

SCHEDULE 16: RESEARCH



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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Name:	Research Guidelines
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Owner:	Research Specialist
File location:	AMS and AC Performance Services ZenDesk
Document type (& enforceability):	Guidelines (recommendation)
Responsible parties:	Heads of Performance Services / SSSM Managers; Staff acting as research supervisors
Beneficiaries:	All players, coaches; and practitioners; Research partners
Applicable setting:	Anywhere research involving AC cricketers is being undertaken

RELATED DOCUMENTS & LINKS

Document Name	Location
NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research	NHMRC website
Australian Privacy Act 1988	Federal Register of Legislation: Privacy
Research Proposal Form	ZenDesk
Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research	Australian Research Council website
Contributor Role Taxonomy	CRedit website
NHMRC List of Registered Human Research Ethics Committees	NHMRC website

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1** These guidelines outline the minimum standards for conducting ethical, lawful, and high-quality, research within and affiliated with Australian Cricket. It operationalises compliance with the [NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#) and the [Australian Privacy Act 1988](#).

2. SCOPE

- 2.1** All research and research-adjacent activities involving Australian Cricket players and staff as participants or researchers, or their data.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1** For the purposes of this guideline:

- a) **Research study:** a formalised study with research team and roles, research plan, data management plan, ethics approval. Findings may be disseminated beyond Australian Cricket.
- b) **Internal quality improvement project:** a less formal project to provide preliminary insight into a current issue and inform future direction. Scientific rigour (e.g., data verification) may be compromised in the interest of speed. Ethics approval is not required, however standard ethical requirements are expected to be upheld. Findings are not to be disseminated beyond Australian Cricket.
- c) **Personal information:** information or an opinion about an identifiable individual.
- d) **Sensitive information:** personal information including health information, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, memberships, and biometric information.
- e) **Health information:** information or an opinion about health, illness, injury, or disability; a health serviced provided or to be provided; genetic information, or; other personal information collected to provide a health service to an individual. This includes performance data (workload, physical capacity, match).

4. RESEARCH AVENUES AND APPROVAL

- 4.1** Research occurring within the AC cricket system may be considered:

- a) **CA-led:** Project initiated and primarily conducted by CA staff. Research proposal and approval required. Monitored.
- b) **CA-supported:** Project primarily conducted by AC or external researcher, with support from CA staff. Research proposal and approval required. Monitored.
- c) **State-led:** Project primarily conducted by AC researcher, with no CA support. No research proposal or approval from CA required. CA Research Specialist should be advised of study/project for record-keeping, monitoring, and prevention of duplication.
- d) **External:** Research conducted by external researchers seeking to recruit participants from within CA/AC. No research proposal required. Recommend review by Research Specialist to advise on ethics and risks. Sharing of recruitment material must be accompanied by a clear statement that the project is independent of CA/AC, participation is voluntary, and the decision to participate will not be known to CA/AC. Not monitored.

5. RESEARCH PROPOSAL

- 5.1** Research ideas must be presented as a research proposal which addresses the items in these guidelines. [A template is provided.](#) The purpose of the proposal is to guide and assess research merit and integrity, and prompt further conversations which may improve the research.
- 5.2** The research proposal will be reviewed by the Research Specialist, with input from the Head of Performance Services and key stakeholders as applicable before approval.

6. RESEARCH TEAM AND AUTHORSHIP

- 6.1** The research team and roles should be agreed at project initiation and revisited regularly.
- 6.2** Authorship on all research outputs must accurately reflect contributions to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity. Authorship should follow the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#), which recognises substantial intellectual contribution as the basis for authorship. Contributions must also be documented using the Contributor Role Taxonomy ([CRediT](#)). Contributors who do not qualify as authors should be acknowledged with their permission.

