



MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

RA Board Approved

25 February 2010

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REVIEW HISTORY OF RA MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

| Version | Date Reviewed | Date Endorsed | Content Reviewed/Purpose |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| One | May 2005 | June 2005 | |
| Two | July 2007 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish an RA Member Protection Policy• Overall review• Update the Child Protection Requirements to ensure Australian Sports Commission Compliance |
| Three | December 2009 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall review• Update the Child Protection Requirements pertaining to Working with Children Check laws to ensure Australian Sports Commission Compliance |
| Four | March 2010 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update the Child Protection Requirements pertaining to Working with Children Check laws according to Australian Sports Commission advice. |

PREFACE

Rowing is a sport that values teamwork, mateship & leadership and one that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

Rowing Australia is committed to ensuring that a diverse range of athletes continue to enjoy our sport for years to come and to providing a safe environment in which to do so.

Rowing Australia has developed this policy to reinforce its commitment to providing an environment for participants of all ages and backgrounds that is safe, free from harassment and abuse, and promotes respectful and positive behaviour and values.

The policy provides a code of conduct forming the basis of appropriate and ethical conduct which everyone must abide by. All State and Territory Associations and rowing clubs will also be required to adopt this policy.

This policy is an essential part of Rowing Australia's proactive and preventative approach to tackling inappropriate behaviour within our sport. I trust that all administrators, coaches, athletes and support staff will assist me in promoting safe and responsible behaviour within rowing.

Colin Smith

President and Chairman

Rowing Australia

January 2010



PART A – ROWING AUSTRALIA MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY

1. Rowing Australia's Core Values

The vision of Rowing Australia is:

"To be the world's leading rowing nation"

and

"To develop rowing in Australia ensuring it is welcoming, inclusive and progressive"

Rowing Australia's vision will be achieved by conducting its business with **trust, respect** and **fairness** whilst adhering to its core values of:

- providing a healthy, safe, welcoming, inclusive and nurturing environment
- ensuring transparency and integrity in our governance and decision making
- operating with teamwork, cooperation, trust, effective communication and mutual respect
- continuing to develop a performance based culture ensuring a strong work ethic and accountability in all we do.
- continuing to demand zero drug tolerance within our sport
- continuing to promote altruism and recognising our dedicated volunteer workforce

2. Purpose of this Policy

This Member Protection Policy aims to ensure our core values, good reputation and positive behaviours and attitudes are maintained. It assists us in ensuring that every person involved in our sport is treated with respect and dignity, and is safe and protected from abuse. This policy also ensures that everyone involved in our sport is aware of his or her legal and ethical rights and responsibilities.

The policy attachments provide the procedures that support our commitment to eliminating discrimination, harassment, child abuse and other forms of inappropriate behaviour from our sport. As part of this commitment, Rowing Australia Ltd (RA) will take disciplinary action against any person or organisation bound by this policy if they breach it.

This policy:

- Has been made pursuant to the constitution of Rowing Australia and has been endorsed by the Rowing Australia Board;
- And/or its attachments may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Rowing Australia Board;
- And its attachments can be obtained from our website (www.rowingaustralia.com.au); and
- Will commence on 25 February 2010 and will operate until replaced.

3. Who this Policy Applies To

This policy applies to the following, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity:

- Rowing Australia Ltd;
- Individuals sitting on boards, committees, sub-committees and working groups;
- Member Associations and Life Members;
- Affiliated clubs and associated organisations;
- Athletes;

- Coaches and assistant coaches;
- Boat Race Officials including referees, umpires and other officials;
- Employees and volunteers;
- Support personnel (e.g. managers, physiotherapists, psychologists, masseurs, sport trainers);
- Members, including life members;
- Any other person or organisation that is a member of or affiliated to RA; and
- Parents, guardians, spectators and sponsors to the full extent that is possible.

This policy also applies to and shall be adopted by Rowing Australia's Member State and Territory Associations, Affiliated clubs and associated organisations.

Member associations are required to adopt and implement this policy and to provide proof to Rowing Australia Ltd of the approval of the policy by the relevant Board in accordance with its Constitution. Member Associations must also undertake to ensure that affiliated Clubs and individual Members are bound by this policy and are made aware of this policy and of its contents.

