

## Legal Corner

### Scope and Jurisdiction of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES)

Effective April 1, 2025, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) took over responsibility under the new Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) from the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC), which was previously responsible for administering the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) for federally funded, national-level sport organizations.

Under this new framework, the CCES is now in charge of receiving and managing reports of maltreatment. The program introduces updated rules for administration and compliance, aiming to create a more consistent and standardized approach to safe sport across the country. For participants (defined below), this marks a transition to a new system for reporting and handling complaints, while maintaining the goal of fostering a respectful and safe sport environment.

#### **Scope of the Application**

The CSSP applies to "Participants" in sport. This definition is broad and covers board members and employees of a sporting organization, athletes receiving national-level support, athlete support personnel working with national teams, and designated officials or referees involved in international or national competition.

CSSP applies when a Participant is within the Sport Organization's environment, including the online/virtual environment, or engaging in the organization's activities. Importantly, the CSSP can still apply if the behavior occurs outside of these environments, particularly if it has a serious impact on another person or could undermine the integrity of sport.

A "Sport Organization" refers to any national sport organization, national multi-sport service organization, Canadian Sport Centre(s) and Institute(s) receiving funding from Sport Canada that has adopted the CSSP.

This also covers individuals who are no longer affiliated, provided they were Participants at the time the alleged conduct occurred.

#### **Jurisdiction of the CCES**

The CCES assumes mandatory jurisdiction over all reports of Prohibited Behaviour that fall under the CSSP and the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS). However, the CCES will not assume jurisdiction if a report does not involve a Participant or "Prohibited Behaviour", or if the allegations were already resolved by another body. While there is no limitation period for making a report, the CCES may decline jurisdiction if the

passage of time makes it impossible to address or investigate the report effectively. If the CCES declines jurisdiction, that decision is final and binding.

*Catherine Willson and Ryan Scott are counsel in the law firm, True Law, a law firm in Toronto, Ontario ([www.truelawlegal.ca](http://www.truelawlegal.ca)). This information deals with complex matters and may not apply to particular facts and circumstances. The information reflects laws and practices that are subject to change. For these reasons, this information should not be relied on as a substitute for professional advice in connection with any particular matter. Readers may contact Catherine Willson at [catherine@truelaw.legal](mailto:catherine@truelaw.legal) or 416- 601-6802 x 298 with any questions.*