

Raising Concerns About Abuse in Sport

Can I raise a concern about my safety in sport?

You have the right to raise a concern and have it taken seriously. You can raise a concern about anything to do with sport in Australia, especially if it is about your safety.

It can be about something serious, like your safety or the safety of another athlete or young person in sport, and it can be related to a person within the QAS, or outside of the QAS, like at your sports club, home, school or work.

You should raise a concern if you experience anything that makes you feel unsafe or uncomfortable whilst engaging in your sport, any service at QAS, or an issue within your NSO.

You can raise a concern if someone in sport (a clinician, coach, member association, a contractor, a parent or another athlete)

- ⊗ Makes you feel awkward, uncomfortable or unsafe through contact or communication
- ⊗ Touches you in any way that hurts or injures you
- ⊗ Insults or belittles you or uses punishments that harm or exclude you, or
- ⊗ Does nothing to protect you from someone else doing those things to you.

This includes behaviours that insult or hurt you about your physical appearance, body, culture or race, gender or sexuality.

It is possible these inappropriate behaviours are actually considered abuse. There is no place for abuse in sport.

By raising your concerns, we can prevent abuse from happening and keep you and other athletes safe.

If you need more information about this, the Recognising Abuse in Sport Guidelines explains the different types of abuse, what concerning behaviours might look like, and what you can do about it.

Your safety and wellbeing is taken extremely seriously at the QAS.

DEFINITIONS

-  **Child:** a person under the age of 12
-  **Young Person:** a person aged between 13-18
-  **Athlete:** any QAS supported athlete (any age / any category)
-  **Safeguarding:** having active measures in place to *prevent* institutional harm and abuse of athletes and *respond* to any safety concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm and abuse of any athlete.
-  **QAS Staff or Contractor:** any person engaged by the QAS

If you see, feel or hear something that concerns you please tell us.

If you experience something yourself that makes you feel worried, unsafe or uncomfortable, please tell us.






How can I raise a concern?

REPORTING CONCERNS

As an athlete you have the right to speak up to RAISE and REPORT a concern of any nature to any person you trust. If you have concerns about the safety of an athlete, someone's behaviour, or have seen or heard something that is questionable and just doesn't feel right, you can REPORT it to the QAS. We will take it seriously.

Remember: If anyone is in immediate danger contact the police on 000.

You can:

-  Speak to a family member or friend first.
-  Raise your concern with ANY QAS staff member. It doesn't matter what their role is, they will take your concern seriously, support you and guide you through the next steps.
-  Send an email to QAS.Safeguarding@dtis.qld.gov.au

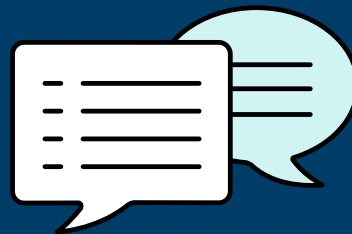
You can also report your concerns externally to:

- Sport Integrity Australia (SIA):
Hotline 1300 027 232
- AIS Be Heard:
Hotline 1800 565 965

Frequently asked questions

What will happen if I raise a concern?

-  You will be listened to.
-  You will be given a private and safe space to talk to a safe person.
-  You will be believed and your concerns taken seriously.
-  Your concerns will be received by us and escalated to the appropriate bodies for review and investigation.
-  If the behaviour you are reporting is against the law, it will be reported to the police and/or other relevant authorities.
-  We will keep a record of what you have told us, and it will be stored securely. You have the right to see this and make sure it is correct and accurate.



Frequently asked questions

What is not a safeguarding issue?

Athlete issues with selection outcomes, fixtures and schedules and personality clashes with athletes, coaches or staff are not safeguarding matters and are not managed through this process.

What if my concern is about someone outside of the QAS, like my coach?

If you have a concern regarding someone outside of the QAS, we will support you to raise a complaint through your sport, or Sport Integrity Australia. Your concern will remain confidential.

Can I get in trouble if I raise a concern?

No, if you are raising concerns that are genuine, you cannot get in trouble.

Can I raise a concern anonymously?

Yes, you can raise your concern anonymously through Sport Integrity Australian or AIS Be Heard. However please remember that if you don't give us your name, we can't come back to you for further information or to update you on what we are going to do.

Will raising a concern impact my place on the team / scholarship / opportunities?

You cannot be treated unfairly for raising a concern.

What if I think something bad has happened, but I can't prove it?

You don't have to prove it, just let us know and we can follow it up.

What if my friend tells me something but doesn't want me to tell anyone?

Building trust with your friend is really important, especially if they are experiencing something that is making them unsafe. You can encourage them to speak up, build their confidence, offer to come with them as support and reassure them.

Alternatively, this is one of the times you can break their trust, if you think they are unsafe and need support and protection.

What do I do if I am not happy with the outcome of my concern?

If you feel you have not been believed or listened to or that the concern has been ignored or mishandled, you can take it further to your National Sporting Organisation, or Sport Integrity Australia.