



Safe Sport Policy Manual

**CURLING CANADA SAFE SPORT
POLICY MANUAL**

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Policy Title	Date of Last Review	Date of Next Review
Code of Conduct and Ethics	January 23, 2020	January 2023
Abuse	January 23, 2020	January 2023
Investigations - Discrimination, Harassment and Abuse	January 23, 2020	January 2023
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Social Media Policy	January 23, 2020	January 2023
Athlete Protection Policy	March 11, 2020	January 2023
Screening Policy	July 24, 2020	January 2023

CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICS

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Code:

- a) *“Individuals”* – Individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with Curling Canada including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, convenors, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, parents and guardians and spectators at events, and Directors and Officers of Curling Canada
- b) *“Person in Authority”* – Any Individual who holds a position of authority within Curling Canada including, but not limited to, coaches, instructors, officials, managers, support personnel, chaperones, Committee members, and Directors and Officers
- c) *“Workplace”* - Any place where business or work-related activities are conducted. Workplaces include but are not limited to Curling Canada’s office, work-related social functions, work assignments outside of Curling Canada’s offices, work-related travel, the training and competition environment, and work-related conferences or training sessions
- d) *“Abuse”* – As defined in Curling Canada’s *Abuse Policy*
- e) *“Discrimination”* – Differential treatment of an individual based on one or more prohibited grounds which include race, citizenship, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, family status, genetic characteristics, or disability.
- f) *“Harassment”* – A course of vexatious comment or conduct against an Individual or group, which is known or ought to reasonably be known to be unwelcome. Types of behaviour that constitute Harassment include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Written or verbal abuse, threats, or outbursts;
 - ii. Persistent unwelcome remarks, jokes, comments, innuendo, or taunts;
 - iii. Racial harassment, which is racial slurs, jokes, name calling, or insulting behaviour or terminology that reinforces stereotypes or discounts abilities because of racial or ethnic origin;
 - iv. Leering or other suggestive or obscene gestures;
 - v. Condescending or patronizing behaviour, which is intended to undermine self-esteem, diminish performance or adversely affect working conditions;
 - vi. Practical jokes which endanger a person’s safety, or may negatively affect performance;
 - vii. Hazing, which is any form of conduct which exhibits any potentially humiliating, degrading, abusive, or dangerous activity expected of a junior-ranking individual by a more senior individual, which does not contribute to either individual’s positive development, but is required to be accepted as part of a team or group, regardless of the junior-ranking individual’s willingness to participate. This includes, but is not limited to, any activity, no matter how traditional or seemingly benign, that sets apart or alienates any teammate or group member based on class, number of years on the team or with the group, or ability;
 - viii. Unwanted physical contact including, but not limited to, touching, petting, pinching, or kissing;
 - ix. Deliberately excluding or socially isolating a person from a group or team;
 - x. Persistent sexual flirtations, advances, requests, or invitations;
 - xi. Physical or sexual assault;
 - xii. Behaviours such as those described above that are not directed towards a specific person or group but have the same effect of creating a negative or hostile environment; and
 - xiii. Retaliation or threats of retaliation against a person who reports harassment to Curling Canada.

- g) *“Workplace Harassment”* – Vexatious comment or conduct against a worker 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. Types of behaviour that constitute Workplace Harassment include, but are not limited to:
- i. Bullying;
 - ii. Workplace pranks, vandalism, bullying or hazing;
 - iii. Repeated offensive or intimidating phone calls or emails;
 - iv. Inappropriate sexual touching, advances, suggestions or requests;
 - v. Displaying or circulating offensive pictures, photographs or materials in printed or electronic form;
 - vi. Psychological abuse;
 - vii. Excluding or ignoring someone, including persistent exclusion of a person from work-related social gatherings;
 - viii. Deliberately withholding information that would enable a person to do his or her job, perform or train;
 - ix. Sabotaging someone else’s work or performance;
 - x. Gossiping or spreading malicious rumours;
 - xi. Intimidating words or conduct (offensive jokes or innuendos); and
 - xii. Words or actions which are known or should reasonably be known to be offensive, embarrassing, humiliating, or demeaning.
- h) *“Sexual Harassment”* – A course of vexatious comment or conduct against an Individual because of sex, sexual orientation, gender identify or gender expression, where the course of comment or conduct is known or ought reasonably to be known to be unwelcome; or making a sexual solicitation or advance where the person making the solicitation or advance is in a position to confer, grant or deny a benefit or advance to the Individual and the person knows or ought reasonably to know that the solicitation or advance is unwelcome. Types of behaviour that constitute Sexual Harassment include, but are not limited to:
- i. Sexist jokes;
 - ii. Threats, punishment, or denial of a benefit for refusing a sexual advance;
 - iii. Offering a benefit in exchange for a sexual favour;
 - iv. Demanding hugs;
 - v. Bragging about sexual ability;
 - vi. Leering (persistent sexual staring);
 - vii. Sexual assault;
 - viii. Display of sexually offensive material;
 - ix. Distributing sexually explicit messages or attachments such as pictures or video files;
 - x. Sexually degrading words used to describe an Individual;
 - xi. Unwelcome inquiries into or comments about an Individual’s gender identity or physical appearance;
 - xii. Inquiries or comments about an Individual’s sex life;
 - xiii. Persistent, unwanted attention after a consensual relationship ends;
 - xiv. Persistent unwelcome sexual flirtations, advances, or propositions; and
 - xv. Persistent unwanted contact.
- i) *“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. Types of behaviour that constitute Workplace Violence include, but are not limited to:

- i. Verbal or written threats to attack;
 - ii. Sending to or leaving threatening notes or emails;
 - iii. Physically threatening behaviour such as shaking a fist at someone, finger pointing, destroying property, or throwing objects;
 - iv. Wielding a weapon in a Workplace;
 - v. Hitting, pinching or unwanted touching which is not accidental;
 - vi. Dangerous or threatening horseplay;
 - vii. Physical restraint or confinement;
 - viii. Blatant or intentional disregard for the safety or wellbeing of others;
 - ix. Blocking normal movement or physical interference, with or without the use of equipment;
 - x. Sexual violence; and
 - xi. Any attempt to engage in the type of conduct outlined above.
- (i) *“Maltreatment”* – a volitional act (or acts) by an Individual that results in harm or the potential for physical or psychological harm to another Individual, and includes any of the following behaviours or conduct:
- a. Psychological Maltreatment: any serious incident (or incidents) of deliberate conduct that has the potential to be harmful to the psychological well-being of an Individual. Psychological Maltreatment is determined by the objective behaviour, and not whether harm is intended or results from the behaviour. It includes:
 - i. Verbal Acts: verbally assaulting or attacking an Individual, including but not limited to unwarranted personal criticisms; body shaming; derogatory comments related to an Individual’s identity (e.g. race, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, Indigenous status, ability/disability); comments that are demeaning, humiliating, belittling, intimidating, insulting or threatening; the use of rumours or false statements about an Individual to diminish their reputation; using confidential sport and non-sport information inappropriately. Verbal Maltreatment may also occur in online forms.
 - ii. Non-assaultive Physical Acts (no physical contact): physically aggressive behaviours, including but not limited to throwing objects at or in the presence of others without striking another; hitting, striking or punching objects in the presence of others.
 - iii. Acts that Deny Attention or Support: acts that deny attention, lack of support or isolation including but not limited to ignoring psychological needs or socially isolating an Individual repeatedly or for an extended period of time; abandonment of an athlete as punishment for poor performance; arbitrarily or unreasonably denying feedback, training opportunities, support or attention for extended periods of time and/or asking others to do the same.
 - b. Physical Maltreatment: any incident (or incidents) of deliberate conduct that has the potential to be harmful to the physical well-being of an Individual. Physical Maltreatment is determined by the objective behaviour, and not whether harm is intended or results from the behaviour. It includes, without limitation:
 - i. Contact behaviours: including but not limited to deliberately punching, kicking, beating, biting, striking, strangling or slapping another; deliberately hitting another with objects.
 - ii. Non-contact behaviours: including but not limited to isolating an Individual in a confined space; forcing an Individual to assume a painful stance or position for no athletic purpose (e.g., requiring an athlete to kneel on a hard surface); the use of exercise for the purposes of punishment; withholding, recommending against, or denying adequate hydration, nutrition, medical attention or sleep; denying access to

a toilet; providing alcohol to an Individual under the legal drinking age; providing illegal drugs or non-prescribed medications to an Individual; encouraging or knowingly permitting an athlete to return to play prematurely following any injury or after a concussion and without the clearance of a medical professional; encouraging an athlete to perform a skill for which they are known to not be developmentally ready.

- c. Sexual Maltreatment, including, but not limited to, any act targeting an Individual's sexuality, gender identity or expression, that is committed, threatened or attempted against that person, and includes but is not limited to the Criminal Code Offences of sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, indecent exposure, voyeurism and non-consensual distribution of sexual/intimate images. Sexual Maltreatment also includes sexual harassment and stalking, cyber harassment, and cyber stalking of a sexual nature.
 - i. Examples of Sexual Maltreatment include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Any penetration of any part of a person's body, however slight, with any object or body part by a person upon another person, including but not limited to:
 - a. vaginal penetration by a penis, object, tongue, or finger; and
 - b. anal penetration by a penis, object, tongue, or finger.
 - 2. Any intentional touching of a sexual nature of any part of a person's body, however slight, with any object or body part by a person upon another person, including but not limited to:
 - a. kissing;
 - b. intentional touching of the breasts, buttocks, groin or genitals, whether clothed or unclothed, or intentionally touching of another with any of these body parts;
 - c. any contact, no matter how slight, between the mouth of one person and the genitalia of another person;
 - d. making another touch themselves or someone else with or on any of the body parts listed in 2); or
 - e. any intentional touching in a sexualized manner of the relationship, context or situation.
- d. Neglect: any incident (or incidents) of lack of reasonable care, inattention to an Individual's needs, nurturing or well-being, or omissions in care. Neglect is determined by the objective behaviour but the behaviour must be evaluated with consideration given to the Individual's needs and requirements, not whether harm is intended or results from the behaviour.
 - i. Neglect, or acts of omission, include, without limitation, not providing an athlete recovery time and/or treatment for a sport injury; not being aware of and not considering an Individual's physical or intellectual disability; not considering supervision of an athlete during travel, training or competition; not considering the welfare of the athlete when prescribing dieting or other weight control methods (e.g., caliper tests); disregarding the use of Prohibited Substances by an athlete; failure to ensure safety of equipment or environment; allowing an athlete to disregard sport rules, regulations, and standards, subjecting Individuals to the risk of Maltreatment.
- e. Grooming: includes, without limitation, deliberate conduct by an Individual to sexualize a relationship with a Minor, and which includes making inappropriate behaviour seem normal and gradually engaging in 'boundary violations' which have been professionally-identified to Canadian standards (e.g., a degrading remark, a sexual joke, sexualized physical contact; adult participants sharing rooms with a Minor who is not an immediate family member;

providing a massage or other purported therapeutic interventions with no specific training or expertise; private social media and text communications; sharing personal photographs; shared use of locker rooms; private meetings; private travel, and providing gifts).

- f. Interference with or Manipulation of Process
 - i. An Individual violates the *Code of Conduct and Ethics* by directly or indirectly interfering with a process instituted pursuant to the *Code* or any other Curling Canada policy by:
 - 1. falsifying, distorting, or misrepresenting information, the resolution process, or an outcome;
 - 2. destroying or concealing information;
 - 3. attempting to discourage an Individual's proper participation in or use of Curling Canada's processes;
 - 4. harassing or intimidating (verbally or physically) any person involved in Curling Canada's processes before, during, and/or following any proceedings;
 - 5. publicly disclosing an Individual's identifying information, without the Individual's agreement;
 - 6. failing to comply with any temporary or provisional measure or other final sanction;
 - 7. distributing or otherwise publicizing materials an Individual gains access to during any investigation or hearing, except as required by law or as expressly permitted; or
 - 8. influencing or attempting to influence another Individual to interfere with or manipulate the process.
- g. Retaliation: An Individual shall not take an adverse action against any other Individual for making a good faith report of possible Maltreatment or for participating in any process found in Curling Canada's policies. Retaliation includes threatening, intimidating, harassing, coercing or any other conduct that would discourage a reasonable person from engaging or participating in Curling Canada's processes. Retaliation after the conclusion of investigation and sanction processes is also prohibited. Retaliation may be present even where there is a finding that no Maltreatment occurred, but does not include good-faith actions lawfully pursued in response to a report of possible Maltreatment.
- h. Aiding and abetting:
 - i. any act taken with the purpose of facilitating, promoting, or encouraging the commission of Maltreatment by an Individual. Aiding and abetting also includes, without limitation, knowingly:
 - 1. allowing any Individual who has been suspended or is otherwise ineligible to be in any way associated with sport or to coach or instruct other Individuals;
 - 2. providing any coaching-related advice or service to an athlete who has been suspended or is otherwise ineligible; and
 - 3. allowing any Individual to violate the terms of their suspension or any other sanctions imposed.
- i. Failure by an adult Individual to report actual or suspected Maltreatment of a Minor. This obligation is ongoing and is not satisfied by making an initial report; instead, this obligation includes reporting to Curling Canada, on a timely basis, all relevant information that the adult participant is or becomes aware of, and requires making a direct report to Curling Canada. Any report shall include the personally identifying information of the potential Minor complainant (to the extent known), and any such information learned at a later date.
- j. Failure to report inappropriate conduct: Any Individual who suspects or becomes aware of another Individual's inappropriate conduct, even if it is not defined as Maltreatment, has a

duty to report such inappropriate conduct to Curling Canada. Individuals in positions of trust and authority who become aware of another Individual's inappropriate conduct have a responsibility for reporting the concern within their organization's policies and procedures.

