

CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN SPORT: SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

Cultural competency in sport refers to the ability of players, coaches, officials, and organisations to work effectively, respectfully, and inclusively with First Nations peoples.

It is built across four key areas:

Skills

- Providing culturally appropriate support and services.
- Communicating respectfully with First Nations players, families, and communities.
- Building trust and strong relationships.
- Adapting coaching and leadership approaches.
- Managing and addressing discrimination on and off the field.

Mindset

- Respect for First Nations cultures, identities, and histories.
- Openness to learning from First Nations peoples.
- Self-awareness of personal attitudes and biases.
- Valuing cultural diversity as a strength in sport.
- Commitment to ongoing reflection and improvement.

Strategies

- Promoting cultural awareness, safety, and inclusion.
- Understanding responsibilities and obligations to First Nations peoples.
- Implementing anti-racism practices.
- Embedding cultural respect into club values and policies.
- Engaging with local First Nations communities.

Knowledge

- Understanding First Nations histories, cultures, and traditions.
- Awareness of the impact of colonisation and racism in sport.
- Knowledge of cultural protocols (e.g., Acknowledgement of Country).
- Understanding community needs and expectations.
- Ongoing education and learning.