

## Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) Rules Draft Version 2: Explanatory Document and Summary of Changes

### Background

On May 2, 2024, the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Physical Activity, provided an update on the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) and the Abuse-Free Sport Program. It stated that the administration of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) will move from the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) to the CCES as of April 1, 2025. Access the Minister's announcement at [www.cces.ca/ministerstatement](http://www.cces.ca/ministerstatement).

As an independent organization with a vision of fair, safe, accessible, and inclusive sport, the CCES is pleased to assume the responsibility for administering the UCCMS and is committed to building upon the program and enhancing it going forward. The CCES has been reviewing the program and considering ways to improve and revise its operations once it assumes responsibility.

### Consultation with the Sport Community

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

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

The first draft was released to the sport community during the period of October 16 - November 22, 2024. The CCES invited comments and initial thoughts from the sport community. There was an incredible level of engagement with close to 300 people participating in 10 consultation opportunities, both virtual and in-person. We received constructive feedback, with hundreds of comments taken into consideration.

### Summary of Changes from Draft Version 1 to Draft Version 2 of the CSSP Rules

Concepts	Notes
<b>Definitions</b>	<p>Moved from the end of the document as an Appendix to the beginning of the document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Advisor</i> definition removed</li> <li>• <i>Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code</i> added</li> <li>• <i>Facilitated Mediation</i> changed to <i>Mediation</i></li> <li>• <i>Interested Person</i> changed to <i>Impacted Person</i></li> <li>• <i>Reporter</i> changed to <i>Reporting Person</i></li> <li>• <i>Safeguarding Panel</i> definition added</li> <li>• <i>Safeguarding Tribunal</i> definition added</li> <li>• <i>Sport Organization</i> definition updated</li> <li>• <i>Support Person</i> definition updated</li> <li>• <i>UCCMS</i> definition removed</li> </ul>
<b>Minors</b>	<p>To be consistent with the UCCMS, <i>Minor</i> has been adjusted to anyone under the age of 19.</p> <p>Considerations for minors have been added in applicable rules, e.g.: Rule 6.2, Rule 7.2, Rule 16. 11a), and Rule 19.4.</p>
<b>Rule 1.2 – Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport</b>	<p>The UCCMS and CSSP shall be read harmoniously to the extent possible. In the event of a conflict between the CSSP and the UCCMS, the CSSP will prevail, except in respect to UCCMS Section 5 (Prohibited Behaviours) and the definitions of Prohibited Behaviours in the UCCMS, which shall prevail over any conflict with the CSSP.</p>
<b>Rule 2.1 – Commitments</b>	<p>Added “is accessible to Participants with disabilities.”</p>
<b>Rule 3.1 – Scope of Application</b>	<p><i>Participant</i> is further defined.</p>
<b>Rule 3.2 – Application to Other Individuals at Events</b>	<p>New rule that outlines individuals who are not already identified as participants and who are registered for and/or participating in events that are designated in each sport organization’s adoption contract. These individuals are subject to the terms of the UCCMS and CSSP while participating in those designated events and will sign (or otherwise consent) to the application of the UCCMS and CSSP Rules as part of the event registration process.</p>
<b>Rule 3.3 – Contexts in which the CSSP Applies</b>	<p>Sport organization’s environment and online/virtual environment is further explained in a footnote.</p>
<b>Rule 3.4 – Application to Conduct that Predates the CSSP and the UCCMS</b>	<p>Clarifies when and how the CSSP will apply to conduct that occurred prior to the UCCMS.</p>

