



Policy Name: Whistleblower
Version Control: September, 2021
Ratification Date:
Review Date:

WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) *Director*– An individual who is appointed or elected to Curling NB’s Board of Directors.
 - b) *Worker*- An individual who is paid by Curling NB or is integral in ensuring the delivery of Curling NB programs and events, including but limited to umpires, learning facilitators or provincial Ice Technician.
 - c) *Case Manager*- An individual or group of individuals appointed by Curling NB to oversee the management and administration of complaints, as applicable

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 on the Curling NB without fear of unfair treatment or reprisal.

Application

3. This Policy only applies to Individuals 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 NB can be reported under the terms of Curling NB’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy* and/or reported to the Curling NB’s Executive Director.

5. Matters reported under the terms of this Policy may be referred to be heard under Curling NB's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*, at the discretion of the Case Manager.

Wrongdoing

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

Pledge

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

Reporting Wrongdoing

9. An 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 Individuals (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 NB has appointed the following Case Manager to receive reports made under this Policy:

Marg Maranda, Executive Director: nbca@nb.sympatico.ca

11. After receiving the report, the Case Manager has the responsibility to:
 - a) Assure the Individual of Curling NB's Pledge
 - b) Connect the Individual 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 NB 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 NB's *Whistleblower Policy* applies or if the matter should be handled under Curling NB'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. (Does the contents of the report fall under the NB Safe Sport Dispute Resolution Program?)
- g) Begin an investigation

Alternate Liaison

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

NB Safe Sport Dispute Resolution Program

13. The Alternate Liaison will not disclose the Worker's identity to the Case Manager or to anyone affiliated with Curling NB without the Individual'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 Case Manager determines that an investigation should be launched, the Case Manager may decide to contract an external investigator. In such cases, Curling NB's Executive Director and/or President 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 NB's Executive Director may not unreasonably refuse the decision to contract an external investigator
16. An investigation launched by the Case Manager or by an external investigator should generally take the following form:
- a) Follow-up interview with the Individual 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 NB 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 NB's President and/or Executive Director for review and action.

Decision

19. Within fourteen (14) days after receiving the Investigator's Report, Curling NB's President and/or Executive Director 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 NB's Bylaws, provincial employment legislation, any relevant and applicable Curling NB policy, and/or the Individual'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 NB'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 Individual who submitted the report will not be revealed and that Curling NB 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.