- k. Intentionally filing a false allegation. An allegation is false if the events or conduct reported did not occur and the Individual making the report knows that the events or conduct did not occur. An individual shall not be considered to have filed a false allegation in cases where the allegation cannot be substantiated by supporting evidence but was nevertheless filed in good faith.

- j) "Minor" – any Individual who is under the age of majority at the time and in the jurisdiction where the alleged breach of any Curling Canada policy has occurred. Adult Individuals are responsible for knowing the age of a Minor. For the purpose of protection in each Canadian province and territory, the age of a child is defined as follows:
 - a. 16 years old: Newfoundland and Labrador; Saskatchewan; Northwest Territories; Nunavut
 - b. 18 years old: Prince Edward Island; Quebec; Ontario; Manitoba; Alberta;
 - c. 19 years old: Nova Scotia; New Brunswick; British Columbia; Yukon.

***** Please verify local jurisdictions for potential changes *****

Purpose

2. The purpose of this Code is to ensure a safe and positive environment (within Curling Canada's programs, activities, and events) by making Individuals aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behaviour consistent with Curling Canada's core values. Curling Canada supports equal opportunity, prohibits discriminatory practices and Maltreatment, and is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and fairness.

Application of this Code

3. This Code applies to Individuals' conduct during Curling Canada's business, activities, and events including, but not limited to, competitions, practices, tryouts, training camps, travel associated with Curling Canada's activities, Curling Canada's office environment, and any meetings.
4. This Code also applies to Individuals active in the sport of curling or who have retired from the sport of curling where any claim regarding a potential breach of this Code occurred when the Individual was active in the sport.
5. In addition, breaches of this Code may occur when the Individuals involved interacted due to their mutual involvement in the sport of curling or, if the breach occurred outside of the sport environment, if the breach has a serious and detrimental impact on the Individual(s).
6. An Individual who violates this Code may be subject to sanctions pursuant to Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. In addition to facing possible sanction pursuant to Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, an Individual who violates this Code during a competition may be ejected from the competition or the playing area, the official may delay the competition until the Individual complies with the ejection, and the Individual may be subject to any additional discipline associated with the competition.
7. An employee of Curling Canada found to have engaged in acts of violence, Maltreatment or harassment against any other employee, worker, contractor, member, customer, supplier, client or other third party during business hours, or at any event of Curling Canada, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action

subject to the terms of any of Curling Canada's relevant and applicable policies as well as the employee's Employment Agreement (if applicable).

8. This Code also applies to Individuals' conduct outside of Curling Canada's business, activities, and events when such conduct adversely affects relationships within Curling Canada (and its work and sport environment) and is detrimental to the image and reputation of Curling Canada. Such applicability will be determined by Curling Canada at its sole discretion.

Responsibilities

9. Individuals have a responsibility to:

- a) Maintain and enhance the dignity and self-esteem of Curling Canada's members and other individuals by:
 - i. Treating each other with the highest standards of respect and integrity;
 - ii. Focusing comments or criticism appropriately and avoiding public criticism of athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, volunteers, employees, or members;
 - iii. Consistently demonstrating the spirit of sportsmanship, sport leadership, and ethical conduct;
 - iv. Acting, when appropriate, to correct or prevent practices that are unjustly discriminatory;
 - v. Consistently treating individuals fairly and reasonably; and
 - vi. Ensuring adherence to the rules of the sport and the spirit of those rules.
- b) Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes Harassment, Workplace Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Workplace Violence, Discrimination or any form of Maltreatment
- c) Abstain from the non-medical use of drugs or the use of performance-enhancing drugs or methods. More specifically, Curling Canada adopts and adheres to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. Any infraction under this Program shall be considered an infraction of this Code and may be subject to further disciplinary action, and possible sanction, pursuant to Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. Curling Canada will respect any penalty enacted pursuant to a breach of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, whether imposed by Curling Canada or any other sport organization
- d) Refrain from associating with any person for the purpose of coaching, training, competition, instruction, administration, management, athletic development, or supervision of the sport, who has incurred an anti-doping rule violation and is serving a sanction involving a period of ineligibility imposed pursuant to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program and/or the World Anti-Doping Code and recognized by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES)
- e) Refrain from the use of power or authority in an attempt to coerce another person to engage in inappropriate activities
- f) Refrain from consuming tobacco products, or recreational drugs while participating in Curling Canada's programs, activities, competitions, or events
- g) In the case of minors, not consume alcohol, tobacco, or cannabis at any competition or event;
- h) In the case of adults, not consume cannabis in the Workplace or in any situation associated with Curling Canada's events (subject to any requirements for accommodation), not consume alcohol during competitions and in situations where minors are present, and take reasonable steps to manage the responsible consumption of alcohol in adult-oriented social situations associated with Curling Canada's events
- i) Respect the property of others and not wilfully cause damage
- j) Promote the sport in the most constructive and positive manner possible
- k) When driving a vehicle with an Individual:
 - i. Not have his or her license suspended;
 - ii. Not be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs or substances; and
 - iii. Have valid car insurance
- l) Adhere to all federal, provincial, municipal and host country laws

- m) Refrain from engaging in deliberate cheating which is intended to manipulate the outcome of a competition and/or not offer or receive any bribe which is intended to manipulate the outcome of a competition
- n) Comply, at all times, with Curling Canada's bylaws, policies, procedures, and rules and regulations, as adopted and amended from time to time
- o) It is a violation of this Code for any Person in Authority to place an Individual in a situation that makes them vulnerable to Maltreatment. This includes, but is not limited to, instructing an athlete and a coach to share a hotel room when traveling, hiring a coach who has a past history of athlete Maltreatment, assigning guides and other support staff to a para-athlete when the guide or support staff has a reputation for athlete Maltreatment or assigning such a guide or support staff to a para-athlete in the absence of consultation with the para-athlete.

Directors, Committee Members, and Staff

10. In addition to section 9 (above), Curling Canada's Directors, Committee Members, and Staff will have additional responsibilities to:

- a) Function primarily as a Director or Committee Member or Staff Member of Curling Canada; not as a member of any other member or constituency
- b) Act with honesty and integrity and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the nature and responsibilities of Curling Canada's business and the maintenance of Individuals' confidence
- c) Ensure that Curling Canada's financial affairs are conducted in a responsible and transparent manner with due regard for all fiduciary responsibilities
- d) Conduct themselves transparently, professionally, lawfully and in good faith in the best interests of Curling Canada
- e) Be independent, impartial, and not be influenced by self-interest, outside pressure, expectation of reward, or fear of criticism
- f) Behave with decorum appropriate to both circumstance and position
- g) Keep informed about Curling Canada's activities, the sport community, and general trends in the sectors in which it operates
- h) Exercise the degree of care, diligence, and skill required in the performance of their duties pursuant to the laws under which Curling Canada is incorporated
- i) Respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature
- j) Respect the decisions of the majority and resign if unable to do so
- k) Commit the time to attend meetings and be diligent in preparation for, and participation in, discussions at such meetings
- l) Have a thorough knowledge and understanding of all of Curling Canada's governing documents
- m) Conform to the bylaws and policies approved by Curling Canada

Coaches

11. In addition to section 9 (above), coaches have many additional responsibilities. The coach-athlete relationship is a privileged one and plays a critical role in the personal, sport, and athletic development of the athlete. Coaches must understand and respect the inherent power imbalance that exists in this relationship and must be extremely careful not to abuse it, consciously or unconsciously. Coaches will:

- a) Ensure a safe environment by selecting activities and establishing controls that are suitable for the age, experience, ability, and fitness level of the involved athletes
- b) Prepare athletes systematically and progressively, using appropriate time frames and monitoring physical and psychological adjustments while refraining from using training methods or techniques that may harm athletes

- c) 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
- d) Support the coaching staff of a training camp, provincial team, or national team; should an athlete qualify for participation with one of these programs
- e) Accept and promote athletes' personal goals and refer athletes to other coaches and sports specialists as appropriate
- f) Provide athletes (and the parents/guardians of minor athletes) with the information necessary to be involved in the decisions that affect the athlete
- g) Act in the best interest of the athlete's development as a whole person
- h) Comply with Curling Canada's *Screening Policy*, if applicable
- i) Report to Curling Canada any ongoing criminal investigation, conviction, or existing bail conditions, including those for violence, child pornography, or possession, use, or sale of any illegal substance
- j) Under no circumstances provide, promote, or condone the use of drugs (other than properly prescribed medications) or performance-enhancing substances and, in the case of minors, alcohol, cannabis, and/or tobacco
- k) Respect athletes playing with other teams and, in dealings with them, not encroach upon topics or actions which are deemed to be within the realm of 'coaching', unless after first receiving approval from the coaches who are responsible for the athletes
- l) Not engage in a sexual relationship with an athlete under the age of majority;
- m) Disclose any sexual or intimate relationship with an athlete over the age of majority to Curling Canada and immediately discontinue any coaching involvement with that athlete;
- n) Recognize the power inherent in the position of coach and respect and promote the rights of all participants 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 participants who are in a vulnerable or dependent position and less able to protect their own rights
- o) Dress professionally, neatly, and inoffensively
- p) Use inoffensive language, taking into account the audience being addressed

Athletes

12. In addition to section 9 (above), athletes will have additional responsibilities to:

- a) Report any medical problems in a timely fashion, when such problems may limit their ability to travel, practice, or compete;
- b) Participate and appear on-time and prepared to participate to their best abilities in all competitions, practices, training sessions, tryouts, tournaments, and events
- c) 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
- d) Adhere to Curling Canada's rules and requirements regarding clothing and equipment
- e) Act in a sportsmanlike manner and not display appearances of violence, foul language, or gestures to other athletes, officials, coaches, or spectators
- f) Dress to represent the sport and themselves well and with professionalism
- g) Act in accordance with Curling Canada's policies and procedures and, when applicable, additional rules as outlined by coaches or managers

Officials

13. In addition to section 9 (above), officials will have additional responsibilities to:

- a) Maintain and update their knowledge of the rules and rules changes
- b) Not publicly criticize other officials or any club or association;

- c) Work within the boundaries of their position's description while supporting the work of other officials
- d) Act as an ambassador of Curling Canada by agreeing to enforce and abide by national and provincial rules and regulations
- e) Take ownership of actions and decisions made while officiating
- f) Respect the rights, dignity, and worth of all Individuals
- g) Not publicly criticize other officials or any club or association
- h) Act openly, impartially, professionally, lawfully, and in good faith
- i) Be fair, equitable, considerate, independent, honest, and impartial in all dealings with others
- j) Respect the confidentiality required by issues of a sensitive nature, which may include ejections, defaults, forfeits, discipline processes, appeals, and specific information or data about Individuals
- k) Honour all assignments unless unable to do so by virtue of illness or personal emergency, and in these cases inform the assignor or association at the earliest possible time
- l) When writing reports, set out the actual facts
- m) Dress in proper attire for officiating

Parents/Guardians and Spectators

14. In addition to section 9 (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 a participant for making a mistake during a performance or practice
- d) Provide positive comments that motivate and encourage participants' continued effort
- e) Respect the decisions and judgments of officials, and encourage athletes to do the same
- f) Never question an official's or staff member's judgment or honesty
- g) Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse, coercion, intimidation, and sarcasm
- h) Respect and show appreciation to all competitors, and to the coaches, officials and other volunteers
- i) Not harass competitors, coaches, officials, parents/guardians, or other spectators

ABUSE POLICY

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) “*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 people in positions of trust or authority);
 - b) “*Individuals*” – All categories of membership defined in Curling Canada’s Bylaws, as well as all individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with Curling Canada including, but not limited to, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, and Directors and Officers of Curling Canada; and
 - c) “*Abuse*” – Child/Youth Abuse or Vulnerable Adult Abuse as described in this Policy.
 - d) “*Minor*” – any Individual who is under the age of majority at the time and in the jurisdiction where the alleged breach of any Curling Canada policy has occurred. Adult Individuals are responsible for knowing the age of a Minor. For the purpose of protection in each Canadian province and territory, the age of a child is defined as follows:
 - a. 16 years old: Newfoundland and Labrador; Saskatchewan; Northwest Territories; Nunavut
 - b. 18 years old: Prince Edward Island; Quebec; Ontario; Manitoba; Alberta;
 - c. 19 years old: Nova Scotia; New Brunswick; British Columbia; Yukon.