7. COLLABORATION AND EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

- 7.1** Collaboration with external researchers and research institutions is encouraged where there is a benefit of key expertise and additional research capacity to Australian Cricket. The following requirements, where applicable, must be in place before an external party engages in a research project:
- a) **Confidentiality deed:** CA legal provides a standard template on the Legal Portal or may customise a deed as required.
 - b) **Research contract:** An individual engaging in a paid role must have a contract developed by CA legal.
 - c) **Research agreement:** A university partnership requires an agreement outlining terms and conditions such as intellectual property, publication conditions, and liability.
 - d) **Working with children or vulnerable people check:** All researchers working with underage players or their data are required to have a valid check.

8. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 8.1** All financial and non-financial conflicts of interest (COI), including relationships, selection or contracting responsibilities, sponsorship arrangements, or other interests that may reasonably be perceived to influence judgement, must be fully disclosed at project initiation and revisited throughout the research lifecycle. COI must be appropriately managed through measures such as independent oversight, separation of roles, external or blinded data analysis, or reassignment of responsibilities where necessary to preserve objectivity. All COI disclosures and management actions must be documented in the research proposal and research outputs.

9. ETHICS REQUIREMENTS

- 9.1** Research studies must be reviewed and approved by a NHMRC approved [Human Research Ethics Committee](#) (HREC) prior to recruitment or data access. Low/negligible risk projects may be eligible for an alternative review process.
- 9.2** Internal quality improvement projects are not required to be reviewed and approved by a HREC, however standard ethical, integrity, and data management requirements must be upheld.

10. CONSENT

- 10.1** Research studies must obtain participant consent where practical. This includes providing a written Participant Information Statement and ensuring the decision to

consent is voluntary and non-consent or withdrawal of consent is without consequence.

- 10.2** Where participant consent is not practical, a waiver of consent or opt-out consent process may be considered by the HREC.

11. PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- 11.1** Identifiability of information exists on a continuum affected by contextual and technical factors and may change during the course of a research project. Researchers should minimise the identifiability of data as practical (only collect the minimum necessary information for the study or project, remove identifiers) and reduce the risk of identification with strong data management protocols. Researchers should ensure the identity of participants cannot be reasonably ascertained from any research output.
- 11.2** Access to identifiable data should be limited to staff within Australian Cricket where possible. In the first instance, data should be accessed by Australian Cricket staff with existing permissions as part of their role. Additional permissions for current staff or external researchers may be approved by the CA Research Specialist or CA Head of Performance Services.

12. DATA MANAGEMENT

- 12.1** A data management plan is required prior to data collection. This must be understood and agreed by all researchers. An outline is provided on the CA [research proposal template](#).
- 12.2** Data must be stored on Australian Cricket servers. External researchers may access research files only through a secure link with permissions that prevent downloading. Data must not be transferred to any personal device, personal cloud service, or shared as an email attachment.
- 12.3** Re-identifiable or de-identified data may be stored on a secure external server to meet University and HREC requirements.
- 12.4** Data may not be stored in an open research data repository due to risk of re-identification.
- 12.5** Data must be retained for at least 7 years (or longer where clinically relevant or per HREC/contract) before secure destruction.
- 12.6** Departing staff must transfer all research files to a custodian.

13. MONITORING

- 13.1** Projects must be actively monitored throughout the research lifecycle to ensure ethical conduct, continued alignment with research priorities, and identify and address barriers to timely completion.
- 13.2** Researchers must provide regular updates on key project milestones (ethics approval, commencement of data collection, completion of data analysis, and research outputs) to the Research Specialist, or at any time upon request.
- 13.3** Any abstracts or manuscripts arising from the research must be approved by CA prior to submission to an external party.

- 13.4** Adverse events, participant complaints, privacy breaches, protocol deviations, or suspected research misconduct must be reported immediately to the Research Specialist and, where required, to the approving Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).

REVISIONS

DATE	BY
July 2020	Head of SSSM, CA Research Advisor
July 2021	Head of SSSM, CA Research Advisor
July 2022	Head of SSSM, CA Research Advisor
July 2023	Head of SSSM, CA Research Advisor
July 2024	Head of SSSM, CA Research Advisor
July 2025	Head of SSSM
June 2026	CA Head of Performance Service, CA SSSM Research Specialist, CA Legal