



British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“BCWA”)

SAFE SPORT POLICY SUITE

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Introduction & Overview

British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“BCWA”) is committed to providing everyone involved in the sport of weightlifting a safe and welcoming environment in which to participate. As we work towards ensuring a positive, safe, and inclusive environment, BCWA has created a harmonious policy package to set the expectations for safe sport across the province.

The policies that make up the Safe Sport Policy Package include:

- Code of Conduct including the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (“UCCMS”)
- Protection Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Screening Policy
- Whistle Blower Policy
- Discipline and Complaints Policy
- Appeal Policy
- Dispute Resolution Policy

These policies are designed to provide guidance and direction to all weightlifting activity across the province, applicable to BCWA, clubs as well as all our membership within the confines of any applicable provincial legislation that may have authority over any aspect of the Safe Sport Policy Package and the policies contained within the package. This package has been coordinated and adapted to conform with national standards and policies put in place by Weightlifting Canada Haltérophilie (WCH) and Sport Canada.

The implementation of a harmonious policy package helps ensure that all Individuals involved in weightlifting in British Columbia know and understand a consistent standard of expected behaviour and there is a comprehensive system to address any matters that may impact the safe environment in an immediate, appropriate, and equitable manner.

These policies work together to address both prevention and response to issues related to the wide area related to safe sport. For example, there is one set of definitions for the package of policies that applies to the Discipline and Complaints Policy details process and jurisdiction for all complaints. Therefore, if any policy is excerpted in whole or in part from the Safe Sport Policy Package it must be done with knowledge and disclosure to any receiving party, that it is a part of the complete Safe Sport Policy Package.

BCWA takes any situation involving misconduct or Maltreatment very seriously; for this reason, we are committed to enacting and enforcing strong, clear, and effective policies and procedures for preventing and addressing all forms of misconduct or Maltreatment. These policies, found within the Safe Sport Policy Package, provide a consistent clear policy system to ensure weightlifting in British Columbia is a safe and welcoming.

British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“BCWA”)
Safe Sport Policy Suite
Definitions
(in alignment with the UCCMS v6)

Note: These Safe Sport Policy Suite Definitions apply to all policies identified as within the Safe Sport Policy Package. Our Safe Sport policies follow the legal practice of capitalized defined terms to assist the reader in identifying that the term has a specific meaning within the policy package.

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 BCWA who may be any staff member, committee member, volunteer, Director, or an 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(s)” – Any Individual who is an athlete participant in BCWA who is subject to the policies of BCWA and the Code of Conduct.
5. “Athlete Support Personnel” - Any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent, or any other person working with, treating, or assisting an Athlete participating in or preparing for sports competition.
6. “Board” – the Board of Directors of BCWA.
7. “Bullying” – Offensive behaviour and/or abusive treatment of an Individual that typically, but not always, involves an abuse of power.
8. “Case Manager” – an independent individual appointed by BCWA, to fulfill the responsibilities described in the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. In order to be appointed as a Case Manager, the individual must be free of conflict of interest, have relevant experience and skills to manage complaints and perform their duties, either as a legal practitioner or sport administrator.
9. “Complainant” – the party (individual or organization) filing a complaint on an incident of Maltreatment or suspicions of an incident of Maltreatment or other behaviour that is a violation of the standards described in the BCWA’s policies, by-laws, rules or regulations, or the UCCMS.
10. “Criminal Record Check (CRC)” – the document prepared by a police service from national data on the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) database or international equivalent reporting organization and provides information concerning a person’s criminal record including any Criminal Code of Canada charges, violations, or convictions.
11. “Conflict of Interest” – anytime there is a perceived or real potential for an individual’s relationship (financial, personal, or other) to influence a decision-making process.
12. “Days” – calendar days. For the purpose of calculating deadlines in this Safe Sport Policy Package, the day of the act/decision is not counted as the first day of any deadline.
13. “Director of Sanctions and Outcomes” – Responsible for overseeing the imposition of Provisional Measures, agreed outcomes, Sanctions and appearing before the Safeguarding Tribunal or the Appeal Tribunal in cases arising from a potential breach of the UCCMS (or other conduct rules, as applicable).
14. “Discrimination” – As defined in the UCCMS.
15. “External Discipline Panel” – A panel of one or three people who are appointed by the Independent Third Party to decide on complaints that are assessed under Process #2 of the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
16. “Event” – An event hosted by BCWA or an activity where BCWA is involved in an official capacity. An event sanctioned by the BCWA which may include a social Event.

17. "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.
18. "Independent Third Party" – The independent entity retained by BCWA to receive complaints and to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the policies herein the Safe Sport Policy Package, as applicable (outside of OSIC's role with complaints regarding UCCMS Participants). This individual must not be in a conflict of interest.
19. "Individuals" – anyone who is participating in programs and activities with BCWA and any category of individuals and/or registrants who are subject to the policies of BCWA, including those employed by, contracted by, or engaged in any BCWA related activities. This includes but is not limited to athletes, coaches, learning facilitators, instructors, officials, support persons, employees, contractors, volunteers, Athletes and their parents/guardians, Directors, and those representing BCWA at any Event.
20. "Internal Discipline Chair" – An individual appointed by BCWA to decide on complaints that are assessed under Process #1 of the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. The Internal Discipline Chair may be a Director, High-performance Manager, technical official, head coach, staff member, or other individual affiliated with the PSO but must not be in a conflict of interest.
21. "Maltreatment" – As defined in the UCCMS.
22. "Member Organizations" – A recognized organization that is registered with BCWA and its Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) and in good standing as described in the PSO's bylaws.
23. "Membership in Good Standing" - An Individual who is registered with the BCWA and adheres to the Code of Conduct and all BCWA policies.
24. "Minor" – As defined in the UCCMS an Individual who is under the age of nineteen (19) years old. Adult Individuals are responsible for knowing the age of a Minor.
25. "OSIC" – Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner, an independent division of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) which comprises the functions of the Sport Integrity Commissioner.
26. "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).
27. "Person in Authority" – Any Individual who holds a position of authority within BCWA, including, but not limited to, coaches, instructors, officials, managers, Athlete Support Personnel, chaperones, committee members, and Directors or Officers. In addition to the responsibilities described for Individuals in the Code of Conduct, a Person in Authority shall be responsible for knowing what constitutes Maltreatment.
28. "Power Imbalance" – As defined in the UCCMS.
29. "Prohibited Behaviours" – As defined in the UCCMS.
30. "Provisional Suspension" – means that the Individual is barred temporarily from participating in in any capacity in any Event or activity of BCWA or as otherwise decided pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaint Policy*, prior to the decision rendered in a hearing conducted pursuant to that Policy.
31. "Reporting (or Report)": The provision of information in writing by any person or an Individual to a relevant independent authority (the Independent Third Party or position charged with receiving a Report and determining next steps) regarding Maltreatment or misconduct. Reporting may occur through either the Complainant (of any age) or the one who experienced the Maltreatment, or a witness (someone who witnessed the Maltreatment or otherwise knows or suspects Maltreatment). In either case, the intention of Reporting is to initiate an independent investigative process, which could result in disciplinary action being taken against the Respondent.
32. "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.
33. "Sexual Maltreatment" – As defined in the UCCMS
34. "Social Medium (Social Media)" – A form of electronic communication including websites for social networking and microblogging such as blogs, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat, Tik-Tok, and Twitter. Social Media is the plural of Social Medium representing all the platforms broadly.
35. UCCMS – Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport, as amended from time to

time by the SDRCC.

36. "UCCMS Participant" – An Individual affiliated with the Program Signatory (WCH is the Program Signatory; BCWA falls within WCH signatory jurisdiction) who has been a) designated by BCWA and b) who has signed the required consent form. UCCMS Participants may include an athlete, a coach, an official, an athlete support personnel, an employee, a contractual worker, an administrator, or a volunteer acting on behalf of, or representing the Program Signatory in any capacity.
37. "Vulnerable Individuals" – Includes children / youth (Minors) and Vulnerable Adults (people who, because of age, disability, or other circumstance, are in a position of dependence on others or are otherwise at a greater risk than the general population of being harmed by a Person in Authority).
38. "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.
39. "Workplace" - Any place where Events, business or work-related activities are conducted. Workplaces include but are not limited to, the office or facilities of BCWA, 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.
40. "Workplace Harassment" – A course of vexatious comment or conduct against an Individual 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.
41. "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.

British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“BCWA”)

Code of Conduct

(In addition to current UCCMS - Appendix A)

Effective date	January 12, 2024 2024
Initial Approved Date	January 12, 2024
Date last reviewed	January 12, 2024
Revision #	01
Archived date	N/A
Replaces and/or amends	BCWA Code of Conduct
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	Appendix A - Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport v6.0

Revision #	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
01	January 12, 2024 2024	Original Document

Note: The Safe Sport Policy Suite Definitions apply to this policy, please refer to that document for term definitions. Our Safe Sport policies follow the legal practice of capitalized defined terms to assist the reader in identifying that the term has a specific meaning within the policy suite.

*BCWA (the “Organization”) has adopted the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (“UCCMS”), as amended from time to time, (provided as **Appendix A**). Any modifications or amendments made to the UCCMS by the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (“SDRCC”) shall come into effect immediately upon their adoption by the SDRCC and automatically without the need for any further action by BCWA.*

WCH is a Program Signatory of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (the “OSIC”), as November 1, 2023 (the “Effective Date”).

BCWA has designated specific Individuals within the organization as UCCMS Participants. A full list of designated individuals is available upon written request to BCWA.

*It is important to note that the Code applies to all Individuals, **but not all Individuals are UCCMS Participants** and subject to the OSIC Process.*

A. Purpose

1. The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure a safe and positive environment within the programs, activities, and Events of BCWA by making all Individuals aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behaviour consistent with BCWA's core values, mission, and policies.
2. BCWA and Individuals support equal opportunity, prohibit discriminatory practices, and are committed to providing an environment in which all individuals can safely participate in sport and are treated with respect and fairness.