***** Please verify local jurisdictions for potential changes *****

Purpose

2. Curling Canada is committed to a sport environment free from abuse. The purpose of this Policy is to stress the importance of that commitment by educating Individuals about abuse, outlining how Curling Canada will work to prevent abuse, and how abuse or suspected abuse can be reported to and addressed by Curling Canada.

Zero Tolerance Statement

3. Curling Canada has zero tolerance for any type of abuse. Individuals are required to report instances of abuse or suspected abuse to Curling Canada to be immediately addressed under the terms of the applicable policy or, where required, for Curling Canada to report to the appropriate public authorities.

Education – What is Abuse

4. Vulnerable Individuals can be abused in different forms.
5. The following description of Child / Youth Abuse has been modified and adapted from Ecclesiastical’s *Guidelines for Developing a Safety & Protection Policy for Children / Youth / Vulnerable Adults*:

Child / Youth Abuse

6. “Child abuse” refers to the violence, mistreatment or neglect that a child or adolescent may experience while in the care of someone they depend on or trust. There are many different forms of abuse and a child may be subjected to more than one form:
 - a) **Physical abuse** involves single or repeated instances of deliberately using force against a child in such a way that the child is either injured or is at risk of being injured. Physical abuse includes beating, hitting, shaking, pushing, choking, biting, burning, kicking or assaulting a child with a weapon. It also includes holding a child under water, or any other dangerous or harmful use of force or restraint.

- b) **Sexual abuse** and exploitation involve using a child for sexual purposes. Examples of child sexual abuse include fondling, inviting a child to touch or be touched sexually, intercourse, rape, incest, sodomy, exhibitionism, or involving a child in prostitution or pornography.
 - c) **Neglect** is often chronic, and it usually involves repeated incidents. It involves failing to provide what a child needs for his or her physical, psychological or emotional development and well being. For example, neglect includes failing to provide a dependent child with food, clothing, shelter, cleanliness, medical care, or protection from harm.
 - d) **Emotional abuse** involves harming a child's sense of self-worth. It includes acts (or omissions) that result in, or place a child at risk of, serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional, or mental health problems. For example, emotional abuse may include aggressive verbal threats, social isolation, intimidation, exploitation, or routinely making unreasonable demands. It also includes exposing the child to violence.
7. An abuser may use a number of different tactics to gain access to children, exert power and control over them, and prevent them from telling anyone about the abuse or seeking support. The abuse may happen once, or it may occur in a repeated and escalating pattern over a period of months or years. The abuse may change form over time.
8. Abuse of children or youth in sport can include emotional maltreatment, neglect, and physical maltreatment.
- a) **Emotional Maltreatment** – A coach's failure to provide a developmentally-appropriate and supportive environment. Emotional abuse is at the foundation of all other forms of maltreatment (sexual, physical and neglect). In sports, this conduct has the potential to cause emotional or psychological harm to an athlete when it is persistent, pervasive or patterned acts (i.e., yelling at an athlete once does not constitute maltreatment). Examples of emotional maltreatment include:
 - i. Refusal to recognize an athlete's worth or the legitimacy of an athlete's needs (including complaints of injury/pain, thirst or feeling unwell)
 - ii. Creating a culture of fear, or threatening, bullying or frightening an athlete
 - iii. Frequent name-calling or sarcasm that continually "beats down" an athlete's self-esteem
 - iv. Embarrassing or humiliating an athlete in front of peers
 - v. Excluding or isolating an athlete from the group
 - vi. Withholding attention
 - vii. Encouraging an athlete to engage in destructive and antisocial behaviour, reinforcing deviance, or impairing an athlete's ability to behave in socially appropriate ways
 - viii. Over-pressuring; whereby the coach imposes extreme pressure upon the athlete to behave and achieve in ways that are far beyond the athlete's capabilities
 - ix. Verbally attacking an athlete personally (e.g., belittling them or calling them worthless, lazy, useless, fat or disgusting).
 - x. Routinely or arbitrarily excluding athletes from practice
 - xi. Using conditioning as punishment
 - xii. Throwing sports equipment, water bottles or chairs at, or in the presence of, athletes
 - xiii. Body shaming – making disrespectful, hurtful or embarrassing comments about an athlete's physique
 - b) **Neglect** - acts of omission (i.e., the coach should act to protect the health/well-being of an athlete but does not). Examples of neglect include:
 - i. Isolating an athlete in a confined space or stranded on equipment, with no supervision, for an extended period
 - ii. Withholding, recommending against, or denying adequate hydration, nutrition, medical attention or sleep

- iii. Ignoring an injury
 - iv. Knowing about sexual abuse of an athlete but failing to report it
- c) **Physical Maltreatment** - involves contact or non-contact behaviour that can cause physical harm to an athlete. It also includes any act or conduct described as physical abuse or misconduct (e.g., child abuse, child neglect and assault). Almost all sport involves strenuous physical activity. Athletes regularly push themselves to the point of exhaustion. However, any activity that physically harms an athlete—such as extreme disciplinary actions or punishment—is unacceptable. Physical maltreatment can extend to seemingly unrelated areas including inadequate recovery times for injuries and restricted diet. Examples of physical maltreatment include:
- i. Punching, beating, biting, striking, choking or slapping an athlete
 - ii. Intentionally hitting an athlete with objects or sporting equipment
 - iii. Providing alcohol to an athlete under the legal drinking age
 - iv. Providing illegal drugs or non-prescribed medications to any athlete
 - v. Encouraging or permitting an athlete to return to play prematurely or without the clearance of a medical professional, following a serious injury (e.g., a concussion)
 - vi. Prescribed dieting or other weight-control methods without regard for the nutritional well-being and health of an athlete
 - vii. Forcing an athlete to assume a painful stance or position for no athletic purpose, or excessive repetition of a skill to the point of injury
 - viii. Using excessive exercise as punishment (e.g., stretching to the point of causing the athlete to cry, endurance conditioning until the athlete vomits)
9. Importantly, emotional and physical maltreatment does not include professionally-accepted coaching methods (per the NCCP) of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building, discipline, or improving athletic performance.
10. Potential warning signs of abuse of children or youth can include:
- a) Recurrent unexplained injuries
 - b) Alert behaviour; child seems to always be expecting something bad to happen
 - c) Often wears clothing that covers up their skin, even in warm weather
 - d) Child startles easily, shies away from touch or shows other skittish behaviour
 - e) Constantly seems fearful or anxious about doing something wrong
 - f) Withdrawn from peers and adults
 - g) Behavior fluctuates between extremes (e.g., extremely cooperative or extremely demanding)
 - h) Acting either inappropriately beyond their age (like an adult; taking care of other children) or inappropriately younger than their age (like an infant; throwing tantrums)
 - i) Acting out in an inappropriate sexual way with toys or objects
 - j) New adult words for body parts and no obvious source
 - k) Self-harm (e.g., cutting, burning or other harmful activities)
 - l) Not wanting to be alone with a particular child or young person

Vulnerable Adult Abuse

11. Although individuals may be abused at virtually any life stage – childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, middle age, or old age – the nature and consequences of abuse may differ depending on an individual's situation, disability, or circumstance.
12. Abuse of vulnerable adults is often described as a misuse of power and a violation of trust. Abusers may use a number of different tactics to exert power and control over their victims. Abuse may happen once, or it may occur in a repeated and escalating pattern over months or years. The abuse may take many different forms, which may change over time:

- a) **Psychological abuse** includes attempts to dehumanize or intimidate vulnerable adults. Any verbal or non-verbal act that reduces their sense of self-worth or dignity and threatens their psychological and emotional integrity is abuse. This type of abuse may include, for example
 - i. Threatening to use violence
 - ii. Threatening to abandon them
 - iii. Intentionally frightening them
 - iv. Making them fear that they will not receive the food or care they need
 - v. Lying to them
 - vi. Failing to check allegations of abuse against them

- b) **Financial abuse** encompasses financial manipulation or exploitation, including theft, fraud, forgery, or extortion. It includes using a vulnerable adult's money or property in a dishonest manner or failing to use a vulnerable adult's assets for their welfare. Abuse occurs any time someone acts without consent in a way that financially or personally benefits one person at the expense of another. This type of abuse against a vulnerable adult may include, for example:
 - i. Stealing their money, disability cheques, or other possessions
 - ii. Wrongfully using a Power of Attorney
 - iii. Failing to pay back borrowed money when asked

- c) **Physical abuse** includes any act of violence – whether or not it results in physical injury. Intentionally inflicting pain or injury that results in either bodily harm or mental distress is abuse. Physical abuse may include, for example:
 - i. Beating
 - ii. Burning or scalding
 - iii. Pushing or shoving
 - iv. Hitting or slapping
 - v. Rough handling
 - vi. Tripping
 - vii. Spitting

- d) All forms of sexual abuse are also applicable to vulnerable adults

13. Potential warning signs of abuse of vulnerable adults can include:

- a) Depression, fear, anxiety, passivity
- b) Unexplained physical injuries
- c) Dehydration, malnutrition, or lack of food
- d) Poor hygiene, rashes, pressure sores
- e) Over-sedation

Preventing Abuse

14. Curling Canada will enact measures aimed at preventing abuse. These measures include screening, orientation, training, practice, and monitoring.

Screening

15. Individuals who coach, volunteer, officiate, deliver developmental programs, are affiliated with provincial teams, accompany a team to an event or competition, are paid staff, or otherwise engage with Vulnerable Individuals involved with Curling Canada will be screened according to the organization's *Screening Policy*.

16. Curling Canada will use the *Screening Policy* to determine the level of trust, authority, and access that each Individual has with Vulnerable Individuals. Each level of risk will be accompanied by increased screening procedures which may include the following, singularly or in combination:
- Completing an Application Form for the position sought (which includes alerting Individuals that they must agree to adhere with the organization's policies and procedures (including this *Abuse Policy*))
 - Completing a Screening Declaration Form
 - Providing letters of reference
 - Providing a Criminal Record Check ("CRC") and/or Vulnerable Sector Check ("VSC")
 - Providing a driver's abstract (for Individuals who transport Vulnerable Individuals)
 - Other screening procedures, as required
17. An Individual's failure to participate in the screening process or pass the screening requirements as determined by a Screening Committee, will result in the Individual's ineligibility for the position sought.

Orientation and Training

18. Curling Canada will deliver orientation and training to those Individuals who have access to, or interact with, Vulnerable Individuals. The orientation and training, and their frequency, will be based on the level of risk, as described in the *Screening Policy*.
19. Orientation may include, but is not limited to: introductory presentations, facility tours, equipment demonstrations, parent/athlete meetings, meetings with colleagues and supervisors, orientation manuals, orientation sessions, and increased supervision during initial tasks or period of engagement.
20. Training may include, but is not limited to: certification courses, online learning, mentoring, workshop sessions, webinars, on-site demonstrations, and peer feedback.
21. At the conclusion of the orientation and training, Individuals will be required to acknowledge, in written form, that they have received and completed the training.

Practice

22. When Individuals interact with Vulnerable Individuals, they are required to enact certain practical approaches to these interactions. These include, but are not limited to:
- Limiting physical interactions to non-threatening or non-sexual touching (e.g., high-fives, pats on the back or shoulder, handshakes, specific skill instruction, etc.)
 - Ensuring that Vulnerable Individuals are always supervised by more than one adult
 - Ensuring that more than one person is responsible for team selection (thereby limiting the consolidation of power onto one Individual)
 - Including parents/guardians in all communication (e.g., electronic, telephonic) with Vulnerable Individuals
 - Ensuring that parents/guardians are aware that some non-personal communication between Individuals and Vulnerable Individuals (e.g., coaches and athletes) may take place electronically (e.g., by texting) and that this type of communication is now considered to be commonplace, especially with older Vulnerable Individuals (e.g., teenagers). Individuals are aware that such communication is subject to Curling Canada's *Code of Conduct and Ethics* and *Social Media Policy*.
 - When traveling with Vulnerable Individuals, the Individual will not transport Vulnerable Individuals without another adult present and will not stay in the same overnight accommodation location without additional adult supervision.