<b>Rule 4.4</b> – Sport organizations may impose measures on respondents outside the CSSP	This rule has been removed in V2 due to feedback from the sport community that sport organizations should be able to impose additional measures. See also Rule 5.4 regarding coordination of the sport organization and the CCES processes with respect to employees.
<b>Rule 7</b> – Responding to a Report	For clarity, a new rule was created that respondents may, but are not required, to provide a written response to a report of prohibited behaviour following receipt of a notice of report.
<b>Rule 9.2</b> – Sharing Information when Processing a Report	The CCES may also share information within the CCES that is relevant to other sport policies or codes of conduct under the jurisdiction of the CCES, such as the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP) or relating to competition manipulation has been added.
<b>Rule 9.4</b> – No Retaliation	Rule addition explaining that any improper sharing of information or retaliation arising from a report is prohibited.
<b>Rule 10.9</b> – Authority of Sport Organizations	This rule has been removed in V2 due to feedback from the sport community surrounding employment law and jurisdiction.
<b>Rule 11.4</b> – Facilitated Mediation changed to <b>Rule 13.4</b> – Mediation	Mediation will be external to the CCES and will be facilitated by a mediator appointed by the SDRCC and conducted in accordance with SDRCC procedures.
<b>Rule 12.3</b> changed to <b>Rule 14.3</b> – Timeline for Investigations	Timeline for investigations has changed from 60 days to 75 days.
<b>Rule 12.4</b> – Role of Advisors and Support Persons changed to <b>Rule 14.4</b> – Role of Support Persons	Changed to clarify the role of the Support Person.
<b>Rule 17</b> changed to <b>Rule 19</b> – Public Registry	<b>19.2</b> – If a finding of violation or a sanction is being appealed, the Public Registry will include a notation to this effect. <b>19.4</b> – Sanctions and provisional measures involving minor respondents will not be posted on the Public Registry, except on a case-by-case basis as determined by the CCES taking into account the age of the respondent, the principles of remediation of youth, the sensitivity of personal information, the safety of the sport community, and the need to carry out the objectives of the UCCMS and CSSP.
<b>Rule 18</b> – Breach of the CSSP has been changed to <b>Rule 20</b> – Violation of the CSSP	The term “breach” has been replaced with “violation” for consistency with UCCMS terminology.
<b>Rule 21</b> – Support for Reporters and Respondents	This rule has been removed in V2 as it is part of the larger program operations.

<b>Rule 22.5</b> – Transitional Period	This rule has been removed in V2, pursuant to legal analysis and on-going discussions with Sport Canada and the OSIC.
<b>Rule 23</b> – Counting of Time and Delivery of Notices	This is a new rule that explains that unless otherwise specified, times in the CSSP are total consecutive days irrespective of weekends or holidays. Notice to parties, witnesses and sport organizations in a CSSP process is outlined, as is the responsibility of participants, witnesses, and sport organizations.
<b>Rule 24.3</b> – Official Text	In the event of any conflict between the English and French versions of the CSSP, the French and English versions of the CSSP are equally authoritative and shall be interpreted as such.
<b>Rule 24.5</b> – Interpretation of Language	This rule was added to clarify singular/plural and gendered language.
<b>Rule 24.7</b> - Ability to retain and appoint contractors	This rule was added to explain that the CCES may retain, appoint and rely on legal counsel or other contractors to assist in carrying out the functions and duties relating to assessing, processing, investigating, deciding and/or otherwise resolving Reports under the CSSP.
<b>Other</b>	Rule numbering has been updated throughout based on sections being added, moved, or removed.

### Summary of the Rules: V1 to V2

V1	V2
<b>Appendix 1 - Definitions</b> – section at the end of the CSSP outlining the defined terms used throughout the document.	<b>Definitions</b> – section at the beginning of the CSSP Rules listing the defined terms used throughout the document.
<b>Rule 1 – Purpose:</b> recognizes the CCES as the organizational body that is mandated to independently administer and enforce the UCCMS for national level sport participants within federally funded national and multi-sport organizations and establishes the procedural rules by which the CCES will carry out this mandate.	<b>Rule 1 – Purpose:</b> recognizes the CCES as the organizational body that is mandated to independently administer and enforce the UCCMS for national level sport participants within federally funded national and multi-sport organizations and establishes the procedural rules by which the CCES will carry out this mandate.
<b>Rule 2 – General Principles and Commitments:</b> outlines how the CCES will administer the CSSP.	<b>Rule 2 – General Principles and Commitments:</b> outlines how the CCES will administer the CSSP.
<b>Rule 3 – Scope of Application:</b> identifies who the CSSP Rules apply to at the national level, defines participants, and explains the contexts in which the CSSP Rules apply.	<b>Rule 3 – Scope of Application:</b> identifies who the CSSP Rules apply to at the national level, defines participants, and explains the contexts in which the CSSP Rules apply.

