



POLICIES + PROCEDURES

DISCIPLINARY POLICY | DATE: 12 APRIL 2026

Review date	Responsibility
12 April 2027	NZMMAF Board or external party with delegated authority

The New Zealand Mixed Martial Arts Federation (NZMMAF) is committed to protecting you from abuse and harm at NZMMAF by ensuring anyone who engages in behaviour prohibited by NZMMAF is held accountable and appropriately disciplined.

We do this by:

- having a clear disciplinary process
- setting out how breaches of the Integrity Code are handled
- having a clear process for determining the seriousness of the behaviour and whether to sanction the person
- setting out a framework for determining appropriate sanctions
- setting out how to appeal a decision.

This policy provides detailed information about our disciplinary process, imposing sanctions and breaches of the Integrity Code.

Introduction

1. Everyone at NZMMAF has the right to:
 - a. take part in sport and recreation
 - b. be safe, respected and treated fairly, equitably and with dignity
 - c. participate in activities and environments that are free from harmful behaviour, cheating and corruption.
2. This policy supports this by providing for people to be held accountable for engaging in behaviours that are a threat to integrity and that have been prohibited by NZMMAF.

What this policy does

3. The purpose of this policy is to set out how breaches of our prohibited behaviour policy are handled and ensure the process used is fair, timely and appropriate.
4. The policy:
 - a. provides a clear process for determining if a breach has occurred and the sanction to be imposed
 - b. sets out a framework for determining appropriate sanctions
 - c. sets out the appeal rights to a decision

- d. gives effect to our obligations under the Code of Integrity for Sport and Recreation (the Integrity Code).
5. The definitions relevant to this policy are listed at Appendix 1.

Who this policy applies to

6. This policy applies to the members, staff, volunteers and contractors of NZMMAF as well as all participants involved in MMA activities, events and competitions that we are responsible for.

When this policy applies

7. This policy applies where there is:
 - a. an alleged breach of the prohibited behaviour policy and any other NZMMAF policy giving effect to the Integrity Code.
8. This policy does not apply in relation to:
 - a. anti-doping rules violations under the Sports Anti-Doping Rules
 - b. appeals against a member's non-selection to a representative team

Breach of the Integrity Code

9. A participant may be sanctioned under this policy where they are found, on the balance of probabilities, to have:
 - a. breached this policy by failing, without reasonable excuse, to:
 - i. provide information or cooperate with an investigation by the Commission in accordance with Part 3 of the Integrity Code
 - ii. abide by a sanction imposed on them in accordance with the Integrity Code
 - b. breached a policy NZMMAF has in place to give effect to the Integrity Code
 - c. breached sections 39 or 40 of the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act 2023 prohibiting retaliation and victimisation.
10. Depending on the circumstances, the NZMMAF or the Commission is responsible for demonstrating a breach referred to in paragraph 9 has occurred.
11. For the avoidance of doubt:
 - a. a participant must be bound by the Integrity Code to be in breach
 - b. the act or omission must be in connection with sport and recreation
 - c. the physical location where the behaviour happened is not determinative and
 - d. prohibited behaviours may involve different forms of contact (eg, physical contact, verbal comments, written communications, or online conduct).

Provisional measures

12. NZMMAF may impose provisional measures on a person before a disciplinary process is held if there is a reasonable belief that provisional measures are necessary to protect the safety, wellbeing or security of persons in MMA and/or NZMMAF.
13. The provisional measures available to NZMMAF are the sanctions at clause 32.
14. Provisional measures must:
 - a. be proportionate to the alleged misconduct
 - b. address the identified concerns for safety, wellbeing or security
 - c. be time-limited pending a disciplinary process in accordance with this policy, or an employment process if the respondent is an employee.
15. Provisional measures can be imposed at any point from when NZMMAF become aware of an alleged or actual breach of the prohibited behaviour policy and before the issue is resolved under our complaints and dispute resolution policy or this policy, or by the Commission.
16. NZMMAF must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the provisional measures are adhered to by the relevant person and within the MMA activities they may be involved in.

Process before disciplinary process

17. Before a disciplinary process is initiated for a participant, the decision-maker must be satisfied that an appropriate investigation or other process has taken place in accordance with NZMMAF's complaints and dispute resolution policy, including that:
 - a. the principles of natural justice have been followed
 - b. the respondent has been told the details of the allegations against them
 - c. the respondent has been given a reasonable opportunity to respond to the allegation and their response has been considered by the decision-maker
 - d. the outcome of any investigation or process and the reasons for the decision has been provided in writing to the respondent.

