



## **ROWING CANADA AVIRON SAFE SPORT POLICY MANUAL**

### Introduction

Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA) and its Members have a fundamental obligation and responsibility to protect the health, safety and physical and mental well-being of every Individual that is involved in the Canadian rowing community.

RCA and its Members<sup>1</sup> take any situation involving misconduct, Maltreatment and Prohibited Behaviour very seriously; for this reason, RCA and its Members are collectively committed to enacting and enforcing strong, clear, and effective policies and processes for preventing and addressing all forms of misconduct, Maltreatment and Prohibited Behaviour.

This RCA Safe Sport Manual contains policies for the entire Canadian rowing community, that are applicable from coast to coast to coast and from the club level to the national team. The policies are intended to promote a safe sport environment in a manner that allows for consistent, immediate, appropriate and meaningful action should any issues arise, but also to prevent issues from arising by communicating expected standards of behaviour to all participants.

This Safe Sport Manual has been prepared by RCA and is intended to be a set of pan-Canadian policies applicable to RCA, and its Members, which Members should adopt by adopting their own safe sport manual based on the template policies provided by RCA. Subject to provincial or territorial legislation that may impact the application of any of the policies found in this Manual, all RCA Members are expected to apply all of the policies found herein, as well as their own policies, as written. Members who need to apply any policy in a different manner due to provincial or territorial legislation must advise RCA. RCA will provide all Members with assistance, where necessary, in the implementation of this Safe Sport Policy Manual and their own safe sport policies.

As of April 1, 2025, RCA will become a Signatory of the Canadian Safe Sport Program ("CSSP"). As such, any allegations involving Maltreatment and/or Prohibited Behaviour, as those terms are defined in the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS), as amended from time to time, that involves a an Individual subject to the CSSP,<sup>2</sup> must be Reported directly to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES), which will manage the matter in accordance with the CSSP Rules, and any other relevant and applicable policies.

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<sup>1</sup> Members are RCA's Rowing Organizations, including Rowing Clubs, Specials Associations and Provincial Rowing Associations

<sup>2</sup> Individuals subject to the CSSP are set out in Appendix A to the Definitions included in this Safe Sport Policy Manual and are referred to in the CSSP as Participants. Such Individuals are required to sign a CSSP informed consent form and to comply with CSSP education requirements, where applicable.

Any allegations of an alleged breach of any of the policies included or referred to in this Safe Sport Manual, including those involving Maltreatment and/or Prohibited Behaviour that do not fall within the authority of the CCES, as described above, must be Reported to RCA’s Independent Third Party and shall be managed in accordance with the Safe Sport Manual (and any other applicable policies) of the relevant and applicable Member. If the Independent Third Party receives a Report involving allegations of Maltreatment and/or Prohibited Behaviour that should have been Reported to the CCES as described above, they shall refer the matter to the CCES and notify the Individual(s) that made the complaint of such action. Alternatively, the Independent Third Party may Report the allegations directly to the CCES with the written consent of the Individual(s) that made the Report.

Except for those matters that must be reported to the CCES, upon receipt of a Report from an Individual, the Independent Third Party will determine the appropriate forum and manner to address the complaint.

RCA adopted the UCCMS on December 13, 2022. The UCCMS shall be considered as incorporated by reference in this Safe Sport Policy Manual and will apply, as amended from time to time, to all Individuals and Members as a condition of their participation in the sport of rowing in Canada and/or their membership in RCA.

It should also be noted that certain policies found in this Safe Sport Manual also apply to matters beyond safe sport (i.e., the Appeal Policy). As such, these policies will also be published on RCA’s website so that they are accessible and applicable in all relevant areas.

Lastly, RCA notes and wishes to advise the Canadian rowing community that, if any Policy, in whole or in part, is excerpted from this Safe Sport Manual, any such action must be taken with the knowledge, and disclosure to any receiving party, that the Policy is part of the Safe Sport Manual, which may impact its application or understanding.

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## ROWING CANADA AVIRON

### DEFINITIONS

*The terms defined below shall apply to RCA policies included in this RCA Safe Sport Manual.*

Effective date	April 1, 2025
Archived date	-
Date last reviewed	March 2025
Scheduled review date	November 2025
Replaces and/or amends	RCA Definitions in force as of June 5, 2024
Approved by and date	RCA Board of Directors, March 19, 2025
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	-

1. “*Affected Party*” – Any Individual or entity, as determined by the Appeal Manager, who may be affected by a decision rendered under the *Appeal Policy* and who may have recourse to an appeal in their own right under the *Appeal Policy*.
2. “*Appellant*” – The Party appealing a decision pursuant to the *Appeal Policy*.
3. “*Appeal Manager*” – An individual appointed by RCA or a Member who may be any staff member, committee member, volunteer, Director, or the Independent Third Party, to oversee the administration of the *Appeal Policy*. The Appeal Manager’s responsibilities shall include those as described in the *Appeal Policy*.
4. “*Athlete*” – includes any Individual who is registered with RCA or a Member for either recreational or competitive purposes.
5. “*Board*” – the Board of Directors of RCA or a Member, as applicable.
6. “*Case Manager*” – an independent individual appointed by RCA or a Member, as applicable, to fulfill the responsibilities described in the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. In order to be appointed as a Case Manager, the individual must have relevant experience and skills to manage complaints and perform their duties, either as a legal practitioner or sport administrator.
7. “*CCES*” – the body mandated to independently administer and enforce the UCCMS and Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP).
8. “*Complainant*” – the Party making a complaint pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* and as referred to in the *Investigations Policy*.
9. “*Complaint Resolution Officer*” – an individual appointed to handle the duties of the Complaint Resolution Officer as described in the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
10. “*Criminal Record Check (CRC)*” – A search of the RCMP Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system for adult convictions
11. “*CSSP Rules*” – the rules adopted by the CCES that address the process by which Reports of Prohibited Behaviour are administered and enforced by the CCES and, where applicable, the SDRCC.
12. “*Days*” – calendar days<sup>3</sup>
13. “*Discrimination*” – as defined in the UCCMS and as amended from time to time.
14. “*Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC)*” – a Criminal Record Check plus a search of local police information, available from Sterling Backcheck

<sup>3</sup> For the purpose of calculating deadlines, the following shall apply: the day of the act is not included in the calculation (i.e., the date of receipt of a decision is not Day 1); instead, the deadline would start on the day following receipt of the decision and would expire at midnight (in the location of the individual seeking to file an appeal) on the last day of the period. If the end date is a Saturday, a Sunday or a legal holiday, the period runs until the next day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a legal holiday. For example, if an Individual receives a decision on Thursday December 17, 2020, the 14-day deadline to appeal this decision starts on Friday December 18, 2020 and would expire on Friday January 1, 2021. However, since January 1, 2021 is a legal holiday, January 2, 2021 is a Saturday, and January 3, 2021 is a Sunday, the deadline to appeal would expire at midnight (in the location of the individual seeking to file an appeal) on January 4, 2021.

15. “*Event*” – An event sanctioned by RCA or a Member, and which may include a social Event.
16. “*Harassment*” – A vexatious comment (or comments) or conduct against an Individual or group, irrespective of whether the comment or conduct occurs in person or via any other media, including social media, which is known or ought to reasonably be known to be unwelcome. Types of behaviour that constitute Harassment include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Written or verbal abuse, threats, or outbursts;
  - ii. Persistent unwelcome remarks, jokes, comments, innuendo, or taunts;
  - iii. Racial harassment, which is racial slurs, jokes, name calling, or insulting behaviour or terminology that reinforces stereotypes or discounts abilities because of racial or ethnic origin;
  - iv. Leering or other suggestive or obscene gestures;
  - v. Condescending or patronizing behaviour which is intended to undermine self-esteem, diminish performance or adversely affect working conditions;
  - vi. Practical jokes which endanger a person’s safety, or which may negatively affect performance;
  - vii. Hazing, which is any form of conduct which exhibits any potentially humiliating, degrading, abusive, or dangerous activity, which does not contribute to any Individual’s positive development, but is required to be accepted as part of a team or group, regardless of the individual’s willingness to participate. This includes, but is not limited to, any activity, no matter how traditional or seemingly benign, that sets apart or alienates any teammate or group member based on class, number of years on the team or with the group, or ability;
  - viii. Unwanted physical contact including, but not limited to, touching, petting, pinching, or kissing;
  - ix. Deliberately excluding or socially isolating a person from a group or team;
  - x. Persistent sexual flirtations, advances, requests, or invitations;
  - xi. Physical or sexual assault;
  - xii. Behaviours such as those described above that are not directed towards a specific person or group but have the same effect of creating a negative or hostile environment; and
  - xiii. Retaliation or threats of retaliation against a person who Reports harassment to RCA or to a Member.
17. “*Independent Third Party*” – the independent individual retained by RCA to receive complaints and to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, *Investigation Policy* and *Appeal Policy*, as applicable.
18. “*Individuals*” – refers to all categories of members and/or registrants defined in the Bylaws of RCA or, as applicable, in the Bylaws of a Member, as well as all people employed by, contracted by, or engaged in activities with RCA or a Member including, but not limited to, employees, contractors, Athletes, coaches, umpires, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, parents or guardians, spectators, Committee members or Directors or Officers
19. “*Maltreatment*” – as defined in the UCCMS and as amended from time to time.
20. “*Members*” – Rowing Organizations, including Rowing Clubs,<sup>4</sup> Special Associations and Provincial Rowing Associations.
21. “*Minor*” – any Individual who is under the age of majority at the time and in the jurisdiction where the alleged breach of any RCA or Member policy has occurred.

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<sup>4</sup> Wherever the term ‘Club’ is used in any policy included in this policy manual, it shall be understood as a Special Association where appropriate and required by the circumstances.

Adult Individuals are responsible for knowing the age of a Minor in the relevant jurisdiction.

**\*\*\* Please verify provincial/territorial jurisdictions for potential changes \*\*\***

22. “*Parties*” - in the context of a complaint under the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, the Complainant and Respondent; in the context of an appeal under the *Appeal Policy*, the Appellant, Respondent and Affected Party (or Parties).
23. “*Person in Authority*” - Any Individual who holds a position of authority within RCA or a Member, including, but not limited to, coaches, umpires, officials, managers, support personnel, chaperones, Committee members, and Directors or Officers. In addition to the responsibilities described for Individuals in the Code of Conduct and Ethics, a Person in Authority shall be responsible for knowing what constitutes Maltreatment and Prohibited Behaviour.
24. “*Provisional Measure*” - a temporary protective measure imposed by the CCES pending determination of a Report in accordance with the CSSP;
25. “*Provisional Suspension*” - means that the Individual is barred temporarily from participating in in any capacity in any Event or activity of RCA and its Members, or as otherwise decided pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaint Policy*, prior to the decision rendered in a hearing conducted pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*
26. “*Power Imbalance*” - as defined in the UCCMS and as amended from time to time.
27. “*Prohibited Behaviour*” - as defined in the UCCMS and as amended from time to time.
28. “*Prohibited Method*” - as defined in the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, as amended from time to time by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport.
29. “*Prohibited Substance*” - as defined in the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, as amended from time to time by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport
30. “*Reporting (or Report)*”: as defined in the UCCMS and as amended from time to time.
31. “*Respondent*” - the Party responding to a complaint or investigation; or, in the case of an appeal, the body or organization whose decision is being appealed, or the Individual who was the subject of a decision that is being appealed.
32. “*Sexual Harassment*” - as defined in the UCCMS and as amended from time to time.
33. “*Signatory (or Signatories)*” - any sport organization that has adopted the CSSP pursuant to an Adoption Contract with the CCES.
34. “*Social media*” - The catch-all term that is applied broadly to computer-mediated communication media such as blogs, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat, Tik-Tok, and Twitter.
35. “*SDRCC*” - the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.
36. “*Tampering*” - as defined in the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, as amended from time to time by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport
37. “*UCCMS*” - the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport, as amended from time to time.
  
38. “*Vulnerable Participant*” -as defined in the UCCMS and as amended from time to time.
39. “*Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC)*” - a detailed check that includes a search of the RCMP Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system, local police information, and the Pardoned Sex Offender database
40. “*Workplace*” - Any place where Events, business or work-related activities are conducted. Workplaces include but are not limited to, the office or facilities of RCA or a Member, work-related social functions, work assignments outside offices, work-related travel, the training and competition environment (wherever located), and work-related conferences or training sessions

41. *“Workplace Harassment”* – Vexatious comment(s) or conduct against a worker in a Workplace that is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome. Workplace Harassment should not be confused with legitimate, reasonable management actions that are part of the normal work/training function, including measures to correct performance deficiencies, such as placing someone on a performance improvement plan, or imposing discipline for workplace infractions. Types of behaviour that constitute Workplace Harassment include, but are not limited to:
- i. Bullying;
  - ii. Workplace pranks, vandalism, bullying or hazing;
  - iii. Repeated offensive or intimidating phone calls, text messages or emails;
  - iv. Inappropriate sexual touching, advances, suggestions or requests;
  - v. Displaying or circulating offensive pictures, photographs or materials in printed or electronic form;
  - vi. Psychological abuse;
  - vii. Excluding or ignoring someone, including persistent exclusion of a person from work-related social gatherings;
  - viii. Deliberately withholding information that would enable a person to do his or her job, perform or train;
  - ix. Sabotaging someone else’s work or performance;
  - x. Gossiping or spreading malicious rumours;
  - xi. Intimidating words or conduct (offensive jokes or innuendos); and
  - xii. Words or actions which are known or should reasonably be known to be offensive, embarrassing, humiliating, or demeaning.
42. *“Workplace Violence”* – the use of or threat of physical force by a person against a worker in a Workplace that causes or could cause physical injury to the worker; an attempt to exercise physical force against a worker in a Workplace that could cause physical injury to the worker; or a statement or behaviour that it is reasonable for a worker to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the worker in a Workplace that could cause physical injury to the worker. Types of behaviour that constitute Workplace Violence include, but are not limited to:
- Verbal or written threats to attack;
  - Sending or leaving threatening notes, text messages or emails;
  - Physically threatening behaviour such as shaking a fist at someone, finger pointing, destroying property, or throwing objects;
  - Wielding a weapon in a Workplace;
  - Hitting, pinching or unwanted touching which is not accidental;
  - Dangerous or threatening horseplay;
  - Physical restraint or confinement;
  - Blatant or intentional disregard for the safety or wellbeing of others;
  - Blocking normal movement or physical interference, with or without the use of equipment;
  - Sexual violence; and
  - Any attempt to engage in the type of conduct outlined above.





