



Policy Title:	OAS Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure	
Adapted from Canada Artistic Swimming Conduct Policy:	CAS Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure v. April 1, 2025	
Current version approved by Board of Directors:	August 2025	
<p><i>This Policy and Procedure has been adapted from Canada Artistic Swimming (CAS). It is applicable to OAS, its Member Clubs, Affiliated Organizations, and Registrants.</i></p> <p><i>This Policy and Procedure should be read together with the CAS Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure v. April 1, 2025 (APPENDIX C)</i></p>		

Purpose and Scope

This Policy outlines how OAS manages reported incidents and complaints. It applies to OAS, its Member Clubs, Affiliated Organizations, and Registrants in connection with their involvement in OAS Activities and Events. This Policy must be read in conjunction with the CAS Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure v. April 1, 2025

Complaints Under the UCCMS

Complaints that allege a breach of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) involving a UCCMS Participant must be submitted to the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES): <https://cces.ca/report-safe-sport>

Reporting Complaints to OAS through ITP

OAS uses the services of ITP Sport and Recreation Inc. (ITP) as its independent Complaint Triage Officer (CTO). Complaints can be submitted through the OAS Safe Sport portal:

<https://ontarioartisticswimming.ca/safe-sport/report-an-incident/>

Upon receipt of a complaint, ITP will:

- Conduct a preliminary assessment.
- Determine whether the complaint qualifies as a Minor Infraction, Major Infraction, or a case of Maltreatment.
- Redirect complaints as appropriate, including to the CCES for UCCMS matters.

Thresholds for Complaint Review

ITP is intended to manage complaints involving Major Infractions and/or Maltreatment. Complaints that do not meet this threshold will be referred back to OAS for informal or internal handling.

Minor Infractions

Minor Infractions are low-level breaches that do not cause significant harm. These will be managed by OAS and may result in the following sanctions:

- Verbal or written reprimands
- Apologies (verbal or written)
- Team service or other voluntary contributions
- Any other appropriate action determined by OAS
- Also see Appendix A

Minor Infractions will be documented. Repeated incidents may escalate to Major Infractions.

Major Infractions

Major Infractions are more serious in nature and will be handled formally by ITP in accordance with the Major Infraction procedure in Appendix C. If warranted, ITP will appoint a Discipline Panel. Possible sanctions include:

- Suspension or expulsion from OAS activities
- Removal of registration or membership privileges
- Public release of the outcome
- Other proportionate actions
- Also see Appendix B

Confidentiality

All parties involved must maintain confidentiality throughout the process unless disclosure is required by law or deemed necessary to ensure participant safety.

Appeals

Decisions on Minor Infractions are final and not appealable. Major Infraction decisions may be appealed in accordance with the CAS Appeal Policy.

APPENDIX A

Examples of Minor Infractions

Examples include:

- A single incident of disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, or sexist comments or behaviour.
- Being absent from required OAS activities or events.
- Breach of curfew.
- Minor non-compliance with competition or event regulations.
- Single incident violations of the Code or Behavioural Expectations
- Any other low-level breach as determined by the ITP Complaint Triage Officer.

APPENDIX B

Examples of Major Infractions

Subject to the Complaint Triage Officer's evaluation, examples include:

- Repeated or egregious disrespectful, abusive, or discriminatory behaviour.
- Conduct seriously damaging to the reputation or image of OAS, Its Member Clubs, affiliates, and associates.
- Willful abuse of team or organizational property.
- Serious interference with competition or athlete preparation.
- Serious breaches of the OAS Harassment, Discrimination, or Maltreatment policies.
- Alcohol or substance abuse affecting participation.
- Use of illegal or prohibited drugs.
- Misconduct or violations deemed serious enough by the ITP Complaint Triage Officer.

