

## **Sail Canada Safe Sport Policy**

Over the last few years, Sail Canada has been developing a set of policies (eight) and have now rolled out a Safe Sport Policy Package for all Provincial Sailing Associations along with their member clubs and schools to adopt, understand and promote via websites, newsletters and social media. “All member organizations are required to adopt the policy to remain in good standing with Sail Canada.” This policy will replace any policies the Association and its member clubs or schools currently have in place.

The intent is to ensure that sailing is up to date with best practices in order to protect sailing and all those involved. “It is aimed at preventing and addressing maltreatment to ensure that all sport environments are free from abuse and harassment and to promote a safe inclusive environment for all sailors in Canada, while adhering to government requirements. All National sport organizations are required to partner with an independent body that will oversee all aspects of managing allegations of breaches of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent Abuse and Address Maltreatment in Sport.”

The Alberta Sailing Association will send each club and school the policy package which includes templates for websites, newsletters and social media. It is also recommended that each group designate a Safe Sport Lead who will familiarize themselves with all aspects of the policy and assume the role of training and communication within their group. The package details the process should an issue arise and all possible scenarios for complaints, dispute resolution, discipline, appeals, etc. Once the policy package has been adopted, it is expected that all athletes, coaches, officials, Board Members and volunteers will sign the Sailing Code of Conduct annually.

Submitted by Kathy Speck

Excerpts from Sail Canada Safe Sport Policy Overview