**ROWING CANADA AVIRON**  
**ATHLETE PROTECTION POLICY**

Effective date	December 13, 2022
Archived date	-
Date last reviewed	April 2024
Scheduled review date	November 2025
Replaces and/or amends	RCA Athlete Protection Policy in force as of July 23, 2021
Approved by and date	RCA Board of Directors, December 7, 2022
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	Appendix A - Image Consent Form

### **Purpose**

1. This Athlete Protection Policy describe how Persons in Authority shall maintain a safe sport environment for all Athletes.

### **Interactions between Persons in Authority and Athletes – the ‘Rule of Two’**

2. Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA)<sup>1</sup> and its Members strongly recommend the ‘Rule of Two’ for all Persons in Authority who interact with Athletes, whether in person or remotely (i.e., in virtual settings). The Coaching Association of Canada describes the intention of the ‘Rule of Two’ as follows:

A coach must never be alone or out of sight with a minor athlete. Two NCCP trained or certified coaches should always be present with an athlete, especially a minor athlete, when in a potentially vulnerable situation such as in a locker room or meeting room. All one-on-one interactions between a coach and an athlete must take place within earshot and in view of a second coach except for medical emergencies. One of the coaches must also be of the same gender as the athlete. Should there be a circumstance where a second screened and NCCP trained or certified coach is not available, a screened volunteer, parent, or adult can be recruited.

3. RCA recognizes that fully implementing the ‘Rule of Two’, as described above (and modified accordingly for Persons in Authority), in all circumstances, may not always be possible. Consequently, at a minimum, interactions between Persons in Authority and Athletes must respect the following:
  - i. The training and competition environments should be open to observation so that all interactions between Persons in Authority and Athletes are observable.

<sup>1</sup> A separate document with term definitions that apply to all RCA Policy is found online and in the RCA Safe Sport Manual.

- ii. Private or one-on-one situations must be avoided unless they are open and observable by another adult or Athlete.
- iii. Persons in Authority shall not invite or have a Vulnerable Participant (or Vulnerable Participants) in their home without the written permission and contemporaneous knowledge of the Vulnerable Participant's parent or guardian.
- iv. Vulnerable Participants must not be in any situation where they are alone with a Person in Authority without another screened adult or Athlete present unless prior written permission is obtained from the Athlete's parent or guardian

## Practices and Events

4. As it relates to practices and/or competitions, the following shall be respected:
  - a) A Person in Authority should never be alone with a Vulnerable Participant prior to or following a competition or practice unless the Person in Authority is the Athlete's parent or guardian.
  - b) If the Vulnerable Participant is the first Athlete to arrive, the Athlete's parent should remain until another Athlete or Person in Authority arrives.
  - c) If a Vulnerable Participant would potentially be alone with a Person in Authority following a competition or practice, the Person in Authority should ask another Person in Authority (or a parent or guardian of another Athlete) to stay until all of the Athletes have been picked up. If an adult is unavailable, another Athlete, who is preferably not a Vulnerable Participant, should be present in order to avoid the Person in Authority being alone with a Vulnerable Participant
  - d) Persons in Authority giving instructions, demonstrating skills, or facilitating drills or lessons to an individual Athlete should always do so within earshot and eyesight of another Person in Authority
  - e) If there is a concern with observing the Rule of Two, Persons in Authority and Athletes should take additional steps to achieve transparency and accountability in their interactions.

## Communications

5. Communications between Persons in Authority and Athletes shall respect the following:
  - a) Group messages, group emails or team pages are to be used as the regular method of communication between Persons in Authority and Athletes
  - b) Persons in Authority may only send personal texts, direct messages on social media or emails to individual Athletes when necessary and only for communicating information related to team issues and activities (e.g., non-personal information). Any such texts, messages or emails shall be professional in tone and must be copied to another adult when the Athlete is a Vulnerable Participant.
  - c) No personal texts between Vulnerable Participants and Persons in Authority may be sent; however, if this is necessary under Section 5(b), it shall include one other adult person on the message (preferably the Vulnerable Person's parent(s)/guardian(s)).
  - d) Parents and guardians may request that their child not be contacted by a Person in Authority using any form of electronic communication and/or to request that certain information about their child may not be distributed in any form of electronic communications
  - e) All communication between a Person in Authority and Athletes must be between the hours of 6:00am and 11:00pm unless extenuating circumstances justify otherwise (e.g., cancelling an early morning practice)
  - f) Communications concerning drugs or alcohol use (unless regarding its prohibition) is not permitted
  - g) No sexually explicit language or imagery or sexually oriented conversation may be communicated by any medium
  - h) Persons in Authority and Athletes are not permitted to offer or ask one another to



keep a secret for them

### Virtual settings

6. The Rule of Two shall apply to all Minors in a virtual environment. Specifically:
  - a) For Athletes under the age of 16, where possible, a parent/guardian should be present during any virtual session;
  - b) Two adult coaches should be present or one coach and one adult (parent, guardian, volunteer, club administrator). One-on-one virtual sessions are prohibited;
  - c) Coaches shall be informed by RCA and/or the Member, as applicable, of the expected standards of conduct during virtual sessions;
  - d) Parents/guardians of Minors shall be informed by RCA and/or the Member, as applicable, of the activities that will take place during the virtual session, as well as the process of the virtual session;
  - e) Parents/guardians of Minors shall provide consent to the Minor participating in the virtual session, if irregularly scheduled, or prior to the first session if the sessions will take place on a regular basis;
  - f) Communications during virtual sessions shall take place in an open and observable environment. Sessions must be initiated in appropriate locations (i.e., not in personal or inappropriate locations such as bedrooms);
  - g) Virtual sessions should be recorded whenever allowed by the technology being used;
  - h) Parents/guardians should debrief with Minors on a weekly basis regarding virtual sessions.

### Travel

7. Any travel involving Persons in Authority and Athletes shall respect the following:
  - a) Teams or groups of Athlete shall always have at least two Persons in Authority with them
  - b) For mixed gender teams or groups of Athletes, there will be one Person in Authority from each gender
  - c) Screened parents or other volunteers will be available in situations when two Persons in Authority cannot be present
  - d) No Person in Authority may drive a vehicle with an Athlete alone unless the Person in Authority is the Athlete's parent or guardian
  - e) A Person in Authority may not share a room or be alone in a hotel room with an Athlete unless the Person in Authority is the Athlete's parent or guardian
  - f) Room or bed checks during overnight stays must be done by two Persons in Authority
  - g) For overnight travel when Athletes must share a hotel room, roommates will be age-appropriate and, for Minors, shall be within two years of age of one another and of the same gender identity

### Locker Room / Changing Areas

8. The following shall apply to locker rooms, changing areas, regatta weigh-in area(s), and meeting rooms:
  - a) Interactions (i.e., conversation) between Persons in Authority and Athletes should not occur in any room where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as a locker room, regatta weigh-in area(s), restroom or changing area. A second adult should be present for any necessary interaction between an adult and an Athlete in any such room. The Rule of Two must be respected.
  - b) If Persons in Authority are not present in the locker room or changing area, or if they are not permitted to be present, they should still be available outside the locker room or changing area and be able to enter the room or area if required, including but not

limited to team communications and/or emergency

### Photography / Video

9. Any photograph or video involving Athletes shall respect the following:
  - a) Photographs and video may only be taken in public view, must observe generally accepted standards of decency, and be both appropriate for and in the best interest of the Athlete.
  - b) The use of recording devices of any kind in rooms where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy is strictly prohibited.
  - c) Examples of photos that shall be edited or deleted include:
    - i. Images with misplaced apparel or where undergarments are showing
    - ii. Suggestive or provocative poses
    - iii. Embarrassing images
  - d) If any photographs or videos will be used on any form of public media, an Image Consent Form must be completed before any images are taken and used

### Physical Contact

10. It is recognized that some physical contact between Persons in Authority and Athletes may be necessary for various reasons including, but not limited to, teaching a skill or tending to an injury. Any physical contact shall respect the following:
  - a) Unless it is otherwise impossible because of serious injury or other justifiable circumstance, a Person in Authority must always clarify with an Athlete where and why any physical contact will occur prior to the contact occurring. The Person in Authority must make clear that he or she is requesting to touch the Athlete and not requiring physical contact
  - b) Infrequent, non-intentional physical contact during a training session is permitted
  - c) Hugs lasting longer than five seconds, cuddling, physical horseplay, and physical contact initiated by the Person in Authority is not permitted. It is recognized that some Athletes may initiate hugging or other physical contact with a Person in Authority for various reasons (e.g., such as crying or celebrating after a performance), but this physical contact may only occur in an open and observable environment.

### Enforcement

11. Any alleged violations of this *Athlete Protection Policy* shall be addressed pursuant to RCA's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

### Privacy

12. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to RCA's Privacy Policy.

## Appendix A - Image Consent Form

1. I hereby grant to [Insert Name of Member organization(s)] and RCA and, as applicable, my Provincial Rowing Association and Club (collectively the “Organizations”) on a worldwide basis, the permission to photograph and/or record the Participant’s image and/or voice on still or motion picture film and/or audio tape (collectively the “Images”), and to use the Images to promote the sport and/or the Organizations through traditional media such as newsletters, websites, television, film, radio, print and/or display form, and through social media such as Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. I understand that I waive any claim to remuneration for use of audio/visual materials used for these purposes. This consent will remain in effect in perpetuity; however, consent may be withdrawn by the Participant by the Participant notifying RCA of such withdrawal in writing.
2. I hereby fully release, discharge, and agree to save harmless the Organizations, for any and all claims, demands, actions, damages, losses or costs that might arise out of the collection, use or disclosure of the Images or taking, publication, distortion of the Images, negatives, and masters or any other likeness or representation of the Participant that may occur or be produced in the taking of said Images or in any subsequent processing thereof, including without limitation any claims for libel, passing off, misappropriation of personality or invasion of privacy.
3. **I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE**, that I have read and understood the terms and conditions of this document. On behalf of me, my heirs and assigns, I agree that I am signing this document voluntarily and to abide by such terms and conditions.

Signed at this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Print Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if Participant is younger than the age of majority):

\_\_\_\_\_



**ROWING CANADA AVIRON**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS**

Effective date	April 1, 2025
Archived date	-
Date last reviewed	March 2025
Scheduled review date	November 2025
Replaces and/or amends	RCA Code of Conduct and Ethics in force as of June 5, 2024
Approved by and date	RCA Board of Directors, March 19, 2025
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	-

### **Purpose**

1. The purpose of this Code is to ensure a safe and positive environment within the programs, activities, and Events of Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA)<sup>1</sup> and its Members by making Individuals aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behaviour consistent with the applicable organization's core values and policies. RCA and its Members support equal opportunity, prohibit discriminatory practices, and are committed to providing an environment in which all individuals can safely participate in our sport and are treated with respect and fairness.

### **Application of this Code**

2. This Code applies to any Individual's conduct during the business, activities, and Events of RCA and its Members including, but not limited to, competitions, practices, evaluations (including time trials or any other form of testing), treatment or consultations (e.g., massage therapy), training camps, travel associated with organizational activities, the office environment, and any meetings or social Events.
3. This Code also applies to Individuals' conduct outside of the business, activities, and Events of RCA and its Members when such conduct adversely affects the organization's relationships (and the work and sport environment) or is detrimental to the image and reputation of RCA or a Member. Such applicability will be determined by RCA or a Member, as applicable, at its sole discretion.
4. This Code applies to Individuals active in the sport of rowing or who have retired from the sport of rowing where any claim regarding a potential breach of this Code occurred when the Individual was active in the sport.

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<sup>1</sup> A separate document with term definitions that apply to all RCA Policy is found online and in the RCA Safe Sport Manual.

5. In addition, breaches of this Code may occur when the Individuals involved interacted due to their mutual involvement in the sport of rowing or, if the breach occurred outside of the sport environment, if the breach has a serious and detrimental impact on the Individual(s).
6. Any Individual who violates this Code may be subject to sanctions pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. In addition to facing possible sanctions pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, an Individual who violates this Code during a competition may be removed from the competition or training area, and the Individual may be subject to further sanctions.

## UCCMS

7. RCA has adopted the UCCMS which shall be incorporated into this Code by reference as if set out in full herein. Any modifications or amendments made to the UCCMS shall come into effect immediately upon their adoption, without the need for any further action by RCA or any of its Members.