Referral to the Sport Integrity Commission disciplinary panel

18. In relation to breaches under clause 9, NZMMAF, the complainant or the respondent can request the Commission to refer a matter to the Commission's independent disciplinary panel.
19. A request as described in clause 18 must be made before NZMMAF conducts any disciplinary process.
20. If the complainant or the respondent makes a request to the Commission, they must notify NZMMAF before the request is made or as soon as possible after the request is made. This is to ensure that NZMMAF does not commence a disciplinary process before the Commission considers and decides on the request.
21. If NZMMAF makes a request to the Commission, it will inform the complainant, the respondent and any other relevant parties before the request is made or as soon as

possible after the request is made. NZMMAF will not commence a disciplinary process before the Commission considers and decides on the request.

22. If the Commission decides to make a referral to the Commission's disciplinary panel, NZMMAF will not take any further disciplinary action in relation to the matters to be determined by the Commission's disciplinary panel. This does not prevent NZMMAF from taking action under this policy in relation to matters that will not be dealt with by the Commission's disciplinary panel, such as employment matters.
23. NZMMAF will take all reasonable steps to ensure that any decision or sanction imposed by the Commission's disciplinary panel is complied with and/or implemented. This includes monitoring any steps that the person, any other relevant parties or NZMMAF is required to take.

Disciplinary process

24. Following an investigation or other process that has taken place in accordance with NZMMAF's Complaints and Dispute Resolution Policy, NZMMAF will refer the matter to the decision-maker to determine:
 - a. whether a breach of the Integrity Code or a policy that NZMMAF has in place to give effect to the Integrity Code has been proven on the balance of probabilities
 - b. what sanction, if any, should be imposed.
25. The respondent and the complainant are entitled to have representation and/or support people throughout the disciplinary process.
26. The standard of proof is whether, on the balance of probabilities, the person breached the Integrity Code or a policy NZMMAF has in place to give effect to the Integrity Code.
27. The decision-maker must:
 - a. be fair, impartial and ensure any conflicts of interest, whether actual or perceived, are identified and managed
 - b. be able to consider the matter without a predetermined view
 - c. ensure any decisions are:
 - i. consistent with any contractual or employment agreements that apply
 - ii. consistent with NZMMAF's constitution
 - iii. based on the evidence, information and outcomes of any relevant resolution process or investigation
 - iv. reflect the seriousness of the behaviour and the impact on the complainant and other interested parties.
28. Depending on the circumstances, the decision-maker may:
 - a. make a decision in writing
 - b. hold a disciplinary hearing, in person or online.

29. The decision-maker must ensure that the complainant, the respondent, and any other interested parties have the opportunity to provide their views on the proposed sanction, if any, to be imposed before the decision is finalised.

Costs

30. Each party will be responsible for their own costs in relation to the disciplinary process under this policy.

Principles relating to sanctions and remedial actions

31. In determining what sanction to impose on a participant, the decision-maker will observe principles of natural justice and may consider:
- a. the seriousness of the breach and the harm caused by it
 - b. whether the breach was a one-off incident or part of an overall pattern of behaviour
 - c. whether participants are vulnerable or at risk
 - d. any power imbalance between the parties
 - e. any remorse expressed or attempts to make amends, including the outcome of any restorative process, tikanga Māori-based process, or other cultural process
 - f. whether the breach was an honest and reasonable mistake
 - g. the views of the complainant and any other persons harmed by the breach
 - h. relevant precedents that help guide a proportionate remedy or sanction
 - i. cultural considerations
 - j. identity-based considerations
 - k. aggravating or mitigating factors.

Sanctions

32. The decision-maker may impose any one or more of the following sanctions:
- a. a reprimand or warning
 - b. a requirement to complete education that relates to the behaviour in question (eg, education modules)
 - c. conditions on participating in sport and recreation to which the Integrity Code applies
 - d. suspension from some or all participation in sport or recreation to which the Integrity Code applies
 - e. exclusion from some or all participation in sport or recreation to which the Integrity Code applies
 - f. any other sanction or penalty provided for in NZMMAF's constitution or policies (eg, suspension or expulsion from membership of NZMMAF or imposing a fine).