B. Application – General

1. This Code of Conduct applies to the conduct of all Individuals during the business, activities, and Events of BCWA including, but not limited to competitions, practices, evaluations, treatment, or consultations (e.g., massage therapy), training camps, travel associated with organizational activities, the office environment, and any meetings.
2. This Code of Conduct also applies to the conduct of all Individuals outside of the business, activities, and Events of BCWA when such conduct adversely affects BCWA's relationships (and the work and sport environment) or is detrimental to the image and reputation of BCWA or an Individual. Such applicability will be determined by BCWA as applicable, at its sole discretion.
3. In addition, breaches of the Code of Conduct may occur when the Individuals involved interacted due to their mutual involvement in the sport or, if the breach occurred outside of the sport environment or, if the breach has a serious and detrimental impact on the Individual(s).
4. This Code of Conduct applies to Individuals active in the sport or who have retired from the sport where any claim regarding a potential breach of this Code of Conduct occurred when the Individual was active in the sport.
5. Competition Rules of Weightlifting
At competition hosted or organized by BCWA covered by the Technical and Competition Rules & Regulations 2023 as amended from time to time (herein referred to as the Rules):
 - a. Participants shall conduct themselves as prescribed by the Rules as well as any amendments thereto prescribed by the organizers of the specific event.
 - b. All protests and Appeals with respect to the misconduct of participants shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Rules, including any amendments thereto by the Organizing Authority (OA) for the event.The Rules do not preclude, or limit, a Complaint being filed with OSIC, regardless of whether the matter was addressed in any manner under the Rules.

C. Prohibited Behaviours

1. All Individuals must refrain from any behaviour that constitutes a Prohibited Behaviour as defined by the UCCMS and this Code of Conduct.
2. Individuals are responsible for knowing what actions or behaviours constitute Prohibited Behaviours and Maltreatment.
3. Prohibited Behaviours under the UCCMS include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Physical Maltreatment
 - b. Psychological Maltreatment
 - c. Neglect
 - d. Sexual Maltreatment
 - e. Grooming
 - f. Boundary Transgressions
 - g. Discrimination
 - h. Failing to Report
 - i. Aiding and Abetting

- j. Retaliation
- k. Interference with or Manipulation of Process
- l. False Reports

In addition to the Prohibited Behaviours as defined by the UCCMS, this Code of Conduct sets out other expected standards of behaviours and conduct for all Individuals and any failure to respect these expected standards of behaviour by an Individual may constitute a breach of this Code of Conduct. This may result in sanctions, suspensions, legal action, loss of Membership in Good Standing, or other ramifications deemed necessary

Responsibilities of Individuals

1. All Individuals have a responsibility to:
 - a. Commit to prioritizing safety in all activities;
 - b. Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes Maltreatment or Prohibited Behaviour under this Code of Conduct or the UCCMS;
 - c. Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of other Individuals by:
 - i. Treating each other with fairness, honesty, respect and integrity;
 - ii. Focusing comments or criticism appropriately and avoiding public criticism of Athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, volunteers, employees, or other Individuals;
 - iii. Consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership, and ethical conduct; and
 - iv. Ensuring adherence to the rules of the sport and the spirit of those rules;
 - d. Refrain from the use of power or authority to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate activities;
 - e. Refrain from the use of tobacco products (and vaping) while in the presence of other participants except in designated smoking areas while participating in the programs, activities, competitions, or Events of BCWA;
 - f. In the case of Minors, not consume alcohol, tobacco, or cannabis at any competition or Event;
 - a. Not being under the influence of cannabis, alcohol or any medication that could cause impairment, or otherwise being impaired, at any time while performing duties or actively competing. Take reasonable steps to manage the responsible consumption of alcohol or cannabis in adult-oriented social situations;
 - g. 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;
 - h. Respect the property of others and not wilfully cause damage;
 - i. Refrain from engaging in deliberate behaviour which is intended to manipulate the outcome of a para-classification, competition and/or not offer, receive, or refrain from offering or receiving any benefit which is intended to manipulate the outcome of a competition or para-classification. 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;
 - j. Adhere to all federal, provincial/territorial, municipal and host country laws;
 - k. Comply with the bylaws, policies, procedures, rules, and regulations of BCWA as adopted and amended from time to time. Recognizing that some policies, such as the *Social Media Policy*, provide specific requirements for responsibilities.

Directors, Committee Members, and Employees

1. In addition to section D (above), Directors, Committee Member, contractors, and employees of BCWA and its Member Organizations will have additional responsibilities to:
 - a. Function primarily as a Director, committee member or employee of BCWA and ensure to prioritize their duty of loyalty to BCWA (and not to any other sport organization or group) while acting in this role;
 - b. Act with honesty and integrity and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the nature and responsibilities of the business and the maintenance of an Individual's confidence;

- c. Ensure that financial affairs are conducted in a responsible and transparent manner with due regard for all fiduciary responsibilities;
- d. Comply with their obligations under the *Screening Policy*, including understanding ongoing expectations under the *Screening Policy* and fully cooperating in the screening process;
- e. Conduct themselves openly, professionally, lawfully and in good faith;
- f. Be independent and impartial and not be influenced by self-interest, outside pressure, expectation of reward, or fear of criticism in their decision-making on behalf of BCWA;
- g. Exercise the degree of care, diligence, and skill required in the performance of their duties pursuant to applicable laws;
- h. Maintain required confidentiality of organizational information;
- i. When acting as a Director or Committee Member, respect the decisions of the majority (of the Board or a Committee, as applicable) and resign if unable to do so;
- j. Commit the time to attend meetings and be diligent in preparation for, and participation in, discussions at such meetings;
- k. Have a thorough knowledge and understanding of all governance documents.

Athlete Support Personnel

- 2. In addition to section D (above), Athlete Support Personnel have additional responsibilities.
- 3. Athlete Support Personnel must understand and respect the inherent Power Imbalance that exists in this relationship and must not abuse it, either consciously or unconsciously.
- 4. Athlete Support Personnel will:
 - a. Avoid any behaviour that abuses the Power Imbalance inherent in the position of the Athlete Support Personnel;
 - 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;
 - d. Avoid compromising the present and future health of Athletes by communicating and cooperating with sport medicine professionals in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of Athletes' medical and psychological treatments;
 - e. Support the Athlete Support Personnel of a training camp, provincial/territorial 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 their obligations under the *Screening Policy*, including understanding ongoing expectations under the *Screening Policy* and fully cooperating in the screening process;
 - j. 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;
 - k. Respect competitor Athletes and, in dealings with them, not encroach upon topics or take actions which are deemed to be within the realm of 'coaching', unless after first communicating with the coaches who are responsible for the Athletes;
 - l. When a Power Imbalance exists, not engage in a sexual or intimate relationship with an Athlete of any age;

- m. Disclose to BCWA any sexual or intimate relationship with an Athlete over the age of majority and, if requested by BCWA, immediately discontinue any coaching involvement with that Athlete;
- n. Recognize the power inherent in the position of Athlete Support Personnel and respect and promote the rights of all Individuals 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 Individuals who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights;
- o. Dress professionally and use appropriate language.

G. Athletes

1. In addition to section D (above), Athletes will have additional responsibilities to:
 - a. Follow 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;
 - 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, professionalism, and equipment;
 - f. Act in accordance with applicable policies and procedures and, when applicable, additional rules as outlined by Athlete Support Personnel.

H. Officials

1. In addition to section D (above), officials will have additional responsibilities to:
 - a) Maintain and update their knowledge of the rules and rule changes;
 - b) Not publicly criticize other Individuals;
 - c) Adhere at all times to the rules of their international federation and any other sport organization that has relevant and applicable authority;
 - d) Place the safety and welfare of competitors, and the fairness of the competition, above all else;
 - e) Strive to provide a fair sporting environment, and at no time engage in Maltreatment or Prohibited Behaviour toward any person on the field of play;
 - f) Respect the terms of any agreement that they enter into with BCWA;
 - g) Work within the boundaries of their position's description while supporting the work of other officials;
 - h) Act as an ambassador of the sport by agreeing to enforce and abide by national and provincial/territorial rules and regulations;
 - i) Take ownership of actions and decisions made while officiating;
 - j) Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all Individuals;
 - k) Act openly, impartially, professionally, lawfully, and in good faith;
 - l) Be fair, equitable, considerate, independent, honest, and impartial in all dealings with others;
 - m) Respect the confidentiality required by issues of a sensitive nature, which may include discipline processes, appeals, and specific information or data about Individuals;

- n) Comply with their obligations under the *Screening Policy*, including understanding ongoing expectations under the *Screening Policy* and fully cooperating in the screening process;
- o) Honour all assignments unless unable to do so by virtue of illness or personal emergency, and in these cases inform a supervisor or BCWA at the earliest possible time;
- p) When writing reports, set out the actual facts to the best of their knowledge and recollection;
- q) Dress in proper attire for officiating.

I. Parents/Guardians and Spectators

1. In addition to section D (above), parents/guardians and spectators at Events will:
 - 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 an Individual for making a mistake during a competition or practice;
 - d. Respect the decisions and judgments of officials and encourage Athletes to do the same;
 - e. Support all efforts to stop and prevent verbal and physical abuse, coercion, intimidation, and excessive sarcasm;
 - f. Respect and show appreciation to all competitors, coaches, officials, and other volunteers;
 - g. Never harass Individuals, competitors, Athlete Support Personnel, officials, parents/guardians, or other spectators;
 - h. Never encourage, aid, cover up or assist an Athlete in cheating through doping, competition manipulation or other cheating behaviours.

J. Member Organizations and Clubs

1. Member Organizations/clubs and their members must:
 - a. When required, adhere to BCWA's by-laws and amend their own policies to comply or align with those of BCWA unless prohibited by provincial/local legislation;
 - b. Pay all required dues and fees and complete all required documents by the prescribed deadlines;
 - c. Ensure that all Athletes and coaches participating in sanctioned competitions, programs and Events of BCWA are registered and in good standing;
 - d. Appropriately screen prospective employees in compliance with the *Screening Policy* 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 BCWA immediately of any situation where a complainant has publicized a complaint in the media (including social media);
 - h. Provide BCWA with a copy of all decisions rendered pursuant to the Safe Sport Policy Package for complaints and appeals;
 - i. Implement any decision and disciplinary sanctions imposed pursuant to BCWA, PSOs or any Member Organization's discipline process.

Anti-Doping¹

¹ Any capitalized terms used in this Anti-Doping section shall, unless the context requires otherwise, have the meanings ascribed to them in the Definitions section of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program.

1. BCWA adopts and adheres to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. BCWA and its Member organizations 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.
2. All Athletes 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;
 - 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 ("CADP") or any other applicable anti-doping rules, to the extent the association is within the scope of the CADP or 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;
 - e. 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 BCWA or a Member's jurisdiction.

Retaliation, Retribution or Reprisal

1. It is a breach of this Code of Conduct for any Individuals 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 BCWA policy. It is also a breach of this Code of Conduct 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

1. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to relevant Provincial and/or National Sport Organization Privacy Policies.

Enforcement

1. Any alleged violations of this *Protection Policy* shall be addressed pursuant to BCWA's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

Appendix A

1. [Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport v6.0](#)

British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“BCWA”) Protection Policy

Effective date	January 12, 2024 2023
Initial Approved Date	January 12, 2024
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Revision #	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
01	January 12, 2024 2023	Original Document

Note: The Safe Sport Policy Suite Definitions apply to this policy, please refer to that document for term definitions. Our Safe Sport policies follow the legal practice of capitalized defined terms to assist the reader in identifying that the term has a specific meaning within the policy suite.

