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**Accelerating Sport Integrity in Australian Motorsport:
A Collective Responsibility**



Ensuring Integrity in Motorsport

Introduction

The Australian Motorsport Council (“**AMC**”), is the united advocacy body representing Australia’s motorsport Federations with authority and delegated responsibilities to control, regulate and manage mainstream Australian Motorsport from the International Motorsport Federations – **FIA**ⁱ and **FIM**ⁱⁱ.

Motorcycling Australia is recognised by Sport Australia as the National Sporting Organisation (“**NSO**”) for 2-wheel motorsport. Motorsport Australia is recognised by Sport Australia as the NSO for 4-wheel motorsport. Both federations receive funding support from Sport Australia.

Karting Australia, the Australian National Drag Racing Association and Speedway Australia govern the specific divisions of 4-wheel motorsport – Karting, Drag Racing and Speedway under authorisation of the General Assembly of the FIA through formal agreements of delegation of sporting power and general authority to control, regulate, supervise administer and promote their respective division of 4-wheel motorsport from Motorsport Australia.

The five federations are the only motorsport Sporting Organisations recognised by the Federal Governmentⁱⁱⁱ as the “**Authorised Sanctioning Bodies**” of land based motorsport.

The AMC has the core belief that motorsport at all levels must be organised and sanctioned with the application of the highest standards of rules, policies and procedures to ensure that motorsport in Australia is conducted with integrity in the safest and fairest possible way. It is the focussed dedication to the internationally established safety framework, fairness and integrity in motorsport that sets the AMC’s members apart from alternate ratifying bodies.

Role and Responsibilities of the AMC and Federations

The AMC and Federations, as the custodians of various forms of motorsport in Australia, hold the responsibility to promote and safeguard the principles of fair play and ethical conduct. Our role extends beyond regulation; we also provide guidance, advocate for athletes, nurture talent, and ensure a safe and supportive environment for our sporting disciplines.

We commit to proactive collaboration with SIA and ANST in implementing anti-doping education programs, creating robust policy frameworks, and ensuring fair resolution of sport-related disputes. Our ongoing efforts will aim to align our sports with national and international standards of sports integrity.

Protecting Athletes and Stakeholders

One of our paramount responsibilities is to safeguard the rights and welfare of our athletes and stakeholders. We endeavour to foster an environment where decisions and actions are characterised by transparency, accountability, and fairness. This includes providing athletes with resources to compete at their best, creating a safe and inclusive environment, and taking a zero-tolerance stance against any form of misconduct.

We stand in solidarity with our athletes and stakeholders in combatting unethical practices. By ensuring our sports are free from cheating and unfair advantages, we preserve the essence of competition and the spirit of motorsport.

About This Position Statement

Sporting integrity is more than a concept; it is a driving force that sustains the credibility, enjoyment, and inspirational value of our sports.

The task of nurturing integrity in motorsport is a shared responsibility. As we collectively steer our sports towards a future defined by fairness and respect, we call upon every member of our community to champion these values. Together, we will ensure that Australian motorsport remains a symbol of passion, perseverance, and integrity, both on and off the track.

Drawing inspiration from the ethos of the FIA, FIM, SIA and ANST, we recognise integrity as the cornerstone of motorsport. Our collective position firmly opposes any misconduct, such as doping, illicit drug use, match-fixing, corruption, or any form of unfair advantage. We pledge to disseminate this ethos throughout all echelons of our sports, from grassroots initiatives to professional circuits.

We are dedicated to building an environment where every stakeholder – drivers, riders, officials, sponsors, fans, and support staff - embraces and promotes a culture of integrity. This commitment to integrity will create a level playing field and maintain the credibility of our sports, fostering trust and respect within the motorsport community.

Building a Culture of Integrity in Motorsport: An Inclusive and Evolving Endeavour

We believe in the collective responsibility of each member of our community in shaping the culture of integrity in motorsport. Together, we can redefine the future of Australian motorsport - a future marked by respect, fairness, and true sportsmanship. We look forward to the journey ahead, united by our love for the sport and our unwavering commitment to integrity.

The AMC, in conjunction with Motorsport Australia, Motorcycling Australia, Karting Australia, ANDRA, and Speedway Australia, reaffirms its unwavering commitment to sport integrity. We strive to ensure that our sports inspire excellence, demonstrate ethical behaviour, and uphold the values of fair competition.

