

Memo

To: All Affiliated Associations

From: David Watts
Manager - Disciplinary Tribunals, Investigations & Member Protection

Cc: Basketball NSW Staff

Date: April 2021

Re: Member Protection

Basketball New South Wales (BNSW) is highly committed to the health, safety and well-being of each and every one of its 67,000+ members, and it is also dedicated to providing a safe sporting environment for all of its participants throughout NSW.

The positive aspects of involvement in our sport are well founded and evidenced by the many thousands of people participating in basketball activities and competitions across the state each week. The value of regular exercise gained through basketball to an individual's personal health and fitness should not be underestimated, nor should the role that social interaction (which is provided through each Basketball Association's culture & environment) can provide in developing a person's self-esteem. This, in turn, may further enhance people's involvement within their local community. Any inappropriate or unlawful acts in sport can serve to drastically undermine these essential benefits that are formed from being part of the 'Basketball Family'.

For these reasons BNSW has appointed specially trained staff to perform the role of Member Protection Officers. These persons actively work to minimise all areas of risk to members' safety, they also have the ability to investigate complaints, and then recommend a wide variety of sanctions in order to prevent this type of conduct re-occurring or spreading within our sport.

Depending on the nature of each case, instances of harassment or abuse in sport can have a devastating impact on not only those individuals directly involved, but also for each of the organisation(s) that may be indirectly affected. In addition to exposing the club or association to potential criminal or civil legal action, an unpleasant working environment for volunteers may develop, officials may be faced with low morale, there may be a higher turnover of personnel, and there is the real prospect of long-term damage being done to the organisation's image and reputation.

These are all unnecessary and preventable harms that BNSW takes pro-active steps to prevent through its adoption of various State and National initiatives including the *National Integrity Framework*, the *National Member Protection by-laws*, *BNSW Disciplinary by-laws*, the *BNSW Zero-Tolerance & Sports Rage policy* and the establishment of *BNSW Codes of Conduct* for each of the various participants within our sport. These guidelines not only set out the broad expectations for the conduct of all participants, but they also incorporate detailed policies to regulate behaviour and to ensure action can be taken against those who fail to

adhere to acceptable behavioural standards, and expose the sport of basketball to any undue risk.

BNSW's strict adherence to these guidelines, and the various statutory responsibilities that govern our sport, reflects BNSW's dedication to serving and protecting its members and participants throughout all levels of Basketball.

If an Association requires any assistance with how to deal with, or how to properly investigate, any type of complaint or other problem within our sport, please contact your Association's Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO), or email one of our Member Protection Officers on mpo@bnsw.com.au.

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