A. Purpose

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

B. Scope

1. This Policy applies to all Individuals.

C. Interactions between Persons in Authority and Athletes – the ‘Rule of Two’

2. BCWA strongly recommends that the ‘Rule of Two’ best practices are followed by Persons in Authority when interacting with Athletes, whether in person or remotely. 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.

1. BCWA 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. To ensure

adherence to the 'Rule of Two', to the best of their ability, the following guidelines are in place:

- a The training and competition environments should be open to observation so that all interactions between Persons in Authority and Individuals are observable.
- b Private or one-on-one situations should be avoided whenever possible unless they are open and observable by another adult or Athlete or the public.
- c Persons in Authority shall not invite, or have, a Vulnerable Individual(s) in their home or other private location without a previous relationship from outside the sport of weightlifting and the written permission and contemporaneous knowledge of the Vulnerable Individual's parents/guardians.
- d Vulnerable Individuals must not be in any situation where they are alone with a Person in Authority without another screened adult or Athlete present unless a previous relationship from outside the sport of weightlifting exists and there is written permission and contemporaneous knowledge of the Vulnerable Individual's parents/guardians.

D. Expectations in Different Situations and Interactions

3. Communication

The following communication guidelines are in place for Individuals in a Position of Authority who interact with Athletes:

- Group messages, group emails or team pages are to be used as the regular method of communication between Persons in Authority and Athletes.
- Persons in Authority may only send personal texts, direct messages on social media or emails to individual Athletes when necessary and only for the purpose of communicating information related to team issues and activities (e.g., non-personal information).
- The content of all electronic communication between Persons in Authority and Athletes must be professional in tone and for the purpose of communicating information related to team issues or activities.
- All communication between Persons in Authority and Athletes must be between the hours of 6:00am and 10:00pm unless extenuating circumstances exist.
- No communication concerning drugs or alcohol use (unless regarding its prohibition) is permitted.
- No sexually explicit language or imagery or sexually oriented conversation is permitted.
- A Person in Authority should not become overly involved in an Athlete's personal life. Persons in Authority and Athletes are not permitted to offer or ask one another to keep a secret for them.

●

Special Notes for Minor Athletes or Vulnerable Individuals

- Parents and guardians may request that the Minor or Vulnerable Athlete 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. All communication with Athletes in this category should include one other adult person on the message, preferably their parent/guardian or their designate.

●

4. Travel

The following travel guidelines are in place for Individuals in a Position of Authority who interact with Athletes:

- a Teams or groups of Athletes should have at least two Persons in Authority with them. Screened parents or other volunteers can be available in situations when two Persons in Authority cannot be present.

- b A Person in Authority may not share a room or be alone in a hotel room with the door closed with an Athlete unless the Person in Authority is the Athlete's parent or guardian.
- c For mixed gender teams or groups of Athletes, there will be appropriate mixed gender Persons in Authority as well.
- d Room or bed checks which may be done during overnight stays must be done by two Persons in Authority together.
- e

Special Notes for Minor Athletes or Vulnerable Individuals

- f A Person in Authority should not be alone in a car with a Minor Athlete or Vulnerable Individuals unless the Person in Authority is the Athlete's parent, guardian or a designate appointed by the Athlete's parent/guardian. A Person in Authority may not be alone in a car with an Athlete, who is not a Minor Athlete, without the prior consent of the Athlete.
- g For overnight travel when Minor Athletes share a hotel room, roommates will be age-appropriate (e.g., within 2 years of age) and of the same gender identity.
- h

5. Training and Events

The following guidelines are in place for Individuals in a Position of Authority who interact with Athletes for interactions associated with both training and competition or other Events:

- a. Persons in Authority giving instructions, demonstrating skills, or facilitating drills or lessons to an individual Athlete should always be doing so in an open and observable environment.
 - b. A Person in Authority should never be alone in a closed or unobservable environment with an Athlete prior to or following a competition or practice unless the Person in Authority is the Athlete's parent/guardian.
 - c.

Special Notes for Minor Athletes or Vulnerable Individuals

- d. If a Minor Athlete arrives before a second Person in Authority, their parent/guardian should remain until another person arrives. Similarly, if a Minor Athlete could 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/guardian of another Athlete) to stay until all the Minor Athletes have been picked up. If an adult is not available, then another Athlete should be present to avoid the Person in Authority being alone with a singular Minor Athlete.
- e.

6. Locker Rooms / Changing Areas / Meeting Rooms

The following guidelines are in place for Individuals in a Position of Authority who interact with Athletes for interactions in locker rooms, changing areas, and meeting rooms:

- a. Interactions between a Person in Authority and an individual Athlete should not occur in any room where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as the locker room, restroom, or changing area. A second Person in Authority should be present for any necessary interaction in any such room (Rule of Two).
 - 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 in cases of emergency.
 - c.

7. Virtual Settings

The following guidelines are in place for Individuals in a Position of Authority who interact with Athletes for interactions in virtual settings:

- a. Communications during virtual sessions shall take place in an open and observable environment. Sessions must be initiated in appropriate locations (e.g. not in personal or locations such as bedrooms).
 - b. Virtual sessions should be recorded whenever allowed by the technology being used.
- Special Notes for Minor Athletes or Vulnerable Individuals
- c. Parents/guardians of Minors shall be informed by BCWA of the activities that will take place during the virtual session, as well as the process of the virtual session.
 - d. 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.
 - e. For Athletes under the age of 16, where possible, a parent/guardian should be present during any virtual session.
 - f. Parents/guardians are encouraged to debrief with Minors on a weekly basis regarding virtual sessions.
 - g.

8. **Photography / Video Guidelines**

The following guidelines are in place for Individuals in a Position of Authority who are interacting with Athletes pursuant to that Position of Authority related to photography / video:

- a. Individuals (or parent/guardian in case of a Minor) should sign an image consent form (as part of the registration process) that describes how an Individual's image may be used by BCWA.
- b. Without consent, Individuals may not be photographed or filmed; and no images of Individuals may be posted publicly or privately. If consent is given, it may be revoked at any time.
- c. 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 Individuals.
- d. The use of recording devices of any kind in rooms where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy is strictly prohibited.
- e. Examples of photos that should be edited or deleted include:
 - i. Images with misplaced apparel or where undergarments are showing.
 - ii. Suggestive or provocative poses.
 - iii. Embarrassing images.
 - iv.

9. **Physical Contact**

BCWA recognizes 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.

BCWA requires the following touch guidelines:

- a. Unless it is not possible because of serious injury or other circumstance, a Person in Authority should always clarify with an Athlete where and why any touch will occur. The Person in Authority must make clear that he or she is requesting to touch the Athlete and not requiring the physical contact.
- b. Infrequent, non-intentional physical contact, particularly contact that arises out of an error or a misjudgment on the part of the Athlete during a training session, is permitted. Making amends, such as an apology or explanation, is encouraged to further help educate Athletes on the difference between appropriate and inappropriate contact.
- c. Hugging, cuddling, physical horseplay, and physical contact initiated by the Person in Authority is not permitted. Some Athletes may initiate hugging or other physical contact with a Person in Authority for various reasons (e.g., in celebration or defeat) but this physical contact should always be limited and take place in an open and observable environment.

10. Enforcement

1. Any alleged violations of this *Protection Policy* shall be addressed pursuant to BCWA's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

11. Privacy

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

British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“BCWA”) Screening Policy

Revision #	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
01	January 12, 2024 2023	Original Document

Note: The Safe Sport Policy Suite Definitions apply to this policy, please refer to that document for term definitions. Our Safe Sport policies follow the legal practice of capitalized defined terms to assist the reader in identifying that the term has a specific meaning within the policy suite.

A. Purpose

1. BCWA is responsible for providing a safe and secure environment for Athletes, Instructors, coaches, officials, and Athlete Support Personnel who are, and volunteers who may be, in a position of trust related to these Athletes or others in the community. BCWA understands 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 provincial sport community, and specifically within weightlifting.

B. Scope

1. This Policy applies to all Individuals whose position with BCWA is one of trust or authority which may relate to, at a minimum, finances, supervision, or any contact with Vulnerable Individuals.
2. Not all Individuals associated with BCWA will be required to obtain a Criminal Record Check or submit screening documents because not all positions pose a risk of harm to BCWA or participants. Individuals will be subject to the screening requirements described in the Screening Requirements Matrix found in the Appendix of this policy and shall comply with the screening application requirements as detailed therein.
3. In addition to Individuals directly under the BCWA umbrella as designated by Sport Canada and WCH, BCWA will provide the service of screening as it relates specifically to Criminal Record Checks (CRC) for Member Organizations by ensuring instructors, coaches, and officials over the age of 18 submit a Criminal Record Check every year as part of their annual registration. A new CRC will be required to be completed every 3 years. BCWA will pay for cost of screenings when requested by the PSO. Member Organizations are responsible for all other aspects of the Screening Requirement Matrix.

C. Policy

1. BCWA believes robust screening of all Individuals with a degree of risk in their role with weightlifting in Canada is a vital activity in the protection of all Individuals associated with the sport. Comprehensive screening involves a range of activities and documentation related to the risk level of the role the Individual is assuming within the sport and the organization.
2. As such BCWA has categorized positions in the organization according to the level of risk they pose and requires progressive, comprehensive screening measures for Individuals in each category of risk as found in the Screening Requirement Matrix and is committed to ensuring is an ongoing process with regular updates for each Individual’s screening documentation based on the risk associated

with their position.

3. Screening requirements will be met before any Individuals will be permitted to interact with Athletes or have access to Vulnerable Individuals in the designated role

D. Screening Designated Officer

1. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of an individual appointed by BCWA, who is free from a Conflict of Interest, that will function as the Screening Designated Officer for all screening applications received pursuant to this policy. This individual will possess the requisite skills, knowledge, and abilities to accurately assess screening documents and to render decisions under this policy.
2. The Screening Officer will carry out its duties in accordance with the terms of this policy.
3. The Screening Officer is responsible for reviewing all documents submitted with a screening application and based on the review, they are empowered to make decisions regarding the related appropriateness of Individuals filling positions within BCWA. In carrying out its duties, the Screening Officer may consult with independent experts including lawyers, police, risk management consultants, volunteer screening specialists, or any other person while respecting the confidentiality of the documents.

