



Updated April 1, 2026

## **Complaint Mechanisms for Rowing in Canada**

### **Background**

An Independent Third Party (ITP) for Rowing in Canada has been in place since April 2019, and one of our priority initiatives was the creation and adoption of a pan-Canadian Safe Sport Policy Manual, which is harmonized across our sport by being uniform and aligned at the RCA, Provincial Rowing Association and local levels. This has ensured that standards of behaviour and conduct, as well as procedures and sanctions as part of a complaint management process, are consistent across the country and at all levels for rowing in Canada.

In June 2022, services from the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) became available to National Sport Organizations through Abuse-Free Sport (AFS). As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, the Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) will replace the AFS. In March 2025, RCA became a Signatory of the CSSP.

### **About the Canadian Safe Sport Program**

As of April 1, 2025, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) has been independently administering the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) for federally funded national sport organizations through the CSSP. In November 2025, the CCES underwent a name change to Sport Integrity Canada. Sport Integrity Canada receives and responds to reports about individuals subject to the CSSP who may have engaged in Prohibited Behaviour under the UCCMS.

The UCCMS commits the Canadian sport sector to advancing a respectful sport culture that delivers quality, inclusive, accessible, welcoming, and safe sport experiences. The CSSP is similarly committed to advancing this fundamental goal.

**The CCES is committed to providing a safe, timely, reliable, and procedurally fair environment for anyone involved in a Report of Prohibited Behaviour. It is expected that anyone connecting with the Sport Integrity Canada team will be treated with respect, dignity, and compassion.**

Sport Integrity Canada welcomes and encourages feedback about the CSSP as it evolves to meet the needs of the national sport community.

For more information, go to: <http://cces.ca/canadian-safe-sport-program>.

## Moving Forward

This new approach includes the following key features:

- Depending on one’s role, some individuals will be designated as “Participants” subject to the CSSP as required by the CSSP or as identified by RCA. In general, such Participants have a role at the National level. A list of roles that will be assigned as Participants subject to the CSSP is outlined later in this resource. All other individuals who are subject to RCA’s policies are defined as “Individuals”.
- Complaints related to **alleged breaches of the UCCMS** by **Participants subject to the CSSP** must be filed with the CCES.
- All other complaints related to **alleged breaches of the UCCMS** by **Individuals** must be filed with the Independent Third Party (ITP) for rowing.
- Complaints related to other **alleged misconduct under RCA Policies** must be filed with the Independent Third Party (ITP) for rowing. This applies to both **Participants** subject to the CSSP and **Individuals**.

**Table 1.** Jurisdiction for complaints filed against Participants subject to the CSSP and Individuals.

Type of Complaint	Where Complaint is Filed	
	CSSP	ITP for Rowing
<b>Participant subject to CSSP</b>		
Alleged UCCMS Breach	X	
Other misconduct (non UCCMS Breach) allegation under RCA Policies		X
<b>Individual</b>		
Alleged UCCMS Breach		X
Other misconduct (non UCCMS Breach) allegation under RCA Policies		X*

\*including if allegations against a Participant subject to the CSSP

## Participants (CSSP)

Effective April 1, 2025, individuals in the following roles are now considered Participants and any complaints against them related to alleged breaches of

the UCCMS while active/participating in these roles should be filed with the CCES:

- RCA Board Members
- RCA Employees and Contractors
- RCA Seasonal Team Coaches
- RCA Team Support Staff
- RCA Athletes (Athlete Assistance Program support, National team program, or National Athlete Pool)