



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Inquiry into the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions

SUBMISSION TO THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON TREATIES

5 December 2025



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Australia should ratify the Macolin Convention

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the *Inquiry into the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions* (Macolin Convention).

The department supports ratifying the Macolin Convention:

- Australia has supported the Macolin Convention since 2019
- Ratification will boost national sport integrity capabilities
- Ratification will support the National Sport Strategy

With Brisbane hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, it is an important time for Australia to affirm its commitment to integrity in sport.

Australia has supported the Macolin Convention since 2019

Australia signed the Macolin Convention in February 2019 and was the first country outside Europe to do so.

The Australian Government's support for the Macolin Convention dates to a 2017 Review of Australia's Sports Integrity Arrangements (Wood Review) (**Attachment A**). The government commissioned the review in response to a growing global threat to the integrity of sport. In calling for the review, the government acknowledged that a fair, safe and strong sport sector, free from corruption, is fundamental for professional sports participants, sporting organisations and the millions of Australians who participate in sport.

Lead reviewer the Hon. James Wood AO QC presented the final report to the government in March 2018. The report made 52 recommendations including Australia becoming a party to the Macolin Convention, to combat match fixing, illegal sports betting and other forms of manipulation.

In 2019 the government published *Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport – the Government Response to the Wood Review* (**Attachment B**) and agreed to Australia becoming a party to the Macolin Convention. Ratifying this treaty would complete the government's commitment to this recommendation.

Ratification will boost national sport integrity capabilities

Australia does not have a national approach to competition manipulation offences. While some legislation exists at the state and territory level, it is not consistent or translatable across jurisdictions, and the absence of Commonwealth criminal legislation can inhibit the investigation and prosecution of offences.

Ratifying the Macolin Convention would provide authority for the government to establish harmonised, nationally consistent criminal legislation to prevent and prosecute corruption in sport. This would represent a significant advancement in Australia's ability to respond to threats, given the often multi- and cross-jurisdictional and transnational nature of match-fixing and related corruption in sport.

Ratification will support Australia's National Sport Strategy

In 2024 the government published the new National Sport Strategy, *Sport Horizon* (**Attachment C**), which sets the priorities for sport in Australia over the next decade. It is underpinned by five guiding principles, including Integrity, reflecting the government's commitment to a fair and honest sport sector.

Sport Horizon prioritises safety to support clean, fair and ethical conduct and competition. This specifically includes protecting people involved in sport from manipulation of sporting competitions. At a system level, *Sport Horizon* commits to

- advancing the Australian sport sector's ability to prevent, detect, disrupt and address safety threats through education, intelligence and regulation
- efficient, independent dispute resolution and
- continuous improvement to remain contemporary and keeping pace with technological and other advances.

Ratifying the Macolin Convention would support Australia to stay at the forefront of sports wagering and competition manipulation intelligence.

As an international treaty, engaging with the diplomatic networks associated with the Macolin Convention also supports implementation of the *Sport Horizon* priority of 'international engagement'. Additionally, hosting clean and fair major sporting events provides an opportunity to showcase Australian values, excellence and expertise to an international audience.

More broadly, clean and fair competition assists in achieving the other priorities in *Sport Horizon* - including inclusion, participation, high performance, and economy and environment.

Attachments

Attachment A: The Review of Australia's Sports Integrity Arrangements (Wood Review)

Attachment B: Safeguarding the Integrity of Sport – the Government Response to Wood Review

Attachment C: National Sport Strategy, *Sport Horizon*