E. Screening Requirements

1. A Screening Requirements Matrix is provided as an Appendix. All Individuals must comply with the requirements detailed therein associated with the highest role they are interested in attaining when first engaged by BCWA and shall respect the renewal requirements indicated below. Upon this policy becoming effective all current Individuals will be reviewed and any gaps in BCWA's Screening records will be addressed within a one year period.
2. Regardless of previous involvement with BCWA, should an Individual take on a new role at any time that falls within a different category within the Screening Matrix they will be required to ensure BCWA is provided with the screening documents associated with that new role.
3. If an Individual subsequently receives a charge, conviction for, or is found guilty of an offense they will report this circumstance immediately to BCWA. As part of completion of a Screening Disclosure Form (when relevant and part of the assigned screening process), Individuals are required to inform BCWA of any changes in their circumstances that would alter their responses in their Screening Disclosure Form.
4. If BCWA 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*. For any Individual that is employed by BCWA providing false or inaccurate information is considered willful misconduct and disobedience that is not trivial which has not been condoned by BCWA and may result in termination without notice and without cause.

F. Procedure

1. Individuals must submit current versions of the screening documents based on the Requirements Matrix, according to the category in which they fall as designated by the BCWA Board of Directors or other BCWA's representative, to the Screening Officer. Note that, for the sake of this policy, current is defined as within one year of the date of submission. For those Individuals requiring Vulnerable Sector Checks, if needed, BCWA will provide a letter for the Individual to be able to access a Vulnerable Sector Check for the position sought as required. Any information submitted shall be subject to BCWA's *Privacy Policy*, will only be viewed on a need-to-know basis, and will be protected in accordance with the relevant and applicable privacy legislation.

2. All positions are conditional on both the completion of the indicated screening activities in the matrix as well as an acceptance of the results of those activities. 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 Officer that their application and/or position will not proceed until such time as the screening documents are submitted.
3. BCWA understands that there may be delays in receiving the results of a Criminal Record Check. 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 completed all other aspects of screening and have initiated the Criminal Record Check process. This permission may be withdrawn at any time and for any reason.
4. Candidates may have the right to submit different documentation through an approved designated Criminal Record Check provider; however, BCWA reserves the right in all cases to request a record check through official police services. Regardless of the provider utilized to obtain a Criminal Record Check the Individual will consent to BCWA being provided the status of the results.
5. BCWA recognizes that different information will be available depending on the type of screening document that the Individual has submitted. For example, some reports may show details of a specific offense, or not, and/or others may be returned with specific information or simply a notification indicating 'cleared' or 'not cleared'. The Screening Officer will use its expertise and discretion when making decisions based on the screening documents that have been submitted.
6. The Screening Officer will review all Criminal Record Check Reports for Level A and Level B candidates, including all supporting documents and shall make a decision as indicated below. For Level C screening applications, the Screening Officer will only review cases where the Individual has made a declaration in their disclosure form that may impact whether they can participate in the desired position.
7. Following the review of any Level A and Level B screening applications, the Screening Officer will decide one of the following outcomes:
 - a. The Individual has passed screening and may be considered for the desired position.
 - b. The Individual has passed screening and may be considered for the desired position with conditions.
 - c. The Individual has not passed screening and may not participate in the desired position.
 - d. More information is required from the Individual.
8. The Screening Officer must decide, based on the evidence at hand, that an Individual has not passed screening if the screening documentation reveals a conviction for any of the following:

CATEGORY 1 – If imposed in the last two years:

- a. Any offense for possession of drugs and/or narcotics;
- b. Any offense involving conduct against public morals;

If the role involves driving, any offense involving the use of a motor vehicle including, but not limited to, impaired driving, excessive speeding, leaving the scene of an accident, stunt driving.

CATEGORY 2 – If imposed in the last ten years:

- a. Any offense involving theft or fraud;
- b. Any of the above offenses for which a pardon has been granted; or
- c. Any offense involving a Minor or Minors, other than those falling under Category 3 below.

CATEGORY 3 – If imposed at any time:

- a. Any offense involving the possession, distribution, or sale of any child-related pornography.

- b. Any sexual offense,
 - c. Any offense involving trafficking of illegal drugs,
 - d. Any crime of violence including but not limited to, all forms of assault; or
 - e. Any sanctions deriving from a Maltreatment misconduct imposed by BCWA discipline panel or by the SDRCCC Director of sanctions or SDRCC Safeguarding Tribunal preventing the individual from participating in Canadian sport based on the timeline imposed by the sanction.
9. If a Criminal Record Check has been returned with any other results aside from those listed above, the Individual may request a determination as to whether their participation will be approved or not. For the purposes of making this decision, the Screening Officer may request further information, including but not limited to police reports; court records; probation orders; parole orders; and release documents. The Screening Officer will then determine if the results will place Athletes or other community members at risk and will advise the Individual in writing as to one of four outcomes as listed above.
10. In making their determination, the Screening Officer will consider the relationship of the offence(s) to the nature of the position, the number and nature of charges or convictions, when the offence(s) occurred, and what the Individual has done since the date of the offence.
11. The Individual under review may appeal the decision of the Screening Officer resulting from this policy as per BCWA's *Appeal Policy*. If an appeal is initiated the contents of the screening documentation may be disclosed to others as necessary for hearing the appeal. The Individual may elect to discontinue their appeal at any time.

G. Conditions and Monitoring

- 1. Excluding the incidents above which, if revealed, would cause the Individual to not pass screening, the Screening Officer 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 Officer may apply and remove conditions at its discretion and will determine how adherence to conditions may be monitored.
- 2. The Screening Officer is responsible to advise those roles that need to know of the conditions of the individual's participation.
- 3. For the registration of instructors, coaches, and Officials, as BCWA will be unable to monitor conditions, the options available in reviewing the documents submitted will be limited to Pass or not passed. Registration of these individuals will only be possible upon passing the Criminal Record check component of the screening process. Member Organizations are permitted to impose conditions on the involvement of Individuals in their operations based on other aspects of the screening documents.

H. Minors

- 1. When screening Minors, BCWA will:
 - a. Not require the Minor to obtain a Criminal Record Check; and
 - b. In lieu of obtaining a Criminal Record Check, require the Minor to submit up to two (2) additional references.
- 2. Notwithstanding the above, BCWA may ask a Minor to obtain a Criminal Record Check 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. BCWA understands that they may not request to see a Minor's youth record.

I. Frequency of Updates

1. Unless the Screening Officer determines, on a case-by-case basis, to modify the submission requirements, individuals who are required to submit a Criminal Record Check, Screening Disclosure Form, or Screening Renewal Form, are required to renew the documents as follows:
 - a. A Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check every three years;
 - b. A Screening Disclosure Form every three years;
 - c. A Screening Renewal Form annually whenever a Screening Disclosure Form is not being submitted;
 - d. A Vulnerable Sector Check when required.
 - e. NCCP Safe Sport Training Module completion .
 - f. WCH Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders Training Module completion when requested.
2. BCWA 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. In circumstances where an individual has completed a separate but comparable process, they may petition the board in writing for that to be recognized as fulfilling the request; this is subject to Board approval.

J. Record Keeping

1. 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.
2. Records will be securely stored for the duration of the Individual's service to BCWA and the three years that follow that service.
3. The records kept as part of the screening process include but are not limited to:
 - a. Documentation that the Individual's Criminal Record Check was seen;
 - b. Screening Disclosure and Renewal Forms;
 - c. Training Module Certificates of Completion;
 - d. Records of any conditions attached to an Individual's registration by the Screening Officer; and
 - e. Records of any discipline applied to any individual by BCWA, by a Member Organization, or by another sport organization

K. Privacy

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

Appendix A - Screening Requirements Matrix

	Role			
	Director/Coach	Technical Officials	Athlete	Other Individual ¹
Abide by Safe Sport Policy Suite	X	X	X	X
OSIC Policy compliance	X	X	X	X
Screening Disclosure Form (as applicable)	X			
Screening Renewal Form (as Applicable)	X			
Vulnerable Sector Check	When requested	When requested		
NCCP Safe Sport Training Module	X	When requested	When requested	When requested
WCH Respect in Sport for Activity Leaders Training Module	X			
Criminal Record Check	X			
Reference Check (Minors only)	When requested			

Note: If an Individual falls into one or more categories above, the role with greater screening requirements will apply.

¹Other individual is defined as anyone who is participating in programs and activities with BCWA who does not hold a role of a Director, coach, Athlete or official. This includes but is not limited to learning facilitators, instructors, support persons, employees, contractors, volunteers, Athlete’s parents/guardians, and those representing BCWA at any Event.

**British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“BCWA”)
Social Media Policy**

Effective date	January 12, 2024 2024
Initial Approved Date	January 12, 2024

Date last reviewed	January 12, 2024
Archived date	N/A
Revision	01
Replaces and/or amends	N/A
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	N/A

Revision #	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
01	January 12, 2024 2024	Original Document

Note: The Safe Sport Policy Suite Definitions apply to this policy, please refer to that document for term definitions. Our Safe Sport policies follow the legal practice of capitalized defined terms to assist the reader in identifying that the term has a specific meaning within the policy suite.

A. Purpose

1. Through rapid changes in technology and the growth of Social Media platforms and the internet, communication and information sharing has profoundly changed. Social Media and mobile device technology brings many opportunities but also an increased threat to privacy, the risk of sharing proprietary corporate information and opportunity for Code of Conduct incidents; both innocent and intended. BCWA recognizes the importance of Social Media platforms and online communities such as, but not limited to, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, TikTok and X (formerly Twitter), and their importance in information sharing and education.

B. Scope

1. This Policy applies to all Individuals.

C. Policy

1. BCWA is aware that Individual interaction and communication occurs frequently on Social Media. The principles and guidelines that apply to any/all organization activities in general, as found in the Code of Conduct, apply to all online activities. BCWA cautions Individuals that any conduct falling short of the standard of behaviour required by this *Social Media Policy* and the Code of Conduct may be subject to the disciplinary sanctions identified within the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

D. Conduct and Behaviour

1. 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, defamatory, insulting, or otherwise negative comment on a Social Medium;
 - b. Posting a picture, altered picture, or video on a Social Medium that is harmful, disrespectful, insulting, or otherwise offensive;

- c. Creating or contributing to a Social Medium vehicle, such as 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 BCWA, a PSO or a Member Organization, or 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 and coaches, Directors and Officers, committee members and staff, technical officials, and Athletes, etc.;
- e. Any instance of cyber-bullying or cyber-harassment, 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; and
- f. Any instance in which a Social Medium has been a vehicle in violating confidentiality obligations related to any complaints and/or investigations.