This policy will continue to apply to a person even after they have stopped their association or employment with RA if disciplinary action, relating to an allegation of child abuse against that person, has commenced.

4. Code of Conduct and Behaviour

In addition to the relevant role specific codes of conduct outlined in Part D of this policy, RA requires every individual and organisation bound by this policy to:

- 4.1 Be ethical, fair and honest in all their dealings with other people and RA;
- 4.2 Treat all persons with respect and courtesy and have proper regard for their dignity, rights and obligations;
- 4.3 Always place the safety and welfare of children above other considerations;
- 4.4 Comply with RA's constitution, rules and policies including this member protection policy;
- 4.5 Operate within the rules and spirit of the sport;
- 4.6 Comply with all relevant Australian laws (Federal and State), particularly anti-discrimination and child protection laws; and
- 4.7 Be responsible and accountable for their conduct.

5. Organisational Responsibilities

The Member Associations and affiliated clubs must:

- 5.1 Adopt, implement and comply with this policy;
- 5.2 Make such amendments to its Constitution, Rules or existing Policies necessary for this policy to be enforceable;
- 5.3 Publish, distribute and otherwise promote this policy and the consequences for breaching it;
- 5.4 Promote appropriate standards of conduct at all times;
- 5.4 Promptly deal with any breaches of or complaints made under this policy in an impartial, sensitive, fair, timely and confidential manner;
- 5.5 Apply this policy consistently without fear or favour;
- 5.6 Recognise and enforce any penalty imposed under this policy;
- 5.7 Ensure that a copy of this policy is available or accessible to the persons to whom this policy applies;
- 5.8 Appoint or have access to appropriately trained people to receive and handle complaints and allegations [*Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs)*] and display the names and contact details in a way that is readily accessible; and
- 5.9 Monitor and review this policy at least annually.

6. Individual Responsibilities

Individuals bound by this policy are responsible for:

- 6.1 Making themselves aware of the policy and complying with the standards of conduct outlined in this policy;
- 6.2 Consenting to a national police check if the individual holds or applies for a role that involves regular contact with people under the age of 18 years;

- 6.3 Placing the safety and welfare of children above other considerations;
- 6.4 Being accountable for their behaviour
- 6.5 Following the procedures outlined in this policy if they wish to make a complaint or report a concern about possible child abuse, discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate behaviour;
- 6.3 Complying with all other requirements of this policy;
- 6.4 Co-operating in providing a discrimination, child abuse and harassment free sporting environment;
- 6.5 Understanding the possible consequences of breaching this policy; and
- 6.6 Complying with any decisions and/or disciplinary measures imposed under this policy.

7. Policy Position Statements

7.1 Child Protection Policy

Every person and organisation bound by this policy must always place the safety and welfare of children above all other considerations.

RA acknowledges that our staff and volunteers provide a valuable contribution to the positive experiences of our juniors. RA aims to ensure this continues and to protect the safety and welfare of its junior participants. Several measures will be used to achieve this such as:

- Prohibiting any form of abuse against children;
- Providing opportunities for our juniors to contribute to and provide feedback on our program development;
- Ensuring people have completed a satisfactory Working with Children Check where the relevant state or territory law requires this (State and Territory requirements are summarised in Part B of this policy);
- Carefully selecting and screening people whose role requires them to have regular contact with children. (Screening procedures are outlined in Part B of this policy);
- Ensuring our codes of conduct, particularly for roles associated with junior sport, are promoted, enforced and reviewed;
- Adopting practices that reduce risks and provide the greatest opportunity of having a child safe environment.
- Providing procedures for raising concerns or complaints (our complaints procedure is outlined in Part C of this policy); and
- Providing education and/or information to those involved in our sport on child abuse and child protection;

RA requires any child who is abused or anyone who reasonably suspects that a child has been or is being abused by someone within our sport, to report it immediately to the police or relevant government agency and RA CEO. Descriptions of the sorts of activity which may be abuse are in the Dictionary at clause 11.