1. Expanding on Integrity in Motorsport

Our collective position reaffirms the need to deepen our understanding of integrity, to extend beyond eliminating misconduct such as doping or corruption. Integrity also involves nurturing a positive sporting culture that respects diversity, promotes inclusion, and prioritises athlete welfare. We believe that through education and awareness, we can encourage ethical decision-making, fostering a motorsport environment rooted in honesty and sportsmanship.

2. Strengthening Youth Engagement

The Council and its federations recognise the importance of instilling the values of integrity and fair play in the younger generations. As part of our commitment, we will intensify our efforts to engage youth in meaningful ways, providing education about ethical conduct, fair competition, and the detrimental impacts of misconduct. Our aim is to empower our young athletes to become the ambassadors of integrity in motorsport.

3. The Role of Technology

In the age of technological advancements, we acknowledge the pivotal role of technology in enhancing sport integrity. We will leverage technology to improve monitoring and regulation, implement fair adjudication processes, and facilitate education about anti-doping and fair play. Embracing technology will further our goal to create a transparent, accountable, and clean motorsport environment.

Why the issue is important

1. Maintaining Fair Competition

Integrity is fundamental to preserving fair competition within motorsport. Without it, the principles of equal opportunity and sportsmanship are jeopardised. The AMC and its federations prioritise integrity to ensure that all competitions are won on merit, talent, and strategy, not through dishonest practices.

2. Protecting Athletes' Rights and Welfare

Integrity in motorsport is essential in safeguarding athletes' rights and welfare. By upholding the values of honesty, respect, and fairness, the AMC and its federations create a safe and supportive environment for athletes to compete, free from doping, corruption, and other forms of misconduct.

3. Building Trust and Reputation

Integrity strengthens the reputation of motorsport in Australia and builds trust among athletes, fans, sponsors, and the wider community. Ensuring that competitions are conducted with integrity draws public interest and engagement, ultimately enhancing the prestige and growth of the sport.

4. Adherence to Regulatory Standards

The Council and its federations are required to adhere to national and international regulations and standards, such as those set by the FIA and WADA. Upholding integrity ensures compliance with these regulatory bodies and maintains the global standing of Australian motorsport.

5. Promoting Athlete Development and Participation

When integrity is prioritised, athletes can focus on developing their skills and performance, knowing that they compete in a fair and ethical environment. This not only boosts athlete morale and performance but also encourages wider participation in the sport at all levels.

6. Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability

Lastly, integrity is vital for the long-term sustainability of motorsport in Australia. It enables the sport to navigate challenges, evolve adaptively, and maintain its relevance and appeal over time. By emphasising integrity, the AMC and its federations are investing in the enduring success and future of motorsport in Australia.

Proposals for Progress

1. Establish Dedicated Integrity Units in Each Federation

The Council's federations should form dedicated Integrity Units' responsible for implementing, monitoring, and enforcing sport integrity policies and procedures, along with conducting investigations into alleged violations, promoting a culture of accountability and transparency.

2. Comprehensive Education and Training

Regular education and training sessions should be conducted for athletes, coaches, and staff on issues like anti-doping, match-fixing, and ethical conduct. This will help to ensure all participants understand their responsibilities regarding sport integrity and are equipped to make ethical decisions.

3. Implement Robust Anti-Doping Measures

Adopt rigorous anti-doping measures, including regular and random testing, in line with the guidelines set out by the World Anti-Doping Agency. This will demonstrate a clear commitment to clean competition and athlete welfare.

4. Strengthen Reporting Mechanisms

Develop and/or adopt clear, accessible reporting mechanisms for athletes, staff, and others to report suspected violations of integrity. Encourage a culture of 'speaking up' against misconduct without fear of reprisals.

5. Partner with External Bodies

Collaborate with external bodies such as Sport Integrity Australia, the Australian National Sport Tribunal, the FIA and FIM. This shows a commitment to aligning with best practices globally and domestically and facilitates a coordinated response to integrity issues.