E. Individuals' Responsibilities

- 1. Individuals acknowledge that their Social Media activity may be viewable and viewed by anyone, including BCWA, a PSO or Member Organizations or Individuals.
- 2. When using Social Media, an Individual must model appropriate behaviour befitting the Individual's role and status in connection with BCWA.
- 3. 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*.
- 4. An Individual who believes that another Individual's Social Media activity is inappropriate or may violate the policies and procedures of BCWA should Report the matter in the manner outlined by the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
- 5. Confidentiality of member and participant information must be maintained. Consequences of breaches in confidentiality may be far reaching and, in most cases, not anticipated at the time of occurrence. Any of these situations could jeopardize an Individual's or organization's experience, effective job performance, and place the organization and staff member in contravention of legislation and legal risk.
- 6. Everyone should be cognizant of standards of member and participant privacy and confidentiality. Privacy and confidentiality must be maintained in all environments, including online, and must at all times refrain from posting identifiable member or participant information of any kind online.

F. BCWA Social Media

- 1. Organization representation, including specific programs or teams, via online Social Media platforms can only be initiated and authorized by the BCWA Board of Directors or BCWA's representative. Any accounts existing without prior authorization as required above will be subject to review and may be amended or removed.
- 2. The BCWA Board of Directors or BCWA's representative will identify specific employees/volunteers who will be given access to communicate via official BCWA's Social Media accounts.
- 3. Appropriate training sessions will take place with those granted access to communicate on behalf of the organization.
- 4. In the event of an emerging crisis or potentially harmful information (whether through Social Media or traditional media), all communication will originate only from BCWA's designated spokespeople.
- 5. If BCWA 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 BCWA to cease this engagement.

G. Enforcement

1. Any alleged violations of this *Social Media Policy* shall be addressed pursuant to BCWA's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

H. Privacy

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

British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“BCWA”) Whistleblower Policy

Effective date	January 12, 2024 2024
Initial Approved Date	December 22 2023
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Note: The Safe Sport Policy Suite Definitions apply to this policy, please refer to that document for term definitions. Our Safe Sport policies follow the legal practice of capitalized defined terms to assist the reader in identifying that the term has a specific meaning within the policy suite.

A. Purpose

1. The intention of this policy is to support a culture where every Individual feels empowered and supported in playing an active role in proactively working towards a safe sport culture in weightlifting in British Columbia. This policy supplements, and does not replace, any procedures required by law, regulation, or funding source requirements. BCWA is committed to ensuring our established and implemented policies and procedures enable Individuals to come forward with information on illegal practices or violations of organizational policies.

B. Scope

1. This policy applies to all Individuals and participants of BCWA concerning policies, codes of conduct, programs, services, or organization procedures of BCWA.

C. Policy

1. In keeping with BCWA’s goal of maintaining the highest standards of conduct and ethics, we will investigate complaints of suspected fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of our resources or property by staff, Board members, consultants, volunteers, or registered participants. To maintain the highest standards of service, BCWA will also investigate complaints concerning its programs and services. Additionally, BCWA will not Retaliate against an employee who, in good faith, raised a complaint against some practice of the organization, or of another individual or entity with whom

BCWA has or had a business relationship, based on a reasonable belief that the practice is in violation of law or a clear mandate of policy.

D. Protection

1. No director, officer, employee, volunteer, or member/participant who in good faith Reports suspected fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of its resources or property or complaints concerning BCWA's programs and services shall suffer Maltreatment, Harassment, Retaliation, or adverse employment or other consequences. An Individual who Retaliates against someone who has reported a violation in good faith is subject to the process in the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. For employees, discipline up to and including termination of employment is possible. This policy is intended to encourage and enable staff, Board members, consultants, volunteers, or registered participants to raise serious concerns within the organization prior to seeking resolution outside the organization. The Policy is in addition to any non-Retaliation requirements contained in our human resource policies and those required by law.
2. Staff, Board members, volunteers, and all our stakeholders are encouraged to Report suspected fraudulent or dishonest conduct or problems with services provided, following the procedures set forth in the BCWA Safe Sport Policies. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns that may fall under the mandate of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner.

E. Reporting

1. A person's concerns that fall outside BCWA's Safe Sport Policies, and the role of the Independent Third Party, about possible fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of resources or property, or program operation, should be reported to the President or BCWA's representative or, if it involves the President or BCWA's representative, another member of the Board of Directors. If, for any reason, a person finds it difficult to report his or her concerns to this individual, they may report the concerns directly to any member of the Board of Directors. Alternatively, to facilitate reporting of suspected violations where the reporter wishes to remain anonymous, a written statement may be submitted to one of the Directors on the Board.

F. Investigation

1. All relevant matters, including suspected but unproved matters, will be promptly reviewed and analyzed, with documentation of the receipt, retention, investigation, and treatment of the complaint. Appropriate corrective action will be taken, if necessary, and findings may be communicated to the reporting person and their supervisor, if appropriate. Investigations may be conducted by the President or BCWA's representative, the Board, or independent persons such as auditors and/or attorneys. Investigators will endeavor to maintain and protect confidentiality, to the best of their ability as the situation allows.
2. This protection from Retaliation is not intended to prohibit BCWA from taking action, including disciplinary action, in the usual scope of their duties and based on valid performance-related factors. Individuals making complaints must be made in good faith. Individuals or employees who intentionally make false allegations or frivolous and vexatious claims are subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the organization's policies.

G. Enforcement

1. Any alleged violations of this *Whistleblower Policy* shall be addressed pursuant to BCWA's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

H. Privacy

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

British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“BCWA”) Appeal Policy

Effective date	January 12, 2024 2024
Initial Approved Date	January 12, 2024
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Revision #	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
01	January 12, 2024 2024	Original Document

Note: The Safe Sport Policy Suite Definitions apply to this policy, please refer to that document for term definitions. Our Safe Sport policies follows the legal practice of capitalized defined terms to assist the reader in identifying that the term has a specific meaning within the policy suite.

A. Purpose

1. The purpose of this policy is to enable Individuals a fair, expeditious, and affordable Appeal process.

B. Scope

1. This policy applies to all Individuals.
2. Any Individual who is affected by a decision taken by the BCWA Board of Directors, of any Committee of the Board of Directors, or of any entity or Individual who has been delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of BCWA or its Board of Directors, including employees of BCWA, will have the right to Appeal that decision, provided there are sufficient grounds for the Appeal, as set out in this policy.
3. This *Appeal Policy* will apply to decisions relating to:
 - a. Eligibility;
 - b. Team Selection Decisions (see note below);
 - c. Conflict of Interest;
 - d. Membership;
 - e. Disciplinary decisions made pursuant to BCWA’s relevant and applicable policies. This does not include decisions made by the Office of Sports Integrity Commissioner or related entities as well as decisions made by other sport partners including, but not limited to, BCWA Member Organizations.

*****IMPORTANT***** The appeal process for all BCWA High Performance program/Provincial Team decisions and funding 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.

4. This *Appeal Policy* will NOT apply to decisions relating to:
- a. Decisions made by the Office of the Sports Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) or related entities;
 - b. Decisions made by BCWA's Clubs or Member organizations;
 - c. The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) policies and procedures established by Sport Canada (or provincial equivalent);
 - d. Infractions for doping offences, which are dealt with pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport;
 - e. The technical Rules of weightlifting, as set out in the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Technical and Competition Rules & Regulations 2023, as updated from time to time and as may be modified by BCWA for application in Canadian competitions, including associated protests and Appeals;
 - f. Matters relating to competitions in Canada governed by international organizations such as the Olympic Games, Pan American Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, Canada Games and similar Events organized by entities other than BCWA, which are dealt with under the policies of these other entities;
 - g. Policy and procedures established by any other agency external to BCWA, including selection criteria and quotas;
 - h. Contractual matters between BCWA and Individuals for which another dispute resolution process exists under the provisions of the applicable contract;
 - i. Operational matters such as employment matters or matters of operational structure, budget, budget implementation, staffing, or volunteer leadership opportunities;
 - j. Governance matters, including the existence and content of BCWA policies and procedures;
 - k. Bylaw-related disputes unless otherwise determined by the BCWA Board of Directors;
 - l. Decisions or discipline arising within competition;
 - m. Criminal offences for which the Appellant(s) or Respondent is/are seeking a criminal conviction;
 - n. Settlements negotiated pursuant to the *Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy*; or
 - o. Disputes that do not meet the Grounds set out in the Policy.

C. Grounds for Appeal

1. An Appeal may be heard only if there are sufficient grounds for the Appeal. Sufficient grounds include:
 - a. Made a decision for which it did not have authority or jurisdiction to make, as set out in Respondent's governing documents;
 - b. Failed to follow its own procedures as set out in the Respondent's governing documents;
 - c. Made a decision which was influenced by bias, where bias is defined as a lack of neutrality to such an extent that the decision-maker is unable to consider other views or that the decision was made on the basis of, or significantly influenced by, factors unrelated to the merits of the decision;
 - d. Made a decision that was grossly unreasonable or unfair.
2. The Appellant must demonstrate that the Respondent has made an error as described above and that the error had, or may reasonably have had, a material effect of the decision or the Respondent.

D. Timing of Appeal

1. Individuals who wish to Appeal a decision will have fourteen (14) calendar days from the date they received notice of the decision, to submit their Appeal document in writing to BCWA's President or representative, who will appoint an Appeal Manager.
2. Any Individual wishing to submit an Appeal document beyond the fourteen (14) day period must provide a written request stating reasons for an exemption to the fourteen (14) day period. An Individual may only do so under exceptional circumstances preventing them from filing their appeal within the time period above. The decisions to allow, or not allow, this exemption to the time period will be at the sole discretion of the Appeal Manager and may not be appealed.

E. Appeal Submission

1. The formal Appeal document that is required to be submitted to commence an Appeal will include:
 - a. Notice of the intention to Appeal;
 - b. The Appellant's 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 two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250), which will be refunded if the Appeal is granted, which may be waived or exempted at the discretion of the Appeal Manager (e.g., in cases of proven financial hardship).
2. The Appeal Manager has an overall responsibility to ensure procedural fairness is respected and to implement the policy in a timely manner. More specifically, the Appeal Manager has a responsibility to:
 - a. Receive the Appeal document;
 - b. Determine if the Appeal lies within the jurisdiction of this Policy;
 - c. Determine if the Appeal is brought in a timely manner;
 - d. Determine if the Appeal is brought on permissible grounds;
 - e. Appoint the Appeal panel to hear appeals;
 - f. Determine the format of the Appeal hearing;
 - g. Coordinate all administrative and procedure aspects of the Appeal;
 - h. Provide administrative assistance and logistical support to the Appeal Panel as required; and
 - i. Provide any other service or support that may be necessary to ensure a fair and timely Appeal proceeding.
3. Upon commencement of the Appeal, the Appeal Manager will discuss the circumstances with the Appellant(s) and, without any delay, will notify the Respondent(s) in writing and forward a copy of the Appeal Document to the Respondent(s).
4. Notwithstanding any other provision in this *Appeal Policy*, by agreement between the Parties, the internal appeal process in relation to decisions made by BCWA only may be bypassed, and the appeal may be heard directly before the SDRCC. Except where an appeal proceeds before the SDRCC, BCWA shall appoint an Appeal Manager and shall follow the process outlined in Section I and following of this *Appeal Policy*, modified and applied accordingly based on the circumstances.

