

Draft Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) Rules: Explanatory Document

Background

On May 2, 2024, the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Physical Activity, announced that the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) and the Abuse-Free Sport program would be transitioned out of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) and into the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) effective April 1, 2025. Access the Minister's announcement at www.cces.ca/ministerstatement.

As an independent organization with a vision of fair, safe, accessible, and inclusive sport, the CCES is pleased to assume the responsibility for administering the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) and is committed to building upon the program and enhancing it going forward. The transition period has provided the CCES with an opportunity to review the program and consider ways to improve and revise its operations once it assumes responsibility.

Preliminary Consultation with the Sport Community

The CCES engaged in preliminary consultations with the sport community. This entailed a survey of current program signatories and participants, and over 60 meetings with athletes, survivors, national sport organizations (NSOs), multi-sport organizations (MSOs), subject matter experts, and Sport Canada. Common themes from the consultations included the importance of a trauma-informed approach, establishing standards of delivery, and transparent communication processes.

Using information from consultations the CCES developed a first draft of the comprehensive document that sets out the procedural rules that support the independent administration of the UCCMS, called the **Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) Rules**. As part of the process, athlete groups were consulted, and draft zero of the CSSP was reviewed by several subject matter experts, including a former Ontario Superior Court judge, researchers who specialize in racial justice and sport, disability, human rights and social justice, current OSIC staff and OSIC advisory groups, as well as Sport Canada.

Purpose of the Draft Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) Rules

The first draft of the CSSP rules recognizes the CCES as the organizational body that is mandated to independently administer and enforce the UCCMS for national level sport participants within federally funded national and multi sport organizations and establishes the procedural rules by which the CCES will carry out this mandate. The UCCMS commits the Canadian sport sector to advancing a respectful sport culture that delivers quality, inclusive, accessible, welcoming, and safe sport experiences, and the CSSP rules is similarly committed to advancing this important goal.

The CCES is committed to administering the CSSP rules in a manner that:

- a) Treats individuals with compassion, dignity and respect,
- b) Is trauma-informed,
- c) Meets the requirement of procedural fairness,
- d) Recognizes participatory rights of the reporter/interested party in the CSSP process, and
- e) Recognizes the importance of proportionality, efficiency and timeliness in responding to, and determining, reports of prohibited behaviour.

Summary of the Rules and Other Elements of the CSSP

- **Rule 3 – Scope of Application:** identifies who the CSSP rules applies to at the national level, defines participants, and explains the contexts in which the CSSP rules applies.
- **Rule 4 – CSSP Adopting Sport Organizations:** outlines board adoption, rights, obligations and responsibilities, and details what is included in the organization's adoption contract.
- **Rule 5 – Reporting:** identifies who can submit a report, the format for reporting, and other details about the reporting process.
- **Rule 6 – Coordinating with Law Enforcement:** explains when the CCES will contact other authorities and outlines the CCES's duty to report in accordance with applicable reporting legislation.
- **Rule 7 – Assumption of Jurisdiction by the CCES:** outlines the process by which the CCES will determine whether to assume jurisdiction over the report.
- **Rule 8 – Confidentiality and Privacy:** specifies the CCES will make reasonable efforts to protect the privacy of individuals involved in the administration of reports.
- **Rule 9 – Processing of Report:** outlines how a report is processed once the CCES assumes jurisdiction over it, as well as the associated timelines.
- **Rule 10 – Provisional Measures:** details the considerations and scope for imposing provisional measures.
- **Rule 11 – Methods of Resolution:** outlines possible methods resolution once the CCES has assumed jurisdiction.
- **Rule 12 – Investigation:** describes the components of the investigation process.
- **Rule 13 – Determination of the Report by the CCES:** outlines the process of receiving the investigation report, determining whether there was a breach of the UCCMS, and issuing a decision, including any applicable sanctions.
- **Rule 14 – Review by the Safeguarding Tribunal:** explains when parties may request a review by the Safeguarding Tribunal.
- **Rule 15 – Appeal of Sanction:** explains the process of appealing the Safeguarding Tribunal's decision related to sanction to the SDRCC Appeal Tribunal.
- **Rule 16 – Prior History:** outlines situations where the CCES may require information about prior history as it relates to assessing or determining provisional measures, remedial measures, or sanctions.
- **Rule 17 – Public Registry:** explains the purpose of the public registry, and states when sanctions and provisional measures will be posted on the public registry.
- **Rule 18 – Breach of the CSSP rules:** outlines how and when the CCES may investigate and sanction a participant for breach of the CSSP rules.
- **Rule 19 – No Liability:** outlines that CCES staff are not liable in the administration of the CSSP rules.

- **Rule 20 – Recognition and Enforcement:** explains how sanctions will be recognized and enforced.
- **Rule 21 – Support for Reporters and Respondents:** outlines that support services will be available for all parties.
- **Rule 22 – Amendment and Interpretation of the CSSP rules:** outlines procedural matters related to the CSSP rules document itself, including when the CSSP rules may be amended and the transition period for doing so.
- **Rule 23 – Reports Involving the CCES:** explains that reports involving CCES participants will be managed by a third-party investigator.
- **Appendix:** includes the definitions used throughout the CSSP rules.

To note:

- **Education:** Comprehensive education is an essential component of the CSSP. All individuals who are subject to the rules will be required to complete online education annually.

Comments from the Canadian sport community are welcome at any point during the consultation period or through guided input such as the webinars and the in-person engagement opportunities.

Consult the [CSSP Consultation Plan](#) to register for consultation opportunities.

How to Provide Feedback

You are invited to submit feedback to the CCES by email to safesport@cces.ca. Please include reference to specific rules in your feedback. The deadline to submit feedback is November 22, 2024.

For more information on the transition of the OSIC and Abuse-Free Sport, the draft CSSP, and/or the consultation process, please email the CCES (safesport@cces.ca) or visit the [transition webpage](#).