## Responsibilities

8. Individuals have a responsibility to:
  - a) Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of other Individuals by:
    - i. Treating each other with the highest standards of respect and integrity;
    - ii. Focusing comments or criticism appropriately and avoiding public criticism of Athletes, coaches, umpires, officials, organizers, volunteers, employees, or other participants;
    - iii. Consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership, and ethical conduct;
    - iv. Acting to correct or prevent practices that are unjustly discriminatory;
    - v. Consistently treating individuals fairly and reasonably; and
    - vi. Ensuring adherence to the rules of the sport and the spirit of those rules.
  - b) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes Harassment, Workplace Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Workplace Violence, Discrimination or any form of Maltreatment or Prohibited Behaviour
  - c) Refrain from the use of power or authority in an attempt to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate activities
  - d) Refrain from consuming tobacco products, cannabis, or recreational drugs while participating in the programs, activities, Events of RCA or a Member or representing RCA or a Member at any such activities or Events;
  - e) In the case of Minors, not consume alcohol, tobacco, or cannabis at any Event;
  - f) In the case of adults, not consume cannabis in the Workplace or in any situation associated with Events (subject to any requirements for accommodation), not consume alcohol during competitions and in situations where Minors are present, and take reasonable steps to manage the responsible consumption of alcohol in adult-oriented social situations
  - g) Respect the property of others and not wilfully cause damage
  - h) Promote sport in the most constructive and positive manner possible
  - i) When driving a vehicle or operating a coach boat or safety launch:
    - i. Not have his or her license suspended;
    - ii. Obey traffic laws at all times;
    - iii. Not be under the influence of alcohol, cannabis or illegal drugs or intoxicating substances;
    - iv. Have valid insurance; and

- v. Refrain from using a mobile device or engaging in any activity that would constitute distracted driving.
- j) Adhere to all federal, provincial, municipal and host country laws
- k) Refrain from engaging in deliberate cheating which is intended to manipulate the outcome of a competition or para-classification, and/or refrain from offering or receiving any benefit which is intended to manipulate the outcome of a competition. A benefit includes the direct or indirect receipt of money or other anything else of value, including, but not limited to, bribes, gains, gifts, preferential treatment, and other advantages.
- l) Comply, at all times, with the bylaws, policies, procedures, and rules and regulations of RCA and its Members, and those of any other sport organization with authority over the individual, as applicable and as adopted and amended from time to time
- m) Report any ongoing criminal or anti-doping investigation, conviction, or existing bail conditions involving an Individual to RCA or to a Member, including, but not limited to, those for violence, child pornography, or possession, use, or sale of any illegal or Prohibited Substance or Method

### Directors, Committee Members, and Staff

9. In addition to section 8 (above), directors, committee members, and staff of RCA and its Members will have additional responsibilities to:
- a) When performing their role as a director or committee member or staff member of RCA or a Member (as applicable), ensure that they respect their duty of loyalty to RCA or the Member (as applicable), and refrain from engaging in any activity or behaviour that could constitute a conflict of interest
  - b) Ensure their loyalty prioritizes the interests of RCA or the Member (as applicable)
  - c) Act with honesty and integrity and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the nature and responsibilities of the business and the maintenance of Individuals' confidence
  - d) Ensure that financial affairs are conducted in a responsible and transparent manner with due regard for all fiduciary responsibilities
  - e) Comply with the *Screening Policy*, including [understanding](#) ongoing expectations under the *Screening Policy* and fully cooperating in the screening process
  - f) Conduct themselves openly, professionally, lawfully and in good faith
  - g) Be independent and impartial and not be influenced by self-interest, outside pressure, expectation of reward, or fear of criticism
  - h) Behave with decorum appropriate to both circumstance and position
  - i) Exercise the degree of care, diligence, and skill required in the performance of their duties pursuant to applicable laws
  - j) Respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature
  - k) Respect the decisions of the majority and resign if unable to do so
  - l) Commit the time to attend meetings and be diligent in preparation for, and participation in, discussions at such meetings
  - m) Have knowledge and understanding of all relevant policies and procedures

### Coaches

10. In addition to section 8 (above), coaches have many additional responsibilities. The coach-Athlete relationship is a privileged one and plays a critical role in the personal, sport, and athletic development of the Athlete. Coaches must understand and respect the inherent Power Imbalance that exists in this relationship and must not abuse it, either consciously or unintentionally. Coaches will:
- a) Avoid any behaviour that abuses the Power Imbalance inherent to their position as a coach



- b) Ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of the Athletes
- c) Prepare Athletes systematically and progressively, using appropriate time frames and monitoring physical and psychological adjustments while refraining from using training methods or techniques that may harm Athletes
- d) Avoid compromising the present and future health of Athletes by communicating and cooperating with sport medicine professionals (where applicable) in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of Athletes' medical and psychological treatments
- e) Support the coaching staff of a training camp, provincial team, or national team, should an Athlete qualify for participation with one of these programs
- f) Accept and promote Athletes' personal goals and refer Athletes to other coaches and sport specialists as appropriate
- g) Provide Athletes (and the parents/guardians of Minor Athletes) with the information necessary to be involved in the decisions that affect the Athlete
- h) Act in the best interest of the Athlete's development as a whole person
- i) Comply with the *Screening Policy*, including understanding ongoing expectations under the *Screening Policy* and fully cooperating in the screening process
- j) Comply with all established responsibilities and obligations as set out by the coach's professional governing body, if any
- k) Under no circumstances provide, promote, or condone the use of drugs (other than properly prescribed medications) or Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods and, in the case of minors, alcohol, cannabis, and/or tobacco
- l) Respect Athletes competing for other clubs, provinces or countries and, in dealings with them, not discuss topics or take actions which are deemed to be within the realm of 'coaching', unless after first receiving approval from the coaches who are responsible for the Athletes
- m) Not engage in a sexual or intimate relationship with an Athlete of any age in which the coach is in a position of trust or authority
- n) Recognize the power inherent in the position of coach and respect and promote the rights of all participants in sport. This is accomplished by establishing and following procedures for confidentiality (right to privacy), informed participation, and fair and reasonable treatment. Coaches have a special responsibility to respect and promote the rights of participants who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights
- o) Dress appropriately
- p) Use inoffensive language, and take the audience being addressed into account (e.g., the age/maturity of the participants)

## Athletes

11. In addition to section 8 (above), Athletes will have additional responsibilities to:
  - a) Adhere to their athlete agreement (if applicable)
  - b) Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, when such problems may limit their ability to travel, practice, or compete
  - c) Participate and appear on-time and prepared to participate to their best abilities in all competitions, practices, training sessions, and evaluations (including time controls or any other form of testing)
  - d) Properly represent themselves and not attempt to participate in a competition for which they are not eligible by reason of age, classification, or other reason
  - e) Adhere to any rules and requirements regarding clothing and equipment
  - f) Dress to represent the sport and themselves appropriately
  - g) Act in accordance with applicable policies and procedures and, when applicable, additional rules as outlined by coaches or managers

## Umpires

12. In addition to section 8 (above) and section 11.5 in the RCA Rules of Racing, umpires will have additional responsibilities to:
- a) Maintain and update their knowledge of the Rules of Racing and any rule changes
  - b) Not publicly criticize any Individual
  - c) Place the safety and welfare of competitors, and the fairness of the competition above all else
  - d) Strive to provide a fair sporting environment
  - e) Work within the boundaries of their position's description while supporting the work of other umpires and follow the direction of Chief Umpires
  - f) Act as an ambassador of the sport of rowing by agreeing to enforce and abide by national and provincial rules and regulations
  - g) Take ownership of actions and decisions made while umpiring
  - h) Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all Individuals
  - i) Act openly, impartially, professionally, lawfully, and in good faith
  - j) Be fair, equitable, considerate, independent, honest, and impartial in all dealings with others
  - k) Respect the confidentiality required by issues of a sensitive nature, which may include discipline processes, appeals, and specific information or data about Individuals
  - l) Comply with the *Screening Policy*, including understanding ongoing expectations under the *Screening Policy* and fully cooperating in the screening process
  - m) Honour all assignments unless unable to do so by virtue of illness or personal emergency, in which case they must communicate their situation to the individual(s) responsible for assignments as soon as possible, including, if already at a regatta, the Chief Umpire
  - n) When writing reports, set out the actual facts to the best of their knowledge and recollection
  - o) Dress in appropriate attire for umpiring
  - p) Never umpire at a Canadian regatta that is not sanctioned by RCA
  - q) Where applicable, adhere at all times to the rules of World Rowing, as well as the rules of any other sport organization that has relevant and applicable authority over the umpire

## Parents/Guardians and Spectators

13. In addition to section 8 (above), parents/guardians and spectators at Events will, at all times:
- a) Encourage Athletes to compete within the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence
  - b) Condemn the use of violence in any form
  - c) Never ridicule a participant during a competition or practice
  - d) Respect the decisions and judgments of umpires and officials, and encourage Athletes to do the same
  - e) Support all efforts to eliminate verbal and physical abuse, coercion, intimidation, and sarcasm
  - f) Respect all competitors, coaches, umpires, officials and other volunteers
  - g) Never harass competitors, coaches, umpires, officials, parents/guardians, or other spectators

## Members

### 14. Members must:

- a) Adhere to all of RCA's governing documents and policies, and, when required, amend their own rules to comply or align with those of RCA.
- b) Pay all required dues and fees by the prescribed deadlines.
- c) Ensure that all Athletes and coaches participating in sanctioned competitions and Events of RCA are registered and in good standing.
- d) Appropriately screen prospective employees to help ensure Athletes have a healthy and safe sport environment.
- e) Ensure that any possible or actual misconduct is investigated promptly and thoroughly.
- f) Impose appropriate disciplinary or corrective measures when misconduct has been substantiated.
- g) Advise RCA immediately of any situation where a Complainant has publicized a complaint in the media (including social media).
- h) Provide RCA with a copy of all decisions rendered pursuant to the organization's policies for complaints and appeals.
- i) Implement any decisions and disciplinary sanctions imposed pursuant to RCA or any other Member's discipline process

## Anti-Doping

### 15. All Individuals shall:

- a) Abstain from the non-medical use of medications or drugs or the use of Prohibited Substances or Prohibited Methods as listed on the version of the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List currently in force. More specifically, RCA and its Members adopt and adhere to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. RCA and its Members will respect any sanction imposed on an Individual as a result of a breach of the [Canadian Anti-Doping Program](#) or any other applicable Anti-Doping Rules
- b) Refrain from associating with any person for the purpose of coaching, training, competition, instruction, administration, management, athletic development, or supervision, who has been found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation and is serving a period of ineligibility imposed pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program or any other applicable anti-doping rules
- c) Cooperate with any Anti-Doping Organization that is conducting an investigation into any anti-doping rule violation(s)
- d) Refrain from any offensive conduct toward a doping control official or other individual involved in doping control, whether or not such conduct constitutes Tampering as defined in the Canadian Anti-Doping Program

### 16. All Athlete Support Personnel or other Persons who are Using a Prohibited Substance or Prohibited Method without a valid and acceptable justification shall refrain from providing support to Athletes that fall under RCA or a Member's jurisdiction.

## Retaliation, Retribution or Reprisal

### 17. It is a breach of this *Code of Conduct and Ethics* for any Individual to engage in any act that threatens or seeks to intimidate another individual with the intent of discouraging that Individual from filing, in good faith, a Report pursuant to any RCA policy. It is also a breach of this *Code of Conduct and Ethics* for an Individual to file a Report for the purpose of retaliation, retribution or reprisal against any other Individual. Any Individual found to

be in breach of this section shall be liable for the costs related to the disciplinary process required to establish such a breach.

## Privacy

18. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to RCA's *Privacy Policy*.



**ROWING CANADA AVIRON**  
**DISCIPLINE AND COMPLAINTS POLICY**

Effective date	April 1, 2025
Archived date	-
Date last reviewed	March 2025
Scheduled review date	November 2025
Replaces and/or amends	RCA Discipline and Complaints Policy in force as of June 5, 2024
Approved by and date	RCA Board of Directors, March 19, 2025
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	-

### **Purpose**

1. Individuals are expected to fulfill certain responsibilities and obligations including, but not limited to, complying with the policies, Bylaws, rules and regulations of Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA)<sup>1</sup> and its Members, as applicable and as amended from time to time. Non-compliance may result in the imposition of sanctions pursuant to this Policy or the policies of the relevant Member.

### **Application of this Policy**

2. This Policy applies to all Individuals and to any alleged breaches of RCA's policies, by-laws, rules or regulations, or any of those of its Members that designate this Policy as applicable to address such alleged breaches.
3. This Policy applies to matters that may arise during the business, activities, and Events of RCA and its Members (as applicable) including, but not limited to, competitions, on and off water training, evaluations (including time trials or any other form of testing), treatment or consultations (e.g., massage therapy), training camps, travel associated with RCA or Member activities, and any meetings.
4. This Policy also applies to Individuals' conduct outside of the business, activities, and Events of RCA and its Members (as applicable) when such conduct adversely affects RCA and/or the Member's relationships (and the work and sport environment) or is detrimental to the image and reputation of RCA or a Member, or upon the acceptance of RCA or a Member.
5. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Policy applies to alleged breaches of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics* by Individuals who have retired from the sport of rowing

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<sup>1</sup> A separate document with term definitions that apply to all RCA policies is found online and in the RCA Safe Sport Manual.

where any claim regarding a potential breach of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics* occurred when the Individual was active in the sport. In addition, this Policy will apply to breaches of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics* that occurred when the Individuals involved interacted due to their mutual involvement in the sport of rowing or, if the breach occurred outside of the sport environment, if the breach has a serious and detrimental impact on the Individual(s).

If an Individual makes a complaint or Reports an incident that occurred at a time during which a different RCA or Member policy was in force (i.e., *Code of Conduct and Ethics*, *Discipline and Complaints Policy*), the matter will be governed by the substantive rules in the policy in force at the time that the incident occurred to determine whether an offense or breach of the policy has occurred, unless the panel hearing the matter determines that the principle of *lex mitior* applies to the circumstances of the case; however, for such cases, this *Discipline and Complaints Policy* will apply retroactively, prior to its approval date, as it relates to procedural matters.

Applicability of this Policy will be determined by the Independent Third Party at their sole discretion and shall not be subject to appeal.

6. In addition to being subject to disciplinary action pursuant to this *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, an employee of RCA or a Member who is a Respondent to a Report may also be subject to consequences in accordance with the employee's employment agreement, if applicable, or RCA's Human Resources or other applicable policies.
7. RCA and its Members will adhere to all disclosure and reporting responsibilities required by any government entity, local police force, or child protection agency.

## Minors

8. Complaints may be brought for or against an Individual who is a Minor. Minors must have a parent/guardian or other adult serve as their representative during this process. Any Individual who Reports or brings a complaint on behalf of a Minor that involves known or suspected abuse, neglect or Maltreatment of a Minor that is not Reported to the CCES pursuant to Section 12 below must also Report this to local child welfare services, the applicable provincial or territorial social service ministries or departments, or local police.
9. Communication from the Independent Third Party, Case Manager, Complaint Resolution Officer or discipline panel, as applicable, must be directed to the Minor's representative.
10. If the Minor's representative is not their parent/guardian, the representative must have written permission to act in such a capacity from the Minor's parent/guardian.
11. A Minor is not required to attend an oral hearing, if held, or participate in an investigation if conducted. In such circumstances, no adverse inference can be drawn against the Minor.

## Reporting a Complaint

### Individuals subject to the CSSP

12. Any incident that involves alleged Maltreatment or Prohibited Behaviour involving an Individual that is subject to the CSSP must be reported to the CCES and will be addressed pursuant to the CSSP Rules and any related policies and procedures.



13. The CCES shall determine the admissibility of Reports in accordance with the CSSP Rules.
14. If the Independent Third Party receives a complaint that they consider would otherwise fall within the above sections, they shall refer the matter to the CCES and notify the Individual(s) that made the complaint of such action.