F. Dispute Resolution

5. Before proceeding further, the Appeal Manager and/or Appeal Panel may suggest, and the Parties may consent, the Appeal to be heard under BCWA's *Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy*.

G. Screening of Appeal

1. Within seven (7) days of the Appeal Manager's receipt of all mandatory components of an Appeal, the Appeal Manager will determine whether there are appropriate grounds for the Appeal as set out in this policy.
 2. For purposes of screening the appeal, the facts as alleged by the Appellant(s) in the Appeal Document shall be presumed to be correct unless such facts are, to the knowledge of the Appeal Manager, clearly erroneous.
 3. If the Appeal is denied on the basis of insufficient grounds, or because it was not submitted in a timely manner, or because it did not fall under the scope of this Policy, the Appellant(s) and the Respondent(s) will be notified in writing without delay of this decision and its reasons. A denial of the Appeal by the Appeal Manager is not subject to appeal.
6. If the Appeal is accepted because it falls under the scope of this Policy, there are sufficient grounds, and it was submitted in a timely manner, the Appellant(s) and the Respondent(s) will be notified in writing without delay of this decision and its reasons. The Appeal Manager shall identify in writing which, if any, grounds they find for acceptance of the Appeal and provide summary reasons for that finding.

H. Appeal Panel

1. If the Appeal is accepted, the Appeal Manager will appoint an Appeal Panel. The Panel will be comprised of one Individual, unless the Appeal Manager determines a need to have an Appeal Panel comprised of 3 individuals, in which case one will be appointed chair. The Appeal Manager shall confirm the details, including the terms of engagement and applicable fees, of the Appeal Panel and receive BCWA's consent before retaining the Appeal Panel.
2. 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 dispute resolution. 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. In fulfilling its duties, the Appeal Panel may obtain independent advice.

I. Procedure for Appeal Hearing

1. 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.
2. If a Party chooses not to participate in the hearing, the hearing will proceed in any event.
 3. 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 Panel, with the assistance of the Appeal Manager, deem appropriate in the circumstances, provided that:
 - a. The hearing will be held in a timely manner;
 - 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, 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 allow as evidence at the hearing any oral evidence and document or thing relevant to the subject matter of the Appeal but may exclude such evidence that is unduly repetitious and shall place such weight on the evidence as it deems appropriate;
- g. If a decision in the Appeal may affect another party to the extent that the other party would have recourse to an Appeal in their own right under this Policy, that party will become a party to the Appeal in question and will be bound by its outcome;
- 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. 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.

J. Appeal Decision

1. Within fourteen (14) days of concluding the Appeal, the Panel will issue its written decision, with reasons. In making its decision, the Panel will have no greater authority than that of the original decision-maker. The Panel may decide:
 - a. To reject the Appeal and confirm the decision being appealed;
 - b. To grant the Appeal, in part or in whole, and refer the matter back to the initial decision-maker for a new decision;
 - c. To grant the Appeal, in part or in whole, and vary the decision where it is found that an error occurred, and such an error cannot be corrected by the original decision-maker for reason of lack of clear procedure, lack of time, or lack of neutrality;
 - d. To determine how costs of the Appeal, including the costs of retaining the Panel, but excluding legal fees and legal disbursements of any of the Parties, will be assessed against any party. When assessing such costs, the Panel shall consider the outcome of the proceedings, the conduct of the Parties and their respective financial resources.
2. The Appeal Panel's decision shall be free of commentary that might be considered *obiter dictum* or rumination that is not directly supported by the evidence at home or within the scope of the Appeal Panel's mandate. Decisions of the Appeal Panel must be grounded in the evidence presented by the parties to the Appeal – and conclusions and decisions must follow directly from that evidence.
3. A copy of this written decision will be provided to all of the Parties and to the Appeal Manager and to BCWA. In extraordinary circumstances, the Panel may issue a verbal decision or a summary written decision, with full written decision to be issued thereafter.

K. Timelines

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

L. Confidentiality

1. The Appeal process is confidential and involves only the Parties, the Appeal Manager, the 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. Any failure to respect the confidentiality requirement may result in disciplinary action being taken against the Individual(s) in accordance with BCWA's relevant and applicable policies.

2. M. **Final and Binding**

1. The decision of the Panel will be final and binding on the Parties and on all the Association's Individuals, subject to their right to appeal the decision before the SDRCC in accordance with the Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code.
2. No action or legal proceeding will be commenced against BCWA or any Individuals in respect of a dispute unless BCWA has refused or failed to provide or abide by the dispute resolution process and/or Appeal process as set out in governing documents.

N. **Privacy**

1. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to BCWA's *Privacy Policy*. BCWA, or any of its delegates pursuant to this Policy (i.e., Appeal Manager, Appeal Panel), shall comply with BCWA's *Privacy Policy* in the performance of their services under this Policy.

Appendix A –Provincial Team Appeals

A: Selection to Provincial Teams

1. Invitation and Selection for Provincial 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 Provincial Teams, Athletes and Coaches are advised to discuss their concerns with BCWA within forty-eight (48) hours. If discussions with the High-Performance Director or President 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 BCWA as soon as possible and no later than seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of official notification of the original decision. BCWA will assign an Appeal Panel comprised of non-conflicted board members to review the appeal.
 - b. When rendering its decision, the appeal panel may issue a short decision, with reasons to follow.

**British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“ BCWA”)
Discipline and Complaints Policy**

Effective date	January 12, 2024 2024
Initial Approved Date	January 12, 2024
Date last reviewed	January 12, 2024
Revision #	01
Archived date	N/A
Replaces and/or amends	N/A
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	Appendix A - Investigation Procedure

Revision #	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
01	January 12, 2024 2024	Original Document

Note: The Safe Sport Policy Suite Definitions apply to this policy, please refer to that document for term definitions. Our Safe Sport policies follows the legal practice of capitalized defined terms to assist the reader in identifying that the term has a specific meaning within the policy suite.

A. Purpose

1. Individuals are expected to fulfill certain responsibilities and obligations including, but not limited to, complying with all policies, bylaws, rules, and regulations of BCWA, including the Code of Conduct, as updated, and amended from time to time.
2. Non-compliance with any of BCWA’s policies, bylaws, rules, or regulations, including the Code of Conduct, or those of its Member Organizations, as applicable, may result in the imposition of sanctions pursuant to this Policy [or the by-laws of BCWA or, as applicable).

B. Application - General

1. This Policy applies to all Individuals and to any alleged breaches of BCWA’s policies, bylaws, rules or regulations, including the Code of Conduct, or any of those of its Member Organizations, that designate this Policy as applicable to address such alleged breaches.
2. In addition to being subject to disciplinary action pursuant to this Policy, an employee of BCWA, or any of those of its Member Organizations that designate this Policy as applicable, who is a Respondent to a complaint may also be subject to consequences in accordance with the employee’s employment agreement or the policies for human resources, if applicable.

C. Reporting

UCCMS Participants

1. Incidents that involve alleged Maltreatment or Prohibited Behaviour that occurred or continued as of January 12, 2024 involving a **UCCMS Participant** must be reported to the OSIC https://osicbcis.formstack.com/forms/osic_complaint_report and will be addressed pursuant to the OSIC's policies and procedures.
2. Incidents that involve alleged Maltreatment or Prohibited Behaviour that occurred before January 12, 2024 may be reported to the OSIC; however, the OSIC shall determine the admissibility of such complaints in accordance with the relevant and applicable OSIC Guidelines regarding the initial review and preliminary assessment, and the matter may only proceed pursuant to the OSIC's procedures with the express consent of the Parties involved where the Parties have not been designated by BCWA as a UCCMS Participant.
3. 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 OSIC and notify the individual(s) that made the Complaint of such action.

Individuals

4. Any complaints involving alleged breaches of BCWA's policies that do not fall within Section C1 or C2 above may be reported by an Individual to the Independent Third Party (available on the BCWA website) in writing within fourteen (14) days of the occurrence of the incident.² For the avoidance of doubt, this includes complaints referred back to the Independent Third Party by the OSIC following a determination made by the OSIC that a complaint initially reported to it does not fall within its jurisdiction.
5. Notwithstanding any provision in this Policy, BCWA may, at its discretion, or upon request by the Independent Third Party, act as the Complainant and initiate the complaint process under the terms of this Policy. In such cases, BCWA will identify an individual to represent the organization.
6. A Complainant who fears retribution or reprisal or who otherwise considers that their identity must remain confidential may file a complaint with 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 BCWA take carriage of the complaint and act as the Complainant.³
7. In exceptional circumstances, the Independent Third Party may direct a complaint to be managed by BCWA if a Member Organization 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 to address the complaint. In such circumstances, BCWA shall have the right to request that a cost-sharing agreement be entered into with the Member Organization as a pre-condition to BCWA managing the complaint.
8. Where the Independent Third Party refers a matter to be managed by a Member Organization, or where a Member Organization is otherwise responsible for managing a matter (i.e., because they received the matter directly), and the Member Organization fails to conduct disciplinary proceedings within a reasonable timeline, BCWA may, at its discretion, take jurisdiction of the matter and conduct the necessary proceedings. In such circumstances, if the Internal Discipline Chair or External Discipline Panel decides that BCWA acted reasonably in taking jurisdiction over the matter,

² 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. Any such decision by the Independent Third Party is not subject to appeal.

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

BCWA's costs to conduct the proceedings, including legal fees, shall be reimbursed by the Member Organization to BCWA as appropriate.

Minors

9. Complaints may be brought by or against an Individual who is a Minor. Minors must have a parent/guardian or other adult serve as their representative during this process. 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.
10. Communication from the Independent Third Party, Internal Discipline Chair or External Discipline Panel (as applicable) must be directed to the Minor's representative, or Parent/Guardian until such a time as a representative is identified.
11. Any Individual who Reports or brings a complaint involving known or suspected abuse, neglect, or Maltreatment of a Minor on behalf of the Minor must Report this to local child welfare services, the applicable provincial social service ministries or departments, or local police.
12. A Minor is not required to attend or participate in an oral hearing, if held, or participate in an investigation if conducted. In such circumstances, no adverse inference can be drawn against the Minor.