APPENDIX C

CAS Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure v. April 1, 2025

Part 1 – General

1. Scope and Application of this Policy and Procedure

- 1.1. CAS, its PTSOs, and Affiliated Organizations are committed to providing a welcoming and safe environment for all Registrants and Individuals participating in or contributing to the sport of artistic swimming in Canada. To achieve this objective, the Organizations wish to ensure that any unwelcome behaviour or conduct occurring within their Activities and Events and any other alleged breaches of their Policies can be reported, complained about, and managed properly, equitably and fairly.
- 1.2. This Policy and Procedure applies to Reported Incidents or Complaints lodged against or involving current or past Registrants, Individuals, PTSOs or Affiliated Organizations arising from, or pertaining to the Organization’s Activities and Events.
- 1.3. This Policy and Procedure does not apply to Complaints that allege a breach of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (“UCCMS”) made against a UCCMS Participant that occurred or continued
 - a) between January 1, 2023 and March 31, 2025, which were required to be filed with the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (“OSIC”) to be addressed pursuant to the OSIC’s policies and procedures, or
 - b) on or after April 1, 2025, which must be filed with the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) to be addressed pursuant to the CCES’s policies and procedures.
- 1.4. Subject to Section 1.3, Complaints, Reported Incidents, or alleged Infractions occurring at the PTSO or Affiliated Organization level shall ordinarily be managed through the applicable PTSO’s Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure. However, in the absence of a PTSO Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure that applies, CAS shall manage a Complaint or Reported Incident on behalf of the PTSO, and the applicable Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure of CAS will apply. In addition, if the ICA determines that a Complaint or Reported Incident falling within the jurisdiction of a PTSO involves a national level interest, the ICA may decide that the CAS Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure will apply in lieu of the PTSO’s Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure. In this case, the complaint will be managed by CAS.
- 1.5. An Individual or other person reporting an incident to the Organization’s Complaint Triage Officer does not have the status of Complainant unless they so choose. The Reported Incident might become an official Complaint either filed by a Complainant or by the Organization which can act as the Complainant.
- 1.6. An Individual or other person reporting an incident to the Organization’s Complaint Triage Officer does not have the status of Complainant unless they so choose. The Reported

Incident might become an official Complaint either filed by a Complainant or by the Organization which can act as the Complainant.

- 1.7. Depending on the nature of the Reported Incident or Complaint, an Employee who is a Complainant or Respondent may be subject to this Policy and Procedure in addition to the applicable Organization's human resources Policy, occupational health and safety regulations and the Employee's employment agreement where applicable. CAS has no employment relationship with an Employee of a PTSO or Affiliated Organization and no jurisdiction over that employment relationship; however, CAS can impose sanctions that relate to the Employee's privileges, rights or benefits derived from CAS. CAS may also decide, at its discretion and in accordance with the procedure indicated in its By-laws, to impose a disciplinary sanction against a PTSO that does not appropriately manage Complaints or Reported Incidents involving its Employees.
- 1.8. If the Complainant, the Respondent, or a witness is a Minor, as defined by the provincial / territorial jurisdiction where the Minor resides, a Parent or guardian shall act ordinarily as the Minor's representative. However, if a Minor files a Complaint or reports an incident without the consent or knowledge of their Parent or guardian, or where the Minor's Parent or guardian is a Respondent, the Minor may be represented by another person of their choice or determined by law under applicable child protection legislation. The Organization's Complaint Triage Officer, the Complaint Manager or the Discipline Panel may also make any decisions or take any actions considered to be reasonably necessary to protect the privacy and other interests of the Minor, including by not compelling the Minor to participate in proceedings contemplated in this Policy and Procedure.
- 1.9. If a Reported Incident or Complaint must be reported by law or if the Complaint Triage Officer decides it should be reported to an external agency, sport organization, law enforcement authorities, or a child protection agency, it will be reported immediately.
- 1.10. If the Organization's Complaint Triage Officer finds, on the face of the Reported Incident or Complaint, that it is justified to recommend that the Organization impose an immediate interim and provisional disciplinary sanction against the Respondent, the Organization may take that action at its discretion.
- 1.11. This Policy and Procedure addresses two types of Infractions: (1) Minor and Major Infractions and (2) Infractions arising outside Canada or the PTSO's territory. Minor Infractions shall be governed by Part II. Major infractions shall be governed by Part III. If a dispute or infraction arises outside of Canada or a PTSO's territory and there is a critical lack of time to apply the procedures in Parts II or III, the dispute or infraction shall be governed by Part IV.
- 1.12. An Individual's conviction for a relevant and serious Criminal Code offence, or an anti-doping rule violation, will be deemed to constitute a Major Infraction and a breach of the Organization's Conduct Policy and may result in immediate sanction from CAS or the PTSO without the requirement for filing a Complaint or Reported Incident, conducting a Hearing, or issuance of a decision by a Discipline Panel. Relevant and serious criminal offences include

but are not limited to:

- a) Any child pornography offences;
- b) Any sexual offences;
- c) Any major offence of assault; and
- d) Any offence involving trafficking of illegal drugs or prohibited substances or prohibited methods listed on the Canadian Anti-Doping Program's prohibited list.