### Individuals

15. Any complaints involving alleged breaches of RCA or a Member's policies that do not fall within Section 12 above must be Reported in writing by an Individual (or Individuals) to RCA's identified Independent Third Party within fourteen (14) days of the occurrence of the incident.<sup>2</sup> For the avoidance of doubt, this includes Reported complaints referred back to the Independent Third Party by the CCES following a determination made by the CCES that a complaint initially reported to it does not fall within its jurisdiction. The CCES is not required to comply with the deadline specified in this Section 15.
16. A Complainant who fears retribution or reprisal or who otherwise considers that their identity must remain confidential may Report a complaint to the Independent Third Party and request that their identity be kept confidential. If the Independent Third Party considers that the Complainant's identity must remain confidential, the Independent Third Party may ask that RCA take carriage of the complaint and act as the Complainant pursuant to Section 25 below.<sup>3</sup>
17. If the Independent Third Party considers that it is unnecessary to keep the Complainant's identity confidential, they shall inform the Complainant, who may decide whether or not to pursue the Reported complaint. However, the Independent Third Party may not reveal the identity of the Complainant unless the Complainant expressly informs them of their desire to pursue the complaint and has indicated, in writing, their approval to have their identity divulged.

### **Independent Third Party Responsibilities**

18. Upon receipt of a Reported complaint from an Individual (or Individuals) or the CCES, the Independent Third Party shall:
  - determine whether the complaint falls within the jurisdiction of this Policy;
  - if it can be accepted pursuant to Section 15 above; and
  - whether it is either a frivolous or vexatious complaint, or if it has been made in bad faith.<sup>4</sup>

If the Reported complaint is not accepted by the Independent Third Party for any of the aforementioned reasons, the Independent Third Party shall inform the Complainant and provide the reasons for which the complaint was not accepted. If the Reported complaint is accepted by the Independent Third Party, the Independent Third Party shall proceed to make the determinations indicated in Sections 20-24 below and notify the Parties accordingly that the Reported complaint has been accepted.

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<sup>2</sup> This timeline may be waived at the Independent Third Party's sole discretion if they consider that there were extenuating circumstances that prevented the Individual from Reporting their complaint within fourteen (14) days of the occurrence of the incident.

<sup>3</sup> In such circumstances, the Complainant(s) may be required to provide evidence during the disciplinary process.

<sup>4</sup> As indicated in the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada's Investigation Guidelines, a Reported complaint shall not be characterized as vexatious if the evidence demonstrates that there was a reasonable basis for filing and pursuing it. For a complaint to be considered to have been made in bad faith, the Independent Third Party must consider that it was filed consciously for a dishonest purpose or due to the moral underhandedness of the Complainant and that there was an intention to mislead.

19. In cases where the Independent Third Party receives a complaint or Report involving known or suspected abuse, neglect or Maltreatment of a Minor that is not reported to the CCES pursuant to Section 12, they shall Report this to local child welfare services, the applicable provincial or territorial social service ministries or departments, or local police. The Independent Third Party shall not be responsible for fulfilling the aforementioned obligation if the Individual making the complaint or filing the Report confirms in writing that they have already Reported to any such authorities.
20. If a Reported complaint has been accepted by the Independent Third Party pursuant to Section 18 above, the Independent Third Party shall determine whether the Reported incident has occurred within the Club, the Provincial Rowing Association or RCA's business, activities or Events as described in Section 3 above. If the incident has occurred outside of the business, activities or Events of any of these organizations, the Independent Third Party will determine which organization's relationships are adversely affected or which organization's image or reputation will be detrimentally affected by the incident as described in Section 4 above, or if the breach has had a serious and detrimental impact on the Individual(s), as described in Section 5 above.
21. Clubs will only handle Reported complaints in relation to incidents that fall within their business, activities or Events, or, if the incident has occurred outside of the business, activities or Events of the Club but will adversely affect its relationships or detrimentally affect its image or reputation, if the Reported complaint alleges any of the incidents listed in Section 22 below. Any complaints involving incidents that fall within the Club's business, activities or Events, or outside the Club's business, activities or Events but that adversely affect its relationships or detrimentally affect its image or reputation and that fall within Section 24 below will be handled by the Club's Provincial Rowing Association.
22. The Independent Third Party shall direct a Reported complaint to be managed by the Complaint Resolution Officer of a Club, Provincial Rowing Association<sup>5</sup> or RCA (as applicable pursuant to Sections 20 and 21 above) if the Complainant alleges that any of the following incidents have occurred:
- i. Disrespectful conduct or behaviour
  - ii. Minor acts of physical violence, unless the physical violence is between a Person in Authority and a Vulnerable Participant, in which case the matter will fall under Section 23 below
  - iii. Conduct contrary to the values of RCA or the Member
  - iv. Non-compliance with RCA or the Member's policies, procedures, rules, or regulations
  - v. Minor violations of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics*, *Social Media Policy*, *Athlete Protection Policy* or RCA's Rules of Racing
23. Subject to Section 14, the Independent Third Party shall direct a Reported complaint to be managed by the Case Manager appointed by the relevant Provincial Rowing Association or RCA (as applicable pursuant to Sections 20 and 21 above, but subject to Sections 12-14) if the Complainant alleges that any of the following incidents have occurred:
- i. Repeated incidents pursuant to Section 22
  - ii. Abusive, racist, or sexist comments, conduct or behaviour
  - iii. Any incident of hazing

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<sup>5</sup> RCA recognizes that, due to limited human or financial resources, Clubs and/or Provincial Rowing Associations may establish pools of Complaint Resolution Officers to handle cases under this Policy.

- iv. Behaviour that constitutes abuse, Maltreatment, Prohibited Behaviour, Workplace Harassment or Harassment
- v. Major incidents of physical violence (e.g., fighting, attacking)
- vi. Pranks, jokes, or other activities that endanger the safety of others
- vii. Conduct that intentionally interferes with a competition or with any Athlete's preparation for a competition
- viii. Conduct that intentionally damages RCA or the Member's image, credibility, or reputation
- ix. Consistent disregard for RCA or the Member's bylaws, policies, rules, and regulations
- x. Major or repeated violations of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics, Social Media Policy, Athlete Protection Policy* or RCA's Rules of Racing
- xi. Intentionally damaging RCA or the Member's property or improperly handling the organization's monies
- xii. Abusive use of alcohol or any other intoxicating substance, any use or possession of alcohol or any other intoxicating substance by Minors, or use or possession of illicit drugs and narcotics
- xiii. A conviction for any *Criminal Code* offense

24. In exceptional circumstances, the Independent Third Party may direct a Reported complaint to be managed by RCA if the Club or Provincial Rowing Association is otherwise unable to manage the complaint for valid and justifiable reasons, such as a conflict of interest, due to a lack of capacity or where the Member does not have policies in place or jurisdiction to address the Reported complaint. In such circumstances, RCA shall have the right to request that a cost-sharing agreement is entered into with the Member as a pre-condition to RCA managing the Reported complaint.

25. Notwithstanding any provision in this Policy, RCA or a Member may, at their discretion, or upon request by the Independent Third Party in accordance with Section 16, act as the Complainant and initiate the complaint Reporting process under the terms of this Policy. In such cases, RCA or the Member (as applicable) will identify an individual to represent the organization, unless RCA is acting as the Complainant pursuant to Section 16.

26. Where the Independent Third Party refers a matter to be managed by a Member, or where a Member or affiliated organization is otherwise responsible for managing a matter, and the Member fails to conduct disciplinary proceedings within a reasonable timeline, RCA may, at its discretion, take jurisdiction over the matter and conduct the necessary proceedings. In such circumstances, if the Complaints Resolution Officer or discipline panel decides that RCA acted reasonably in taking jurisdiction over the matter, RCA's costs to conduct the proceedings, including legal fees, shall be reimbursed by the Member to RCA.

## Investigations

27. In exceptional circumstances, and only when the Independent Third Party considers that the conditions indicated in this section have been satisfied, the Independent Third Party may determine that a Reported incident requires further investigation by an independent third-party investigator. The Independent Third Party will direct that an investigation be conducted:

- Only if the Reported incident falls within Section 23 above;
- In accordance with and by an independent investigator appointed pursuant to the *Investigations Policy – Discrimination, Harassment and Maltreatment and Prohibited Behaviour*;
- Where the Independent Third Party considers that there is a need for an independent assessment to determine whether an allegation (or, where there are several allegations, which allegations) should be heard by a discipline panel pursuant to this Policy because they constitute, if found to be true, a likely breach of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics*, the *Social Media Policy*, the *Athlete Protection Policy*, or any other relevant and applicable RCA or Member policy, or whether the allegations frivolous, vexatious or made in bad faith;<sup>6</sup> and
- For the purpose of making non-binding recommendations to the Independent Third Party so that they may discharge their responsibilities pursuant to this Policy.

If the Independent Third Party considers that an independent investigation must be conducted for the reasons mentioned above, the investigation shall be conducted before any disciplinary procedures are commenced pursuant to this Policy; however, when an investigation is conducted and where it is necessary in the circumstances, a Provisional Suspension or interim measures may be imposed in accordance with Sections 28-32 below.

Upon receipt of the investigator’s report, the Independent Third Party shall determine whether the matter will proceed pursuant to Sections 44 and below and shall inform the Parties and RCA or the Provincial Rowing Association (as applicable).

If the Independent Third Party does not consider that an independent investigation is necessary and the Reported complaint has been accepted pursuant to Section 18, the matter shall proceed pursuant to Sections 44 and following below.

## **PROVISIONAL SUSPENSIONS**

28. If it is considered appropriate or necessary on the basis of the circumstances, immediate discipline or the imposition of a Provisional Suspension or interim measures may be imposed against any Individual by the Chief Executive Officer of RCA (or their designate)<sup>7</sup> or the equivalent position of the relevant Member (where applicable) upon the recommendation of the Independent Third Party (except where there are time constraints) after which further discipline or sanctions may be applied according to this Policy.

29. If an infraction occurs at a competition, it will be dealt with by the procedures specific to the competition, if applicable. Provisional Suspensions or interim measures may be imposed for the duration of a competition, training, activity, or Event only, or as otherwise determined appropriate by the Chief Executive Officer of RCA (or their designate) or the equivalent position of the relevant Member (where applicable).<sup>8</sup>

30. Notwithstanding the above, RCA or the Member (as applicable) may determine that an alleged incident is of such seriousness as to warrant the imposition of a Provisional

<sup>6</sup> Please see footnote 2, modified accordingly for the circumstances of an investigation.

<sup>7</sup> The term ‘designate’ includes the person with authority to impose a Provisional Suspension according to the situation.

<sup>8</sup> In-competition discipline or sanction imposed by the applicable official or authority does not prevent an Individual from facing additional disciplinary proceedings under the Code.

Suspension of a Respondent pending completion of an investigation, assessment and/investigation by the CCES, criminal process, the hearing, or a decision of the External Discipline Panel. For the avoidance of doubt, RCA or the Member, as applicable, may impose additional interim measures or a Provisional Suspension in addition to any Provisional Measures imposed by the CCES pursuant to the CSSP Rules.

31. Any Respondent against whom a Provisional Suspension or interim measure is imposed may make a request to the Independent Third Party or discipline panel (if appointed) to have the Provisional Suspension or interim measure lifted. In such circumstances, RCA or the Member (as applicable) shall be provided with an opportunity to make submissions, orally or in writing, regarding the Respondent's request to have their Provisional Suspension lifted. Provisional Suspensions or interim measures shall only be lifted in circumstances where the Respondent establishes that it would be manifestly unfair to maintain the Provisional Suspension or interim measures against them.
32. Any decision not to lift a Provisional Suspension or interim measure shall not be subject to appeal.

#### **Complaint Handled by Complaints Resolution Officer**

33. Following the Independent Third Party's determination that the Reported complaint or incident shall be managed by a Complaint Resolution Officer pursuant to Section 22 above, the Club, Provincial Rowing Association or RCA (as applicable) will appoint a Complaint Resolution Officer. The Complaint Resolution Officer appointed to handle a Reported complaint or incident must be unbiased and not in a conflict of interest situation.
34. The Complaint Resolution Officer will ask the Complainant and the Respondent for either written or oral submissions regarding the Reported complaint or incident. Both Parties shall also have the right to submit to the Complaint Resolution Officer any relevant evidence, including, but not limited to witness statements, documentary evidence or evidence from other media (i.e., photos, screenshots, videos or other recordings).
35. Each Party shall have the right to receive the other Party's submissions and evidence, including the Complainant's complaint. If the matter before the Complaint Resolution Officer involves a Complainant who wishes to keep their identity confidential, the Complaint Resolution Officer may redact documents as they consider reasonably necessary to protect the confidentiality of the Individual, but only to the extent that any redactions do not compromise the Respondent's procedural fairness rights. In the case of oral submissions, each Party shall have the right to be present when such submissions are made.
36. Following receipt of the Parties' submissions, the Complaint Resolution Officer may convene the Parties to a meeting, either in person or by way of video or teleconference, in order to ask the Parties questions and/or, if permitted by the Complaint Resolution Officer, to allow the Parties to ask questions of one another.
37. Following their review of the submissions and evidence related to the Reported complaint or incident, the Complaint Resolution Officer shall determine if any of the incidents listed in Section 22 above have occurred and, if so, if one or more of the following sanctions should be applied:

- a) Verbal or written reprimand
- b) Verbal or written apology
- c) Service or other contribution to RCA or the Member (as applicable)
- d) Removal of certain privileges
- e) Suspension from certain teams, Events, and/or activities
- f) Suspension from certain activities for a designated period
- g) Any other sanction considered appropriate for the offense
- h) Education or training opportunities

If, after hearing the Parties and reviewing their submissions, the Complaint Resolution Officer considers that none of the incidents listed in Section 22 above have occurred, they shall dismiss the Reported complaint.

38. The Complaint Resolution Officer will inform the Parties of their decision, in writing and with reasons. Any sanction imposed shall take effect upon the Parties' receipt of the decision. Should the circumstances require a decision to be rendered immediately or within a short timeline, the Complaint Resolution Officer may render a short decision, either orally or in writing, followed by a written reasoned decision.

39. Any decision rendered by the Complaint Resolution Officer shall be provided to and maintained in the records of the relevant Club, Provincial Rowing Association and RCA. Decisions will be kept confidential by the parties and the aforementioned organizations and shall be retained and discarded in accordance with the relevant and applicable privacy legislation.

### **Request for Reconsideration**

40. If the Complaint Resolution Officer decides not to impose a sanction on the Respondent, the Complainant may request a reconsideration from the Complaint Resolution Officer by informing them in writing, within four days of receiving the decision, that they are not satisfied with the decision and explain why.

41. If the Complaint Resolution Officer imposes a sanction, the Respondent may request, in writing, a reconsideration from the Complaint Resolution Officer by informing them, within four days of receiving the decision, that they are not satisfied with the decision. In their request for reconsideration, the Respondent must indicate:

- a) Why the sanction is inappropriate;
- b) Any evidence to support the Respondent's position; and
- c) What penalty or sanction (if any) would be appropriate.