D. Independent Third-Party Responsibilities

1. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Independent Third Party has a responsibility to:
 - a. Determine whether the complaint falls within the jurisdiction of this Policy and whether it has been submitted in accordance with the deadlines indicated herein;
 - b. Determine the appropriate jurisdiction to manage the complaint by considering the following:
 - i. whether the incident occurred within the business, activities, or Events of BCWA, or one of its Member Organizations; and
 - ii. if the Member Organization is able to manage the complaint process⁴.
 - c. Determine whether the complaint is frivolous, vexatious or if it has been made in bad faith⁵;
 - d. Determine if the alleged incident should be investigated pursuant to **Appendix A – Investigation Procedure**; and
 - e. Choose which process (Process #1 or Process #2, as outlined below) should be followed to hear and adjudicate the matter.

⁴ In making this assessment, the Independent Third Party may determine that the Member Organization lacks the capacity to manage the complaint (which may include financial and human resource capacity), that the Member Organization is not the appropriate instance to manage the complaint due to its seriousness (for example, clubs may not be expected to manage serious complaints due to the complexity of conducting such a process), or that a real or perceived conflict of interest exists within the Member Organization.

If the Independent Third Party determines that the Complaint or Report should be handled by a Member Organization, that organization may adopt this Policy and appoint its own Independent Third Party to fulfil the responsibilities listed herein. Where this Policy is adopted by a Member organization or affiliated organization, any reference to Independent Third Party below shall be understood as a reference to the Independent Third Party of the Member Organization or affiliated organization.

⁵ 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.

E. Complaint Categories

1. There are two different complaint categories which determines the processes that may be used to hear and adjudicate complaints as outlined in Section G. Subject to Sections C1-C3, the Independent Third Party decides which complaint category and associated process should be followed, at their discretion, and such decision is not appealable.

Process #1 - the complaint contains allegations involving the following behaviours:

- a. Disrespectful conduct or comments;
- b. Minor acts of physical violence, unless the physical violence is between a Person in Authority and a Vulnerable Individual, in which case the matter will be addressed under Process #2;
- c. Conduct contrary to the values of BCWA or those of one of its Member Organizations
- d. Non-compliance with the policies, procedures, rules, or regulations of BCWA or those of one of its Member Organizations;
- e. Minor violations of the policies or bylaws of BCWA or those of one of its Member Organizations.

*** The behaviours identified above are examples only and are not a definitive list of behaviours that may be addressed through Process #1.

Process #2 - the complaint contains allegations involving the following behaviours:

- a. Repeated incidents described in Process #1;
- b. Hazing;
- c. Abusive, racist, or sexist comments, conduct or behaviour;
- d. Incidents that constitute Prohibited Behaviour under the Code of Conduct & Ethics (the Code) or the UCCMS;
- e. Major incidents of violence (e.g., fighting, attacking);
- f. Pranks, jokes, or other activities that endanger the safety of others;
- g. Conduct that intentionally interferes with a competition or with any athlete's preparation for a competition;
- h. Conduct that intentionally damages the image, credibility, or reputation of BCWA or that of one of its Member Organizations;
- i. Consistent disregard for the by-laws, policies, rules, and regulations of BCWA or those of one of its Member Organizations;
- j. Major or repeated violations of the Code or any other policies, by-laws, rules or regulations that designate this *Discipline and Complaints Policy* as applicable to address such alleged breaches;
- k. Intentionally damaging the property of BCWA, one of its Member Organizations, or improperly handling any of the aforementioned organizations' monies;
- l. Abusive use of alcohol, any use or possession of alcohol by Minors, or use or possession of illicit drugs and narcotics;
- m. A conviction for any *Criminal Code* offense.

***The behaviours identified above are examples only and are not a definitive list of behaviours that may be addressed through Process #2.

F. Provisional Suspensions

1. 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 Independent Third Party, or BCWA board member, after which further discipline or sanctions may be applied according to this Policy.

2. 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 the competition, training, activity, or Event only, or as otherwise determined appropriate by the Independent Third Party, Team Leader, or BCWA board member.
3. Notwithstanding the above, BCWA and/or Independent Third Party may determine that an alleged incident is of such seriousness as to warrant the imposition of a Provisional Suspension of a Respondent pending completion of an investigation, assessment and/investigation by the OSIC, criminal process, the hearing, or a decision of the External Discipline Panel.
4. Any Respondent against whom a Provisional Suspension or interim measure is imposed may make a request to the Independent Third Party or External Discipline Panel (if appointed) to have the Provisional Suspension or interim measure lifted. In such circumstances, BCWA 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.
5. Any decision not to lift a Provisional Suspension or interim measure shall not be subject to appeal.

Procedural Steps

PROCESS #1: Handled by Internal Discipline Chair

Internal Discipline Chair

6. Following the determination that the complaint or incident should be handled under Process #1, the Independent Third Party will ensure an Internal Discipline Chair⁶ is appointed who may:
 - a) Propose alternative dispute resolution techniques, if appropriate; and/or
 - b) Ask the Complainant and the Respondent for either written or oral submissions regarding the complaint or incident. Both Parties shall also have the right to submit to the Internal Discipline Chair 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). Each party shall have the right to receive the other party's submissions and evidence, including the Complainant's complaint. In the case of oral submissions, each party shall be present when such submissions are made; and/or
 - c) Following receipt of the Parties' submissions, the Internal Discipline Chair 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 to allow the Parties to ask questions of one another.
7. Following their review of the submissions and evidence related to the Complaint, the Internal Discipline Chair shall determine if any of the alleged incidents have occurred and, if so, determine the appropriate sanction (see: **Sanctions**). If, after hearing the Parties and reviewing their submissions, the Internal Discipline Chair considers that none of the alleged incidents have occurred, they shall dismiss the Complaint.
8. The Internal Discipline Chair will inform the Parties of the decision, which shall be in writing and include reasons. The Internal Discipline Chair's decision will take effect immediately, unless specified otherwise by the Internal Discipline Chair. Should the circumstances require a decision to be rendered immediately or within a short timeline, the Internal Discipline Chair may render a short, written decision, either orally or in writing, followed by a written reasoned decision.

⁶ The appointed Internal Discipline Chair must be unbiased and not in a conflict-of-interest situation.

9. Any decision rendered by the Internal Discipline Chair shall be provided to and maintained in the records of BCWA and if applicable the relevant Member Organization, and BCWA as applicable. 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.
10. In fulfilling its duties, the Internal Discipline Chair may obtain independent advice.

PROCESS #2: Handled by Independent Third Party and External Discipline Panel

Independent Third Party

11. Following the determination that the complaint should be handled under Process #2, the Independent Third Party will propose the use of alternative dispute resolution methods, if appropriate. If the dispute is not resolved using alternative dispute resolution methods, the Independent Third Party will appoint an External Discipline Panel of one (1) person to hear the complaint. Thereafter, the Independent Third Party shall have the following responsibilities:
 - a) Coordinate all administrative aspects of the process and set reasonable timelines
 - b) Provide administrative assistance and logistical support to the External Discipline Panel as required, including providing the External Discipline Panel with any information related to previously imposed disciplinary sanctions against the Respondent(s) of the policies of BCWA, any Member Organization or any other sport organization that had authority over the Respondent
 - c) Provide any other service or support that may be necessary to ensure a fair and timely proceeding
12. The Independent Third Party will establish and adhere to timelines that ensure procedural fairness and that the matter is heard in a timely fashion.
13. If warranted based on the nature of the case, the Independent Third Party may, in their sole discretion, appoint an External Discipline Panel of three (3) people. When a three-person External Discipline Panel is appointed, the Independent Third Party will appoint one of the External Discipline Panel's members to serve as the Chair.
14. The Independent Third Party, in cooperation with the External Discipline Panel, will then decide the format under which the complaint will be heard. This decision may not be appealed. 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.
15. The hearing will be governed by the procedures that the Independent Third Party and the External Discipline Panel deem appropriate for the circumstances. The following procedural directions will apply:
 - a) The determination of procedures and timelines, as well as a hearing duration, shall be as expedient and cost-efficient as possible in order to ensure that costs to the Parties and BCWA are reasonable
 - b) The Parties will be given appropriate notice of the day, time, and place of the hearing
 - c) Copies of any written documents which any of the Parties wishes to have the External Discipline Panel consider will be provided to all Parties, through the Independent Third Party, in advance of the hearing and in accordance with the timelines set by the Independent Third Party.
 - d) The Parties may engage a representative, advisor, translator, transcription services or legal counsel at their own expense
 - e) The External Discipline Panel may request that any other individual participate and give evidence at the hearing
 - f) If not a Party, BCWA 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 External Discipline Panel,

BCWA may make submissions at the hearing or may provide the discipline panel with clarifying information that may be required for the External Discipline Panel to render its decision⁷

- g) The External Discipline Panel shall allow any evidence at the hearing filed by the parties and may exclude any evidence is unduly repetitious or otherwise an abuse of process. The External Discipline Panel shall otherwise apply relevant and applicable evidentiary rules in relation to the admissibility and weight given to evidence filed by the parties
 - h) 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.
 - i) The decision will be by a majority vote of the External Discipline Panel, when the Panel consists of three people
16. If the Respondent acknowledges the facts of the incident, the Respondent may waive the hearing, in which case the External Discipline Panel will determine the appropriate sanction. The External Discipline Panel may still hold a hearing for the purpose of determining an appropriate sanction.
17. The process will proceed if a Party chooses not to participate in the hearing.
18. 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 External Discipline Panel, and will be bound by the decision.
19. In fulfilling its duties, the External Discipline Panel may obtain independent advice.

DECISION

20. After hearing the matter, the External Discipline Panel will determine whether an infraction has occurred and, if so, the sanctions to be imposed. If the External Discipline Panel considers that an infraction has not occurred, the Reported complaint will be dismissed.
21. Within fourteen (14) days of the hearing's conclusion, the External Discipline Panel's written decision, with reasons, will be distributed to all parties by the Independent Third Party, including BCWA and, if applicable, any relevant Member Organization(s).
22. In extraordinary circumstances, the External 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.
23. The External Discipline Panel's decision will come into effect as of the date that it is rendered, unless decided otherwise by the External Discipline Panel. The External Discipline Panel's decision will apply automatically to BCWA and all of its Member Organizations.
24. Unless the matter involves a Vulnerable Individual, once the appeal deadline in the *Appeal Policy* has expired, BCWA shall publish on their website the outcome of the case, 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. If the matter is appealed, the publication provisions in the *Appeal Policy* shall apply. Identifying information regarding Minors or Vulnerable Individuals will never be published.
25. If the External Discipline Panel dismisses the Reported complaint, the information referred to in Section

⁷ The purpose of this provision is not to provide BCWA or a Member Organization 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 BCWA 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.

