National Framework for Ethical Behaviour and Integrity in Basketball – Appendix 5

Member Protection Policy

Date adopted by BA Board **2 December 2022**

Date Effective **1 January 2023**

Contents

SUMMARY ..... **i**

1. Definitions **1**

2. Jurisdiction **2**

3 Prohibited Conduct **3**

4 Complaints Policy **3**

SCHEDULE 1: EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT **4**

SUMMARY

Basketball Australia, Member Organisations and Authorised Providers are committed to ensuring that everyone involved with basketball is treated with respect and dignity and is protected from abuse, bullying, harassment, sexual misconduct, unlawful discrimination, victimisation, and vilification.

This Policy seeks to ensure that everyone involved in basketball is aware of their rights and responsibilities. This Policy sets out the minimum standards of behaviour expected of those involved in basketball and the behaviours that are not acceptable ('Prohibited Conduct').

Each Member Organisation and each Authorised Provider are responsible for applying this Policy in relation to Participants, Clubs, Competitions and Events under their jurisdiction.

1. Definitions and Interpretation

Defined Terms

1.1 Defined terms not otherwise defined in this Policy have been defined in, and have the meaning given to them in the Framework. In this Policy the following words have the corresponding meaning:

'Abuse' means any type of abuse (including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and inappropriate use of power) that has caused, is causing or is likely to cause harm to a person's wellbeing, whether in person or as the result of a publication viewable by any other person by any means.

'Bullying' means a person or group of people repeatedly and intentionally using words or actions, or the inappropriate use of power, against someone or a group of people to cause distress and risk to their wellbeing.

'Harassment' means any type of behaviour towards a person that they do not want and that is offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening and is reasonably likely to cause harm to the person who is the subject of the harassment.

'Policy' means this Member Protection Policy including any schedules and annexures.

'Prohibited Conduct' means the conduct proscribed at clause 3 of this Policy.

Sexual Misconduct means:

- Sexual Harassment, which is any unwanted or unwelcome sexual behaviour where a reasonable person would anticipate the possibility that the person being harassed would feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated; and
- Sexual Offences, which include any criminal offence involving sexual activity or actions of indecency.

'Unlawful Discrimination' includes:

- Direct Discrimination, when a person or group of people is treated less favourable than another person or group, because of a personal characteristic; and
- Indirect Discrimination, when an unreasonable rule or policy applies to everyone but has the effect of disadvantaging some people because of a personal characteristic they share, where such personal characteristic is protected by applicable anti-discrimination legislation.

'Victimisation' means subjecting a person, or threatening to subject a person, to any unfair treatment because the person has made, or intends to pursue their right to make, a complaint or lawful disclosure, including under applicable legislation or this Policy, or for supporting another person to take such action.

'Vilification' means a public act, conduct or behaviour that incites hatred, serious contempt for, or revulsion or severe ridicule of, a person or group of people because of a particular characteristic they hold, as covered by applicable legislation, including their race or religion, or homosexuality, transgender, or HIV/AIDS status.

Interpretation

1.2 Definitions of Abuse, Bullying, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Unlawful Discrimination, Victimisation and Vilification must be read in the context of SCHEDULE 1.

1.3 This Policy is to be read in accordance with the provisions of the Framework.

2. Jurisdiction

Who the Policy applies to?

2.1 This Policy applies to all Participants who are members of Basketball Australia, a Member Organisation or an Authorised Provider, as well as all Member Organisations and Authorised Providers.

When the Policy applies

2.2 Participants to which this Policy applies must always comply with this Policy (whilst they are a Participant), including:

2.2.1 in relation to any dealings, they have with Basketball Australia, any Member Organisation or any Authorised Provider or their staff, contractors, and representatives;

2.2.2 when dealing with other Participants, or Basketball Australia, or any Member Organisation, or any Authorised Provider in their capacity as a Participant; and

2.2.3 in relation to their Membership or standing as a Participant in general.

2.3 The following is not within the scope of this Policy:

2.3.1 where an interaction (including social media interactions) occurs involving one or more Participants, and the only link or connection between the interaction and basketball is the fact that one or more individuals are Participants[1];

2.3.2 where Prohibited Conduct occurs in contravention of this Policy, any subsequent conduct, or interaction(s) that, whilst related to the original Prohibited Conduct, no longer directly relates to basketball (even where such conduct or interaction(s) would otherwise be Prohibited Conduct)[2]; and

2.3.3 where Basketball Australia, a Member Organisation or an Authorised Provider (as applicable) determines, in their absolute discretion, that the alleged

[1] Such as two Members of a Member Organisation getting into a verbal or physical argument at a shopping centre, or two Members sending abusive social media messages to each other that have no direct link to basketball.

[2] Such as where a Member of a Member Organisation allegedly breaches this Policy by physically assaulting another Member at a match, but then the personal grievance(s) between those two individuals spills into issues not directly related to basketball, such as social media abuse or trolling.

Prohibited Conduct would be more appropriately dealt with under a different policy, code, rules or regulations.