Monitoring

23. Curling Canada will regularly monitor those Individuals who have access to, or interact with, Vulnerable Individuals. The monitoring will be based on the level of risk, as described in the *Screening Policy*.
24. Monitoring may include, but is not limited to: regular status reports, logs, supervisor meetings, supervisor on-site check-ins, feedback provided directly to the organization (from peers and parents/athletes), and regular evaluations.

Reporting Abuse

25. Individuals that receive reports of abuse that are shared confidentially by a Vulnerable Individual shall report the incident to the Vulnerable Individual's parents/guardians and Curling Canada. Depending on the nature of the alleged abuse, Curling Canada shall determine if the matter must be reported to the police or another public authority. Individuals must respond to such reports in a non-judgemental, supportive and comforting manner but must also explain that the report may need to be escalated to the proper authority or to the Vulnerable Individual's parent/guardian.
26. Unless the case is being investigated by the police or other public authorities, complaints or reports that describe an element of **abuse** will be addressed by the process(es) described in Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy* and the *Investigations Policy - Discrimination, Harassment and Abuse*.

INVESTIGATIONS POLICY – DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) “*Discipline Chair*” – An individual or individuals appointed by the Chief Executive Officer to be the first point-of-contact for all discipline and complaint matters reported to Curling Canada in accordance with the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*
 - b) “*Case Manager*” – An individual appointed by the Chief Executive Officer to administer certain complaints under the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. The Case Manager does not need to be a member of, or affiliated with Curling Canada
 - c) “*Individuals*” – All categories of membership defined in Curling Canada’s Bylaws, as well as all individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with Curling Canada including, but not limited to, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, and Directors and Officers of Curling Canada
2. The following terms have the meanings as defined in the Curling Canada’s *Code of Conduct and Ethics*:
 - a) Harassment
 - b) Discrimination
 - c) Workplace Harassment
 - d) Sexual Harassment
 - e) Workplace Violence
3. The term ‘Abuse’ has the meaning as defined in Curling Canada’s *Abuse Policy*.

Purpose

4. Curling Canada is committed to eliminating all instances of Discrimination, Harassment, Workplace Harassment, Workplace Violence, Sexual Harassment, and Abuse within its operations and activities. This Policy describes how Individuals can report instances of Discrimination, Harassment, Workplace Harassment, Workplace Violence, Sexual Harassment, Abuse and Maltreatment and how Curling Canada will investigate those reports.

Determination and Disclosure

5. When a complaint is submitted in accordance with Curling Canada’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, the Discipline Chair will determine if such complaint is related to an instance of Discrimination, Harassment, Workplace Harassment, Workplace Violence, Sexual Harassment, Abuse or Maltreatment.
6. Curling Canada will adhere to all disclosure and reporting responsibilities required by the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities and, if applicable, any government entity, local police force, or child protection agency.

Investigation

7. Complaints that are determined to contain an element of Discrimination, Harassment, Workplace Harassment, Workplace Violence, Sexual Harassment, Abuse and Maltreatment will continue to be addressed by the process(es) described in the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. However, the Discipline Chair or Case Manager may also appoint an Investigator to investigate the allegations.
8. The Investigator must be an independent third-party skilled in investigating claims of harassment. The Investigator must not be in a conflict of interest situation and should have no connection to either party.

9. Federal and/or Provincial legislation related to Workplace Harassment may apply to the investigation if Harassment was directed toward a worker in a Workplace. The Investigator should review workplace safety legislation and/or consult independent experts to determine whether legislation applies to the complaint.
10. The investigation may take any form as decided by the Investigator, guided by any applicable Federal and/or Provincial legislation. The investigation may include:
 - a) Complainant interviewed;
 - b) Witnesses interviewed;
 - c) Statement of facts (complainant's perspective) prepared by Investigator and acknowledged by Complainant;
 - d) Statement delivered to Respondent;
 - e) Respondent interviewed;
 - f) Witnesses interviewed; and
 - g) Statement of facts (respondent's perspective) prepared by Investigator and acknowledged by Respondent.

Investigator's Report

11. In accordance with the timelines determined by the Discipline Chair or Case Manager, who may modify the timelines as described in the *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, the Investigator will prepare and submit a Report.
12. The Investigator's Report should include a summary of evidence from the parties (including both statements of facts, if applicable) and recommendations from the Investigator of whether or not, on a balance of probabilities, an incident occurred that could be considered Discrimination, Harassment, Workplace Harassment, Workplace Violence, Sexual Harassment, Abuse or Maltreatment.
13. The Investigator's Report will be provided to the parties with the names and identifying details of any witnesses redacted. The provision of the Investigator's Report is conditional on the parties not distributing the Report to any third party without the written permission of Curling Canada.
14. Should the Investigator find that there are possible instances of offence under the *Criminal Code*, particularly related to Criminal Harassment (or Stalking), Uttering Threats, Assault, Sexual Interference, or Sexual Exploitation, the Investigator shall advise the Complainant to refer the matter to police. The Investigator will further inform Curling Canada that the matter should be directed to the police.
15. The Investigator must also inform Curling Canada of any findings of criminal activity. Curling Canada may decide whether to report such findings to police but is required to inform police if there are findings related to the trafficking of doping drugs or materials, any sexual crime involving minors, fraud against Curling Canada, or other offences where the lack of reporting would bring Curling Canada's reputation into disrepute.
16. The Discipline Chair, Case Manager or the Discipline Panel, as applicable, shall consider the Investigator's Report, in addition to submissions from the parties, prior to deciding on the complaint.

Reprisal and Retaliation

17. An individual who submits a complaint to Curling Canada, or who gives evidence in an investigation, may not be subject to reprisal or retaliation from any individual or group. Should anyone who participates in the process face reprisal or retaliation, that individual will have cause to submit a complaint.

False Allegations

18. An individual who submits allegations that the Investigator determines to be false or without merit may be subject to a complaint pursuant to Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. In such circumstances, Curling Canada or the individual against whom the false allegations were submitted may act as the Complainant.

Confidentiality

19. The information obtained about an incident or complaint (including identifying information about any individuals involved) will remain confidential, unless disclosure is necessary for the purpose of investigating or taking corrective action or is otherwise required by law.

20. The Investigator will make every effort to preserve the confidentiality of the complainant, respondent, and any other party. However, Curling Canada recognizes that maintaining anonymity of any party may be difficult for the Investigator during the investigation.

DISCIPLINE AND COMPLAINTS POLICY

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) “*Case Manager*” – An individual appointed by the Chief Executive Officer to administer certain complaints under this *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. The Case Manager does not need to be a member of, or affiliated with Curling Canada
 - b) “*Complainant*” – The Party making a complaint
 - c) “*Days*” – Days including weekends and holidays
 - d) “*Discipline Chair*” – An individual or individuals appointed by the Chief Executive Officer to be the first point-of-contact for all discipline and complaint matters reported to Curling Canada
 - e) “*Individuals*” – All categories of membership defined in Curling Canada’s Bylaws, as well as all individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with Curling Canada including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, convenors, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, Directors and Officers of Curling Canada, spectators, and parents/guardians of athletes
 - f) “*Respondent*” – The Party responding to the complaint

Purpose

2. Individuals are expected to fulfill certain responsibilities and obligations including, but not limited to, complying with Curling Canada’s policies, Bylaws, rules and regulations, and *Code of Conduct and Ethics*. Non-compliance may result in sanctions pursuant to this Policy.

Discipline Chair

3. The Discipline Chair will be a Director of the Board, or an individual appointed by the Chief Executive Officer to handle the duties of the Discipline Chair. The Chief Executive Officer may choose to appoint three (3) individuals to serve as Discipline Chair and, in this case, decisions of the Discipline Chair will be by majority vote.
4. The Discipline Chair appointed to handle a complaint or incident must be unbiased and not in a conflict of interest situation.

Application of this Policy

5. This Policy applies to all Individuals.
6. This Policy applies to matters that may arise during Curling Canada’s business, activities, and events including, but not limited to, competitions, practices, tryouts, training camps, travel associated with Curling Canada’s activities, and any meetings.
7. This Policy also applies to Individuals’ conduct outside of Curling Canada’s business, activities, and events when such conduct adversely affects relationships within Curling Canada (and its work and sport environment), is detrimental to the image and reputation of Curling Canada, or upon the acceptance of Curling Canada. Applicability will be determined by Curling Canada at its sole discretion.
8. This Policy does not prevent immediate discipline or sanction from being applied as reasonably required. Further discipline may be applied according to this Policy. Any infractions or complaints occurring within competition will be dealt with by the procedures specific to the competition, if applicable. In such situations, disciplinary sanctions will be for the duration of the competition, training, activity, or event only.

9. An employee of Curling Canada who is a Respondent will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with any of Curling Canada's applicable policies, as well as the employee's Employment Agreement, if applicable. Violations may result in a warning, reprimand, restrictions, suspension, or other disciplinary actions up to and including termination of employment.

Alignment

10. Curling Canada recognizes that Individuals may also be registered with Provincial/Territorial Organizations and/or Member Clubs. Curling Canada requires that Provincial/Territorial Organizations and/or Member Clubs to submit discipline decisions involving Individuals to Curling Canada. Curling Canada may, at its sole discretion, take further action.
11. If Curling Canada decides to take further action upon becoming aware of an Individual who has been disciplined by Provincial/Territorial Organization and/or Member Club, the Individual will be the Respondent to a complaint initiated under the terms of this Policy. Curling Canada may act as the Complainant if the original Complainant is unwilling or unavailable to participate in this process.
12. The Discipline Chair or Discipline Panel, as applicable, will review and consider the decision by the Provincial/Territorial Organization and/or Member Club when deciding on the complaint in accordance with the terms of this Policy.

Adult Representative

13. Complaints may be brought for or against an Individual who is a minor. Minors must have a parent/guardian or other adult serve as their representative during this process.
14. Communication from the Discipline Chair or Case Manager, as applicable, must be directed to the minor's representative.
15. A minor is not required to attend an oral hearing, if held.

Process

16. Any Individual may report an incident or complaint to the Chief Executive Officer in writing, within fourteen (14) days of the alleged incident, although this timeline can be waived or extended at the Chief Executive Officer's discretion.
17. Curling Canada may, in its sole discretion, act as the Complainant and initiate the complaint process under the terms of this Policy. In such cases, Curling Canada will identify an individual representative of the organization.
18. Upon receiving a report of an incident or a complaint, the Chief Executive Officer may, at their sole discretion and depending on the nature of the issue, appoint a Discipline Chair, who will be responsible for following process #1, as described in Sections 21-27 below, or, alternatively, appoint a Case Manager, who will be responsible for following Section 28 and following below. The Chief Executive Officer's decision to appoint a Discipline Chair or a Case Manager is not subject to appeal.
19. When determining whether to appoint a Discipline Chair or a Case Manager, the Chief Executive Officer has the discretion to choose which process should be followed, and may use the following examples as a general guideline:
 - a) Process #1 - the Complaint alleges the following incidents:
 - i. Disrespectful, abusive, racist, or sexist comments or behaviour

- ii. Disrespectful conduct
- iii. Minor incidents of violence (e.g., tripping, pushing, elbowing)
- iv. Conduct contrary to the values of Curling Canada
- v. Non-compliance with Curling Canada's policies, procedures, rules, or regulations
- vi. Minor violations of Curling Canada's *Code of Conduct and Ethics*

b) Process #2 - the Complaint alleges the following incidents:

- i. Repeated minor incidents
- ii. Any incident of hazing
- iii. Behaviour that constitutes harassment, sexual harassment, or sexual misconduct
- iv. Major incidents of violence (e.g., fighting, attacking, sucker punching)
- v. Pranks, jokes, or other activities that endanger the safety of others
- vi. Conduct that intentionally interferes with a competition or with any athlete's preparation for a competition
- vii. Conduct that intentionally damages Curling Canada's image, credibility, or reputation
- viii. Consistent disregard for Curling Canada's bylaws, policies, rules, and regulations
- ix. Major or repeated violations of Curling Canada's *Code of Conduct and Ethics*
- x. Intentionally damaging Curling Canada's property or improperly handling Curling Canada's monies
- xi. Abusive use of alcohol, any use or possession of alcohol by minors, or use or possession of illicit drugs and narcotics
- xii. A conviction for any *Criminal Code* offense
- xiii. Any possession or use of banned performance enhancing drugs or methods

20. The Discipline Chair or Case Manager (as applicable), may determine that the alleged incident may contain an element of discrimination, harassment, workplace harassment, workplace violence, sexual harassment, or abuse. In this case, the Discipline Chair or Case Manager may appoint an Investigator in accordance with Curling Canada's *Investigations Policy - Discrimination, Harassment, and Abuse* and Curling Canada, and the Investigator, will have additional responsibilities as described in that Policy.