<b>Rule 4 – CSSP Adopting Sport Organizations:</b> outlines board adoption, rights, obligations and responsibilities, and details what is included in the organization’s adoption contract.	<b>Rule 4 – CSSP Adopting Sport Organizations:</b> outlines board adoption, rights, obligations and responsibilities, and details what is included in the organization’s adoption contract.
<b>Rule 7 – Assumption of Jurisdiction by the CCES:</b> outlines the process by which the CCES will determine whether to assume jurisdiction over the report.	<b>Rule 5 – Jurisdiction of the CCES:</b> explains when, and where the CCES will assume jurisdiction over Reports of Prohibited Behaviour.
<b>Rule 5 – Reporting:</b> identifies who can submit a report, the format for reporting, and other details about the reporting process.	<b>Rule 6 – Reports:</b> identifies who can submit a report, the format for reporting, and other details about the reporting process.
	<b>Rule 7 – Responding to a Report:</b> specifies that respondents may, but are not required, to provide a written response to a report of prohibited behaviour following receipt of a notice of report.
<b>Rule 6 – Coordinating with Law Enforcement:</b> explains when the CCES will contact other authorities and outlines the CCES’s duty to report in accordance with applicable reporting legislation.	<b>Rule 8 – Coordinating with Other Authorities:</b> explains when the CCES will contact other authorities and outlines the CCES’s duty to report in accordance with applicable reporting legislation.
<b>Rule 8 – Confidentiality and Privacy:</b> specifies that the CCES will make reasonable efforts to protect the privacy of individuals involved in the administration of reports.	<b>Rule 9 – Confidentiality and Privacy:</b> specifies that the CCES will make reasonable efforts to protect the privacy of individuals involved in the administration of reports.
<b>Rule 9 – Processing of Report:</b> outlines how a report is processed once the CCES assumes jurisdiction over it, as well as the associated timelines.	<b>Rule 10 – Initial Processing of Report:</b> outlines how a report is processed once the CCES assumes jurisdiction over it, as well as the associated timelines.
	<b>Rule 11 – Procedural Orders:</b> highlights that the CCES may expedite or adjust as necessary the timelines for certain procedures.
<b>Rule 10 – Provisional Measures:</b> details the considerations and scope for imposing provisional measures.	<b>Rule 12 – Provisional Measures:</b> details the considerations and scope for imposing provisional measures.
<b>Rule 11 – Methods of Resolution:</b> outlines possible methods of resolution once the CCES has assumed jurisdiction.	<b>Rule 13 – Methods of Resolution:</b> outlines possible methods of resolution once the CCES has assumed jurisdiction.
<b>Rule 12 – Investigation:</b> describes the components of the investigation process.	<b>Rule 14 – Investigation:</b> describes the components of the investigation process.