All allegations of child abuse will be dealt with promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially. A person will not be victimised for reporting an allegation of child abuse and the privacy of all persons concerned will be respected. Our procedures for handling allegations of child abuse are outlined in attachment C4 of this policy.

If anyone bound by this policy reasonably suspects that a child is being abused by his or her parent/s, they are advised to contact the relevant government department for youth, family and community services in their state/territory.

7.2 Taking Images of Children

Images of children can be used inappropriately or illegally. RA requires that individuals and associations, wherever possible, obtain permission from a child's parent/guardian before taking an image of a child that is not their own and ensure that the parent knows the purpose for which the image will be used. We also require the privacy of others to be respected and prohibits the use of camera phones, videos and cameras inside changing areas, showers and toilets.

If RA uses an image of a child, apart from individuals selected in its National Junior Team, it will avoid naming or identifying the child or it will, wherever possible, avoid using both the first name and surname. We will not display personal information such as residential address, email address or telephone numbers without gaining consent from the parent/guardian. We will not display information about hobbies, likes/dislikes, school, etc as this information can be used as grooming tools by pedophiles or other persons. We will only use appropriate images of a child, relevant to our sport and ensure that the child is suitably clothed in a manner that promotes the sport, displays its successes, etc.

We require our members, member associations and clubs to do likewise.

7.3 **Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy**

RA aims to provide a sport environment where all those involved in its activities are treated with dignity and respect, and without harassment or discrimination.

RA recognises that all those involved in its activities cannot enjoy themselves, perform to their best, or be effective or fully productive if they are being treated unfairly, discriminated against or harassed because of their age, disability, family responsibilities, gender identity, homosexuality or sexual orientation, irrelevant medical or criminal record, marital status, political belief, pregnancy or breastfeeding, race, religion, sex, social origin and/or trade union membership/activity.

RA prohibits all unlawful forms of harassment and discrimination based on personal characteristics listed in the Dictionary. Discrimination and harassment are extremely distressing, offensive, humiliating and/or threatening and create an uncomfortable and unpleasant environment. In most circumstances discrimination and harassment are against the law.

Descriptions of some of the types of behaviour which could be regarded as harassment or discrimination are provided in the Dictionary at clause 11.

If any person feels they are being harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy, please refer to our complaints procedure outlined in attachment C1 of this policy. This will explain what to do about the behaviour and how RA will deal with the problem.

7.4 **Intimate Relationships Policy**

In principle, while not explicitly disallowing intimate relationships, RA takes the position that intimate relationships between coaches and adult athletes should be carefully considered. RA takes the view that intimate relationships while not necessarily constituting unlawful harassment, can have harmful effects on the individual athlete involved, on other athletes and coaches, and on the sport's public image. Such relationships tend to be intentionally or unintentionally exploitative because there is usually a disparity between coaches and athletes in terms of authority, power, maturity, status and dependence.

Should a relationship of this nature develop between an athlete and coach, RA may at its discretion investigate whether any action against the coach or athlete is necessary. Factors that may be relevant to consider are the age and maturity of the athlete relative to the coach, the financial or emotional dependence of the athlete on the coach, and the likelihood of the relationship having any adverse impact on the athlete and/or other athletes. If it is determined that the relationship is inappropriate, action may be taken to stop the coaching relationship with the athlete. Action may include transfer, a request for resignation or dismissal from coaching duties.

In the event that an athlete attempts to initiate an intimate relationship with a coach, the coach must take personal responsibility for discouraging such approaches, explaining the ethical basis for such action. The coach may wish to approach an RA MPIO if they feel harassed.

The law is always the minimum standard for behaviour within RA which recognizes intimate relations with a child as a criminal offence that will not be tolerated.

7.5 **Pregnancy Policy**

RA is committed to providing an inclusive sporting environment for pregnant women involved in its activities. RA expects everyone bound by this policy to treat pregnant women with dignity and respect and to remove any unreasonable barriers to participation in our sport that disadvantage

them. We will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment against pregnant women or women who may become pregnant.

Descriptions of some of the types of behaviour which could be regarded as pregnancy discrimination or harassment are provided in the Dictionary at clause 11.

