



Safe Sporty Policy

Definitions

The following terms are used throughout this Policy:

a) Individuals – This term refers to anyone involved in activities with the Clarence-Rockland Ringette Association (CRRA). This includes, but is not limited to, athletes, coaches, convenors, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, parents, guardians, spectators, and Directors and Officers of the Association.

b) Person in Authority – This term refers to any Individual who holds a position of authority within Ringette Ontario. This includes roles such as coach, manager, support personnel, chaperone, or Director.

2. Purpose

This policy outlines CRRA's dedication to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all participants..

3. Commitment to True Sport Principles

CRRA endorses and upholds the [True Sport Principles](#), which guide our values and operations:

- Go For It – Strive for excellence; challenge yourself and pursue your full potential.
- Play Fair – Compete with integrity; follow the letter and spirit of the rules.
- Respect Others – Treat everyone involved in the sport with respect, on and off the ice.
- Keep It Fun – Enjoy the game; maintain a positive attitude.
- Stay Healthy – Prioritize physical and mental well-being; avoid harmful practices.
- Include Everyone – Promote inclusion; ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate.
- Give Back – Contribute to the community that supports our sport.

4. Pledge

CRRA's stakeholders, members, and leaders are expected to uphold the True Sport Principles. We at CRRA commit to integrating these values into our governance and operations through the following initiatives:

- a) Conduct Standards – We will adopt and enforce comprehensive conduct standards for all individuals involved.
- b) Athlete Protection – We will provide guidelines for athlete protection to coaches and stakeholders to ensure a safe environment.
- c) Dispute Resolution & Investigations – We will establish confidential, fair, and independent processes to handle disputes and investigations.
- d) Strategy – Our strategic plans will align with our mission, vision, and values.
- e) Governance – We will ensure our leadership is diverse and principled.
- f) Risk Management – We will proactively address risks through structured plans and assessments.

5. Conduct Standards

CRRA will adopt a Code of Conduct applicable to all Individuals. Specific sections will be tailored to:

- Athletes
- Coaches
- Directors and Committee Members
- Parents and Spectators

6. Abuse and Persons in Authority Policy

CRRA will adopt a policy to protect vulnerable individuals, outlining various forms of abuse, including:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Neglect

7. Anti-Doping

CRRA supports clean sport and adopts the Canadian Anti-Doping Program.

8. Social Media Policy

CRRA will implement a Social Media Policy outlining:

- Expected conduct on social media platforms
- Common risks associated with digital interactions
- Guidelines for responsible coach-athlete communications

9. Athlete Protection Screening

CRRA's Screening Policy will ensure individuals in certain roles are vetted before interacting with athletes. The policy includes:

- Required police record checks and frequency
- Submission of Screening Disclosure and Renewal Forms
- Authority for the Board to restrict or condition participation

Athlete Protection Guidelines

CRRA will provide general and sport-specific guidelines for coaches, managers, medical personnel, and others in authority. These guidelines will be regularly reviewed and updated, with training offered where appropriate.

Resources and Training

CRRA will regularly promote athlete protection resources and training, including but not limited to:

- NCCP Modules
- Respect in Sport
- Commit to Kids
- Red Cross – Respect Education Courses

Athlete Engagement

CRRA values athlete input in ensuring effective safety measures. Engagement methods may include:

- Anonymous surveys
- Athlete involvement in decisions
- Independent outreach and consultations

Dispute Resolution

CRRA will maintain a suite of policies to manage conflicts and complaints, including:

- Discipline and Complaints Policy
- Appeal Policy
- Dispute Resolution Policy
- Investigations Policy

Mandatory Reporting

Certain complaints will be escalated to appropriate authorities, including:

- Law enforcement
- Government entities
- Child protection agencies

Records Management

CRRA will maintain records of decisions and disciplinary actions, sharing them as necessary with relevant organizations and governing bodies.

Governance and Operations

Strategic Planning:

CRRA will ensure its Strategic Plan prioritizes athlete protection and safe sport.

Risk Management:

CRRA will adopt a Risk Management Policy identifying and mitigating risks across:

- Operational/Program
- Compliance
- Communication
- External
- Governance
- Financial
- Health and Safety

Evaluation

CRRA continually assesses and updates its policies, practices, and procedures to ensure their effectiveness.