2. The Complaint Triage Officer

2.1. The Organization shall appoint an experienced Complaint Triage Officer (i.e. the Independent Complaint Assessor (ICA) for CAS, or a Complaint Assessor or Triage Officer for a PTSO) who should be completely independent from CAS, its PTSOs and Affiliated Organizations, and the sport of artistic swimming. The Complaint Triage Officer shall have demonstrated experience in investigations, alternative dispute resolution, managing disputes and complaints in a sport context, and in understanding the Canadian and relevant provincial sport systems. The Complaint Triage Officer shall have the full discretion and authority to manage Reported Incidents and Complaints in accordance with this Policy and Procedure.

2.2. Subject to Section 1.3, the role of the Complaint Triage Officer is:

- a) to receive and conduct a preliminary assessment of the Reported Incident or Complaint and meet the incident reporter or Complainant privately and in full confidence;
- b) when and if appropriate, to seek to resolve the dispute to the mutual satisfaction of the involved Parties;
- c) to either investigate the Reported Incident or Complaint or appoint an external investigator to conduct that investigation; and
- d) following the Complaint Triage Officer's preliminary assessment (if appropriate) or the Investigation of a Complaint or Reported Incident:
 - i. to decide if the Reported Incident or Complaint is a Minor Infraction or Major Infraction;
 - ii. to decide if the Reported Incident or Complaint shall be dealt with pursuant to the Organization's Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure or redirected to CAS, a PTSO, or a Sport Partner to be dealt with under its Discipline and Complaint Policy and Procedure;
 - iii. if the Reported Incident or Complaint is determined to be a Minor Infraction, to refer the matter to the Complaint Manager who will manage it for the Parties in accordance with Part II of this Policy and Procedure;
 - iv. if the Reported Incident or Complaint is determined to be a Major Infraction, to refer the matter to the Complaint Manager who shall appoint a Discipline Panel to hear the Parties on the Complaint and determine any consequences in accordance with Part III of this Policy and Procedure;
 - v. to reject the Reported Incident or Complaint if, in the opinion of the Complaint Triage Officer, it is unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious, filed in bad faith,¹ or outside the jurisdiction of the Organization;
 - vi. to take any other measures deemed appropriate in the circumstances;
 - vii. to provide updates on the procedures but not on the merits of the case to the Organization's CEO or Executive Director, president or their designate, and member organizations as applicable, unless they are involved in the Complaint or Reported

- Incident; and
- viii. to ensure the confidentiality of the proceedings.

- 2.3. If the Complaint Triage Officer appoints an external investigator to investigate a Complaint or Reported Incident, the investigator shall carry out the Investigation in a timely manner and, at the conclusion of the Investigation, shall submit a written report to the Complaint Triage Officer. The investigator's full report will not be communicated to the Organization, the Parties, or external stakeholders. The investigator shall not make any final decision on the Complaint or Reported Incident but may make factual findings, and shall make recommendations to the Complaint Triage Officer based on those findings as to whether the allegations contained in the Complaint or Reported Incident are within the jurisdiction of the Organization, whether they are supported by evidence, and, if so, whether, they constitute a Minor Infraction or a Major Infraction.
- 2.4. A summary of the investigator's report will be shared with the Parties and the Board if the matter proceeds to a Discipline Hearing, but the full report will be considered confidential and will not be shared outside of the Complaint Triage Officer unless directed by the Discipline Panel or required by law. An investigator's report may be anonymous with names or relevant information redacted at the discretion of the Complaint Triage Officer or if instructed by the Discipline Panel.
- 2.5. The Complaint Triage Officer shall endeavour to make any decisions required under Section 2.2 d) within 21 Days of receipt of the Reported Incident and Complaint unless the complexity or the circumstances warrant an extension.
- 2.6. The following decisions of the Complaint Triage Officer are final and binding and may not be appealed:
 - a) a decision that the allegations contained in a Complaint or Reported Incident are unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious, or were filed in bad faith, or are or are not within the jurisdiction of the Organization;
 - b) a decision to accept, redirect or dismiss a Complaint or Reported Incident; and
 - c) a determination that the Complaint or Reported Incident constitutes a Minor Infraction or a Major Infraction, and the consequent referral of the matter to the Complaint Manager to be dealt with under Part II or III of this Policy and Procedure.