If any person feels they are being harassed or discriminated against by another person or organisation bound by this policy, please refer to our complaints procedure outlined in attachment C1 of this policy. This will explain what to do about the behaviour and how the RA will deal with the problem.

While many sporting activities are safe for pregnant women to participate in, there may be particular risks that apply to some women during pregnancy. Those risks will depend on the nature of the particular sporting activity and the particular pregnant woman's circumstances. RA will take reasonable care to ensure the safety, health and well being of pregnant women and their unborn children. We will advise pregnant women that there may be risks involved, and encourage them to obtain medical advice about those risks. Pregnant women should be aware that their own health and wellbeing, and that of their unborn children, are of utmost importance in their decision making about the extent and manner in which they participate in our sport.

We encourage all pregnant women to consult with their medical advisers, make themselves aware of the facts about pregnancy in sport, and ensure that they make informed decisions about participation in particular sporting activities.

We will only require pregnant women to sign a disclaimer if we require other participants to sign one in similar circumstances. We will not require women to undertake a pregnancy test.

7.6 Gender Identity

Everyone bound by this policy must treat people who identify as transgender fairly and with dignity and respect. This includes acting with sensitivity and respect where a person is undergoing gender transition. We will not tolerate any unlawful discrimination or harassment of a person who identifies as transgender or transsexual or who is thought to be transgender. Descriptions of the types of behaviour which could be regarded as transgender discrimination or harassment are provided in the Dictionary.

RA recognises that the exclusion of transgender people from participation in sporting events has significant implications for their health, well-being and involvement in community life. In general RA will facilitate transgender persons participating in our sport with the gender with which they identify.

RA also recognises there is debate over whether a male to female transgender person obtains any physical advantage over other female participants. This debate is reflected in the divergent discrimination laws across the country. If issues of performance advantage arise, RA will seek advice on the application of those laws in the particular circumstances.

RA is aware that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has established criteria for selection and participation in the Olympic Games. Where a transgender person intends competing at an elite level, we will encourage them to obtain advice about the IOC's criteria which may differ from the position taken by RA.

Drug testing procedures and prohibitions also apply to people who identify as transgender. A person receiving treatment involving a Prohibited Substance or Method, as described on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List, should apply for a standard Therapeutic Use Exemption.

7.7 Other relevant policies

Other RA relevant policies can be found at the Rowing Australia website (www.rowingaustralia.com.au). Some of the policies which contribute to the welfare of all those involved in our activities include:

- *Anti-Doping Policy*
- *Medical Management Policy*
- *National Supplements Policy*
- *Classification Policy*

8. Complaints Procedures

8.1 Complaints

RA aims to provide an easy to use, confidential and trustworthy procedure for complaints based on the principles of natural justice. Any person may report a complaint (complainant) about a person/s or organisation bound by this policy if they reasonably believe that a person/s or a sporting organisation has breached this policy. A complaint should be reported to an RA MPIO or CEO.

The lowest level at which a matter can be dealt with shall always be preferred. Therefore, if a complaint relates to behaviour or an incident that occurred at the:

- State or Territory level or involves people operating at the state level, then the complaint should be reported to and handled by the relevant State or Territory Association in the first instance;
- or
- club level or involves people operating at the club level, then the complaint should be reported to and handled by the relevant club in the first instance.

Only matters that relate to or occur at the national level and the most serious cases from club and state level should be referred to RA.

A complaint may be reported as an informal or formal complaint. The complainant decides whether the complaint will be dealt with informally or formally unless the CEO considers that the complaint falls outside the parameters of this policy and would be better dealt with another way.

All complaints will be dealt with promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially. Our complaint procedures are outlined in attachment C1 of this policy.

8.2 Vexatious Complaints and Victimisation

RA aims to ensure our complaints procedure has integrity and is free of unfair repercussions or victimisation. If at any point in the complaint process the MPIO or CEO considers that a complainant has **knowingly** made an untrue complaint or the complaint is vexatious or malicious, the matter may be referred to the RA Hearings Tribunal (see attachment C5) for appropriate action which may include disciplinary action against the complainant.

