

2026/27 SSSM PRINICPLES

INTRODUCTION



DOCUMENT CONTROL

This section and the next outlines ownership, version control and accessibility requirements to ensure the SSSM Principles remain current, accessible and consistently applied across Australian Cricket

Name:	Sports Science Sports Medicine (SSSM) Principles
Version:	11.0
Effective date:	01 July 2026
Review date:	30 June 2027
Owner:	Head of Performance Services
File location:	AMS & AC Performance Services ZenDesk
Document type (& enforceability):	These SSSM Principles provide a structured framework for AC associations to support best-practice Performance Services delivery across Australian Cricket High Performance programs. They include: • Policies (mandatory) – board-endorsed rules that prescribe required behaviours, standards and obligations; • Frameworks (recommended) – structural standards to guide implementation; and • Guidelines (recommended) – advisory best-practice recommendations. Only elements identified as mandatory are enforceable obligations. Breaches of mandatory requirements will be managed in accordance with applicable Cricket Australia governance frameworks, including Codes of Conduct, Integrity policies and relevant contractual arrangements.
Responsible parties:	GM High Performance; Head of Performance Services / SSSM Managers
Beneficiaries:	All high performance programs, staff and players
Governance:	Policies, frameworks, and guidelines to support best practice implementation across Australian Cricket HP programs

RELATED DOCUMENTS & LINKS

The following documents support the effective implementation of the SSSM Principles and must be accessible to all relevant personnel.

Document Name	Location
Compliance / Regulatory	
Code of Conduct	cricket.com.au and ZenDesk
Anti-Doping Code	cricket.com.au https://australiancricket.sharepoint.com/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FShared%20Documents%2FPolicies%2FCricket%20Australia%2FCA%20Anti%2DDoping%20Code%20and%20Policy%2Epdf&parent

	nt=%2FShared%20Documents%2FPolicies%2FCricket%20Australia and ZenDesk
WADA Prohibited Substances List	cricket.com.au <a #"="" href="https://australiancricket.sharepoint.com/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?sortField=Modified&isAscending=false&viewid=303ea1b2%2Dfa9d%2D48c5%2Dbe13%2D4192e1dab818&id=%2FShared%20Documents%2FPolicies%2FCricket%20Australia%2F2026%20WADA%20Prohibited%20List%2Epdf&parent=%2FShared%20Documents%2FPolicies%2FCricket%20Australia and ZenDesk
Illicit Substances Rule	cricket.com.au <a #"="" href="https://australiancricket.sharepoint.com/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2FShared%20Documents%2FPolicies%2FCricket%20Australia%2FCA%20Illicit%20Substances%20Rule%20%2D%202021%2D22%20FINAL%2008092023%2Epdf&parent=%2FShared%20Documents%2FPolicies%2FCricket%20Australia and ZenDesk
Governance / Structure	
AC High Performance Department Organisational Charts	On request from the Head of Performance Services
AC SSSM Position Descriptions	On request from the Head of Performance Services
Medical Services Matrix	AMS and ZenDesk
Operational Tools	
AC SSSM Personnel Register	AMS and on request from the Head of Performance Services
AC Supplement Register	AMS
AC Medication Register	AMS

1. PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The purpose of the SSSM Principles is to establish a clear and consistent framework for the delivery, governance and continuous improvement of Sports Science and Sports Medicine (**SSSM**) (when including data & technology, also referred to as Performance Services) across Australian Cricket (**AC**).

These Principles define:

- a) minimum mandatory standards required to ensure player health, safety and integrity; and
- b) recommended best-practice approaches to support high-quality, evidence-based and athlete-centred service delivery

They are designed to promote alignment across Cricket Australia (**CA**) and State and Territory Associations (**STAs**), support informed decision-making, and reduce organisational, athlete and integrity risk.

2. SCOPE

2.1 These SSSM Principles apply to all:

- a) AC entities, including:
 - (I) Cricket Australia;
 - (II) State and Territory Associations; and
 - (III) W / BBL Teams
- b) Personnel operating within High Performance programs and environments, including:
 - (I) SSSM Staff;
 - (II) Coaches and HP staff;
 - (III) Player Support Personnel (to the extent not captured above);
 - (IV) Match Officials; and
 - (V) Players

regardless of whether these personnel are employees, contractors, interns, volunteers, students or work experience recipients.

2.2 All individuals and entities listed at item 2.1 above should comply with these principles and are contractually bound where applicable. Players are bound to comply with what is outlined in their contracts and the Code of Conduct.

2.3 Where requirements are identified as 'must', they are mandatory. All other provisions represent recommended best practice unless otherwise specified.

3. ENFORCEABILITY AND APPLICATION

3.1 These SSSM Principles distinguish between mandatory requirements and recommended **best practice**.

3.2 All individuals and entities within scope are required to:

- a) comply with all **mandatory policies and obligations** contained within these Principles; and
- b) ensure their conduct and decision-making aligns with the intent and minimum standards prescribed.

3.3 A **breach** of these Principles occurs where an individual or organisation:

- a) fails to comply with a mandatory requirement;
- b) knowingly or negligently disregards an obligation; or
- c) engages in conduct materially inconsistent with a prescribed minimum standard.

3.4 Mandatory obligations are enforceable through existing Australian Cricket governance mechanisms, including:

- a) the **Cricket Australia Code of Conduct**;
- b) CA Integrity policies and investigative processes;
- c) employment and contracting arrangements; and
- d) applicable State or Territory Association disciplinary frameworks.

3.5 These Principles do not replace or override these frameworks but support their consistent application across SSSM environments.

4. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES AND AGREEMENTS

- 4.1** These SSSM Principles operate in conjunction with other applicable Australian Cricket policies, including:
- a) the Anti-Doping Code;
 - b) Illicit Substances Rule;
 - c) Codes of Conduct; and
 - d) relevant regulatory and professional obligations (e.g. AHPRA).

They do not override or replace these requirements, which must be adhered to at all times.

- 4.2** Where an inconsistency arises:
- a) legislative, regulatory and integrity obligations prevail; and
 - b) the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CA and the ACA prevails to the extent of any direct conflict.

5. BOARD REPORTING

- 5.1** Effective SSSM governance requires regular oversight by Boards and senior management to ensure player welfare, system performance and compliance.
- 5.2** Each AC entity should establish appropriate SSSM reporting processes to provide its Board and senior management with regular, relevant and timely information.
- 5.3** This reporting should include, but is not limited to:
- a) player health, availability and performance-related trends;
 - b) emerging or ongoing risks relating to player welfare;
 - c) compliance with the SSSM Principles and associated policies;
 - d) any material incidents, breaches or areas of non-compliance, and actions taken in response;
 - e) system or capability gaps impacting the delivery of SSSM services
- 5.4** Boards and senior management are responsible for ensuring that appropriate oversight, challenge and support is applied to SSSM programs, with a focus on continuous improvement, athlete wellbeing and performance outcomes.

6. COMPLIANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

- 6.1** The SSSM Principles are designed to guide the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based SSSM practices across Australian Cricket.
- 6.2** All AC entities are responsible for ensuring that their SSSM programs:
- a) comply with mandatory policies endorsed by Cricket Australia and relevant State or Territory Boards; and
 - b) align, where possible, with the broader standards outlined in these Principles.
 - c) The SSSM Principles include both:
 - d) **mandatory requirements**, which must be adhered to; and
 - e) **recommended standards of practice**, which support consistent, player-centred and performance-focused delivery.

While not all elements are enforceable, they represent the agreed standard of good practice across Australian Cricket.

6.3 Each AC entity is accountable for:

- a) implementing SSSM practices appropriate to their environment;
- b) ensuring appropriately qualified personnel deliver services; and
- c) identifying and addressing gaps that may impact player health, wellbeing or performance.

6.4 Failure to meet these standards may expose individuals and organisations to risks including:

- a) compromised player health, safety or wellbeing;
- b) reduced performance or availability;
- c) breaches of regulatory or integrity frameworks; and
- d) reputational or organisational risk.

6.5 The SSSM Principles are intended to support continuous improvement across all AC SSSM programs. Each AC entity should:

- a) regularly review its practices against these Principles;
- b) utilise internal governance, audit or review processes to monitor alignment; and
- c) implement improvement strategies where gaps are identified.

Where appropriate, Cricket Australia may support this process through system-wide reviews, benchmarking or capability development initiatives.

7. INCIDENTS, ESCALATION AND SYSTEM LEARNING

7.1 Any incidents, concerns or deviations from expected standards that may:

- a) compromise player health, safety or wellbeing;
- b) breach applicable policies (e.g. Anti-Doping Code, Codes of Conduct); or
- c) represent significant organisational or reputational risk

must be reported through the appropriate AC or State Association reporting channels.

7.2 Formal investigations will be undertaken where there is:

- a) an alleged breach of an endorsed AC policy; or
- b) suspected conduct within the scope of applicable Codes of Conduct or regulatory frameworks.

Investigations will be conducted in accordance with established CA Integrity processes.

7.3 The SSSM Principles are not a standalone enforcement mechanism. However, they may be used:

- a) to inform assessments of appropriate standards of practice;
- b) as a reference point in reviewing incidents; and
- c) to support decision-making within broader governance processes.

7.4 AC entities are expected to:

- a) identify system or process gaps arising from incidents; and
- b) implement improvements to prevent recurrence.

DOCUMENT REVISIONS

Date	By
1 October 2016	CA Integrity, CA Anti-Doping Officer, CA SSSM Manager & CA Lead Dietitian, CA Chief Medical Officer
25 September 2017	CA Integrity, CA Anti-Doping Officer, CA SSSM Manager & CA Lead Dietitian, CA Chief Medical Officer
25 June 2018	CA Integrity, CA Anti-Doping Officer, CA SSSM Manager & CA Lead Dietitian, CA Chief Medical Officer
6 June 2019	CA Integrity, CA Anti-Doping Officer, CA SSSM Manager & CA Lead Dietitian, CA Chief Medical Officer
31 July 2020	CA Integrity, CA Anti-Doping Officer, CA SSSM Manager & CA Lead Dietitian, CA Chief Medical Officer
30 June 2021	CA Integrity, CA Anti-Doping Officer, CA Head of SSSM & CA Lead Dietitian, CA Chief Medical Officer
30 June 2022	CA Integrity, CA Anti-Doping Officer, CA Head of SSSM & CA Lead Dietitian, CA Chief Medical Officer
30 July 2023	CA Integrity, CA Anti-Doping Officer, CA Head of SSSM & CA Lead Dietitian, CA Chief Medical Officer
30 July 2024	CA Integrity, CA Anti-Doping Officer, CA Head of SSSM & CA Lead Dietitian, CA Chief Medical Officer
1 July 2025	CA Head of SSSM & CA Lead Dietitian, CA Chief Medical Officer
30 June 2026	CA Head of Performance Services, CA Performance Services Leadership Team, CA Integrity, CA Legal, State and Territory SSSM Managers; ACA