3 Prohibited Conduct

3.1 A Participant commits a breach of this Policy when they, either alone or in conjunction with another or others, aide, direct, incite, promote, support, conceal, cover up or engage in any of the following conduct against one or more Participants, in the circumstances outlined in clause 2:

3.1.1 Abuse;

3.1.2 Bullying;

3.1.3 Harassment;

3.1.4 Sexual Misconduct;

3.1.5 Unlawful Discrimination;

3.1.6 Victimisation; or

3.1.7 Vilification.

SCHEDULE 1 sets out examples of what may constitute Prohibited Conduct under this Policy.

4 Complaints Policy

4.1 The Complaints Policy applies to any alleged Prohibited Conduct, including reports of breaches under this Policy.

SCHEDULE 1: EXAMPLES OF PROHIBITED CONDUCT

1. **Abuse** must be behaviour of a nature and level of seriousness which includes, but is not limited to:

   (a) physical abuse and assault including hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, destroying property, sleep, and food deprivation, forced feeding, unreasonable physical restraint, spitting at another person or biting;

   (b) sexual abuse including rape and assault, using sexually degrading insults, forced sex or sexual acts, deliberately causing pain during sex, unwanted touching or exposure to pornography, sexual jokes, using sex to coerce compliance;

   (c) emotional abuse such as repeated and intentional embarrassment in public, preventing or excluding someone from participating in sport activities, stalking, humiliation, or intimidation, or coercive control in relation to aspects of a Participant's life unrelated to the sport;

   (d) verbal abuse such as repeated or severe insults, name calling, criticism, swearing and humiliation, attacks on someone's intelligence, body shaming, or aggressive yelling;

   (e) financial abuse such as restricting access to bank accounts, taking control of finances and money, forbidding someone from working, taking someone's pay and not allowing them to access it;

   (f) neglect of a person's basic needs, such as withholding food or water or not providing bathroom breaks.

2. **Bullying** must be behaviour of a nature and level of seriousness which includes, but is not limited to, repeatedly:

   (a) keeping someone out of a group (online or offline);

   (b) acting in an unpleasant way near or towards someone;

   (c) giving nasty looks, making rude gestures, calling names, being rude and impolite, constantly negative and teasing;

   (d) spreading rumours or lies, or misrepresenting someone (i.e. using their social media account to post messages as if it were them);

   (e) 'fooling around', 'messing about' or other random or supposedly playful conduct that goes too far;

   (f) harassing someone based on their race, sex, religion, gender, or a disability;

   (g) intentionally and repeatedly hurting someone physically;

   (h) intentionally stalking someone; and

   (i) taking advantage of any power over someone else,

   but does not include legitimate and reasonable:

   (a) management action;

(b) management processes;

(c) disciplinary action; or

(d) allocation of activities in compliance with agreed systems.

3. **Harassment** must be behaviour of a nature and level of seriousness which includes, but is not limited to:

(a) telling insulting jokes about racial groups;

(b) sending explicit or sexually suggestive emails or text messages;

(c) displaying racially offensive or pornographic images or screen savers;

(d) making derogatory comments or taunts about someone's race;

(e) asking intrusive questions about someone's personal life, including his or her sex life;

(f) sexual harassment or any of the above conduct in the workplace by employers, co-workers, and other workplace participants;

(g) any of the above conduct in the workplace, based on or linked to a person's disability or the disability of an associate; and

(h) offensive behaviour based on race or racial hatred, such as something done in public that offends, insults, or humiliates a person or group of people because of their race, colour or nationality or ethnicity.

4. **Sexual Misconduct** is behaviour including, but not limited to:

(a) unwelcome touching;

(b) staring or leering;

(c) suggestive comments or jokes;

(d) showing or sharing sexually explicit images or pictures;

(e) unwanted invitations to go out on dates;

(f) requests for sex;

(g) intrusive questions about a person's private life or body;

(h) unnecessary familiarity, such as deliberately brushing up against a person;

(i) insults or taunts based on sex;

(j) sexually explicit physical contact;

(k) sending sexually explicit or suggestive emails, texts, or other electronic/social media messages;

(l) displaying pornographic images or screen savers;

(m) asking intrusive questions about someone's personal life, including about his or her sex life; and

(n) criminal offences such as rape, indecent or sexual assault, sexual penetration, or relationship with a child under the age of 16 and possession of child pornography.

5. **Unlawful Discrimination** is unfair treatment based on a person's:

   (a) age;

   (b) disability;

   (c) race, colour, nationality, ethnicity, or migrant status;

   (d) sex, pregnancy, marital or relationship status, family responsibilities or breastfeeding; and

   (e) sexual orientation, gender identity or intersex status.

6. **Victimisation** is behaviour including, but not limited to:

   (a) dismissal of an employee/volunteer or disadvantage to their employment/involvement in sport;

   (b) alteration of an employee's position or duties to his or her disadvantage;

   (c) discrimination between an employee and other employees;

   (d) repeated failure to select an individual on merit;

   (e) a reduction in future contract value; and

   (f) removal of coaching and other financial and non-financial support.

7. **Vilification** is behaviour including, but not limited to:

   (a) speaking about a person's race or religion in a way that could make other people dislike, hate, or ridicule them;

   (b) publishing claims that a racial or religious group is involved in serious crimes without any evidence in support;

   (c) repeated and serious verbal or physical abuse about the race or religion of another person;

   (d) encouraging violence against people who belong to a particular race or religion, or damaging their property; and

   (e) encouraging people to hate a racial or religious group using flyers, stickers, posters, a speech, or publication, or using websites or email.