RA will also take all necessary steps to make sure that people involved in a complaint are not victimised by anyone for coming forward with a complaint or for helping to resolve an issue. Disciplinary measures will be imposed on anyone who victimises another person for making a complaint.

8.3 Mediation

RA aims to resolve complaints as efficiently as possible. In many cases, complaints can be resolved by agreement between the people involved with no need for disciplinary action. The people involved in a formal complaint - the complainant and the person complained about (respondent) - may also seek the assistance of a neutral third person or a mediator. In complex matters lawyers may be consulted in order to negotiate on behalf of the complainant and/or respondent.

Mediation may occur either before or after an investigation of a complaint. If a complainant wishes to try and resolve the complaint with the assistance of a mediator, the CEO or MPIO will, in consultation with the complainant, arrange for a mediator to mediate the complaint. More information on the mediation process is outlined in attachment C2 of this policy.

8.4 Tribunals

A hearings tribunal may be formed to hear a formal complaint that has been referred by the CEO for an alleged breach of the policy. Our tribunal hearings procedure is outlined in attachment C5 of this policy.

A respondent may lodge one appeal only to the appeals tribunal in respect of a decision of a hearing tribunal. The decision of the appeal tribunal is final and binding on the people involved to the appeal. Our appeals process is outlined in attachment C5 of this policy.

Every organisation bound by this policy will recognise and enforce any decision made, and form of discipline imposed, by an appeals tribunal under this policy.

Members of hearing and appeal tribunals will be indemnified by the organisation that appointed them against any claim for loss, compensation or damages, and for costs incurred defending a claim made against them, because of their function as a member of a hearings or appeals tribunal.

9. What is a Breach of this Policy

It is a breach of this policy for any person or organisation to which this policy applies, to have been found to have:

- 9.1 Done anything contrary to this policy;
- 9.2 Breached the Code of Conduct and Role-Specific Codes of Conduct;
- 9.3 Brought the sport and/or RA into disrepute;
- 9.4 Failed to follow RA policies and procedures for the protection, safety and welfare of children;
- 9.5 Appointed or continued to appoint a person to a role that involves working with children and young people contrary to this policy;
- 9.6 Discriminated against or harassed any person;
- 9.7 Victimised another person for reporting a complaint;
- 9.8 Engaged in a sexually inappropriate relationship with a person that the person supervises, or has influence, authority or power over;
- 9.9 Disclosed to any unauthorised person or organisation any RA information that is of a private, confidential or privileged nature;
- 9.10 Made a complaint they **knew** to be untrue, vexatious, malicious or improper;
- 9.11 Failed to comply with a penalty imposed after a finding that the individual or organisation has breached this policy;
- 9.12 Failed to comply with a direction given to the individual or organisation during the discipline process.

10. Forms of Discipline

If an individual or organisation to which this policy applies breaches this policy, one or more forms of discipline may be imposed. These may include making a verbal or written apology, paying a fine, being suspended or de-registered or having a person's appointment or employment terminated. More information on the range of disciplinary measures and the factors that will be considered before imposing discipline is at attachment C6 of this policy.

11. Dictionary

This Dictionary sets out the meaning of words used in this policy and its attachments without limiting the ordinary and natural meaning of the words. State/Territory specific definitions and more detail on some of the words in this dictionary can be sourced from the relevant State/Territory child protection commissions or equal opportunity and anti-discrimination commissions.

Abuse is a form of harassment and includes physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, and abuse of power. Examples of abusive behaviour include bullying, humiliation, verbal abuse and insults.

Affiliated club means a club or school affiliated with a Member Association.

Child means a person who is under the age of 18 years (see also definition of young person).

