers, making these markets less attractive to organised criminal groups or individuals engaged in match fixing.

Although the threat of match fixing is assessed as low, athletics events or contingencies could be manipulated by:

- Officials, given some subjectivity of decision-making and their ability to disqualify athletes or otherwise alter the outcomes of events
- Athletes, given the individualistic nature of athletics events.

Given the ease with which athletics events could be manipulated, should there be any significant increase in the size of wagering on athletics the threat of match fixing would likely increase to a higher rating.



The threat of performance enhancing drug use in athletics in Australia is assessed as **MEDIUM**.

With a broad range of track and field sports under the umbrella of Athletics Australia, elite athletes require various combinations of control, strength, power and endurance. There is also an equally diverse mix of injuries athletes suffer and scheduling pressures. It is this broad mix of athletic requirements and demands, combined with the historical incidence of performance enhancing drug use in athletics around the world, which contributes to the medium threat of performance enhancing drug use in athletics in Australia.

Athletics Australia is cognisant of the threats of performance enhancing drug use and has developed a close working relationship with ASADA. Athletics Australia has also actively responded to the threat of doping from supplement use through the implementation of an enhanced policy around supplement use and adoption of the AIS sport supplement/sports medicine best practice principles. This is supported by an IAAF advisory note released in 2013 which re-affirms the IAAF's position that athletes do not require supplements and any supplement use is at the athlete's own risk.



The threat of organised criminal infiltration of athletics in Australia is assessed as LOW.

The likelihood of organised criminal groups or individuals seeking to corrupt athletics for the purposes of manipulating events, or to corrupt the sport is assessed as low given the limited opportunity for organised crime to profit or benefit from any such activity. Athletics clubs and associations are also unlikely to be targeted by organised criminal groups given that infiltrating these corporate entities would be of little benefit to organised criminal individuals or groups.

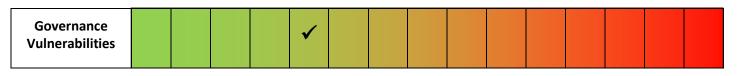
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Whilst it is recognised that there are specific athletics events such as the men's 100 metre sprint which are more heavily wagered upon, the markets on athletics as a whole are comparatively small, with a limited range of betting products offered.



The threat of illicit drug use within athletics in Australia is assessed as **MEDIUM**.

Athletics Australia has a comprehensive illicit drugs policy, however, this is not supported by a comprehensive testing program. The lack of an out-of-competition illicit drug testing program, and therefore limited ability to detect, sanction and consequently deter athletes from using illicit drugs contributes to this elevated threat.

### **Vulnerability Assessment**



The governance vulnerabilities of athletics in Australia are assessed as LOW.

Governance frameworks within Athletics Australia in combination with the IAAF governance requirements provide an adequate level of governance given the current threats to athletics in Australia. While there are specific policies relating to match fixing and betting covered by the *IAAF rules and code of ethics*, and in the *Athletics Australia Code of Conduct for Team Members and Squad members*, the lack of a distinct match fixing policy and cultural acceptance of betting by athletes on athletic events in which they are not involved creates ambiguity and gaps in governance which are inconsistent with best practice in relation to protecting the integrity of sport.

Given the current low threat of match fixing and broader integrity threats to athletics due to the lack of a developed wagering market on the sport, governance vulnerabilities are unlikely to be exploited. However, the adoption of a specific match fixing policy by Athletics Australia would provide an additional level of protection to Athletics Australia and athletes by removing potential ambiguity between different policies and rules.

Oversight				✓				

The oversight vulnerabilities within athletics in Australia are assessed as **MEDIUM**.

A number of oversight vulnerabilities currently exist within athletics in Australia, particularly in relation to minimal due diligence checking of officials and minimal to no remuneration for officials. Given the capacity of officials to significantly influence an event outcome or contingency, this lack of oversight is a substantial threat. Athletics Australia's capacity to maintain oversight of athletes is also made difficult by the large number of athletes spending significant periods of time overseas competing or training.

As with governance, given the low integrity threats to athletics, oversight vulnerabilities are unlikely to be exploited. However, if there was any significant increase in wagering on the sport or capacity for organised crime to profit from corrupting the sport, enhanced oversight of officials, athletes and support staff would be warranted.



The financial vulnerabilities within athletics in Australia are assessed as LOW.

Given the corporate structure of athletics in Australia, criminal infiltration of clubs or state associations is unlikely given the limited benefits for organised criminal groups or individuals and the high level of control by State athletic associations.