Process #1: Handled by Discipline Chair

Sanctions

21. Following the determination that the complaint or incident should be handled under Process #1, the Discipline Chair will review the submissions related to the complaint or incident and determine one or more of the following sanctions:

- a) Verbal or written reprimand
- b) Verbal or written apology
- c) Service or other contribution to Curling Canada
- d) Removal of certain privileges
- e) Suspension from certain teams, events, and/or activities
- f) Suspension from all or some of Curling Canada's activities for a designated period
- g) Any other sanction considered appropriate for the offense

22. The Discipline Chair will inform the Respondent of the sanction, which will take effect immediately.

23. Records of all sanctions will be maintained by Curling Canada.

Request for Reconsideration

24. The sanction may not be appealed until the completion of a request for reconsideration. However, the Respondent may contest the sanction by submitting a Request for Reconsideration within four (4) days of receiving the sanction. In the Request for Reconsideration, the Respondent must indicate:

- a) Why the sanction is inappropriate;
 - b) All evidence to support the Respondent's position; and
 - c) What penalty or sanction (if any) would be appropriate.
25. Upon receiving a Request for Reconsideration, the Discipline Chair may decide to accept or reject the Respondent's suggestion for an appropriate sanction.
26. Should the Discipline Chair accept the Respondent's suggestion for an appropriate sanction, that sanction will take effect immediately.
27. Should the Discipline Chair not accept the Respondent's suggestion for an appropriate sanction, the initial complaint or incident will be handled under Process #2 of this Policy.

Process #2: Handled by Case Manager

Case Manager

28. Following the determination that the complaint or incident should be handled under Process #2, the Chief Executive Officer will appoint a Case Manager to oversee management and administration of the complaint or incident. The Case Manager should not be in a conflict of interest and should have expertise in dispute resolution matters. Such appointment is not appealable.
29. The Case Manager has a responsibility to:
- a) Determine whether the complaint is frivolous and/or within the jurisdiction of this Policy
 - b) Propose the use of Curling Canada's *Dispute Resolution Policy*
 - c) Appoint the Discipline Panel, if necessary
 - d) Coordinate all administrative aspects and set timelines
 - e) Provide administrative assistance and logistical support to the Discipline Panel as required
 - f) Provide any other service or support that may be necessary to ensure a fair and timely proceeding

Procedures

30. If the Case Manager determines the complaint is:
- a) Frivolous or outside the jurisdiction of this Policy, the complaint will be dismissed immediately
 - b) Not frivolous and within the jurisdiction of this Policy, the Case Manager will notify the Parties that the complaint is accepted and of the applicable next steps
31. The Case Manager's decision to accept or dismiss the complaint may not be appealed.
32. The Case Manager will establish and adhere to timelines that ensure procedural fairness and that the matter is heard in a timely fashion.
33. After notifying the Parties that the complaint has been accepted, the Case Manager may propose using Curling Canada's *Dispute Resolution Policy* with the objective of resolving the dispute. If applicable, and if the dispute is not resolved, or if the parties refuse to use the *Dispute Resolution Policy*, the Case Manager will appoint a Discipline Panel, which shall consist of a single Arbitrator, to hear the complaint. In extraordinary circumstances, and at the discretion of the Case Manager, a Discipline Panel of three persons may be appointed to hear the complaint. In this event, the Case Manager will appoint one of the Discipline Panel's members to serve as the Chair.
34. The Case Manager, in cooperation with the 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. The hearing will be governed by the procedures that the Case Manager and the Discipline Panel deem appropriate in the circumstances, provided that:

- a) The Parties will be given appropriate notice of the day, time, and place of the hearing, in the case of an oral in-person hearing or an oral hearing by telephone or other communication medium
- b) Copies of any written documents which the parties wish to have the Discipline Panel consider will be provided to all Parties, through the Case Manager, in advance of the hearing
- c) The Parties may engage a representative, advisor, or legal counsel at their own expense
- d) The Discipline Panel may request that any other individual participate and give evidence at the hearing
- e) The Discipline Panel may allow as evidence at the hearing any oral evidence and document or thing relevant to the subject matter of the complaint, but may exclude such evidence that is unduly repetitious, and shall place such weight on the evidence as it deems appropriate
- f) The decision will be by a majority vote of the Discipline Panel

35. If the Respondent acknowledges the facts of the incident, the Respondent may waive the hearing, in which case the Discipline Panel will determine the appropriate sanction. The Discipline Panel may still hold a hearing for the purpose of determining an appropriate sanction.

36. The hearing will proceed in any event, even if a Party chooses not to participate in the hearing.

37. 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 current complaint and will be bound by the decision.

38. In fulfilling its duties, the Discipline Panel may obtain independent advice.

Decision

39. After hearing and/or reviewing the matter, the Discipline Panel will determine whether an infraction has occurred and, if so, the sanctions to be imposed. Within fourteen (14) days of the hearing's conclusion, the Discipline Panel's written decision, with reasons, will be distributed to all Parties, the Case Manager, and Curling Canada. In extraordinary circumstances, the 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. The decision will be considered a matter of public record unless decided otherwise by the Discipline Panel.

Sanctions

40. The Discipline Panel may apply the following disciplinary sanctions, singularly or in combination:

- a) Verbal or written reprimand
- b) Verbal or written apology
- c) Service or other contribution to Curling Canada
- d) Removal of certain privileges
- e) Suspension from certain teams, events, and/or activities
- f) Suspension from all or some of Curling Canada's activities for a designated period
- g) Payment of the cost of repairs for property damage
- h) Suspension of funding from Curling Canada or from other sources
- i) Expulsion from Curling Canada
- j) Any other sanction considered appropriate for the offense

41. Unless the Discipline Panel decides otherwise, any disciplinary sanctions will begin immediately, notwithstanding an appeal. Failure to comply with a sanction as determined by the Discipline Panel will result in an automatic suspension until such time as compliance occurs.
42. Records of all decisions will be maintained by Curling Canada.

Appeals

43. The decision of the Discipline Panel may be appealed in accordance with Curling Canada's *Appeal Policy*.

Suspension Pending a Hearing

44. The Chief Executive Officer may, at their sole discretion, determine that an alleged incident is of such seriousness as to warrant suspension of an Individual pending completion of a criminal process, the hearing, or a decision of the Discipline Panel.

Criminal Convictions

45. An Individual's conviction for a *Criminal Code* offense will be deemed an infraction under this Policy and will result in expulsion from Curling Canada. *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
 - d) Any offence of assault
 - e) Any offence involving trafficking of illegal drugs

Confidentiality

46. The discipline and complaints process is confidential and involves only the Parties, the Case Manager, the Discipline Panel, and any independent advisors to the Discipline Panel. Once initiated and until a decision is released, none of the Parties will disclose confidential information relating to the discipline or complaint to any person not involved in the proceedings.

Timelines

47. 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 Discipline Panel may direct that these timelines be revised.

Records and Distribution of Decisions

48. Other individuals or organizations, including but not limited to, national sport organizations, provincial sport organizations, sport clubs, etc., may be advised of any decisions rendered in accordance with this Policy.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY

Definitions

1. The following term has this meaning in this Policy:
 - a) “*Individuals*” – All categories of membership defined in Curling Canada’s Bylaws, as well as all individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with Curling Canada including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, convenors, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, and Directors and Officers of Curling Canada.

Purpose

2. Curling Canada supports the principles of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and is committed to the techniques of negotiation, facilitation, and mediation as effective ways to resolve disputes. Alternate Dispute Resolution also avoids the uncertainty, costs, and other negative effects associated with lengthy appeals or complaints, or with litigation.
3. Curling Canada encourages all Individuals to communicate openly, collaborate, and use problem-solving and negotiation techniques to resolve their differences. Curling Canada believes that negotiated settlements are usually preferable to outcomes resolved through other dispute resolution techniques. Negotiated resolutions to disputes with and among Individuals are strongly encouraged.

Application of this Policy

4. This Policy applies to all Individuals.
5. 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.

Facilitation and Mediation

6. The dispute will first be referred to Curling Canada’s Chief Executive Officer for review, with the objective of resolving the dispute via Alternate Dispute Resolution and/or mediation.
7. If all parties to a dispute agree to Alternate Dispute Resolution or mediation, the Chief Executive Officer may refer the alternate dispute resolution process to a resolution facilitator of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC).
8. 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.
9. The mediator or facilitator shall decide the format under which the dispute shall be mediated or facilitated and shall specify a deadline before which the parties must reach a negotiated decision.
10. Should a negotiated decision be reached, the decision shall be reported to, and approved by Curling Canada. Any actions that are to take place as a result of the decision shall be enacted on the timelines specified by the negotiated decision, pending Curling Canada’s approval.
11. Should a negotiated decision not be reached by the deadline specified by the mediator or facilitator at the start of the process, or if the parties to the dispute do not agree to Alternate Dispute Resolution, the dispute shall be considered under the appropriate section of Curling Canada’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy* or *Appeal Policy*, as applicable.

Final and Binding

12. Any negotiated decision will be binding on the parties. Negotiated decisions may not be appealed.

APPEAL POLICY

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) *“Appellant”* – The Party appealing a decision
 - b) *“Case Manager”* – An individual appointed by the Chief Executive Officer who may be any staff member, committee member, volunteer, Director, or an independent third party, to oversee this Appeal Policy. The Case Manager will have responsibilities that include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Ensuring procedural fairness;
 - ii. Respecting the applicable timelines; and
 - iii. Using decision making authority empowered by this Policy.
 - c) *“Respondent”* – The body whose decision is being appealed
 - d) *“Parties”* – The Appellant, Respondent, and any other Individuals affected by the appeal
 - e) *“Days”* – Days including weekends and holidays
 - f) *“Individuals”* – All categories of membership defined in Curling Canada’s Bylaws, as well as all individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with Curling Canada including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, convenors, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, Directors and Officers of Curling Canada, spectators at events, and parents/guardians of athletes

Purpose

2. Curling Canada is committed to providing an environment in which all Individuals involved with Curling Canada are treated with respect and fairness. Curling Canada provides Individuals with this *Appeal Policy* to enable fair, affordable, and expedient appeals of certain decisions made by Curling Canada. Further, some decisions made by the process outlined in Curling Canada’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy* may be appealed under this Policy.

Scope and Application of this Policy

3. This Policy applies to all Individuals. Any Individual who is directly affected by a decision by Curling Canada shall have the right to appeal that decision provided there are sufficient grounds for the appeal under the ‘Grounds for Appeal’ section of this Policy.
4. This Policy **will apply** to decisions relating to:
 - a) Eligibility
 - b) Selection
 - c) Conflict of Interest
 - d) Discipline
 - e) Membership
5. This Policy **will not apply** to decisions relating to:
 - a) Employment
 - b) Infractions for doping offenses
 - c) The rules of the sport
 - d) Selection criteria, quotas, policies, and procedures established by entities other than Curling Canada
 - e) Substance, content and establishment of team selection criteria
 - f) Volunteer/coach appointments and the withdrawal or termination of those appointments
 - g) Budgeting and budget implementation
 - h) Curling Canada’s operational structure and committee appointments

- i) Decisions or discipline arising within the business, activities, or events organized by entities other than Curling Canada (appeals of these decisions shall be dealt with pursuant to the policies of those other entities unless requested and accepted by Curling Canada at its sole discretion)
- j) Commercial matters for which another appeals process exists under a contract or applicable law
- k) Decisions made under this Policy

Timing of Appeal

6. Individuals who wish to appeal a decision have seven (7) days from the date on which they received notice of the decision to submit, in writing to Curling Canada, the following:
 - a) Notice of the intention to appeal
 - b) Contact information and status of the appellant
 - 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 decision if written document is not available
 - f) Grounds for the appeal
 - g) Detailed reasons for the appeal
 - h) All evidence that supports these grounds
 - i) Requested remedy or remedies
 - j) An administration fee of one hundred dollars (\$100), which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld
7. An Individual who wishes to initiate an appeal beyond the seven (7) day period must provide a written request stating the reasons for an exemption. The decision to allow, or not allow, an appeal outside of the seven (7) day period will be at the sole discretion of the Case Manager and may not be appealed.