<p><b>Rule 13 – Determination of the Report by the CCES:</b> outlines the process of receiving the investigation report, determining whether there was a breach of the UCCMS, and issuing a decision, including any applicable sanctions.</p>	<p><b>Rule 15 – Determination of the Report by the CCES:</b> outlines the process of receiving the investigation report, determining whether there was a breach of the UCCMS, and issuing a decision, including any applicable sanctions.</p>
<p><b>Rule 14 – Review by the Safeguarding Tribunal:</b> explains when parties may request a review by the Safeguarding Tribunal.</p>	<p><b>Rule 16 – Review by the Safeguarding Tribunal:</b> explains when parties may request a review by the Safeguarding Tribunal.</p>
<p><b>Rule 15 – Appeal of Sanction:</b> explains the process of appealing the Safeguarding Tribunal’s decision related to a sanction to the SDRCC Appeal Tribunal.</p>	<p><b>Rule 17 – Appeal of Sanction:</b> explains the process of appealing the Safeguarding Tribunal’s decision related to a sanction to the SDRCC Appeal Tribunal.</p>
<p><b>Rule 16 – Prior History:</b> outlines situations in which the CCES may require information about prior history as it relates to assessing or determining provisional measures, remedial measures, or sanctions.</p>	<p><b>Rule 18 – Prior History:</b> outlines situations in which the CCES may require information about prior history as it relates to assessing or determining provisional measures, remedial measures, or sanctions.</p>
<p><b>Rule 17 – Public Registry:</b> explains the purpose of the public registry, and states when sanctions and provisional measures will be posted on the public registry.</p>	<p><b>Rule 19 – Public Registry:</b> explains the purpose of the public registry, and states when sanctions and provisional measures will be posted on the public registry.</p>
<p><b>Rule 18 – Breach of the CSSP Rules:</b> outlines how and when the CCES may investigate and sanction a participant for a breach of the CSSP Rules.</p>	<p><b>Rule 20 – Violation of the CSSP Rules:</b> outlines how and when the CCES may investigate and sanction a participant or organization for a violation of the CSSP Rules.</p>
<p><b>Rule 19 – No Liability:</b> outlines that CCES staff are not liable in the administration of the CSSP Rules.</p>	<p><b>Rule 21 – No Liability:</b> outlines that CCES staff are not liable in the administration of the CSSP Rules.</p>
<p><b>Rule 20 – Recognition and Enforcement:</b> explains how sanctions will be recognized and enforced.</p>	<p><b>Rule 22 – Recognition and Enforcement:</b> explains how sanctions will be recognized and enforced.</p>
<p><b>Rule 21 – Support for Reporters and Respondents:</b> outlines that support services will be available for all parties.</p>	<p><b>Removed in V2</b> as it is part of the larger program operations.</p>
	<p><b>Rule 23 – Counting of Time and Delivery of Notices:</b> explains that unless otherwise specified, times in the CSSP are total consecutive days irrespective of weekends or holidays. Notice to parties, witnesses and sport organizations in a CSSP process is outlined, as is the responsibility of participants, witnesses, and sport organizations.</p>
<p><b>Rule 22 – Amendment and Interpretation of the CSSP Rules:</b> outlines procedural matters related to</p>	<p><b>Rule 24 – Amendment and Interpretation of the CSSP Rules:</b> outlines procedural matters related to</p>

the CSSP Rules document itself, including when the CSSP Rules may be amended and the transition period for doing so.	the CSSP Rules document itself, including when the CSSP Rules may be amended and the transition period for doing so.
<b>Rule 23 – Reports Involving the CCES:</b> explains that reports involving CCES participants will be managed by a third-party investigator.	<b>Rule 25 – Reports Involving the CCES:</b> explains that reports involving CCES participants will be managed by a third-party investigator.

**Additional notes:**

- **Education:** Comprehensive education is an essential component of the CSSP. All individuals who are subject to the rules will be required to complete online education.
- **The final version of the CSSP Rules will be released mid-January 2025.**

**How to Provide Feedback**

Comments from the Canadian sport community are welcome at any time. You are invited to submit feedback to the CCES by email to [safesport@cces.ca](mailto:safesport@cces.ca). Please include reference to specific rules in your feedback. The deadline to submit feedback on draft version 2 is December 20, 2024.

For more information on the Canadian Safe Sport Program draft version 2, please email [safesport@cces.ca](mailto:safesport@cces.ca) or visit the [safe sport webpage](#).