TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR MATCH FIXING

21 August 2013

The Northern Territory Government has today passed legislation to protect the integrity of professional sport by ensuring that those engaged in match-fixing face serious penalties.

Amendments to the Criminal Code (Cheating at Gambling) Bill will see the introduction of five new offences to prohibit cheating or fraud in sports betting.

Attorney-General John Elferink said match-fixing is a serious offence and tougher penalties will act as a deterrent for those considering participating in such activities.

“The changes are part of a national push to protect the integrity of Australian sport,” Mr Elferink said.

“This follows an agreement by state and territory governments to provide a consistent approach to cheating and fraud in sport.”

The five new offences include:
- Engaging in conduct that corrupts a betting outcome – maximum penalty of 7 years imprisonment;
- Facilitating conduct that corrupts a betting outcome - maximum penalty of 7 years imprisonment;
- Concealing from authorities conduct or an agreement about conduct that corrupts the betting outcome - maximum penalty of 7 years imprisonment;
- Using corrupt conduct information for betting purposes - maximum penalty of 7 years imprisonment; and
- Using inside information for betting purposes - maximum penalty of 2 years imprisonment.

Minister for Sport and Recreation Matt Conlan said there was no place for match-fixing in Territory sport.

“Territorians want, and expect, our elite athletes and sporting competitions to be clean,” Mr Conlan said.

“The Territory Government has introduced this important legislation after I attended a meeting of all Australian Sport Ministers in February and the former Labor Government stalled its progress.

“This new legislation will safeguard Territory sport.”

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