Grounds for Appeal

8. A decision cannot be appealed on its merits alone. An appeal may only be heard if there are sufficient grounds for appeal. Sufficient grounds include the Respondent:
 - a) Made a decision that it did not have the authority or jurisdiction (as set out in the Respondent's governing documents) to make
 - b) Failed to follow its own procedures (as set out in the Respondent's governing documents)
 - c) Made a decision that was influenced by bias (where bias is defined as a lack of neutrality to such an extent that the decision-maker appears not to have considered other views)
 - d) Failed to consider relevant information or took into account irrelevant information in making the decision
 - e) Made a decision that was grossly unreasonable
9. The Appellant must demonstrate, on a balance of probabilities, that the Respondent has made a procedural error as described in the 'Grounds for Appeal' section of this Policy and that this error had, or may reasonably have had, a material effect on the decision or decision-maker.
10. Upon receiving the notice of the appeal, the fee, and all other information (outlined in the 'Timing of Appeal' section of this Policy), Curling Canada and the Appellant may first attempt to resolve the dispute pursuant to Curling Canada's *Dispute Resolution Policy* or through the Early Resolution Facilitation services offered by the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC).
11. Appeals resolved by mediation under Curling Canada's *Dispute Resolution Policy* or through Early Resolution Facilitation at the SDRCC will result in the administration fee being refunded to the Appellant.

Screening of Appeal

12. Should the appeal not be resolved by using the *Dispute Resolution Policy* or through resolution facilitation at the SDRCC, Curling Canada will appoint an independent Case Manager (who must not be in a conflict of interest) who has the following responsibilities:
 - a) Determine if the appeal falls under the scope of this Policy
 - b) Determine if the appeal was submitted in a timely manner
 - c) Decide whether there are sufficient grounds for the appeal
13. If the appeal is denied on the basis of insufficient grounds, because it was not submitted in a timely manner, or because it did not fall under the scope of this Policy, the Appellant will be notified, in writing, of the reasons for this decision. This decision may not be appealed.
14. If the Case Manager is satisfied there are sufficient grounds for an appeal, the Case Manager will appoint an Appeals Panel which shall consist of a single Arbitrator, to hear the appeal. In extraordinary circumstances, and at the discretion of the Case Manager, a Panel of three persons may be appointed to hear the appeal. In this event, the Case Manager will appoint one of the Panel's members to serve as the Chair.

Procedure for Appeal Hearing

15. The Case Manager shall notify the Parties that the appeal will be heard. The Case Manager shall then decide the format under which the appeal will be heard. This decision is at the sole discretion of the Case Manager and may not be appealed.
16. If a Party chooses not to participate in the hearing, the hearing will proceed in any event.
17. 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, or a combination of these methods. The hearing will be governed by the procedures that the Case Manager and the Panel deem appropriate in the circumstances, provided that:
 - a) The hearing will be held within a timeline determined by the Case Manager
 - b) The Parties will be given reasonable notice of the day, time and place of the hearing
 - c) Copies of any written documents which the parties wish to have the 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 Panel may request that any other individual participate and give evidence at the hearing
 - f) The 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) The decision to uphold or reject the appeal will be by a majority vote of Panel members
18. In fulfilling its duties, the Panel may obtain independent advice.

Appeal Decision

19. The Panel shall issue its decision, in writing and with reasons, within fourteen (14) days after the hearing's conclusion. In making its decision, the Panel will have no greater authority than that of the original decision-maker. The Panel may decide to:
 - a) Reject the appeal and confirm the decision being appealed
 - b) Uphold the appeal and refer the matter back to the initial decision-maker for a new decision
 - c) Uphold the appeal and vary the decision

20. The Panel's written decision, with reasons, will be distributed to all Parties, the Case Manager, and Curling Canada. In extraordinary circumstances, the Panel may first issue a verbal or summary decision soon after the hearing's conclusion, with the full written decision to be issued thereafter. The decision will be considered a matter of public record unless decided otherwise by the Panel.
21. The Panel's decision may be appealed by any of the Parties to the SDRCC in accordance with the Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code.

Timelines

22. 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 Case Manager and/or Panel may direct that these timelines be revised.

Confidentiality

23. The appeals process is confidential and involves only the Parties, the Case 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.

Final and Binding

24. No action or legal proceeding will be commenced against Curling Canada or Individuals in respect of a dispute, unless Curling Canada has refused or failed to provide or abide by the dispute resolution process and/or appeal process as set out in Curling Canada's governing documents.

SDRCC

25. By agreement between the Parties, the internal appeal process may be bypassed and the appeal may be heard directly by the SDRCC.

WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) *Director* – An individual appointed or elected to Curling Canada’s Board of Directors
 - b) *Worker* – An individual who has signed an Employment Agreement or Contractor Agreement with Curling Canada

Purpose

2. The purpose of this Policy is to allow Workers to have a discrete and safe procedure by which they can disclose incidents of wrongdoing in the workplace without fear of unfair treatment or reprisal.

Application

3. This Policy only applies to Workers who observe or experience incidents of wrongdoing committed by Directors or by other Workers.
4. Incidents of wrongdoing or misconduct observed or experienced by participants, volunteers, spectators, parents of participants, or other individuals not employed or contracted by Curling Canada can be reported under the terms of Curling Canada’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy* and/or reported to Curling Canada’s Board or Executive Director to be handled under the terms of the individual Worker’s Employment Agreement or Contractor Agreement, as applicable, and/or any other relevant and applicable Curling Canada policy.
5. Matters reported under the terms of this Policy may be referred to be heard under Curling Canada’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, at the discretion of the Compliance Officer.

Wrongdoing

6. Wrongdoing can be defined as:
 - a) Violating the law;
 - b) Intentionally or seriously breaching of Curling Canada’s *Code of Conduct and Ethics*;
 - c) Intentionally or seriously breaching Curling Canada’s policies for workplace violence and harassment;
 - d) Committing or ignoring risks to the life, health, or safety of a participant, volunteer, Worker, or other individual;
 - e) Directing an individual or Worker to commit a crime, serious breach of a policy of Curling Canada, or other wrongful act; or
 - f) Fraud.

Pledge

7. Curling Canada pledges not to dismiss, penalize, discipline, or retaliate or discriminate against any Worker who discloses information or submits, in good faith, a report against a Worker under the terms of this Policy.
8. Any individual affiliated with Curling Canada who breaks this Pledge will be subject to disciplinary action.

Reporting Wrongdoing

9. A Worker who believes that a Director or another Worker has committed an incident of wrongdoing should prepare a report that includes the following:
 - a) Written description of the act or actions that comprise the alleged wrongdoing, including the date and time of the action(s);

- b) Identities and roles of other individuals or Workers (if any) who may be aware of, affected by, or complicit in, the wrongdoing;
- c) Why the act or action should be considered to be wrongdoing; and
- d) How the wrongdoing affects the Worker submitting the report (if applicable).

Authority

10. Curling Canada has appointed the following Compliance Officer to receive reports made under this Policy:

Bill Merklinger, Executive Director of Corporate Services
bill.merklinger@curling.ca

11. After receiving the report, the Compliance Officer has the responsibility to:

- a) Assure the Worker of Curling Canada's Pledge
- b) Connect the Worker to the Alternate Liaison if the individual feels that he or she cannot act in an unbiased or discrete manner due to the individual's role with Curling Canada and/or the content of the report
- c) Determine if the report is frivolous, vexatious, or not submitted in good faith (e.g., the submission of the report is motivated by personal interests and/or the content of the report is obviously false or malicious)
- d) Determine if Curling Canada's *Whistleblower Policy* applies or if the matter should be handled under Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*
- e) Determine if the local police service be contacted
- f) Determine if mediation or alternate dispute resolution can be used to resolve the issue
- g) Determine if Curling Canada's Chairperson and/or Chief Executive Officer should or can be notified of the report
- h) Begin an investigation

Alternate Liaison

12. If the Worker feels that the Compliance Officer is unable to act in an unbiased or discrete manner due to the individual's role with Curling Canada and/or the content of the report, the Worker should contact the following individual who will act as an independent liaison between the Worker and the Compliance Officer:

Steven J. Indig, LLB
Sport Law & Strategy Group
SJI@sportlaw.ca

13. The Alternate Liaison will not disclose the Worker's identity to the Compliance Officer or to anyone affiliated with Curling Canada without the Worker's consent.

14. A Worker who is unsure if he or she should submit a report, or who does not want to have his or her identity known, may contact the Alternate Liaison for informal advice about the process.

Investigation

15. If the Compliance Officer determines that an investigation should be launched, the Compliance Officer may decide to contract an external investigator. In such cases, Curling Canada's Chief Executive Officer and/or Chairperson may be notified that an investigation conducted by an external investigator is necessary without the nature of the investigation, content of the report, or identity of the Worker who submitted the report being disclosed. Curling Canada's Chief Executive Officer and/or Chairperson may not unreasonably refuse the decision to contract an external investigator

16. An investigation launched by the Compliance Officer or by an external investigator should generally take the following form:
- a) Followup interview with the Worker who submitted the report
 - b) Identification of Workers, participants, volunteers or other individuals that may have been affected by the wrongdoing
 - c) Interviews with such-affected individuals
 - d) Interview with the Director(s) or Worker(s) against whom the report was submitted
 - e) Interview with the supervisor(s) of the Director(s) or Worker(s) against whom the report was submitted
17. In all stages of the investigation, the investigator will take every precaution to protect the identity of the Worker who submitted the report and/or the specific nature of the report itself. However, Curling Canada recognizes that there are some instances where the nature of the report and/or the identity of the Worker who submitted the report will or may be inadvertently deduced by individuals participating in the investigation.
18. The investigator will prepare an Investigator's Report – omitting names whenever possible and striving to ensure confidentiality – that will be submitted to Curling Canada's Chairperson and/or Chief Executive Officer for review and action.

Decision

19. Within fourteen (14) days after receiving the Investigator's Report, Curling Canada's Chairperson and/or Chief Executive Officer will take corrective action, as required. Corrective action may include, but is not limited to including:
- a) Enacting and/or enforcing policies and procedures aimed at eliminating the wrongdoing or further opportunities for wrongdoing;
 - b) Revision of job descriptions; or
 - c) Discipline, suspension, termination, or other action as permitted by Curling Canada's Bylaws, provincial employment legislation, any relevant and applicable Curling Canada policy, and/or the Worker's Employment Agreement or Contractor Agreement.
20. The corrective action, if any, will be communicated to the investigator who will then inform the Worker who submitted the report.
21. Decisions made under the terms of this Policy may be appealed under the terms of Curling Canada's *Appeal Policy* provided that:
- a) If the Worker who submitted the initial report is appealing the decision, the Worker understands that his or her identity must be revealed if he or she submits an appeal, and
 - b) If the Director or Worker against whom the initial report was submitted is appealing the decision, the Worker or Director understands that the identity of the Worker who submitted the report will not be revealed and that Curling Canada will act as the Respondent

Confidentiality

22. Confidentiality at all stages of the procedures outlined in this Policy – from the initial report to the final decision – is assured for all individuals (the Worker, the Worker(s) against whom the report is submitted, and the individuals interviewed during the investigation). An individual who intentionally breaches the confidentiality clause of this Policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

EVENT DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

**** This Event Discipline Procedure does not supersede or replace Curling Canada's Discipline and Complaints Policy****

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) *"Event"* – An event sanctioned and operated by Curling Canada
 - b) *"Individuals"* – All categories of membership defined in Curling Canada's Bylaws, as well as all individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with Curling Canada including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, convenors, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, Directors and Officers of Curling Canada, and parents/guardians of athletes.

Purpose

2. Curling Canada is committed to providing a competition environment in which all Individuals are treated with respect. This Procedure outlines how alleged misconduct during an Event will be handled.

Scope and Application of this Policy

3. This Procedure will be applied to all Curling Canada-sanctioned and operated Events. Changes to this Procedure must also be outlined in the event Competition Guide, when and if applicable.
4. If the Event is being sanctioned by an organization other than Curling Canada, the Event Discipline Procedure of the sanctioning organization will replace this procedure. Incidents involving Individuals connected with Curling Canada (such as athletes, coaches, members, and Directors and Officers) must still be reported to Curling Canada to be addressed under Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, if necessary.
5. This Procedure does not replace or supersede Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*. Instead, this Procedure works in concert with the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* by outlining, for a designated person with authority at an event sanctioned and operated by Curling Canada, the procedure for taking immediate, informal, or corrective action in the event of a possible violation of Curling Canada's *Code of Conduct and Ethics*.

Misconduct During Events

6. Incidents that violate or potentially violate Curling Canada's *Code of Conduct and Ethics*, which can occur during a competition, away from the area of competition, or between parties connected to the Event, shall be reported to a designated person (usually the Chief Umpire or Technical Director) responsible at the Event.
7. The designated person at the Event shall use the following procedure to address the incident that violated or potentially violated Curling Canada's *Code of Conduct and Ethics*:
 - a) Notify the involved parties that there has been an incident that violated or potentially violated Curling Canada's *Code of Conduct and Ethics*.
 - b) If the violation occurred during a competition, interviews may be held with the Umpires who officiated or observed the competition and with the coaches and/or skips of each team when necessary and appropriate.
 - c) The fines will be assessed as follows:
 - i. On-Ice Conduct
 - Use of inappropriate language.
 - Making an obscene gesture deemed inappropriate by an Official.