33. When imposing the final sanction, the decision-maker may take into account any provisional measures that were imposed on the respondent and the length of time they were imposed for.
34. NZMMAF must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the sanction is complied with and/or implemented. This includes monitoring any steps that the respondent, any other relevant parties or NZMMAF is required to take.
35. NZMMAF may take separate disciplinary action in relation to a participant who is an employee.

Privacy and confidentiality

36. Personal information collected or held by NZMMAF, including in relation to any integrity complaint or disclosure, must be managed in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 and with NZMMAF's privacy policy.
37. Personal and confidential information will only be disclosed or used by us as required or permitted under the relevant privacy laws and any relevant confidentiality obligations.
38. NZMMAF confirms that anyone who provides personal information to it in connection with any Integrity Code obligations or activities will be advised about:
 - a. the purpose of collecting the personal information
 - b. what it will be used for
 - c. how it will be stored
 - d. how long it will be kept for
 - e. whether the information will be shared or disclosed.

Decision

39. The decision-maker will provide a written decision to the parties, which sets out the sanction, reasons for the sanction, and any other relevant matters as soon as possible.
40. The decision will be final and binding, subject to any appeal rights.

Appeal

41. A decision or sanction made under this policy may be appealed to the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand in accordance with section 38(ac) of the Sports Tribunal Act 2006.
42. The grounds and procedure for an appeal are as established by the Sports Tribunal.

Related policies

- Prohibited Behaviours Policy
- Complaints and Dispute Resolution Policy
- Mandatory Notification Policy
- Privacy Policy

Appendix 1: Definitions

In this policy:

abuse includes physical, psychological, emotional and sexual abuse

adult means a person who is 18 years or over

adult at risk means any adult who needs care and support, is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and is unable to remove or protect themselves from that risk because of those needs

children and young people means people under the age of 18 years

Commission means the Sport Integrity Commission

complainant means a person who has made a complaint under our complaints and dispute resolution policy or to the Commission

complaint means an expression of dissatisfaction with an explicit or implicit expectation of a response or resolution made under our complaints and dispute resolution policy or to the Commission

disciplinary panel means a disciplinary panel established by the Commission

disclosure means a disclosure of information relating to an alleged or actual breach of the Integrity Code, a policy required under the Integrity Code, or the Integrity Sport and Recreation Act 2023

dispute resolution means any process used to respond to or resolve a complaint or disclosure, including:

- consent-based processes such as mediation, restorative processes or arbitration
- determinative processes such as investigation and disciplinary processes

harm means physical or mental damage or injury resulting from a prohibited behaviour

in connection with sport and recreation means that:

- the behaviour occurs while a person is engaging in sport and recreation to which the Integrity Code applies
- the behaviour occurs while a participant is dealing with an organisation, its employees, volunteers, contractors, or representatives in the context of their mutual involvement in sport and recreation
- a person is acting in their capacity as a participant, member, officer, or representative of an organisation
- the behaviour occurs between people interacting with each other primarily because of their mutual involvement in sport and recreation

needs of participants includes their psychological needs and other needs such as those based on vulnerability, age, culture, language, gender identity and expression, sexual identity, sex characteristics, and disability

participant includes:

- a player, competitor, or any other person who takes part in the MMA activity
- an official or administrator

- a coach, trainer, or other person who gives instruction in relation to the MMA activity
- a manager, an agent, or a team staff member
- a person providing medical or paramedical services to a person who takes part in MMA, or a team or group
- a parent or caregiver of a person who takes part in MMA
- any other person working with, treating, or assisting a person who takes part in MMA, or a team or group
- a volunteer providing services for MMA

Prohibited behaviours means the following:

- bullying, violence, abuse, intimidation and harassment
- child abuse, child sexual abuse and child neglect
- sexually harmful behaviour
- discrimination
- competition manipulation and associated activity
- corruption, fraud, deception and breach of trust
- retaliation against or victimisation of any person because that person makes or intends to make a complaint or disclosure to NZMMAF, the Commission or another organisation bound by the Integrity Code

respondent means a person or organisation complained about or whom an allegation has been made against under our complaints and dispute resolution policy or to the Commission

References to clauses are to clauses in this policy.