3. The Complaint Manager

- 3.1. The Organization shall appoint an experienced person or external agency to manage Complaints related disputes on behalf of the Organization. The Complaint Manager (CM) shall be completely independent from CAS, its PTSOs and Affiliated Organizations, and the sport of artistic swimming. The CM shall have demonstrated experience in investigations, alternative dispute resolution, managing disputes and complaints in a sport context, and in understanding the Canadian and relevant provincial sport systems. The CM shall manage Hearing procedures and assist the Parties and the Discipline Panel in accordance with this Policy and Procedure.
- 3.2. The role of the Complaint Manager is:

- a) to assist the Parties in resolving a dispute arising out of a Reported Incident or Complaint involving a Minor Infraction where the Executive Director is unable to manage the complaint for valid and justifiable reasons, such as a conflict of interest or capacity concerns;
- b) to determine the consequences of a Minor Infraction related to a Reported Incident or Complaint after hearing all Parties;
- c) to appoint a Discipline Panel when instructed to do so by the Organization's Complaint Triage Officer; and
- d) to assist the Parties and the Discipline Panel in conducting the proceedings contemplated in Part III for a Reported Incident or Complaint involving a Major Infraction.

4. Reporting an incident or Filing a Complaint

UCCMS Participants

- 4.1 Incidents that involve alleged Maltreatment or Prohibited Behaviour (as those terms are defined in the UCCMS) that occurred or continued on or after April 1, 2025, involving a UCCMS Participant must be reported to the CCES [<https://cces.ca/report-safe-sport>] and will be addressed pursuant to the CCES's policies and procedures.
- 4.2 Incidents that involve alleged Maltreatment or Prohibited Behaviour that occurred before April 1, 2025 may be reported to the CCES; however, the CCES shall determine the admissibility of such complaints in accordance with the relevant and applicable CCES Guidelines regarding the initial review and preliminary assessment, and the matter may only proceed pursuant to the CCES's procedures with the express consent of the Parties involved where the Parties have not been designated by CAS as a UCCMS Participant.
- 4.3 If the Complaint Triage Officer 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

- 4.4 Any Reported Incident or Complaint that does not fall within Sections 4.1 or 4.2² must be made in writing to the Organization's Complaint Triage Officer **within 14 Days of the incident**. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes complaints referred back to the Complaint Triage Officer 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.
- 4.5 If they wish, the incident reporter or Complainant may use the Organization's incident report or Complaint form, or another form that names the Respondent(s) and clearly identifies and describes the date, location and circumstances of the alleged Infraction or misconduct by the Respondent(s). The Complaint Triage Officer has discretion to extend the time for filing a Reported Incident or Complaint if circumstances and reasons presented by the Incident Reporter or Complainant justify doing so. Depending on the nature of the Reported Incident

or Complaint, the Complaint Triage Officer may provide a verbal summary to an appropriate law enforcement or external agency.

4.6 Depending on the nature of the Reported Incident or Complaint, the Organization may issue an immediate interim suspension of a Respondent's registration or membership at any time pending the outcome of the Complaint Triage Officer's assessment, the Investigation, the Hearing or determination of the Discipline Panel, or the outcome of an external investigation initiated by a Sport Partner or a law enforcement or external agency, if such action is considered necessary to protect the safety of other Individuals. Such decision will be made at the Organization's discretion and is not appealable.

4.7 Upon receipt of the Reported Incident or Complaint, the Complaint Triage Officer will acknowledge receipt and provide notice to the Respondent and any other Affected Parties that a Complaint or Reported Incident has been received. The Complaint Triage Officer may decide, at their discretion, to investigate the Complaint or Reported Incident before providing notice to other Parties.

4.8 A Reported Incident or Complaint may be made anonymously; however, an anonymous report may limit the ability of the Complaint Triage Officer to assess the file or the ability of the investigator to investigate the Complaint or Reported Incident. An anonymous Complainant or Incident Reporter may be called as a witness before the Discipline Panel as instructed by the Panel.

5. Confidentiality

5.1. The Organization recognizes that it may be extremely difficult for a person to come forward with a Complaint or Reported Incident, and that it may also be devastating for a person to be accused wrongly of wrongdoing, misconduct, Prohibited Behaviour or Maltreatment. The Organization and the Parties involved in a Complaint will endeavour to keep all Reported Incidents and Complaints, including the procedures and merits of the matter and the fact that a Reported Incident or Complaint has been filed under this Policy, strictly confidential, except as required for Investigation, required by law, or where disclosure is necessary to protect the public.