- Being abusive to anyone involved with the event.
 - Refusing to talk to an accredited member of the media.
 - Refusing to wear a RF microphone.
 - Refusing to cooperate with the televising network.
 - Dress code violation (including the use of unapproved cresting on clothing or equipment)
 - a. 1st Offence \$150 - \$500
 - b. 2nd Offence \$500 - \$1,000
 - c. 3rd Offence Fine up to \$1,000 and suspension
 - Conceding a game before the time frame designated by Curling Canada without permission. \$2,000 per team for each offence.
 - Refusing to take a directive given by a Curling Canada official:
 - a. 1st Offence \$300 - \$600
 - b. 2nd Offence \$600 - \$1,000
 - c. 3rd Offence up to \$1,000 and suspension
- ii. Off-Ice Activity:
- Any conduct considered inappropriate by Curling Canada.
 - a. 1st Offence \$300 - \$600
 - b. 2nd Offence \$600 - \$1,000
 - c. 3rd Offence up to \$1,000 and suspension
8. The Chief Umpire and/or the Event Technical Director do not have the authority to determine a suspension that exceeds the duration of the Event. A full written report of the incident shall be submitted to Curling Canada following the conclusion of the Event. Further discipline may then be applied in accordance with Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy* if necessary.
9. Decisions made in the scope of this Procedure may not be appealed.
10. This Procedure does not prohibit other Individuals from reporting the same incident to Curling Canada to be addressed as a formal complaint pursuant to Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
11. Curling Canada shall record and track all reported incidents.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) “*Social media*” – The catch-all term that is applied broadly to new computer-mediated communication media including, but not limited to blogs, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat, and Twitter.
 - b) “*Individuals*” – Individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with Curling Canada including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, convenors, referees, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, medical and paramedical personnel, and Directors and Officers of Curling Canada
 - c) “*Discipline Chair or Case Manager*” – The person(s) appointed by Curling Canada to oversee management and administration of complaints, as applicable.

Preamble

2. Curling Canada is aware that Individual interaction and communication occurs frequently on social media. Curling Canada cautions Individuals that any conduct falling short of the standard of behaviour required by Curling Canada’s *Code of Conduct and Ethics* will be subject to the disciplinary sanctions identified within Curling Canada’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

Application of this Policy

3. This Policy applies to all Individuals as defined in the Definitions.

Conduct and Behaviour

4. In accordance with Curling Canada’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy* and *Code of Conduct and Ethics*, the following social media conduct may be considered minor or major infractions at the discretion of the Discipline Chair or Case Manager:
 - a) Posting a disrespectful, hateful, harmful, disparaging, insulting, or otherwise negative comment on a social medium that is directed at an Individual, at Curling Canada, or at other individuals connected with Curling Canada
 - b) Posting a picture, altered picture, or video on a social medium that is harmful, disrespectful, insulting, or otherwise offensive, and that is directed at an Individual, at Curling Canada, or at other individuals connected with Curling Canada
 - c) Creating or contributing to 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 Curling Canada, its stakeholders, or its reputation
 - d) Inappropriate personal or sexual relationships between Individuals who have a power imbalance in their interactions, such as between athletes and coaches, Directors and staff, officials and athletes, etc.
 - e) Any instance of cyber-bullying or cyber-harassment between one Individual and another Individual (including a teammate, coach, opponent, volunteer, or official), 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 behaviour, pranks or jokes, threats, posing as another person, spreading rumours or lies, or other harmful behaviour.
5. All conduct and behaviour occurring on social media may be subject to Curling Canada’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy* at the discretion of the Discipline Chair or Case Manager.

Individuals Responsibilities

6. Individuals acknowledge that their social media activity may be viewed by anyone, including Curling Canada.
7. If Curling Canada 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 Curling Canada to cease this engagement.
8. When using social media, an Individual must model appropriate behaviour befitting the Individual's role and status in connection with Curling Canada.
9. Removing content from social media after it has been posted (either publicly or privately) does not excuse the Individual from being subject to Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
10. An individual who believes that an Individual's social media activity is inappropriate or may violate Curling Canada's policies and procedures should report the matter to Curling Canada in the manner outlined by Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

ATHLETE PROTECTION POLICY

Purpose

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

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

2. Curling Canada and its Members strongly recommend the ‘Rule of Two’ for all Persons in Authority who interact with Athletes. 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.

3. Curling Canada 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.

Consequently, at a minimum, interactions between Persons in Authority and Athletes must respect the following:

- i. The training environment should be open to observation so that all interactions between Persons in Authority and athletes are observable.
 - ii. Private or one-on-one situations must be avoided unless they are observable or within earshot of another adult or athlete.
 - iii. Vulnerable Individuals must not be in any situation where they are alone with a Person in Authority without another athlete or screened adult present unless prior written permission is obtained from the Vulnerable Individual’s parent or guardian.
1. In addition to respecting the minimum requirements described above, it is strongly recommended that:
 - a) Teams or groups of athletes always have at least two Persons in Authority with them;
 - b) For mixed gender teams or groups of athletes, there will be one Person in Authority from each gender;
 - c) Screened parents or other volunteers will be available in situations when two Persons in Authority cannot be present;

Practices and Competitions

4. As it relates to practices and/or competitions, the following shall be respected:
 - a) If the Vulnerable Individual is the first athlete to arrive, the athlete’s parent should remain until another athlete or Person in Authority arrives.

- b) If a Vulnerable Individual would 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 or guardian of another athlete) to stay until all of the athletes have been picked up. If an adult is unavailable, another athlete, who is preferably not a Vulnerable Individual, should be present in order to avoid the Person in Authority being alone with a single Vulnerable Individual.

Communications

- 5. Communications between Persons in Authority and athletes should respect the following:
 - a) Group messages, group emails or team pages are to be used as the regular method of communication between Persons in Authority and athletes;
 - b) Persons in Authority may only send personal texts, direct messages on social media or emails to individual athletes when necessary and only for communicating information related to team issues and activities (e.g., non-personal information). Any such texts, messages or emails shall be professional in tone.
 - c) No personal texts between Vulnerable Individuals and Persons in Authority are to be sent; however, if this is necessary, it should include one other adult person on the message.
 - d) Parents and guardians of Vulnerable Individuals may request that their child 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
 - e) All communication between a Persons in Authority and athletes must be between the hours of 6:00am and midnight unless extenuating circumstances justify otherwise
 - f) Communications concerning drugs or alcohol use (unless regarding its prohibition) is not permitted
 - g) No sexually explicit language or imagery or sexually oriented conversation is permitted may be communicated by any medium
 - h) Persons in Authority are not permitted to ask athletes to keep a secret for them
 - i) A Person in Authority should not become overly-involved in an athlete's personal life

Travel

- 6. Any travel involving Persons in Authority and athletes shall respect the following:
 - d) Teams or groups of athletes shall always have at least two Persons in Authority with them
 - e) For mixed gender teams or groups of athletes, there will be one Person in Authority from each gender
 - f) Screened parents or other volunteers will be available in situations when two Persons in Authority cannot be present
 - g) No Person in Authority may drive a vehicle with an athlete alone unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian - if it cannot be avoided, the athlete must ride in the back seat.
 - h) A Person in Authority may not share a room or be alone in a hotel room with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's parent or guardian
 - i) Room or bed checks during overnight stays must be done by two Persons in Authority
 - j) For overnight travel when athletes must share a hotel room, roommates will be age-appropriate (e.g., within two years of age of one another) and of the same gender identity

Locker Room / Changing Areas

- 7. The following shall apply to locker rooms, changing areas, and meeting rooms:
 - a) Interactions (i.e., conversation) between Persons in Authority and athletes should not occur in any room where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy such as a locker room, restroom or changing area. A second adult should be present for any necessary interaction between an adult and an athlete in any such room (e.g., adhering to the Rule of Two must be respected).
 - 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, including but not limited to team communications and/or emergency

Photography / Video

8. Any photograph or video involving athletes shall respect the following:
 - a) 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 athlete.
 - b) The use of recording devices of any kind in rooms where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy is strictly prohibited.
 - c) Examples of photos that shall be edited or deleted include:
 - i. Images with misplaced apparel or where undergarments are showing
 - ii. Suggestive or provocative poses
 - iii. Embarrassing images
 - d) If any photographs or videos will be used on any form of public media, an Image Consent Form (**Appendix A – Image Consent Form**) must be completed before any images are taken and used

Physical Contact

9. It is recognized 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. Any physical contact shall respect the following:
 - a) Unless it is otherwise not possible because of serious injury or other justifiable circumstance, a Person in Authority must always clarify with an athlete where and why any physical contact will occur prior to the contact occurring. The Person in Authority must make clear that he or she is requesting to touch the athlete and not requiring physical contact
 - b) Infrequent, non-intentional physical contact during a training session is permitted
 - c) Making amends, such as an apology or explanation, is encouraged to further help educate athletes on the difference between appropriate and inappropriate contact
 - d) Hugs lasting longer than five (5) seconds, cuddling, physical horseplay, and physical contact initiated by the Person in Authority is not permitted. It is recognized that some athletes may initiate hugging or other physical contact with a Person in Authority for various reasons (e.g., such as crying or celebrating after a performance), but this physical contact should always be limited to circumstances where the Person in Authority believes it is in the best interest of the athlete and when it occurs in an open and observable environment.

Enforcement

10. Any alleged violations of this *Athlete Protection Policy* shall be addressed pursuant to Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

Appendix A – Image Consent Form

1. I hereby grant to [Insert Name of Member organization(s)] and Curling Canada (collectively the “Organizations”) on a worldwide basis, the permission to photograph and/or record the Participant’s image and/or voice on still or motion picture film and/or audio tape (collectively the “Images”), and to use the Images to promote the sport and/or the Organizations through traditional media such as newsletters, websites, television, film, radio, print and/or display form, and through social media such as Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. I understand that I waive any claim to remuneration for use of audio/visual materials used for these purposes. This consent will remain in effect in perpetuity.
2. I hereby fully release, discharge, and agree to save harmless the Organizations, for any and all claims, demands, actions, damages, losses or costs that might arise out of the collection, use or disclosure of the Images or taking, publication, distortion of the Images, negatives, and masters or any other likeness or representation of the Participant that may occur or be produced in the taking of said Images or in any subsequent processing thereof, including without limitation any claims for libel, passing off, misappropriate of personality or invasion of privacy.
3. **I UNDERSTAND AND AGREE**, that I have read and understood the terms and conditions of this document. On behalf of me, my heirs and assigns, I agree that I am signing this document voluntarily and to abide by such terms and conditions.

Signed at this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Print Name of Participant: _____

Signature of Participant: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if Participant is younger than the age of majority):

SCREENING POLICY

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) *“Criminal Record Check (CRC)”* – A search of the RCMP Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system for adult convictions
 - b) *“Local Police Information (LPI)”* – additional conviction and selected non-conviction information in national and local police data sources which may be relevant to the position sought
 - c) *“Enhanced Police Information Check (E-PIC)”* – a Criminal Record Check plus a search of local police information, available from SterlingBackcheck.com.
 - d) *“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
 - e) *“Vulnerable Individuals”* – A person under the age of 18 years old and/or a person who, because of age, disability or other circumstance, is in a position of dependence on others or is otherwise at a greater risk than the general population of being harmed by people in positions of trust or authority

Preamble

2. Curling Canada understands that screening personnel and volunteers is a vital part of providing a safe sporting environment and has become a common practice among sport organizations that provide programs and services to the community.

Application of this Policy

3. This Policy applies to all individuals whose position with Curling Canada is one of trust or authority which may relate to, at a minimum, finances, supervision, or Vulnerable Individuals.
4. Not all individuals associated with Curling Canada will be required to obtain a criminal record check or submit screening documents because not all positions pose a risk of harm to Curling Canada or to its participants. Curling Canada will determine which individuals will be subject to screening using the following guidelines (Curling Canada may vary the guidelines at its discretion):

Risk Level	Position Description	Curling Canada Roles	CRC Requirements	Renewal Requirements
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Risk Assignments • Not in a supervisory role • Not Directing others • Not involved with finance • Do not have unsupervised access to Vulnerable Individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSO office staff (excluding financial positions) • Event staff • Officials • Event Ice Technicians • Event Volunteers (determined by Curling Canada) 	E-Pic – upon hiring only or by request of Screening Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a Screening Disclosure attestation annually and submit a Screening Disclosure Form required if CRC status changes. • Participate in training, orientation, and monitoring as determined by Curling Canada • E-Pic every three years or upon request of the Screening Committee.

Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate Risk assignments • Are in Supervisory Role • Direct others • May be involved in finances • May have limited access to Vulnerable Individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Staff • Board of Governors • Coaching Staff (Youth and Wheelchair teams excluded) • NSO Staff – Financial Positions • HP Consultants • IST Personnel • Coach Developers • Other Contractors 	E-Pic – upon hiring, and every three years thereafter or by request of Screening Committee.	<p>Complete a Screening Disclosure attestation annually and submit a Screening Disclosure Form required if CRC status changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in training, orientation, and monitoring as determined by Curling Canada • E-Pic every three years or upon request of the Screening Committee.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons involved in high risk assignments who occupy positions of trust and/or authority. • Who have frequent or unsupervised access to Vulnerable Individuals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches of Wheelchair Team Program • Coaches travelling with U20 or University Teams 	<p>Vulnerable Sector Check upon hiring.</p> <p>E-Pic – upon hiring, and every three years thereafter or by request of Screening Committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a Screening Disclosure attestation annually and submit a Screening Disclosure Form required if CRC status changes. • Participate in training, orientation, and monitoring as determined by Curling Canada • E-Pic every three years or upon request of the Screening Committee.

Screening Committee

5. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of Curling Canada’s the Screening Committee which is a committee of either one (1) or three (3) members appointed by the Chief Operating Office (COO). The COO will ensure that the members appointed to the Screening Committee possess the requisite skills, knowledge and abilities to accurately screening documents and render decisions under this Policy.
6. The Screening Committee will carry out its duties, in accordance with the terms of this policy, independent of the Board.

7. The Screening Committee is responsible for reviewing all documents submitted and, based on the review, making decisions regarding the appropriateness of individuals filling positions within Curling Canada. In carrying out its duties, the Screening Committee may consult with independent experts including lawyers, police, risk management consultants, volunteer screening specialists, or any other person.

Screening

- a) If an individual subsequently receives a charge, conviction for, or is found guilty of, an offense they will report this circumstance immediately to Curling Canada. Additionally, the individual will inform Curling Canada of any changes in their circumstance that would alter their original responses in their Screening Disclosure Form.
- b) If Curling Canada learns that an individual has provided false, inaccurate, or misleading information, the individual may be removed from their position and may be subject to further discipline in accordance with Curling Canada's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

Young People

8. Curling Canada defines a young person as someone who is younger than 18 years old. When screening young people, Curling Canada will:
 - a) Not require the young person to obtain a VSC or E-PIC; and
 - b) In lieu of obtaining a VSC or E-PIC, require the young person to submit up to two (2) additional letters of reference.
9. Notwithstanding the above, Curling Canada may ask a young person to obtain a VSC or E-PIC if Curling Canada suspects the young person has an adult conviction and therefore has a *criminal record*. In these circumstances, Curling Canada will be clear in its request that it is not asking for the young person's *youth record*. Curling Canada understands that it may not request to see a young person's youth record.

Orientation, Training, and Monitoring

10. The type and amount of orientation, training, and monitoring will be based on the individual's level of risk, at Curling Canada's discretion.
11. Orientation may include, but is not limited to: introductory presentations, facility tours, equipment demonstrations, parent/athlete meetings, meetings with colleagues and supervisors, orientation manuals, orientation sessions, and increased supervision during initial tasks or initial period of engagement.
12. Training may include, but is not limited to: certification courses, online learning, mentoring, workshop sessions, webinars, on-site demonstrations, and peer feedback.
13. At the conclusion of orientation and training, the individual will be required to acknowledge, in written form, that they have received and completed the orientation and training.
14. Monitoring may include but is not limited to: written or oral reports, observations, tracking, electronic surveillance (e.g., facility security cameras), and site visits.

How to Obtain an E-PIC or VSC

15. Curling Canada has joined the Coaching Association of Canada's Responsible Coaching Movement and therefore has access to the E-PIC at a discounted rate. Individuals can obtain an E-PIC via https://www.sterlingtalentsolutions.ca/landing-pages/c/cac_ace/

16. In Ontario, Curling Canada understands that the *Police Record Checks Reform Act, 2015* requires the individual to consent in writing before requesting a criminal record check (such as an E-PIC). The Act also requires the individual to consent in writing for any disclosure of the results to the requesting organization.
17. In BC, the process for obtaining a Criminal Record Check is different than in other provinces and territories and sections of this policy relating to obtaining a Criminal Record Check may not apply. In such cases, the Screening Committee will provide individuals with directions pursuant to the following website:
<https://www.viasport.ca/free-criminal-records-checks>
18. Individuals may only obtain a VSC by visiting an RCMP office or police station, submitting two pieces of government-issued identification (one of which must have a photo), and completing any required paperwork. Fees may also be required.
19. Fingerprinting may be required if there is a positive match with the individual's gender and birth date.
20. Curling Canada understands that it may be required to assist an individual with obtaining a VSC. Curling Canada may need to submit a Request for VSC (**Appendix D**) or complete other documentation describing the nature of the organization and the individual's role with vulnerable individuals.

Procedure

21. Screening documents must be submitted to the following individual:

Bill Merklinger, Chief Operating Officer
bill.merklinger@curling.ca

22. An individual who refuses or fails to provide the necessary screening documents will be ineligible to volunteer or apply for the position sought. The individual will be informed that their application and/or position will not proceed until such time as the screening documents are submitted.
23. Curling Canada understands that there may be delays in receiving the results of an E-PIC or a VSC. At its discretion, Curling Canada may permit the individual to participate in the role during the delay. Curling Canada may withdraw this permission at any time and for any reason.
24. Curling Canada recognizes that different information will be available depending on the type of screening document that the individual has submitted. For example, an E-PIC may show details of a specific offense, or not, and/or a VSC may be returned with specific information or simply a notification indicating 'cleared' or 'not cleared'. The Screening Committee will use its expertise and discretion when making decisions based on the screening documents that have been submitted.
25. Following the review of the screening documents, the Screening Committee will decide:
 - a) The individual has passed screening and may participate in the desired position;
 - b) The individual has passed screening and may participate in the desired position with conditions;
 - c) The individual has not passed screening and may not participate in the desired position; or
 - d) More information is required from the individual.
26. In making its decision, the Screening Committee will consider the type of offense, date of offense, and relevance of the offense to the position sought.

27. The Screening Committee must decide that an individual has not passed screening if the screening documentation reveals any of the following:
- a) If imposed in the last three years:
 - i. Any “criminal” traffic offense involving the use of a motor vehicle, including but not limited to impaired driving
 - ii. Any offense for trafficking and/or possession of drugs and/or narcotics
 - iii. Any offense involving conduct against public morals
 - b) If imposed in the last ten years:
 - i. Any crime of violence including but not limited to, all forms of assault
 - ii. Any offense involving a minor or minors
 - c) If imposed at any time:
 - i. An individual’s conviction for any of the following *Criminal Code* offenses:
 - a. Any offense of physical or psychological violence
 - b. Any crime of violence including but not limited to, all forms of assault
 - c. Any offense involving trafficking of illegal drugs
 - d. Any offense involving the possession, distribution, or sale of any child-related pornography
 - e. Any sexual offense
 - f. Any offense involving theft or fraud

Conditions and Monitoring

28. Excluding the incidents above which, if revealed, would cause the individual to not pass screening, the Screening Committee 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 Committee may apply and remove conditions at its discretion and will determine the means by which adherence to conditions may be monitored.

Records

29. 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.
30. The records kept by Curling Canada as part of the screening process include but are not limited to:
- a) An individual’s Vulnerable Sector Check
 - b) An individual’s E-PIC (for a period of three years)
 - c) An individual’s Screening Disclosure Form (for a period of three years)
 - d) An individual’s Screening Renewal Form (for a period of one year)
 - e) Records of any conditions attached to an individual’s registration by the Screening Committee
 - f) Records of any discipline applied to any individual by Curling Canada or by another sport organization

Appendix A – Screening Disclosure Form

NAME: _____
First Middle Last

OTHER NAMES YOU HAVE USED: _____

CURRENT PERMANENT ADDRESS:

Street City Province Postal

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ **GENDER IDENTITY:** _____
Month/Day/Year

CLUB (if applicable): _____ **EMAIL:** _____

Note: Failure to disclose truthful information below may be considered an intentional omission and the loss of volunteer responsibilities or other privileges

- 1. Do you have a criminal record? If so, please complete the following information for *each conviction*. Attach additional pages as necessary.**

Name or Type of Offense: _____

Name and Jurisdiction of Court/Tribunal: _____

Year Convicted: _____

Penalty or Punishment Imposed: _____

Further Explanation: _____

- 2. Have you ever been disciplined or sanctioned by a sport governing body or by an independent body (e.g., private tribunal, government agency, etc.) or dismissed from a coaching or volunteer position? If so, please complete the following information for each disciplinary action or sanction. Attach additional pages as necessary.**

Name of disciplining or sanctioning body: _____

Date of discipline, sanction or dismissal: _____

Reasons for discipline, sanction or dismissal: _____

Penalty or Punishment Imposed: _____

Further Explanation: _____

3. Are criminal charges or any other sanctions, including those from a sport body, private tribunal or government agency, currently pending or threatened against you? If so, please complete the following information for each pending charge or sanction. Attach additional pages as necessary.

Name or Type of Offense: _____

Name and Jurisdiction of Court/Tribunal: _____

Name of disciplining or sanctioning body: _____

Further Explanation: _____

PRIVACY STATEMENT

By completing and submitting this Screening Disclosure Form, I consent and authorize Curling Canada to collect, use and disclose my personal information, including all information provided on the Screening Disclosure Form as well as my Enhanced Police Information Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check (when permitted by law) for the purposes of screening, implementation of Curling Canada’s *Screening Policy*, administering membership services, and communicating with National Sport Organizations, Provincial Sport Organizations, Sport Clubs, and other organizations involved in the governance of sport. Curling Canada does not distribute personal information for commercial purposes.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the information contained in this Screening Disclosure Form is accurate, correct, truthful and complete.

I further certify that I will immediately inform Curling Canada of any changes in circumstances that would alter my original responses to this Screening Disclosure Form. Failure to do so may result in the withdrawal of volunteer responsibilities or other privileges and/or disciplinary action.

NAME (print): _____

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Appendix C – Screening Renewal Form

NAME: _____
First Middle Last

CURRENT PERMANENT ADDRESS:

Street City Province Postal

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ **GENDER IDENTITY:** _____
Month/Day/Year

EMAIL: _____ **PHONE:** _____

By signing this document below, I certify that there have been no changes to my criminal record since I last submitted an Enhanced Police Information Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check and/or Screening Disclosure Form to Curling Canada. I further certify that there are no outstanding charges and warrants, judicial orders, peace bonds, probation or prohibition orders, or applicable non-conviction information, and there have been no absolute and conditional discharges.

I agree that any Enhanced Police Information Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check and/or Screening Disclosure Form that I would obtain or submit on the date indicated below would be no different than the last Enhanced Police Information Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check and/or Screening Disclosure Form that I submitted to Curling Canada. I understand that if there have been any changes, or if I suspect that there have been any changes, it is my responsibility to obtain and submit a new Enhanced Police Information Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check and/or Screening Disclosure Form to Curling Canada's Screening Committee instead of this form.

I recognize that if there have been changes to the results available from the Enhanced Police Information Check and/or Vulnerable Sector Check and/or Screening Disclosure Form, and that if I submit this form improperly, then I am subject to disciplinary action and/or the removal of volunteer responsibilities or other privileges at the discretion of the Screening Committee.

NAME (print): _____ **DATE:** _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Appendix D – Request for Vulnerable Sector Check

Note: Curling Canada will be required to modify this letter to adhere to any requirements from the VSC provider

INTRODUCTION

Curling Canada is requesting a Vulnerable Sector Check for _____ [insert individual's full name] who identifies as a _____ [insert gender identity] and who was born on _____ [insert birthdate].

DESCRIPTION OF CURLING CANADA

Curling Canada is a not-for-profit national organization for the sport of curling located in Ottawa, Ontario.

[Insert additional description]

DESCRIPTION OF ROLE

_____ [insert individual's name] will be acting as a _____ [insert individual's role]. In this role, the individual will have access to vulnerable individuals.

[Insert additional information re: type and number of vulnerable individuals, frequency of access, etc.]

CONTACT INFORMATION

If more information is required from Curling Canada, please contact the Screening Committee Chair:

Bill Merklinger, Chief Operating Officer, bill.merklinger@curling.ca

Signed: _____ Date: _____