42. Upon receiving a request for reconsideration, the Complaint Resolution Officer shall render a decision within seven (7) days explaining whether they have accepted the request for reconsideration and, if so, their new decision.

43. The Complaint Resolution Officer's new decision may be appealed in accordance with the *Appeal Policy*; however, no party shall have a right to appeal unless they have exhausted their right to request a reconsideration pursuant to Sections 32 or 33 above.

### **Handled by Discipline Panel**



## Case Manager

44. If the RCA Independent Third Party determines that the Reported complaint or incident should be handled by the relevant Provincial Rowing Association pursuant to Section 23 above, that Provincial Rowing Association shall appoint a Case Manager to fulfil the responsibilities listed in Sections 45 and following. In such instance, any reference to Case Manager below shall be understood as a reference to the Provincial Rowing Association's Case Manager.
45. If the RCA Independent Third Party determines that the Reported complaint or incident should be handled by RCA pursuant to Section 23 above, RCA shall appoint a Case Manager to fulfil the responsibilities listed in Sections 46 and following.
46. Following the Independent Third Party's determination that the Reported complaint or incident should be handled by the relevant Provincial Rowing Association or RCA (as applicable) pursuant to Section 23 above, the appointed Case Manager will have the responsibility to:
- a) Propose the use of the *Dispute Resolution Policy* (if considered appropriate in the circumstances)
  - b) Appoint the discipline panel, if necessary
  - c) Coordinate all administrative aspects and set timelines
  - d) Provide administrative assistance and logistical support to the discipline panel as required, including providing the discipline panel with any information related to previously established infractions committed by the Respondent(s) of the policies of RCA, any Member or any other sport organization that had authority over the Respondent
  - e) Provide any other service or support that may be necessary to ensure a fair and timely proceeding

## Procedures

47. The Case Manager will establish and adhere to timelines that ensure procedural fairness and that the matter is heard in a timely fashion.
48. If appropriate in the circumstances, the Case Manager will propose that the Parties use the *Dispute Resolution Policy* with the objective of resolving the dispute. If applicable, and if the dispute is not resolved, or if the Parties refuse to use the *Dispute Resolution Policy*, the Case Manager will appoint a discipline panel, which shall consist of a single arbitrator, to hear the Reported complaint. In extraordinary circumstances, and at the discretion of the Case Manager, a discipline panel of three persons may be appointed to hear the complaint. In this event, the Case Manager will appoint one of the discipline panel's members to serve as the Chair.
49. The Case Manager, in cooperation with the discipline panel, will then decide the format under which the Reported complaint will be heard. This decision may not be appealed.
50. The format of the hearing may be an oral in-person hearing, an oral hearing by telephone or other communication medium, a hearing based on a review of documentary evidence submitted in advance of the hearing, or a combination of these methods. The hearing will be governed by the procedures that the Case Manager and the discipline panel deem appropriate in the circumstances, provided that:
- a) The discipline panel determines procedures and timelines, as well as a hearing

duration, that is as expedient and cost-efficient as possible in order to ensure that costs to the Parties and RCA and/or the Member are reasonable

- b) The Parties will be given appropriate notice of the day, time, and place of the hearing, in the case of an oral in-person hearing or an oral hearing by telephone or other communication medium
- c) Copies of any written documents which the Parties wish to have the discipline panel consider will be provided to all Parties, through the Case Manager, in advance of the hearing
- d) The Parties may engage a representative, advisor, translator, transcription services, or legal counsel at their own expense
- e) The discipline panel may request that any other individual participate and give evidence at the hearing
- f) If not a Party, RCA and/or the relevant Member shall be allowed to attend the hearing as an observer and will be provided with access to any documents submitted. With the permission of the discipline panel, RCA and/or the relevant Member may make submissions at the hearing or may provide the discipline panel with clarifying information that may be required for the panel to render its decision<sup>9</sup>The discipline panel may exclude any evidence filed by the Parties that is unduly repetitious or otherwise an abuse of process. The discipline panel shall otherwise apply relevant and applicable evidentiary rules in relation to the admissibility and weight given to any evidence filed by the Parties.
- g) Nothing is admissible in evidence at a hearing that:
  - i. would be inadmissible in a court by reason of any privilege under the law of evidence; or
  - ii. is inadmissible by any statute.
- h) Where a discipline panel composed of three members is appointed, the decision will be by a majority vote

51. If the Respondent acknowledges the facts of the incident, the Respondent may waive the hearing, in which case the discipline panel will determine the appropriate sanction. The discipline panel may still hold a hearing for the purpose of determining an appropriate sanction.

52. The hearing may proceed if a Party chooses not to participate in the hearing.

53. If a decision may affect another Party to the extent that the other Party would have recourse to a complaint or an appeal in their own right, that Party will become a Party to the complaint, shall be permitted to participate in the proceedings as determined by the discipline panel and will be bound by the decision.

54. In fulfilling its duties, the discipline panel may obtain independent advice.

55. Facts established by a criminal court, by a civil court or by a professional disciplinary tribunal of competent jurisdiction shall be admissible as evidence within the disciplinary process, as allowable by applicable law.

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<sup>9</sup> The purpose of this provision is not to provide RCA or a Member with the possibility to try to influence whether a sanction is imposed and, if so, the duration or nature of the sanction. Instead, this provision is intended to provide RCA or a Member with the possibility to provide the discipline panel with clarifying information when the parties have sought a particular sanction against an individual, but they have misunderstood or misrepresented fundamental elements of the programming or membership structure (or other similar issues) and, if left unaddressed, could result in the discipline panel imposing a sanction that is unenforceable.

## Decision

56. After hearing and/or reviewing the matter, the discipline panel will determine whether an infraction has occurred and, if so, the sanctions to be imposed. If the discipline panel considers that an infraction has not occurred, the Reported complaint will be dismissed.
57. Within fourteen (14) days of the hearing's conclusion, the discipline panel's written decision, with reasons, will be distributed by the Case Manager to all Parties, to RCA and the Member (including the Respondent's Club). In extraordinary circumstances, the discipline panel may first issue a verbal or summary decision soon after the hearing's conclusion, with the full written decision to be issued before the end of the fourteen (14) day period.
58. Subject to Section 59 below, unless the matter involves a Vulnerable Participant, once the appeal deadline in the *Appeal Policy* has expired, RCA or the Member (as applicable) shall publish the outcome of the case on their website. Publication shall be limited to the provision(s) of the relevant policies that have been violated, the name(s) of the Individual(s) involved and the sanction(s) imposed, if any. Additionally, where RCA acts as the Complainant under Section 16 above, only RCA, and not the original Complainant, shall be identified as an involved Individual. If the matter is appealed, the publication provisions in the *Appeal Policy* shall apply. Identifying information regarding Minors or Vulnerable Participants will never be published by RCA or one of its Members.
59. If the discipline panel dismisses the Reported complaint, its decision may only be published with the Respondent's consent. If the Respondent does not provide such consent, the information referred to in Section 58 will be kept confidential by the Parties, the Case Manager, RCA and the Member (including the Respondent's Club) and shall be retained and discarded in accordance with the relevant and applicable privacy legislation. Failure to respect this provision may result in disciplinary action being taken pursuant to this *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
60. The discipline panel's decision will come into effect as of the date that it is rendered, unless decided otherwise by the discipline panel. The discipline panel's decision will apply automatically to and must be respected by RCA, all of its Members and any Individuals involved.
61. The Case Manager shall communicate decisions rendered pursuant to this Policy to RCA, the Parties, the relevant Member(s) and to the Independent Third Party. Decisions shall be considered confidential, unless the discipline panel orders otherwise. Records of all decisions will be maintained by RCA and its Members in accordance with their respective privacy policies.
62. When the discipline panel imposes a sanction, the decision shall include, at a minimum, the following details:
  - a) Jurisdiction;
  - b) Summary of the facts and relevant evidence;
  - c) Where applicable, the specific provision(s) of RCA (or a Member)'s policies, bylaws, rules or regulations that have been breached;
  - d) Which Party or organization is responsible for the costs of implementing any sanction;
  - e) Which organization is responsible for monitoring that the sanctioned individual respects the terms of the sanction;

- f) Any reinstatement conditions that the Respondent must satisfy (if any);
- g) Which organization is responsible for ensuring that the conditions have been satisfied; and,
- h) Any other guidance that will assist the Parties to implement the discipline panel's decision.

If necessary, a Party – or the organization that is responsible for implementing or monitoring a sanction – may seek clarifications from the discipline panel regarding the order so that it can be implemented or monitored appropriately.

## Sanctions

63. When determining the appropriate sanction, the discipline panel will consider the following factors (where applicable):

- a) The nature and duration of the Respondent's relationship with the Complainant, including whether there is a power imbalance;
- b) The Respondent's prior history and any pattern of misconduct, Prohibited Behaviour or Maltreatment;
- c) The respective ages of the individuals involved;
- d) Whether the Respondent poses an ongoing and/or potential threat to the safety of others;
- e) The Respondent's voluntary admission of the offense(s), acceptance of responsibility for the misconduct, Prohibited Behaviour or Maltreatment, and/or cooperation in the investigative and/or disciplinary process;
- f) Real or perceived impact of the incident on the Complainant, sport organization or the sporting community;
- g) Circumstances specific to the Respondent being sanctioned (e.g. lack of appropriate knowledge or training regarding the requirements in the Code; addiction; disability; illness);
- h) Whether, given the facts and circumstances that have been established, continued participation in the sport community is appropriate;
- i) A Respondent who is in a position of trust, intimate contact or high-impact decision-making may face more serious sanctions; and/or
- j) Other mitigating or aggravating circumstances.

64. Any sanction imposed must be proportionate and reasonable. However, progressive discipline is not required, and a single incident of Prohibited Behaviour, Maltreatment or other misconduct may justify elevated or combined sanctions.

65. The discipline panel may apply the following disciplinary sanctions, singularly or in combination:

- a) **Verbal or Written Warning** - A verbal reprimand or an official, written notice that an Individual has violated the *Code* and that more severe sanctions will result should the Individual be involved in other violations
- b) **Education** - The requirement that an Individual undertake specified educational or similar remedial measures to address the violation(s) of the *Code* or the UCCMS
- c) **Probation** - Should any further violations of the *Code* or the UCCMS occur during the probationary period, this may result in additional disciplinary measures, including, without limitation, a period of suspension or permanent ineligibility. This sanction can also include loss of privileges or other conditions, restrictions, or requirements for a specified period
- d) **Suspension** - Suspension, either for a set time or until further notice, from participation, in any capacity, in any program, activity, Event, or competition sponsored by, organized by, or under the auspices of RCA and its Members. A suspended Individual may be eligible to return to participation, but reinstatement may be subject to certain restrictions or contingent upon the Individual satisfying specific conditions noted at the time of suspension
- e) **Eligibility Restrictions** - Restrictions or prohibitions from some types of participation but allowing participation in other capacities under strict conditions
- f) **Permanent Ineligibility** - Ineligibility to participate in any capacity in any program, activity, Event, or competition sponsored by, organized by, or under the auspices of RCA and its Members
- g) **Other Discretionary Sanctions** - Other sanctions may be imposed, including, but not limited to, other loss of privileges, no contact directives, a fine or a monetary payment to compensate for direct losses, or other restrictions or conditions as deemed necessary or appropriate

66. The discipline panel may apply the following presumptive sanctions which are presumed to be fair and appropriate for the listed Maltreatment:

- a) Sexual Maltreatment involving a Minor Complainant, or a Complainant who was a Minor at the time of the incidents complained of, shall carry a presumptive sanction of permanent ineligibility
- b) Sexual Maltreatment, Physical Maltreatment with contact, and Maltreatment related to interference or manipulation of process shall carry a presumptive sanction of either a period of suspension or eligibility restrictions
- c) While a Respondent has pending charges related to allegations of a crime against a person, if justified by the seriousness of the offence, the presumptive sanction shall be a period of suspension until a final determination is made by the applicable process.

67. An Individual's conviction for certain *Criminal Code* offenses involving harmful conduct shall carry a presumptive sanction of permanent ineligibility from participating in the activities of RCA and its Members. Such *Criminal Code* offences may include, but are not limited to:

- a) Any child pornography offences

- b) Any sexual offences
- c) Any offence of physical violence

68. When imposing sanctions under this Policy, the discipline panel may take into account any previously established infractions committed by the Respondent(s) of the disciplinary policies of RCA, any Member or any other sport organization that had authority over the Respondent.
69. Failure to comply with a sanction as determined by the Discipline Panel will result in an automatic suspension from participation in the activities of RCA and its Members until such time as compliance occurs.
70. Records of all decisions will be maintained by RCA and the Member (as applicable). Members will submit all records to RCA. Such records shall be retained and discarded in accordance with the relevant and applicable privacy legislation.

### **OSIC AND/OR CSSP SANCTION**

71. As an Abuse-Free Sport Signatory until March 31, 2025, and a CSSP Signatory since April 1, 2025, RCA will, as applicable, ensure that any sanctions or measures imposed by Abuse-Free Sport's Director of Sanctions and Outcomes ("DSO") and/or under the CSSP will be implemented and respected within RCA's jurisdiction (including at the provincial, territorial and club level), once RCA receives appropriate notice of any sanction or measure from Abuse-Free Sport and/or the CCES, as applicable.

### **Appeals**

72. The decision of the discipline panel may be appealed in accordance with the *Appeal Policy*.

### **Confidentiality**

73. The discipline and complaints process is confidential and involves only RCA (CEO and relevant staff as determined by the CEO), the applicable Member(s), the Parties, the Independent Third Party, the investigator (if one is appointed), the Case Manager, the Complaint Resolution Officer, the discipline panel, and any independent advisors to the discipline panel.
74. None of the Parties (or their representatives or witnesses) or organizations referred to in Section 73 will disclose confidential information relating to the discipline or complaint to any person not involved in the proceedings, unless RCA or a Member is required to notify an organization such as an international federation, Sport Canada or other sport organization (i.e., where a Provisional Suspension or interim measures have been imposed and communication is required to ensure that they may be enforced), or notification is otherwise required by law.
75. Any failure to respect the aforementioned confidentiality requirement may result in further sanctions or discipline by the Complaint Resolution Officer or discipline panel (as applicable) against the Party(ies) in breach.



## Timelines

76. If the circumstances of the Reported complaint are such that adhering to the timelines outlined by this Policy will not allow a just resolution to the complaint, the discipline panel may direct that these timelines be revised.

