

## Legal Corner

### LEGAL CORNER

If you need legal advice pertaining to your coaching activities, including contract review or other disputes, the CAC will connect you with a lawyer and pay for your initial 1-hour consultation. Email [procoach@coach.ca](mailto:procoach@coach.ca).

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### LEGAL CORNER: The UCCMS and YOU!

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It is the responsibility of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (“OSIC”) is to administer the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (“UCCMS”). The UCCMS is the main framework establishing guidelines that sports organizations follow to promote a respectful sports environment, ensuring high-quality, inclusive and safe experiences for all participants.

The OSIC has authority relating to matters regarding allegations of maltreatment and discrimination and primarily oversees a complaint intake process, conducts preliminary assessments and may commission independent investigations, maintains a database of imposed sanctions, and monitors compliance by sporting organizations. There are [numerous](#) sport organizations, multi-sport organizations and other sport organizations that have adopted the UCCMS and are thus considered ‘Program Signatories’.

If your organization is a Program Signatory that has adopted the UCCMS, the OSIC will have jurisdiction to oversee the implementation of the UCCMS within your program. Bear in mind that some signatories may have only adopted the UCCMS at the national, provincial/territorial, or other levels, and its important for you to know where yours may be subject to its authority. The signatory status of an organization is important to determine if the OSIC has authority to administer complaints brought pursuant to the UCCMS.

If your program has adopted the UCCMS, it is essential to understand its contents. Anyone can submit a complaint or report, provided the complaint is directed at a respondent who falls under the authority of an OSIC Program Signatory.

Over the last several years, the number of new complaints received by the OSIC has increased. Complaints procedures can be complicated and time-consuming and although a complainant or respondent can be self-represented, legal services are advisable. If violations to the UCCMS are found, the consequences can be significant and include sport participation restrictions, various prohibitions on coaching, monitoring, education, and other measures considered appropriate to the circumstances of each case.

The complete UCCMS is available on the [OSIC website](#). It is advisable to take the time to review and be informed of its contents.

**True Law ([www.truelawlegal.ca](http://www.truelawlegal.ca)) is a law firm in Toronto, Ontario.** *This article contains general information only, based on the laws of Ontario and is not intended to provide a legal opinion or advice. Readers should consult a lawyer with respect to the application of the information contained above to their particular circumstances. Readers may also contact True Law at [info@truelaw.legal](mailto:info@truelaw.legal) with any questions.*