5.2. Once a Complaint is initiated and until a decision is released and after all applicable appeals have been concluded, the Organizations and all Parties or witnesses involved in a Complaint will not discuss any information related to the Complaint, as described in Section 5.1, with any person other than, as applicable, the Complaint Triage Officer, the Complaint Manager, the investigator, the Discipline Panel, and the Party's immediate Family Members, legal advisors or authorized representatives, provided that such Family Members, legal advisors and authorized representatives also agree to maintain strict confidentiality of same. Non-compliance with this section may result in sanctions under this Policy and Procedure.

5.3. If a Complaint is within the public domain, the Complaint Triage Officer may, at their discretion, allow the Organization to communicate information on the management of the Complaint to the public. When required, the Organization's CEO, Executive Director, or President (or their designate) or the Complaint Triage Officer will act as spokesperson for the Organization.

- 5.4. The Complaint Triage Officer or CM is authorized, at their discretion, to share procedural updates on the management of the Complaint with the Organization's legal counsel, the Organization's insurer, and the Organization's Board and CEO, Executive Director, or President, unless they are directly involved in the Complaint. Such updates will not otherwise be provided to CAS, PTSOs, Affiliated Organizations, Registrants, Sport Partners or funding partners, the media or any other persons unless decided otherwise by the Organization.
- 5.5. The Organization will retain and discard records of decisions that have been made pursuant to this Policy in accordance with relevant and applicable privacy legislation. Subject to applicable confidentiality requirements, these records may be shared, as required, with Individuals or other organizations, including National Sport Organizations, provincial sport organizations, multi-sport organizations, public agencies, and government entities.

Part II – Minor Infractions

6. Definition and Scope of Minor Infractions

- 6.1. This part of the Policy and Procedure applies to Reported Incidents or Complaints involving Minor Infractions arising during the Organization's Activities or Events. A Minor Infraction involves a breach of the Organization's Policies that the Complaint Triage Officer determines is not of such a nature as to cause significant harm or aggravating consequences. Examples of Minor Infractions can be found in Appendix A.
- 6.2. Minor Infractions arising within the Activities or Events of a PTSO or Affiliated Organization shall be dealt with using the Policies of the applicable PTSO, subject to the authority of CAS to manage a Complaint or Reported Incident on behalf of a PTSO as described in CAS's Safe and Welcoming Sport Policy Suite Overview.
- 6.3. CAS has the discretion to recognize and enforce discipline sanctions imposed by a PTSO or Sport Partner. In addition, CAS may decide to impose its own sanctions if the matter is of national interest.

7. Disciplinary procedures for Minor Infractions

- 7.1. Once assessed by the Complaint Triage Officer, a Reported Incident or Complaint involving a Minor Infraction will be referred to and managed directly by OAS.
- 7.2. OAS may take steps they consider appropriate to seek to resolve the matter and may determine any appropriate disciplinary sanctions to be taken against a Respondent in accordance with this Policy and Procedure, provided that the Respondent is informed of the details of the allegations made against them and has an opportunity to provide their version of the facts and any supporting evidence before any decision is made.
- 7.3. The following disciplinary sanctions may be applied, singularly or in combination, for Minor

Infractions:

- a) verbal reprimand;
- b) written reprimand to be placed in the Respondent's file;
- c) direction to provide a verbal apology;
- d) direction to provide a hand-delivered written apology;
- e) team service or other voluntary contribution to the Organization; or
- f) any other appropriate sanctions as determined by the CM.

7.4. Minor Infractions shall be recorded by Executive Director, the Organization's designate, or the Complaint Manager . Repeated Minor Infractions may result in a Major Infraction, if so determined by the Organization's Complaint Triage Officer, in which case Part III shall apply.

7.5. Decisions related to a Minor Infractions are final and binding and are not appealable under the Appeal Policy.

Part III – Major Infractions

8. Definition and Scope of Major Infractions

8.1. Major Infractions are behaviours determined by the Complaint Triage Officer to be more serious than a Minor Infraction, that may result in significant harm or aggravating consequences. Major Infractions include but are not limited to breaches of the Organization's Harassment and Prohibited Behaviour Policy. Examples of Major Infractions are described in Appendix B.

