

# Safe Sport at SCRC

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# What has been happening?

“In the last year alone, Canada has faced several cases of athlete maltreatment across various sports.”<sup>1</sup>

“Maltreatment is an umbrella term that refers to all types of

- physical and/or emotional ill-treatment
- sexual abuse
- negligence
- exploitation

which results in actual or potential harm to the health, development and dignity of a person....”<sup>2</sup>

1. G.Kerr & A.Stirling, *Prevalence of Maltreatment Among Current and Former National Team Athletes*, U of T, 2019
2. World Health Organization, 2010

# A national problem

- In 2019 a CBC investigation looked back as far as 1998 to find:
  - 340 coaches charged with sexual offences against minors
  - 222 convictions and 34 ongoing cases
  - 600 victims were under the age of 18 years
  - 36 different sports were involved
- Investigation prompted a nation-wide initiative to combat abuse and maltreatment across amateur sport in Canada

# Result of Investigations?

- Nation-wide policies, procedures, awareness, and education to make the sport of rowing safer for everyone
- Joint effort of Federal Ministry for Sports, Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA), Row Ontario (RO) and the St. Catharines Rowing Club (SCRC)

## Safe Sport Policy



# Safe Sport Policy Package

## Prevention

- Athlete Protection Policy
- Code of Conduct and Ethics
- Social Media Policy
- Screening Policy

## Response

- Harassment, Discipline & Complaints Policy (involves Independent Third Party)
- Appeal Policy

# Key Roles

- SCRC Safe Sport Lead
  - Chris Blackwood, Masters Rower
  - proponent for adoption of policies, awareness, implementation
- Independent Third Party
  - ITPSport [www.itpsport.ca](http://www.itpsport.ca) 1-833-913-1304
  - RCA-appointed company to receive complaints, determine validity, and at what level (RCA, RO, Club) complaints will be managed
- Complaint Resolution Officer (CRO)
  - Rick Crooker, SCRC Club President
  - appointed to confidentially manage complaint(s)
- Screening Committee
  - Mike Thompson (Chair), Kathy Powell, Andrew Carr
  - individual(s) appointed to proper screening for persons in authority

# Athlete Protection Policy

How persons in authority shall maintain a safe sport environment for all participants involved in rowing.

- Interactions between persons in authority and athletes – “Rule of Two” as described in the Coaching Association of Canada *Safe Sport Training*
- Practices and events, communications
- Locker rooms, changing areas, meeting rooms, weigh-in areas
- Physical contact
- Travel and overnight accommodation
- Photography and video
- Image Consent Form

**Safety in Numbers**  
**Rule of Two**

The goal of the Rule of Two is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable, and justifiable. When following the Rule of Two, two responsible adults (a coach, parent, or screened volunteer) are present with a participant. There may be exceptions in emergency situations. Check with your sport organization as to how the Rule of Two is enforced.

The Rule of Two is a leading practice to ensure a safe sport environment for all.

**INTERACTIONS**

Icon	Guideline
Two adults and one participant	Two trained and screened coaches One participant
One adult and one participant	One trained coach One screened adult One participant
One adult	One coach Two participants
One participant	One coach One participant

**How the Rule of Two works**

- Work as a team.** A coach should have another coach or screened adult (parent or volunteer) present when interacting with participants.
- Remain open to the public.** Have a training environment that ensures all situations are open, observable and justifiable.
- Plan transportation.** Have two adults present when traveling with a participant(s), and refer to your club travel policy.
- Be sensible.** Be considerate of the gender of the participant(s) when selecting coaches or volunteers.
- Transparent communication.** Ensure that all communications are sent to a group and/or include parents/guardians, without one-to-one messaging.

**The Rule of Two in virtual settings**  
In addition to the recommended guidelines, virtual training sessions also entail the following:

- Parental awareness.** Obtain consent for virtual sessions, plus inform parents of activities that will occur.
- Record each session** and they should be in a professional setting (not a bedroom).
- Weekly debriefing.** Encourage regular check-ins with parents, coaches, and participants about the virtual training.

Whether you are a coach, participant, parent, or volunteer, we are all on the same team to make sport safe and fun for everyone.

Keep Sport Safe, Smart and Secure  
For more information, visit [coach.ca/RCM](http://coach.ca/RCM)

**COACHES**  
Coaching Association of Canada  
International Coach Federation

# Code of Conduct and Ethics

To ensure a safe and positive environment for all those participating in the sport of rowing

- General responsibilities of all individuals
- Responsibilities specific to
  - Directors, Committee Members, Staff
  - Coaches
  - Athletes
  - Volunteers/Umpires
  - Parents/Guardians, Spectators



# Harassment, Discipline and Complaints Policy

Procedures and responsibilities associated with

- Submission of complaints
- Triage of complaints by the ITP
- Level at which complaint is to be managed (RCA, RO, Club)
- Procedures and person(s) to manage complaint
- Rendering decisions and sanctions

# Appeal Policy

Provides individuals with a fair and expedient appeal process following the rendering of a decision in response to a complaint

- Timelines
- Grounds for appeal
- Decision
- Confidentiality

# Social Media Policy

Describes social media conduct that may be subject to disciplinary action and everyone's responsibilities with respect to the use of social media

- Inappropriate conduct and behavior
- Responsibilities of all individuals

# Screening Policy

Establishes screening requirements for individuals in positions of trust and/or authority related to vulnerable individuals, finances, supervision, etc.

- Screening
- Renewals



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*Please visit the SCRC website for more information*

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