## Privacy

77. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to RCA's Privacy Policy.

78. RCA, its Members, or any of their delegates pursuant to this Policy (i.e., Independent Third Party, Complaints Resolution Officer, Case Manager, discipline panel), shall comply with RCA's Privacy Policy (or, in the case if a Member, the Member's Privacy Policy) in the performance of their services under this Policy.



ROWING CANADA AVIRON

INVESTIGATIONS POLICY – DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, MALTREATMENT AND PROHIBITED BEHAVIOUR

Effective date	December 13, 2022
Archived date	-
Date last reviewed	April 2024
Scheduled review date	November 2025
Replaces and/or amends	Replaces RCA Investigations Policy- Discrimination, Harassment, and Maltreatment in force as of July 23, 2021
Approved by and date	RCA Board of Directors, December 7, 2022
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	-

## Purpose

1. The purpose of this Policy is to address how investigations will be conducted when necessary and as determined by the Independent Third Party pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
2. Investigations shall only be conducted when the Independent Third Party considers that there is a need for an independent assessment to determine whether an allegation (or, where there are several allegations, which allegations), should be heard by a discipline panel pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* because they constitute, if found to be true, a likely breach of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics*, the *Social Media Policy*, the *Athlete Protection Policy*, or any other relevant and applicable Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA)<sup>1</sup> or Member policy, or whether the allegation(s) are frivolous, vexatious or made in bad faith.

## Investigation

3. The Independent Third Party shall appoint the investigator, taking into consideration the financial resources of RCA or the Provincial Rowing Association (as applicable).
4. The investigator must be an independent third-party with training or investigation experience. The investigator must not be in a conflict of interest situation and should have no connection to either Party.
5. Federal and/or Provincial legislation related to Workplace Harassment or Workplace Violence may apply to the investigation if Harassment/Violence was directed toward a

<sup>1</sup> A separate document with term definitions that apply to all RCA Policy is found online and in the RCA Safe Sport Manual.

worker in a Workplace. The investigator should review workplace safety legislation, the organization's policies for human resources, and/or consult independent experts to determine whether legislation applies to the Reported complaint.

6. The investigation may take any form as decided by the investigator, guided by any applicable Federal and/or Provincial legislation. The investigation may include:
  - a) Interviews with the Complainant(s);
  - b) Witness interviews; and
  - c) Interviews with the Respondent(s).

### Investigator's Report

7. Upon completion of their investigation, the investigator shall prepare a report that includes a summary of evidence from the Parties and any witnesses interviewed. The report shall include an executive summary, which RCA or the Provincial Rowing Association (as applicable) may share separately from the full report with the Parties.
8. The investigator's report shall contain a non-binding opinion regarding whether an allegation (or, where there are several allegations, which allegations) should be heard by a discipline panel pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* because they constitute a likely breach of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics*, the *Social Media Policy*, the *Athlete Protection Policy*, or any other relevant and applicable RCA or Member policy, or whether the allegation(s) are frivolous, vexatious or made in bad faith.<sup>2</sup> The investigator may also make non-binding recommendations regarding the appropriate next steps (i.e., mediation, disciplinary procedures, further review or investigation).
9. Where necessary to protect the identity of any person that participated in the investigation, the investigator may redact names and anonymize any witness testimony that may result in the identification of the individual.
10. The investigator's report will be provided to the Independent Third Party who will disclose it to RCA or the Provincial Rowing Association (as applicable), which may disclose, at its discretion, either the full report or only the executive summary to the Parties. If necessary, and at the discretion of the Independent Third Party, other relevant Parties may be provided with an executive summary of the investigator's findings. RCA will be provided with a copy of the investigator's full report if the investigation has been conducted under the authority of the Provincial Rowing Association; however, RCA shall not disclose the report to any third party without the Provincial Rowing Association's express written consent.
11. The investigator's report shall be used for the purposes described in this Policy and in Section 27 of the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
12. The investigation report and any executive summary shall remain confidential once disclosed to the Provincial Rowing Association, RCA, the Complainant and Respondent

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<sup>2</sup> As indicated in the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada's Investigation Guidelines, a Reported complaint shall not be characterized as vexatious if the evidence demonstrates that there was a reasonable basis for filing and pursuing it. For a complaint to be considered to have been made in bad faith, the investigator must consider that it was filed consciously for a dishonest purpose or due to the moral underhandedness of the Complainant and that there was an intention to mislead.

or any other relevant party. Any failure to respect this provision may be subject to a complaint and disciplinary measures being taken pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

13. Should the investigator find that there are possible instances of offence under the *Criminal Code*, particularly related to Criminal Harassment (or Stalking), Uttering Threats, Assault, Sexual Interference, or Sexual Exploitation, the investigator shall advise the Complainant, RCA or the Provincial Rowing Association to refer the matter to police.
14. The investigator must also inform RCA and the Provincial Rowing Association of any findings of criminal activity. RCA and the Provincial Rowing Association may decide whether to report such findings to police but are required to inform the police if there are findings related to the trafficking of Prohibited Substances or Methods (as indicated in the version of the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List currently in force), any sexual crime involving Minors, or any suspected abuse of a Minor, fraud against RCA or any Member(s) (as applicable), or other offences where the lack of reporting would bring RCA or the Member (as applicable) into disrepute.

### **Reprisal and Retaliation**

15. An Individual who Reports a complaint to the Independent Third Party or who gives evidence in an investigation may not be subject to reprisal or retaliation from any individual or group. Any such conduct may constitute Prohibited Behaviour and will be subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

### **False Allegations**

16. An Individual who submits allegations that the investigator determines to be malicious, false or for the purpose of retribution, retaliation or vengeance (or that otherwise fall within the definition of Prohibited Behaviour) may be subject to a complaint under the terms of the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. The investigator may recommend to RCA or the Provincial Rowing Association (as applicable) that the Individual be required to pay for the costs of any investigation that comes to this conclusion. Any Individual who is liable to pay for such costs shall be automatically deemed to be not in good standing until the costs are paid in full and shall be prohibited from participating in any Provincial Rowing Association and RCA Events, activities or business. RCA or any Member(s) (as applicable), or the Individual against whom the allegations were submitted, may act as the Complainant with respect to making a complaint pursuant to this Section 16.

### **Confidentiality**

17. The investigator will protect confidentiality to the extent possible and shall only share information on a need-to-know basis. However, the investigator may need to share information in order to ensure that natural justice has been served.

### **Privacy**

18. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to RCA's Privacy Policy.

19. RCA, its Members, or any of their delegates pursuant to this Policy (i.e., Independent Third Party, the investigator), shall comply with RCA's Privacy Policy (or, in the case if a Member, the Member's Privacy Policy) in the performance of their services under this Policy.



**ROWING CANADA AVIRON**  
**DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY**

Effective date	December 13, 2022
Archived date	-
Date last reviewed	April 2024
Scheduled review date	November 2025
Replaces and/or amends	Replaces RCA Dispute Resolution Policy in force as of July 23 2021
Approved by and date	RCA Board of Directors, December 7, 2022
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	-

### **Purpose**

1. Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA)<sup>1</sup> and its Members support Individuals in seeking to resolve their own conflicts and recognize that, in many cases, disputes can be resolved directly and quickly in an informal way. In situations where direct action by Individuals may be inappropriate or unsuccessful, RCA and its Members support the principles of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) to resolve disputes, which can be achieved through negotiation, facilitation, and mediation. ADR avoids the uncertainty, costs, and other negative effects associated with lengthy appeals or complaints, or with litigation.
2. RCA and its Members encourage all Individuals to communicate openly, and to collaborate and use problem-solving and negotiation techniques to resolve their differences. RCA and its Members believe that negotiated settlements are most often preferable to arbitrated outcomes. Negotiated resolutions to disputes with and among Individuals are strongly encouraged.

### **Application of this Policy**

3. This Policy applies to all Individuals.
4. Opportunities for ADR may be pursued at any point in a dispute when all Parties to the dispute agree that such a course of action would be mutually beneficial.

### **Facilitation and Mediation**

5. If all Parties to a dispute agree to ADR, a mediator or facilitator, acceptable to all Parties, shall be appointed to mediate or facilitate the dispute. The costs of the mediation or

<sup>1</sup> A separate document with term definitions that apply to all RCA Policy is found online and in the RCA Safe Sport Manual.



facilitation shall be borne by the Parties, unless agreed to otherwise with RCA or the relevant Member (as applicable).

6. Where RCA is involved in the matter, it may, upon agreement of the Parties, refer the matter for mediation using the mediation services of the SDRCC.
7. The mediator or facilitator shall decide the format under which the dispute shall be mediated or facilitated and may, if they consider it appropriate, specify a deadline before which the Parties must reach a negotiated decision.
8. Should a negotiated settlement be reached, the settlement shall be reported to RCA or the Member (as applicable). Any actions that are to take place as a result of the decision shall be enacted on the timelines specified by the negotiated settlement. Where RCA may be required to implement any part of a negotiated settlement, it shall become a Party to the mediation or it shall be given the opportunity to approve the negotiated settlement, but only with respect to aspects of the settlement that it may be required to implement.
9. Should a negotiated settlement not be reached by the deadline specified by the mediator or facilitator at the start of the process (if set), or if the Parties to the dispute do not agree to ADR, the dispute shall be considered under the appropriate section of the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* or *Appeal Policy*, as applicable.

### **Final and Binding**

10. Any negotiated settlement will be binding on the Parties and shall, unless the Parties decide otherwise, remain confidential and will be protected by RCA and/or the Member's Privacy Policy, as applicable. Negotiated settlements may not be appealed.
11. No action or legal proceeding will be commenced against RCA or a Member in respect of a dispute, unless Rowing Canada or the Member has refused or failed to provide or abide by the dispute resolution processes set out in its governing documents.

### **Privacy**

12. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to RCA's Privacy Policy.
13. RCA, its Members, or any of their delegates pursuant to this Policy, shall comply with RCA's Privacy Policy (or, in the case of a Member, the Member's Privacy Policy) in the performance of their services under this Policy.



## ROWING CANADA AVIRON

### APPEAL POLICY

Effective date	April 1, 2025
Archived date	-
Date last reviewed	March 2025
Scheduled review date	November 2025
Replaces and/or amends	Replaces RCA Appeal Policy in force as of December 13, 2022
Approved by and date	RCA Board of Directors, March 19, 2025
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	Appendix A - National Team Appeals

#### Purpose

1. This *Appeal Policy* provides Individuals with a fair, affordable, and expedient appeal process.

#### Scope and Application of this Policy

2. This Policy applies to all Individuals. However, it does not apply to appeals of decisions that were managed by the CCES under the CSSP Rules, which shall be handled in accordance with the CSSP Rules.
3. Subject to Section 2, any Individual who is affected by a decision taken by Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA)<sup>1</sup> or a Member (as applicable) specifically with regard to that Individual, including a decision by the Board, by any Committee of the Board or by any body or individual within RCA or the Member (as applicable) who has been delegated authority to make decisions in accordance with RCA or a Member's By Laws and governance policies (as applicable), shall have the right to appeal that decision provided that it is a decision that is subject to appeal pursuant to Section 4 of this Policy, that the conditions indicated in Sections 6 or 7 of this Policy (as applicable) have been satisfied, and provided that there are sufficient grounds for the appeal pursuant to Section 8 of this Policy.
4. This Policy **will apply** to decisions relating to:
  - a) eligibility
  - b) selection, RCA High Performance program/National Team decisions and AAP nominations (**\*\*\*SEE NOTE IMMEDIATELY BELOW\*\*\***)
  - c) conflict of interest
  - d) disciplinary decisions made pursuant to RCA or a Member's relevant and applicable policies
  - e) membership

<sup>1</sup> A separate document with term definitions that apply to all RCA Policy is found online and in the RCA Safe Sport Manual.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*** The appeal process for all RCA High Performance program/National Team decisions and AAP nomination decisions is set out in Appendix A of this *Appeal Policy*, which sets out specific timelines and procedures that are different from those indicated in this *Appeal Policy*. It is important to note that the appeal process for Member team selection or funding decisions are not governed by Appendix A and shall be administered by the relevant Member pursuant to this *Appeal Policy*, applied and modified according to the circumstances.

5. This Policy **will not apply** to the following decisions relating to:
- a) Reported complaints that were managed by the OSIC or CCES under the CSSP Rules, as applicable;
  - b) Matters of general application such as amendments to the RCA or a Member's By Laws;
  - c) RCA or a Member's operational structure and committee appointments;
  - d) Issues of budgets and budget implementation;
  - e) Employment matters or matters of operational structure or staffing or volunteer leadership opportunities;
  - f) Except as otherwise provided for in this Policy, decisions made by organizations other than RCA, such as RCA's Members, the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC), U Sports, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), World Rowing or the Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) or any other governing body;
  - g) Selection criteria, quotas, policies and procedures established by entities other than RCA or a Member;
  - h) Substance, content and establishment of team selection criteria;
  - i) The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) policies and procedures established by Sport Canada;
  - j) Policy and procedures established by any other agency, association or organization external to RCA or a Member;
  - k) Infractions for doping offences, which are dealt with pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport and World Rowing;
  - l) Protests and appeals made under the RCA Rules of Racing;
  - m) Contractual matters between RCA and its staff or Members for which another dispute resolution process exists under the provisions of the applicable contract; or
  - n) Settlements negotiated pursuant to the *Dispute Resolution Policy*.

### Timing of Appeal

6. Individuals who wish to appeal a decision have fourteen (14) days from the date on which they received notice of the decision to submit to RCA's CEO or the CEO (or equivalent position of a Member) the following:
- a) Notice of the intention to appeal
  - b) Their contact information
  - c) Name of the Respondent and any Affected Parties, when known to the Appellant
  - d) Date the Appellant was advised of the decision being appealed
  - e) A copy of the decision being appealed, or description of the decision if a written document is not available
  - f) Grounds and detailed reasons for the appeal
  - g) All evidence that supports these grounds
  - h) Requested remedy or remedies

- i) An administration fee of five hundred dollars (\$500), which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld

Notwithstanding the above, appeals in relation to disciplinary decisions made pursuant to the Discipline and Complaints Policy must be filed with the Independent Third Party, which must otherwise comply with the requirements of this Section 6.

- 7. An Individual who wishes to initiate an appeal beyond the fourteen (14) day period may only do so if exceptional circumstances prevented them from filing their appeal within the deadline indicated in Section 6 above. Any such Individual must provide a written request stating the reasons for which they are seeking an exemption. The decision to allow, or not allow, an appeal outside of the fourteen (14) day period will be at the sole discretion of the Appeal Manager.