8.2. Subject to Sections 4.1 and 4.2, Reported Incidents or Complaints alleging Major Infractions shall be directly filed with the Organization's Complaint Triage Officer.

8.3. Major Infractions arising within the Activities or Events of a PTSO or Affiliated Organization shall be dealt with using the Policies of the applicable PTSO, subject to the authority of CAS to manage a Complaint or Reported Incident on behalf of a PTSO as described in CAS's Safe and Welcoming Sport Policy Suite Overview.

8.4. CAS has the discretion to recognize and enforce discipline sanctions imposed by a PTSO or Sport Partner. In addition, CAS may decide to impose its own sanctions if the matter is of national interest.

9. Disciplinary Procedures for Major Infractions

9.1. If the Complaint Triage Officer determines, after assessing a Complaint or Reported Incident or after an investigation, that the Reported Incident or the Complaint involves a Major Infraction that should be dealt with more formally by a Hearing, the Complaint Triage Officer will refer the matter to the Complaint Manager who will appoint a Discipline Panel.

9.2. Within five Days of the Complaint Triage Officer's decision to refer the matter to the Complaint Manager, the Complaint Manager shall appoint, at their discretion, a panel of one or three persons to hear the matter. If a three-member Panel is appointed, the Complaint Manager shall also appoint one of the Panel members to act as Chair of the Panel.

9.3. The Discipline Panel shall be independent from the Parties and the Organization.

- 9.4. The Discipline Panel shall conduct a Hearing in accordance with the procedures in this Part, and may request the assistance of the CM to act as Case Manager.
- 9.5. Having regard to the nature of the Major Infraction and the potential consequences of any resulting sanctions, the Discipline Panel will decide whether to conduct the Hearing by way of a review of documentary evidence and written submissions, by way of an oral Hearing, or by way of a combination of these methods, after consulting with the Parties. If the Discipline Panel decides to conduct an oral Hearing, it may decide to do so in-person or by means of video or telephone conference.
- 9.6. The Discipline Panel may decide that a preliminary meeting is necessary to determine preliminary procedural, administrative, or legal issues. In the case of a three-member Panel, the Discipline Panel may delegate to one of its Panel members the authority to deal with these preliminary matters, which may include but are not limited to:
- a) date and location of the Hearing;
 - b) timelines for the exchange of supporting documents and submissions;
 - c) clarification of issues related to the alleged Infraction;
 - d) format and procedures of the Hearing;
 - e) evidentiary rules and evidence to be brought before the Hearing;
 - f) identification of any witnesses; and
 - g) any other procedural matters that may assist in expediting the Hearing as long as procedural fairness is respected.
- 9.7. The Discipline Panel will govern the Hearing as it sees fit, provided that:
- a) the Discipline Panel will endeavour to conduct the Hearing within 30 Days of the Panel's appointment, unless otherwise determined by the Panel after consulting with the Parties;
 - b) the Parties will be given 21 Days' written notice of the day, time, and place of the Hearing;
 - c) the Parties receive a summary version of the Investigator's report if an Investigation was carried out;
 - d) all Parties will have an opportunity to adduce evidence and make submissions before the Panel;
 - e) all Parties may be accompanied by a representative;
 - f) if a three-member Discipline Panel is appointed, the Panel's quorum for the conduct of the Hearing shall be all three Panel members, and the Panel's decisions shall be rendered by a majority vote;
 - g) the Discipline Panel may request that any witness or any other person be present at the Hearing or submit written evidence in advance of the Hearing;
 - h) if the Respondent chooses not to participate in the Hearing, the Hearing will proceed in the Respondent's absence;
 - i) the Hearing shall be held in private;
 - j) the Organization may be granted an observer status or the ability to make limited submissions at the Hearing as determined by the Panel.
- 9.8. Once appointed, the Discipline Panel will have the authority to abridge or extend timelines associated with any aspect of the Hearing.

9.9. In deciding the matter, the Discipline Panel has the power to review all the facts and the law.

9.10. After hearing the matter, the Discipline Panel will determine whether the Respondent has committed the Infraction alleged against them, and if so, whether the Respondent's conduct constitutes a Major Infraction or Minor Infraction, regardless of the characterization of the infraction by the Complaint Triage Officer, and the appropriate sanction(s) or consequence(s) to be imposed and any measures to mitigate the harm suffered by others as a result of the Infraction.