41 above may only be published with the Respondent's consent. If the Respondent does not provide such consent, the information referred to in Section 41 above will be kept confidential by the Parties, the independent Third Party, BCWA and, if applicable, the Member Organization (including the Respondent's organization) 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*.

26. Other relevant individuals or organizations, including but not limited to, BCWA, affiliate organizations, etc., may be advised of any decisions rendered in accordance with this Policy.
27. Records of all decisions will be maintained by BCWA in accordance with their Privacy Policy.
28. When the External 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) The specific provision(s) of BCWA's policies, bylaws, rules or regulations that have been breached;
 - d) Which Party 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 External 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 External Discipline Panel regarding the order so that it can be implemented or monitored appropriately.

SANCTIONS

29. When determining the appropriate sanction, the Internal Discipline Chair or External Discipline Panel, as applicable, 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 of BCWA;
 - f) Real or perceived impact of the incident on the Complainant, weightlifting organization or the sport of weightlifting;
 - 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 weightlifting and broader 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 based on evidence presented.

30. 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.
31. The Internal Discipline Chair or External Discipline Panel, as applicable, may apply the following disciplinary sanctions, singularly or in combination:
- a) **Verbal or Written Warning** - A verbal reprimand or an official, written notice and formal admonition 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 BCWA or a Member Organization. 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 BCWA, PSO or a Member Organization.
 - 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
32. The Internal Discipline Chair or External Discipline Panel, as applicable, 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 allegations of a crime against a person, if justified by the seriousness of the offence, the presumptive sanction shall be a period of Provisional Suspension until a final determination is made by the applicable process.
33. An Individual's conviction for certain *Criminal Code* offenses involving harmful conduct shall carry a presumptive sanction of permanent ineligibility from participating with BCWA or its Member Organizations. 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
34. Unless the External Discipline Panel decides otherwise, any disciplinary sanctions will begin immediately, notwithstanding an appeal.
35. Failure to comply with a sanction as determined by the External Discipline Panel will result in an automatic suspension until such time as compliance occurs.

OSIC SANCTION

36. As a Program Signatory to the OSIC, WCH, in partnership with BCWA, will ensure that any sanctions or measures imposed by the OSIC's Director of Sanctions and Outcomes ("DSO") will be implemented and respected within BCWA's jurisdiction (including at all Members and Member Organizations), once BCWA receives appropriate notice of any sanction or measure from the OSIC. BCWA is committed to supporting enforcing these sanctions.

APPEALS

37. The decision of an Internal Discipline Chair or External Discipline Panel, as applicable, may be appealed in accordance with the *Appeal Policy*.

CONFIDENTIALITY

38. The disciplinary process is confidential and involves only BCWA and, if applicable, WCH, the Member Organization (where applicable), the Parties, the Independent Third Party, the Internal Discipline Chair, the External Discipline Panel (as appropriate), and any independent advisors to the Internal Discipline Panel and External Discipline Panel.

39. None of the Parties (or their representatives or witnesses) or organizations referred to in Section 55 will disclose confidential information relating to the discipline or Complaint to any person not involved in the proceedings, unless BCWA or a Member Organization (if applicable) is required to notify an organization such as an international federation, Sport Canada or other sport organization including Member Organizations (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.

40. Any failure to respect the confidentiality requirement may result in further sanctions or discipline by the Internal Discipline Chair or External Discipline Panel (as applicable).

TIMELINES

41. If the circumstances of the complaint are such that adhering to the timelines outlined by this Policy will not allow a timely resolution to the complaint, the Independent Third Party may direct that these timelines be revised.

Statistical Reporting Optional

42. BCWA and Member Organizations shall, at least annually, publish a general statistical report of the activity that has been conducted pursuant to this *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. This report shall not include any information that is confidential under this Policy, or that has been ordered to be kept confidential by a discipline or appeal panel, but may include the number of complaints Reported to the Independent Third Party (for BCWA and Member Organizations), and statistics regarding the number of cases that were resolved through alternate dispute resolution, the Internal Discipline Chair process, the External Discipline Panel process, and the number of appeals filed pursuant to the *Appeal Policy* and whether the appeals were upheld, partially upheld or dismissed.

Privacy

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

44. BCWA, its Member Organizations, or any of their delegates pursuant to this Policy (e.g., Independent Third Party, Internal Discipline Chair, Case Manager, External Discipline Panel), shall comply with

BCWA's Privacy Policy (or, the Member Organization's Privacy Policy) in the performance of their services under this Policy.

Appendix A – Investigation Procedure

Determination

1. When a complaint is submitted pursuant to the *Policy* and is accepted by the Independent Third Party, the Independent Third Party will determine if the incident(s) should be investigated.

Investigation

2. If the Independent Third Party considers that an investigation is necessary, they will appoint an investigator. The investigator must be an independent third-party with experience in investigating. The investigator must not be in a conflict-of-interest situation and should have no connection to either party. The Independent Third Party shall confirm the details, including fees, of the investigator with BCWA and receive BCWA's consent before retaining the investigator.
3. Federal and/or Provincial/Territorial legislation related to Workplace Harassment may apply to the investigation if Harassment was directed toward an employee 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 complaint.
4. The investigation may take any form as decided by the investigator, guided by any applicable Federal and/or Provincial/Territorial legislation. The investigation may include:
 - a. Interviews with the Complainant;
 - b. Witness interviews;
 - c. Statement of facts (Complainant's perspective) prepared by investigator, acknowledged by the Complainant and provided to the Respondent;
 - d. Interviews with the Respondent; and
 - e. Statement of facts (Respondent's perspective) prepared by investigator, acknowledged by the Respondent and provided to the Complainant.

Investigator's Report

1. Upon completion of their investigation, the investigator shall prepare a written report that shall include a summary of evidence from the Parties and any witnesses interviewed. The report shall also include a non-binding recommendation from the investigator regarding whether an allegation or, where there are several allegations, which allegations, should be heard by an External Discipline Panel pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* because they constitute a likely breach of the Code of Conduct, the UCCMS or any other relevant and applicable NSO or Member Organization policy. The investigator may also make non-binding recommendations regarding the appropriate next steps (i.e., mediation, disciplinary procedures, further review, or investigation).
2. The investigator's Report will be provided to the Independent Third Party who will disclose the complete Report to BCWA and the relevant Member Organizations (if applicable). The Independent Third Party may also disclose the investigator's Report – or a redacted version to protect the identity of witnesses – to the Parties, at their discretion, with any necessary redactions. Alternatively, and only, if necessary, other relevant Parties may be provided with an executive summary of the investigator's findings by the Independent Third Party.
3. Should the investigator find that there are possible instances of *Criminal Code* offences, the investigator shall advise the Parties, BCWA and, where applicable, BCWA and/or the Member Organization, and the matter shall be referred by the Independent Third Party to the police.
4. The investigator must also inform BCWA and/or the Member Organization (as applicable) of any findings of criminal activity. BCWA may decide whether to report such findings to police but is required to inform 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, fraud against BCWA or any Member Organization(s) (as

applicable), or other offences where the lack of reporting would bring BCWA or the Member Organization or the sport of weightlifting (as applicable) into disrepute.

Reprisal and Retaliation

1. An Individual who submits 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 or organization provided that the complaint and/or evidence was provided in good faith. Any such conduct may constitute Prohibited Behaviour and be subject to disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* or, as applicable, the policies and procedures of the OSIC.

False Allegations

1. An Individual who submits allegations that the investigator determines to be malicious, false, or for the purpose of retribution, retaliation or vengeance may be subject to a complaint under the terms of the Discipline and Complaints Policy and may be required to pay for the costs of any investigation that comes to this conclusion. The investigator may recommend to BCWA or the Member Organization (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 BCWA or Member Organization Events, activities, or business. BCWA or any Member Organization(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.

Confidentiality

1. The investigator will, to the extent possible, preserve the anonymity of the Complainant, Respondent, and any other party. However, BCWA and its Member Organizations recognize that maintaining full anonymity during an investigation may not be feasible.

**British Columbia Weightlifting Association (“BCWA”)
Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy**

Effective date	January 12, 2024
Initial Approved Date	January 12, 2024
Date last reviewed	January 12, 2024
Revision #	01
Archived date	N/A
Replaces and/or amends	N/A
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	N/A

<i>Revision #</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>	<i>Summary of Changes</i>
01	January 12, 2024 2024	Original Document

Note: The Safe Sport Policy Suite Definitions apply to this policy, please refer to that document for term definitions. Our Safe Sport policies follows the legal practice of capitalized defined terms to assist the reader in identifying that the term has a specific meaning within the policy suite.

A. Purpose

1. BCWA supports 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, we 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. BCWA encourages all Individuals to communicate openly, collaborate, and use problem-solving and negotiation techniques to resolve their differences. BCWA believes that negotiated settlements are usually preferable to arbitrated outcomes. Negotiated resolutions to disputes with and among Individuals are strongly encouraged.

B. Application of this Policy

1. This Policy applies to all Individuals.
2. Opportunities for Alternate Dispute Resolution 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. If the dispute involves a potential Workplace Harassment or Workplace Violence situation, then the investigation must be completed pursuant to a *Workplace Violence and Workplace Harassment Policy*, Provincial standard policies, or any other applicable policies before consideration is given to ADR.

C. Facilitation and Mediation

1. If all Parties to a dispute agree to Alternate Dispute Resolution, a mediator or facilitator, acceptable to all Parties, shall be appointed to mediate or facilitate the dispute. The costs of mediation and facilitation shall be equally borne by the Parties, unless agreed to otherwise with BCWA or relevant Member Organization.
2. The mediator or facilitator shall decide the format under which the dispute shall be mediated or facilitated and if they consider it appropriate, specify a timeline within which both Parties must reach a negotiated decision.
3. Should a negotiated decision be reached, the settlement shall be reported to BCWA and/or the relevant Member Organization (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.
4. Should a negotiated decision not be reached by the deadline specified by the mediator or facilitator or if the Parties to the dispute do not agree to Alternate Dispute Resolution, the dispute shall be considered under the appropriate section of BCWA's *Discipline and Complaints Policy* or *Appeal Policy*.

D. Final and Binding

1. Any negotiated decision will be binding on the Parties and shall remain confidential and will be protected by BCWA's *Privacy Policy*, as applicable. Negotiated decisions may not be appealed.
2. No action or legal proceeding will be commenced against BCWA or any Member Organization in respect of a dispute, unless BCWA or its Member Organization has refused or failed to provide or abide by the dispute resolution process contained in its governing documents.

E. Privacy

1. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to BCWA's *Privacy Policy*.
2. BCWA or any of its delegates pursuant to this Policy shall comply with BCWA's *Privacy Policy* in the performance of their services under this Policy.