### **Grounds for Appeal**

- 8. A decision cannot be appealed on its merits alone or because an Individual (or Individuals) do not like or agree with a decision. An appeal may only be heard if there are sufficient grounds for appeal. Sufficient grounds include the Respondent:
  - a) Made a decision that it did not have the authority or jurisdiction (as set out in the Respondent's governing documents) to make;
  - b) Failed to follow its own procedures (as set out in the Respondent's governing documents);
  - c) Made a decision that was influenced by bias (where bias is defined as a lack of neutrality to such an extent that the decision-maker appears not to have considered other views); or
  - d) Made a decision that was grossly unreasonable or unfair.
- 9. The Appellant must demonstrate, on a balance of probabilities, that the Respondent has made a procedural error as described in Section 8 of this Policy and that this error had, or may reasonably have had, a material effect on the decision or decision-maker.

### **Submitting an Appeal**

#### **Complaint Resolution Officer Decision - Clubs**

- 10. A decision made by a Club Complaint Resolution Officer following a request for reconsideration by one of the Parties pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* may be appealed to the Club's Provincial Rowing Association in accordance with this *Appeal Policy*, applied and modified according to the circumstances.
- 11. The Provincial Rowing Association shall appoint an Appeal Manager and shall follow the process outlined in Sections 24 and following of this *Appeal Policy*, applied and modified according to the circumstances.
- 12. Notwithstanding the aforementioned or any provision that says otherwise in this *Appeal Policy*, the Appeal Manager may only appoint a single member Appeal Panel and, unless the Provincial Rowing Association agrees otherwise, any fees (for example, the mediator's fees) related to the use of the *Dispute Resolution Policy* shall be the responsibility of the Parties to the appeal and not the Club or the Provincial Rowing Association.

#### **Complaint Resolution Officer Decision - Provincial Rowing Associations**

13. A decision made by a Provincial Rowing Association's Complaint Resolution Officer following a request for reconsideration by one of the Parties pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* may be appealed before the Provincial Rowing Association's Appeal Panel in accordance with the terms of this *Appeal Policy*.
14. The Provincial Rowing Association shall appoint an Appeal Manager and shall follow the process outlined in Sections 24 and following of this *Appeal Policy*, modified and applied accordingly based on the circumstances.

#### **Discipline Panel Decision – Provincial Rowing Associations**

15. A decision made by a Provincial Rowing Association's discipline panel pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* may be appealed before the Provincial Rowing Association's Appeal Panel in accordance with the terms of this *Appeal Policy*.
16. The Provincial Rowing Association shall appoint an Appeal Manager and shall follow the process outlined in Sections 24 and following of this *Appeal Policy*, modified and applied accordingly based on the circumstances.
17. Any decision by the Provincial Rowing Association's Appeal Panel in relation to an appeal filed pursuant to Sections 13 and 15 above shall be final and shall not be subject to any further appeal before the SDRCC, unless the original Parties to the appeal seize the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) on a fee-for-service basis.

#### **Complaint Resolution Officer Decision – RCA**

18. A decision made by RCA's Complaint Resolution Officer following a request for reconsideration by one of the Parties pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* may be appealed to the RCA Appeal Panel in accordance with the terms of this *Appeal Policy*.

#### **Discipline Panel Decision – RCA**

19. A decision made by RCA's Discipline Panel pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* may be appealed to the RCA Appeal Panel in accordance with the terms of this *Appeal Policy*.

#### **Other decisions**

20. With the exception of RCA High Performance program/National Team decisions and AAP nomination decisions, which shall be addressed pursuant to Appendix A, any other RCA decision relating to the matters indicated in Section 4 above may be appealed in accordance with Sections 23 and following of this Policy. Member decisions relating to the matters indicated in Sections 4(a)-(c) and (e) may be appealed in accordance with Sections 23 and following of this Policy, modified and applied accordingly based on the circumstances. Member decisions relating to the matters indicated in Section 4(d) may be heard as indicated in Sections 10-17. Where RCA was not the decision-maker in any of the decisions made pursuant to Section 4, it shall have a right of appeal and may appeal the decision in accordance with this *Appeal Policy*.
21. Notwithstanding any other provision in this *Appeal Policy*, by agreement between the Parties, the internal appeal process **in relation to decisions made by RCA only** may be bypassed, and the appeal may be heard directly before the SDRCC.

22. Except where an appeal proceeds before the SDRCC, RCA or the relevant Provincial Rowing Association (as applicable) shall appoint an Appeal Manager and shall follow the process outlined in Sections 23 and following of this *Appeal Policy*, modified and applied accordingly based on the circumstances.

### **Dispute Resolution**

23. For appeals filed pursuant to Sections 18, 19 and 20, the Parties may first attempt to resolve the appeal through the *Dispute Resolution Policy* once the notice of the appeal, the fee, and the information required pursuant to Section 6 has been received.

### **Screening of Appeal**

24. Should the appeal not be resolved by using the *Dispute Resolution Policy*, RCA or the Provincial Rowing Association will appoint an independent Appeal Manager (who must not be in a conflict of interest or have any direct relationship with the Parties) who has the following responsibilities:

- a) To determine if the appeal falls under the scope of this Policy (Sections 2-5)
- b) To determine if the appeal was submitted in a timely manner (Sections 6 and 7)
- c) To decide whether there are sufficient grounds for the appeal (Section 8)

25. If the Appeal Manager denies the appeal on the basis of insufficient grounds, because it was not submitted in a timely manner, or because it did not fall under the scope of this Policy, the Appellant will be notified, in writing, of the reasons for this decision.

26. If the Appeal Manager accepts an appeal because it falls under the scope of this Policy, there are sufficient grounds and it was submitted in a timely manner, the Appeal Manager will notify the Parties of their decision in writing and will follow the steps described hereunder.

### **Appointment of Appeal Panel**

27. If an appeal is accepted, the Appeal Manager will appoint an appeal panel which shall consist of a single member to hear the appeal. However, at the discretion of the Appeal Manager, an appeal panel composed of three members may be appointed to hear the appeal. In this event, the Appeal Manager will appoint one of the panel's members to serve as the chair.

28. When appointing the appeal panel, the Appeal Manager must select individuals who are impartial, free from any real or perceived conflict of interest (and who shall remain so until a final decision has been rendered or the proceedings have otherwise finally terminated), and who do not have any direct relationship with any of the Parties. Although not a strict requirement, the Appeal Manager should attempt to appoint individuals to the appeal panel who have a legal background and who understand the sport of rowing. When justified by the circumstances, the Appeal Manager may appoint individuals to the appeal panel who have specific areas of expertise that would assist in resolving the matter.

### **Determination of Affected Parties**

29. In order to confirm the identification of any Affected Parties, the Appeal Manager will engage RCA or the Member (as applicable). The Appeal Manager may determine whether a Party is an Affected Party in their sole discretion.

### **Procedure for Appeal Hearing**



30. The Appeal Manager shall notify the Parties that the appeal will be heard. The Appeal Manager, in collaboration with the appeal panel, shall then decide the format under which the appeal will be heard. This decision is at the sole discretion of the Appeal Manager and may not be appealed.
31. If a Party chooses not to participate in the hearing, the hearing will proceed in any event.
32. The format of the hearing may involve an oral in-person hearing, an oral hearing by telephone or other electronic means, a hearing based on a review of documentary evidence submitted in advance of the hearing, a hearing based on documentary submissions alone, or a combination of these methods. The hearing will be governed by the procedures that the Appeal Manager and the appeal panel deem appropriate in the circumstances, provided that:
- a) The hearing will be held in a timely manner within a timeline determined by the Appeal Manager
  - b) The Parties will be given reasonable notice of the day, time and place of an oral in-person hearing or oral hearing by telephone or electronic communications.
  - c) Copies of any written documents which the Parties wish to have the appeal panel consider will be provided to all Parties in advance of the hearing
  - d) The Parties may be accompanied by a representative, advisor, translator, transcription services, or legal counsel at their own expense
  - e) The appeal panel may request that any other individual participate and give evidence at an oral in-person hearing or oral hearing by telephone or electronic communications.
  - f) The appeal panel may exclude any evidence filed by the Parties that is unduly repetitious or otherwise an abuse of process. The appeal panel shall otherwise apply relevant and applicable evidentiary rules in relation to the admissibility and weight given to any evidence filed by the Parties
  - g) Nothing is admissible in evidence at a hearing that:
    - i. would be inadmissible in a court by reason of any privilege under the law of evidence; or
    - ii. is inadmissible by any statute.
  - h) Any Affected Party shall be permitted to make submissions and file evidence before the appeal panel. The appeal panel's decision is binding on any Affected Party
  - i) The decision to uphold or reject the appeal will be by a majority vote of the appeal panel members, except in cases where the panel consists of a single member
33. In fulfilling its duties, the appeal panel may obtain independent advice.

### **Appeal Decision**

34. The appeal panel shall issue its decision, in writing and with reasons, within fourteen (14) days after the hearing's conclusion. In making its decision, the appeal panel will have no greater authority than that of the original decision-maker. The appeal panel may decide to:
- a) Reject the appeal and confirm the decision being appealed
  - b) Uphold the appeal, in whole or in part, and refer the matter back to the initial decision-maker for a new decision
  - c) Uphold the appeal, in whole or in part, and vary the decision
  - d) Determine whether costs of the appeal, excluding legal fees and legal disbursements of any Parties, may be assessed against any Party. In assessing

costs, the appeal panel will take into account the nature and amount of the costs, the outcome of the appeal, the conduct of the Parties, and the Parties' respective financial resources

35. The appeal panel's written decision, with reasons, will be distributed to all Parties, the Appeal Manager, and RCA or the Member (as applicable). In extraordinary circumstances, the appeal panel may first issue a verbal or summary decision soon after the hearing's conclusion, with the full written decision to be issued thereafter.
36. Subject to Section 37 below, unless the matter involves a Vulnerable Participant, once the deadline to appeal to the SDRCC (where applicable), as indicated in the Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code, has expired, RCA or the Member (as applicable) shall publish the outcome of the appeal on their website. Publication shall be limited to, where applicable, the provision(s) of any relevant policies that have been violated, the name(s) of the Individual(s) involved, the sanction(s) or order imposed, if any. Additionally, where RCA acts as the Complainant under Section 16 of the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* and any decision issued pursuant to that Policy is appealed, only RCA, and not the original Complainant, shall be identified as an involved Individual. Identifying information regarding Minors or Vulnerable Participants will never be published by RCA or one of its Members.
37. If the appeal panel dismisses the appeal, the decision may only be published, as provided for in Section 36, with the Respondent's consent. If the Respondent does not provide such consent, the decision will be kept confidential by the Parties, the Appeal Manager, RCA and the Member (including the Respondent's Club) and shall be retained and discarded in accordance with the relevant and applicable privacy legislation. Failure to respect this provision may result in disciplinary action being taken pursuant to this *Policy*.
38. Other individuals or organizations, including but not limited to, Members, shall be advised of the outcome of any decisions rendered in accordance with this *Policy*.
39. Any decision rendered pursuant to this *Policy* shall apply automatically to and must be respected by RCA and its Members.
40. Records of all decisions will be maintained by RCA and its Members in accordance with their respective privacy policies.
41. The appeal panel's decision is final and binding on the Parties, subject to their right to appeal the decision before the SDRCC in accordance with the Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code.

## Timelines

42. If the circumstances of the appeal are such that adhering to the timelines outlined by this *Policy* will not allow a just resolution to the appeal, the Appeal Manager and/or Panel may direct that these timelines be revised.

## Confidentiality

43. The appeals process is confidential and involves only the Parties, the Appeal Manager, the appeal panel, and any independent advisors to the panel. Once initiated and until a decision is released, none of the Parties will disclose confidential information to any person not involved in the proceedings.

44. Any failure to respect the aforementioned confidentiality requirement may result in disciplinary action being taken against the Individual(s) in accordance with RCA or the Member's relevant and applicable policies.

### **Final and Binding**

45. No action or legal proceeding will be commenced against RCA, Members, or Individuals in respect of a dispute, unless RCA or the Member (as applicable) has refused or failed to provide or abide by the dispute resolution process and/or appeal process as set out in governing documents.

### **Privacy**

46. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to RCA's Privacy Policy.

47. RCA, its Members, or any of their delegates pursuant to this Policy (i.e., Appeal Manager, appeal panel), shall comply with RCA's Privacy Policy (or, in the case of a Member, the Member's Privacy Policy) in the performance of their services under this Policy.

## Appendix A - National Team Appeals

### A: Selection to National Teams

1. Invitation and Selection for National Teams may allow little time for an appeal from a decision to be heard or to give effect to a successful appeal.
2. Before appealing decisions relating to National Teams, Athletes are advised to discuss their concerns with the Program Coach within twenty four (24) hours of receipt of official notification of the original decision. If the matter cannot be resolved, the Athlete is advised to discuss their concerns with the High Performance Director within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of official notification of the original decision. If discussions with the Director of High Performance do not resolve the matter, the appeal will be heard according to the general procedures set out in the *Appeal Policy*, amended as follows:
  - a. Appeals of team invitation or selection decisions must be sent in writing to the RCA CEO as soon as possible and no later than seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of official notification of the original decision. The RCA CEO must provide the Appeal Manager with the appeal as soon as possible, and no later than 24 hours after receiving the appeal.
  - b. Considering the time sensitivity of selection appeals, the appeal panel will provide its decision on team invitation or selection appeals within a time frame that enables a successful appeal to be implemented, and in any case, no later than seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of the written appeal.
  - c. When rendering its decision, the appeal panel may issue a short decision, with reasons to follow.
3. Notwithstanding Section 2 above, by agreement between the Parties, the internal appeal process in relation to decisions made by RCA only may be bypassed, and the appeal may be heard directly before the SDRCC.
4. With respect to appeals regarding National Team invitation or selection decisions, it is important to note that Sections 8-9, 24-37 of the *Appeal Policy* shall be applied, modified according to the circumstances. Section 23 of the *Appeal Policy* may also apply if time permits.