9.11. The Discipline Panel's written decision will be distributed to all Parties and to the Organization within seven Days of the conclusion of the Hearing. Depending on the circumstances of the case, the Panel's written decision may include its reasons, or the Panel may issue a short decision with reasons to follow.

9.12. If the Respondent admits the facts alleged in the Complaint, they may waive the Hearing, in which case the Discipline Panel will determine the appropriate disciplinary sanction. The Discipline Panel may still hold a Hearing for the purpose of determining an appropriate sanction.

9.13. If the Discipline Panel determines that the Complaint is false, frivolous, vexatious, retaliatory, or made in bad faith, the Discipline Panel may direct that there be disciplinary action against the Complainant and will assign costs to the Complainant.

9.14. Except in cases involving alleged violations of the UCCMS, the Discipline Panel may apply the following disciplinary sanctions, singly or in combination, for Major Infractions:

- a) written reprimand;
- b) removal of certain privileges of registration, membership or employment;
- c) suspension from certain Activities or Events which may include suspension from the current competition or from future teams or competitions;
- d) suspension from certain or all Activities and Events of the Organization such as competing, coaching, or judging for a specified period or until the Respondent satisfies conditions specified by the Panel;
- e) suspension from employment with or without pay;
- f) expulsion from registration or membership;
- g) publication of the decision;
- h) other sanctions as may be considered appropriate for the Infraction.

In cases involving alleged violations of the UCCMS, the Discipline Panel shall apply the sanctions indicated in the UCCMS.

9.15. In determining sanctions, the Discipline Panel may consider the following aggravating or mitigating circumstances:

- a) the nature and severity of the Infraction;
- b) the extent to which others have been harmed by the Infraction;
- c) the cooperation of the Respondent in the proceedings under this Policy and Procedure;
- d) whether the Infraction is a first offense or has occurred repeatedly;
- e) the Respondent's acknowledgment of responsibility;

- f) the Respondent's remorse and post-infraction conduct;
- g) the age, maturity, or experience of the Respondent;
- h) whether the Respondent retaliated, where the Incident involves Discrimination, Harassment or Maltreatment; and
- i) the Respondent's prospects for rehabilitation.

9.16. Unless the Discipline Panel decides otherwise, any disciplinary sanctions will commence at the date the decision is issued. Failure to comply with a sanction as determined by the Discipline Panel will result in automatic suspension of the Respondent's registration or membership and their participation in the Organization's Activities and Events until such time as the sanction is complied with.

9.17. Where the alleged Infraction may constitute Discrimination, Harassment, Prohibited Behaviour or Maltreatment, or is of a similar nature, the Organization will keep all proceedings under this Policy confidential, except where the Organization is required to disclose by another national or international agency or organization (eg. Sport Canada) and where disclosure is directed by the Discipline Panel because it is required by law or is in the best interests of the public.

9.18. The decision of the Discipline Panel will be final and binding upon all Parties, subject to any appeal that may be permitted under the Appeal Policy.

9.19. Except in cases of willful misconduct by the Discipline Panel, the Discipline Panel will bear no liability for any act or omission in connection with the Panel's decision or the appeal process under the Appeals Policy. Members of the Discipline Panel cannot be called as witnesses during a subsequent appeal, action or other proceeding seeking to challenge its decision before the SDRCC, CCES or any court of competent jurisdiction.

Part IV – Disputes arising outside Canada or the PTSO’s territory, where there is a critical lack of time