6. Promote Transparency and Accountability

Regularly communicate the federations' integrity initiatives and their outcomes to the public, demonstrating transparency and accountability. Make use of various communication channels - press releases, social media, annual reports, etc. - to keep the public informed about the actions being taken to uphold integrity in motorsport.

By adopting these actions, the Council's member federations will be clearly demonstrating their commitment to sport integrity. This will help to set them apart from other motorsport entities that may not prioritise integrity to the same extent, and will ultimately contribute to the reputation, trust, and overall success of Australian motorsport.

Evidence from other countries and sports

The Lance Armstrong Doping Scandal

Perhaps one of the most infamous cases of integrity violation in sports history is the Lance Armstrong doping scandal. Armstrong, a professional cyclist, was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles in 2012 after being found guilty of using performance-enhancing drugs.

The scandal did significant damage to the sport's credibility, leading to loss of sponsors, and diminished public trust.

FIFA Corruption Scandal

In 2015, several top officials of FIFA, the international governing body for football, were arrested on charges of corruption, bribery, and fraud. The scandal revealed a culture of widespread corruption within the organisation and damaged FIFA's reputation globally.

It led to the resignation of FIFA's long-time president Sepp Blatter and the implementation of significant reforms within the organisation.

Russian State-Sponsored Doping Scandal

In 2016, an investigation led by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren found that Russia had implemented a state-sponsored doping program for international competitions, including the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

As a consequence, Russia was banned from all major international sports events for four years by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and its athletes had to compete under a neutral flag, drastically damaging the credibility of Russian sports.

Essendon Football Club Supplements Scandal (2013)

In the same year, the Essendon Football Club of the Australian Football League (AFL) was embroiled in a similar scandal. The club's sports science program was found to have used illegal supplements.

The fallout led to the club being excluded from the 2013 AFL finals series, a hefty monetary fine, suspension of the coach, and 34 past and present players being banned for the 2016 season.

Melbourne Storm Salary Cap Breach (2010)

The Melbourne Storm Rugby League club was found guilty of long-term, systematic breaches of the salary cap regulations. The club was stripped of its 2007 and 2009 premierships and its 2006-2008 minor premierships, and it was barred from receiving any competition points in the 2010 season. **The scandal led to significant changes in the management of the club and had substantial implications for the sport's governance.**

Each of these scandals caused significant damage to the reputation of the teams and athletes involved, as well as the broader sports community. They have highlighted the critical importance of upholding and enforcing integrity in sport.

These cases illustrate the significant damage that can be done to sports when integrity is not upheld. Not only is the reputation of the sport at stake, but also the trust and support of fans, athletes, and sponsors.

It underscores the importance of taking sports integrity seriously to ensure fair competition, protect athletes' rights, and maintain the overall credibility and appeal of the sport.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the importance of adopting and implementing robust integrity measures in Australian motorsport cannot be overstated. The need for such measures arises from the inherent obligation to uphold the principles of fair play, sportsmanship, and equal competition. The responsibilities extend beyond the racetrack, including the protection of athletes' welfare and rights, safeguarding the reputation of motorsport, and maintaining public trust and interest in the sport.

Incorporating comprehensive integrity measures can bring numerous benefits to motorsport in Australia. These range from promoting athlete development and participation to ensuring compliance with national and international regulatory standards. These measures contribute to strengthening the trust and reputation of the sport among athletes, fans, sponsors, and the broader community, thereby enhancing the appeal and growth of motorsport.

Moreover, a strong commitment to integrity aids in ensuring the long-term sustainability of motorsport, enabling it to navigate challenges, evolve adaptively, and maintain its relevance over time. Through a steadfast focus on integrity, the AMC and its federations can lead by example and contribute positively to the global motorsport community.

In a sporting landscape where integrity scandals can have far-reaching detrimental effects, it's clear that motorsport entities that prioritise and uphold integrity will stand apart. By taking decisive actions to promote sport integrity, the AMC and its federations will not only protect and preserve the sport today but invest in its enduring success for the future.



ⁱ FIA means the Federation Internationale de 'l Automobile a member of the IOC Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF).

ⁱⁱ FIM means the Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme a member of the IOC Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF).

ⁱⁱⁱ Reference to the Federal Government shall mean some or all of the entities established by the Australian Government by legislation - Australian Sport Commission, Sport Integrity Australia and the National Sports Tribunal.