### B: Nomination for AAP Carding

5. Before appealing decisions relating to AAP Carding nomination, Athletes are advised to discuss their concerns with the High Performance Director within twenty four (24) hours of receipt of official notification of the original decision. Upon receipt of concerns from an Athlete regarding AAP nominations, the High Performance Director shall immediately notify the RCA CEO. If discussions with the High Performance Director do not resolve the matter, the appeal will be heard according to the general procedures set out in this Policy, amended as follows:
  - a. Appeals of AAP carding nomination decisions must be sent in writing to the RCA CEO no later than seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of official notification of the original decision. The RCA CEO must provide the Appeal Manager with the appeal as soon as possible, and no later than 24 hours after receiving the appeal.
  - b. The appeal panel will provide its decision within a time frame that enables a successful appeal to be implemented, and in any case within seventy-two (72)

- hours of receipt of the written appeal.
- c. When rendering its decision, the appeal panel may issue a short decision, with reasons to follow.
6. Notwithstanding Section 5 above, by agreement between the Parties, the internal appeal process in relation to decisions made by RCA only may be bypassed, and the appeal may be heard directly before the SDRCC.
  7. With respect to appeals regarding AAP Carding nomination decisions, it is important to note that Sections 8-9, 24-25 and 27-37 of the *Appeal Policy* shall be applied, modified according to the circumstances. Section 22 of the *Appeal Policy* may also apply if time permits.



ROWING CANADA AVIRON  
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Effective date	July 23 2021
Archived date	-
Date last reviewed	December 2022
Scheduled review date	December 2023
Replaces and/or amends	-
Approved by and date	RCA Board of Directors, July 12, 2021
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	-

## Preamble

1. Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA)<sup>1</sup> and its Members are aware that Individual interaction and communication occurs frequently on social media. RCA and its Members caution Individuals that any conduct falling short of the standard of behaviour required by this *Social Media Policy* and the *Code of Conduct and Ethics* may be subject to the disciplinary sanctions identified within the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

## Application of this Policy

2. This Policy applies to all Individuals, RCA and Members.

## Conduct and Behaviour

3. For the avoidance of doubt, the following social media conduct may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*:
  - a) Posting a disrespectful, hateful, harmful, disparaging, insulting, or otherwise negative comment on a social medium that is directed at an Individual, at RCA, at a Member, or at other individuals connected with RCA or its Members
  - b) Posting a picture, altered picture, or video on a social medium that is harmful, disrespectful, insulting, or otherwise offensive, and that is directed at an Individual, at RCA, at a Member, or at other individuals connected with RCA or its Members
  - c) Creating or contributing to a Facebook group, webpage, Instagram account, Twitter feed, blog, or online forum devoted solely or in part to promoting negative or disparaging remarks or commentary about RCA or its Members, their stakeholders, or their reputation
  - d) Inappropriate personal or sexual relationships over a social medium between Individuals who have a Power Imbalance in their interactions, such as between Athletes

<sup>1</sup> A separate document with term definitions that apply to all RCA Policy is found online and in the RCA Safe Sport Manual.



and coaches, Directors and Officers, Committee members and staff, umpires, officials and Athletes, etc.

- e) Any instance of cyber-bullying or cyber-harassment between one Individual and another Individual, where incidents of cyber-bullying and cyber-harassment can include but are not limited to the following conduct on any social medium, via text-message, or via email: regular insults, negative comments, vexatious or unwelcome behaviour, pranks or jokes, threats, posing as another person, spreading rumours or lies, or other harmful behaviour.

- 4. All conduct and behaviour occurring on social media may be Reported pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

### **Individuals' Responsibilities**

- 5. Individuals acknowledge that their social media activity may be viewable and viewed by anyone, including RCA, Members or other Individuals.
- 6. If RCA or a Member unofficially engages with an Individual in social media (such as by retweeting a tweet or sharing a photo on Facebook) the Individual may, at any time, ask RCA or the Member to cease this engagement.
- 7. When using social media, an Individual must model appropriate behaviour befitting the Individual's role and status in connection with RCA or the Member.
- 8. Removing content from social media after it has been posted (either publicly or privately) does not excuse the Individual from being subject to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
- 9. An Individual who believes that another Individual's social media activity is inappropriate or may violate the policies and procedures of RCA or a Member should Report the matter in the manner outlined by the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

### **Privacy**

- 10. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to RCA's Privacy Policy.



**ROWING CANADA AVIRON**  
**SCREENING POLICY**

Effective date	June 5, 2024
Archived date	-
Date last reviewed	April 2024
Scheduled review date	November 2025
Replaces and/or amends	Replaces RCA Screening Policy in force as of December 13, 2022
Approved by and date	RCA Board of Directors, April 27, 2024
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	Appendix A - Screening Requirements Matrix

### Preamble

1. Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA)<sup>1</sup> and its Members understand that screening personnel and volunteers is a vital part of providing a safe sporting environment and has become a common practice amongst sport organizations that provide programs and services to the Canadian sport community, and specifically within rowing clubs and associations.

### Application of this Policy

2. This Policy applies to all individuals whose position with RCA or a Member is one of trust or authority which may relate to, at a minimum, finances, supervision, or Vulnerable Participants.
3. Not all individuals associated with RCA or a Member will be required to obtain a criminal record check or submit screening documents because not all positions pose a risk of harm to RCA, Members, or participants. Individuals will be subject to the screening requirements described in the Screening Requirements Matrix found in **Appendix A** of this Policy and shall comply with the screening application requirements as detailed therein. For any information on how to obtain an E-PIC or a VSC, please consult the RCA Safe Sport webpage.

### Screening Committee

4. The implementation of this Policy is the responsibility of an independent individual appointed by RCA that will function as the Screening Committee for all screening applications received pursuant to this Policy. This independent individual (hereinafter referred to as the "Screening Committee") will possess the requisite skills, knowledge and abilities to accurately assess screening documents and to render decisions under this Policy.

<sup>1</sup> A separate document with term definitions that apply to all RCA Policy is found online and in the RCA Safe Sport Manual.

5. The Screening Committee will carry out its duties in accordance with the terms of this Policy.
6. The Screening Committee is responsible for reviewing all documents submitted with a screening application and, based on the review, making decisions regarding the related appropriateness of individuals filling positions within RCA or the Member, as applicable. In carrying out its duties, the Screening Committee may consult with independent experts including lawyers, police, risk management consultants, volunteer screening specialists, or any other person.

### Screening Requirements

7. A Screening Requirements Matrix is provided as **Appendix A**. All individuals must comply with the requirements detailed therein when first engaged by RCA or a Member and shall respect the renewal requirements indicated in Section 21 below.
8. If an individual subsequently receives a charge, conviction for, or is found guilty of an offense they will report this circumstance immediately to RCA or the Member, as applicable. Additionally, the individual will inform the relevant organization of any changes in their circumstance that would alter their original responses in their Screening Disclosure Form.
9. If RCA or the Member learns that an individual has provided false, inaccurate, or misleading information, the individual will immediately be removed from their position and may be subject to further discipline in accordance with the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

### Procedure

10. Individuals must submit the screening documents indicated in Appendix A, according to the category in which they fall, to the Screening Committee. If an individual is uncertain of which category they fall into, they may contact RCA or the Member for assistance. Any information submitted shall be subject to RCA or the Member's Privacy Policy, as applicable, will only be viewed on a need-to-know basis, and will be protected in accordance with the relevant and applicable privacy legislation.
11. An individual who refuses or fails to provide the necessary screening documents, or makes an incomplete application, will be ineligible for the position sought. The individual will be informed by the Screening Committee that their application and/or position will not proceed until such time as the screening documents are submitted.
12. RCA and its Members understand that there may be delays in receiving the results of an E-PIC or a VSC. At its discretion, the organization may permit the individual to participate in the role during the delay, provided that the individual demonstrates that they have initiated the E-PIC or VSC application process. This permission may be withdrawn at any time and for any reason.
13. RCA and its Members recognize that different information will be available depending on the type of screening document that the individual has submitted. For example, an E-PIC may show details of a specific offense, or not, and/or a VSC may be returned with specific information or simply a notification indicating 'cleared' or 'not cleared'. The Screening Committee will use its expertise and discretion when making decisions based on the screening documents that have been submitted.

14. The Screening Committee will review all Level 1 and Level 2 screening applications, including any supporting documents and shall make a decision as indicated in Section 15 below. For Level 3 screening applications, the Screening Committee will only review cases where the individual has made a declaration in their declaration form that may impact whether they can participate in the desired position.
15. Following the review of any Level 1 and Level 2 screening applications, the Screening Committee will decide whether:
  - a) The individual has passed screening and may participate in the desired position;
  - b) The individual has passed screening and may participate in the desired position with conditions;
  - c) The individual has not passed screening and may not participate in the desired position; or
  - d) More information is required from the individual.
16. In making its decision, and where relevant, the Screening Committee will consider the type of offense, date of offense, and relevance of the offense to the position sought.
17. The Screening Committee must decide that an individual has not passed screening if the screening documentation reveals any of the following:
  - a) If imposed in the last three years:
    - i. Any offense involving the use of a motor vehicle that constitutes an offence of the Criminal Code
    - ii. Any offense of assault, physical or psychological violence
    - iii. Any offense for trafficking and/or possession of drugs and/or narcotics
    - iv. Any offense involving conduct against public morals
    - v. Any offense involving theft or fraud
  - b) If imposed at any time:
    - i. Any offense involving a Minor or Minors
    - ii. Any offense involving the possession, distribution, or sale of any child-related pornography
    - iii. Any sexual offense

### Conditions and Monitoring

18. Excluding the incidents above which, if revealed, would cause the individual to not pass screening, the Screening Committee may determine that incidents revealed on an individual's screening documents may allow the individual to pass the screening process and participate in a desired position with *conditions* imposed. The Screening Committee may apply and remove conditions at its discretion and will determine the means by which adherence to conditions may be monitored.

### Young People

19. When screening Minors, RCA and its Members will:
  - a) Not require the Minor to obtain a VSC or E-PIC; and
  - b) In lieu of obtaining a VSC or E-PIC, require the Minor to submit up to two (2) additional references.
20. Notwithstanding the above, RCA or a Member may ask a Minor to obtain a VSC or E-PIC if the organization suspects the Minor has an adult conviction and therefore has a criminal record. In these circumstances, the organization will be clear in its request that it is not asking for the Minor's youth record. RCA and its Members understand that they

may not request to see a Minor's youth record.

## **Renewal**

21. Unless the Screening Committee determines, on a case-by-case basis, to modify the submission requirements, individuals who are required to submit an E-PIC, Screening Disclosure Form, VSC, or Screening Renewal Form, are required to submit the documents as follows:
  - a) If born after March 12, 1994, or once a VSC has been obtained once if born before March 12, 1994, an E-PIC every three years that is valid for the duration of the season in progress
  - b) A Screening Disclosure Form every three years
  - c) A Screening Renewal Form every year
  - d) A Vulnerable Sector Check once (if born before March 12, 1994 and an E-PIC every three years thereafter)
22. The Screening Committee may request that an individual provide any of the above documents at any time. Such request will be in writing and reasons will be provided for the request.

## **Orientation, Training, and Monitoring**

23. The type and amount of orientation, training, and monitoring will be based on the individual's level of risk, at the discretion of RCA or the Member, as applicable.
24. Orientation may include, but is not limited to: introductory presentations, facility tours, safe sport policy training, equipment demonstrations, parent/Athlete meetings, meetings with colleagues and supervisors, orientation manuals, orientation sessions, and increased supervision during initial tasks or initial period of engagement.
25. Training may include, but is not limited to: certification courses, online learning, mentoring, workshop sessions, webinars, on-site demonstrations, and peer feedback.
26. At the conclusion of orientation and training, the individual will be required to acknowledge, in written form, that they have received and completed the orientation and training.
27. Monitoring may include but is not limited to: written or oral reports, observations, evaluations, tracking, electronic surveillance, and site visits.

## **Records**

28. All records will be maintained in a confidential manner and will not be disclosed to others except as required by law, or for use in legal, quasi-legal, or disciplinary proceedings. This includes protecting all records in accordance with the relevant and applicable privacy legislation.
29. The records kept as part of the screening process include but are not limited to:
  - a) An individual's Vulnerable Sector Check
  - b) An individual's E-PIC (for a period of three years)
  - c) An individual's Screening Disclosure Form (for a period of three years)
  - d) An individual's Screening Renewal Form (for a period of one year)
  - e) Records of any conditions attached to an individual's registration by the Screening Committee
  - f) Records of any discipline applied to any individual by RCA, by a Member, or by

another sport organization

**Privacy**

30. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to RCA's Privacy Policy.
31. RCA, its Members, or any of their delegates pursuant to this Policy (i.e., Screening Committee), shall comply with RCA's Privacy Policy (or, in the case if a Member, the Member's Privacy Policy) in the performance of their services under this Policy.

**Appendix A – Screening Requirements Matrix**

Level	Description	Requirements	Examples
Level 1	Individual that holds a decision-making position, involved in high risk assignments, occupies position of trust and/or authority, has a supervisory role, directs others, involved with finances, and who have frequent or unsupervised access to Vulnerable Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete an Application Form</li> <li>- Complete a Screening Disclosure Form</li> <li>- Complete and provide a VSC (if born before March 12, 1994); if born after March 12, 1994, provide an E-PIC</li> <li>- Provide one reference related to the position</li> <li>- Participate in training, orientation, and monitoring as determined by the organization</li> <li>- Provide a driver's abstract, if requested</li> </ul>	Organizational staff, Case Managers, full-time coaches, coaches that travel with athletes, coaches that could be alone with athletes
Level 2	Athletes and individuals with direct athlete contact, individuals involved in medium risk assignments who may be in a supervisory role, may direct others, may be involved with finances, and/or who may have limited access to Vulnerable Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete an Application Form</li> <li>- Complete a Screening Disclosure Form</li> <li>- Complete and provide an E-PIC</li> <li>- Provide one reference related to the position</li> <li>- Participate in training, orientation, and monitoring as determined by the organization</li> <li>- Provide a driver's abstract, if requested and relevant to the position</li> </ul>	Athletes, coaches, training staff, Athlete support personnel, Non-coach employees or managers, Directors, Coaches who are typically under the supervision of another coach, Umpires, Event organizing committee
Level 3	Individuals with no direct contact with athletes, involved in low risk assignments who are not in a supervisory role, not	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete an Application Form</li> <li>- Complete a Screening Disclosure Form</li> <li>- Participate in training, orientation, and</li> </ul>	Certain staff and board members, certain volunteers, Parents, youth, or volunteers

	directing others, not involved with finances, and/or do not have unsupervised access to Vulnerable Participants	monitoring as determined by the organization	who are helping out on a non-regular or informal basis
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