10. Subject to Sections 4.1 and 4.2, any Complaint or dispute between the Organization’s Individuals arising outside Canada or the PTSO’s territory, where there is a critical lack of time to apply the procedures in Parts II or III, shall be governed by these provisions.
- 10.1. The term “outside Canada or the PTSO’s territory” shall mean any period when the Individuals are outside Canada or the PTSO territory under the auspices of the Organization, including travelling to competitive events, participating in, or training for such events, and traveling home after the events.
- 10.2. Whenever possible, Complaints or disputes under this Part IV shall be heard and determined by the Organization’s official designate.
- 10.3. Depending on the nature, severity and urgency of the Complaint or dispute, the Organization’s designate may decide immediately on a course of action.
- 10.4. Despite any other processes contained in this Policy and Procedure (except in relation to Sections 4.1 and 4.2),³ nothing shall prevent the Organization’s designate from assuming jurisdiction when the Complaint or dispute arises outside Canada or the PTSO’s territory and when there is a critical lack of time to apply the procedures in Parts II or III.
- 10.5. Any sanction, discipline or remedy imposed upon an Individual by the Organization’s designate under this Part shall be reasonable and proportionate to the conduct complained of, and shall be determined by the Organization’s designate after reasonably investigating the manner and hearing each involved Individual’s version of events in a procedurally fair manner as deemed appropriate and feasible by the Organization’s designate in the circumstances.
- 10.6. Where a decision is made by the Organization’s designate that results in the removal of an Individual from a competition, such a decision may only be implemented by the Organization’s designate after the Organization’s designate consults with and obtains written approval from the CEO, Executive Director or President of the Organization or their designated representative.
- 10.7. The decisions of the Organization’s designate shall be binding on all Parties. Failure by an Individual to comply with a decision and remedy properly imposed by the Organization’s designate shall result in an automatic suspension of all the Individual’s privileges, and the Individual shall have no further right to participate at such event or competition, until such time as the sanctions, discipline or other remedies are

complied with.

- 10.8. Where a dispute is of a highly sensitive nature, the Organization shall keep all proceedings under Part IV of this Policy confidential, except where disclosure is directed as part of the remedy to resolve the dispute, is required by law, by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, or is in the best interests of the public.
- 10.9. If a Party believes the decision of the Organization's designate rendered pursuant to this Part IV of the Policy has violated their right to procedural fairness, the decision of the Organization's designate may be appealed according to the Organization's Appeal Policy.
- 10.10. A Complaint arising outside Canada or the PTSO's territory may also be determined under Part II or Part III of this Policy and Procedure, in addition to any actions taken under this Part IV, if it is appropriate in the circumstances as determined by the Complaint Triage Officer in their discretion

APPENDIX A – Examples of Minor Infractions

Examples of a Minor Infraction include:

- 1) a single incident of disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, or sexist comments or behaviour directed towards Individuals such as peers, opponents, Athletes, Coaches, Officials, administrators, spectators and sponsors and any Individuals.
- 2) a single incident of being absent from the Organization's Activities and Events at which attendance is expected or required.
- 3) breach of curfew as designated by the Organization's designate.
- 4) non-compliance with the rules and regulations under which the Organization's Events and Activities are conducted, whether at the local, provincial, national, or international level.
- 5) any other incident determined to be a Minor Infraction by the Organization's Complaint Triage Officer.

APPENDIX B – Examples of Major Infractions

Subject to the Complaint Triage Officer's evaluation of the particular circumstances, the following are examples of Major Infractions:

- 1) an egregious or repeated incident of disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist, or sexist comments or behaviour directed towards Individuals such as peers, opponents, Athletes, Coaches, Officials, administrators, spectators, and sponsors.
- 2) repeated incidents of being late for or absent from the Organization's Activities and Events and at which attendance is expected or required.
- 3) any action or conduct that would, in the discretion of the Organization's Complaint Triage Officer be detrimental to the reputation or image of the sport or the Organization.
- 4) the willful abuse of property owned, rented, borrowed, or leased by the Organization including vehicles, hotel rooms and team equipment.
- 5) serious breach of curfew as designated by the Organization or its designate.
- 6) conduct or behaviour which interferes with a competition or with any Athlete's preparation for a competition.
- 7) any conduct or behaviour that constitute serious Discrimination, Harassment, Prohibited Behaviour or Maltreatment as defined in the Harassment and Prohibited Behaviour Policy.
- 8) deliberate disregard for the rules and regulations under which the Organization's Activities and Events are conducted, whether at the local, provincial, national, or international level.
- 9) abusive use of alcohol, where abuse means a level of consumption which impairs the Individual's ability to speak, walk or drive; causes the Individual to behave in a disruptive manner; or interferes with the Individual's ability to perform effectively and safely.
- 10) any use of alcohol by Athletes under the age of 18 or where otherwise prohibited by law.
- 11) use of illicit and illegal drugs.
- 12) use of prohibited substances or prohibited methods.
- 13) use of drugs for a purpose for which they were not intended, including over-the-counter or prescription drugs.
- 14) any breach of the Conduct Policy determined by the Organization's Complaint Triage Officer to be an egregious one.
- 15) any misconduct deemed serious enough by the Organization's Complaint Triage Officer to constitute a Major Infraction.