Child abuse relates to children at risk of harm (usually by adults, sometimes by other children) and often by those they know and trust. It can take many forms. Children may be harmed by both verbal and physical actions and by people failing to provide them with basic care. Child abuse may include:

- Physical abuse by hurting a child or a child's development (e.g. hitting, shaking or other physical harm; giving a child alcohol or drugs; or training that exceeds the child's development or maturity).
- Sexual abuse by adults or other children where a child is encouraged or forced to watch or engage in sexual activity or where a child is subject to any other inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. sexual intercourse, masturbation, oral sex, pornography including child pornography or inappropriate touching or conversations).
- Emotional abuse by ill-treating a child (e.g. humiliation, taunting, sarcasm, yelling, negative criticism, name calling, ignoring or placing unrealistic expectations on a child).
- Neglect (e.g. failing to give food, water, shelter or clothing or to protect a child from danger or foreseeable risk of harm or injury).

Complaint means a complaint made under clause 8.1 of this policy.

Complainant means the person making a complaint.

Discrimination means treating or proposing to treat someone less favourably than someone else because of a particular characteristic in the same or similar circumstances in certain areas of public life (this is Direct Discrimination). The law also covers **Indirect Discrimination**. This is imposing or intending to impose an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice that is the same for everyone, but which has an unequal or disproportionate effect on individuals or groups with particular characteristics. The characteristics covered by discrimination law across Australia are:

- Age;
- Disability;
- Family/carer responsibilities;
- Gender identity/transgender status;
- Homosexuality and sexual orientation;
- Irrelevant medical record;
- Irrelevant criminal record;
- Political belief/activity;
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding;
- Race;
- Religious belief/activity;
- Sex or gender;
- Social origin;
- Trade union membership/activity.

Some States and Territories include additional characteristics such as physical features or association with a person with one or more of the characteristics listed above.

Examples of Discrimination

- Age: A club refuses to allow an older person to coach a team simply because of their age.
- Breastfeeding: A member of the club who is breastfeeding her baby in the club rooms is asked to leave.
- Disability: A junior player is overlooked because of her mild epilepsy
- Family responsibilities: A club decides not to promote an employee because he has a child with a disability even though the employee is the best person for the job.
- Gender Identity: A transgender contract worker is harassed when employees refuse to call her by her female name.
- Homosexuality: An athlete is ostracised from her team after she tells a team mate that she is a lesbian.
- Marital Status: A player is deliberately excluded from team activities and social functions because she is single.
- Pregnancy: A woman is dropped from her squad when she becomes pregnant.

- Race: An Italian referee is not permitted to referee games with a high proportion of Italian players on one team because of his race. Sex: Specialist coaching is only offered to male players in a mixed team.

Harassment is any type of behaviour that the other person does not want and does not return and that is offensive, abusive, belittling or threatening. The behaviour is unwelcome and of a type that a reasonable person would recognise as being unwelcome and likely to cause the recipient to feel offended, humiliated or intimidated.

Unlawful harassment includes the above but is either sexual or targets a person because of their race, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation or other characteristic (see characteristic list under discrimination).

It does not matter whether the harassment was intended: the focus is on the impact of the behaviour. The basic rule is if someone else finds it harassing then it could be harassment. Harassment may be a single incident or repeated. It may be explicit or implicit, verbal or non-verbal.

Under this policy discrimination and harassment are not permitted in employment (including volunteer and unpaid employment); when providing sporting goods and services including access to sporting facilities; when providing education and accommodation; the selection or otherwise of any person for competition or a team (domestic or international); the entry or otherwise of any player or other person to any competition and the obtaining or retaining membership of clubs and organisations (including the rights and privileges of membership).

Some exceptions to state and federal anti-discrimination law apply. Examples include:

- holding a competitive sporting activity for females only who are 12 years of age or over where strength, stamina or physique is relevant or
- not selecting a participant if the person's disability means he or she is not reasonably capable of performing the actions reasonably required for that sporting activity.

Requesting, assisting, instructing, inducing or encouraging another person to engage in discrimination or harassment may also be against the law.

It is also against discrimination law to victimise a person who is involved in making a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Example: a player is ostracised by her male coach for complaining about his sexist behaviour to another club official or for supporting another player who has made such a complaint.

Public acts of racial hatred which are reasonably likely in the circumstances to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate are also prohibited. This applies to spectators, participants or any other person who engages in such an act in public. Some states and territories also prohibit public acts that vilify on other grounds such as homosexuality, gender identity, HIV/AIDS, religion and disability – see vilification.

Junior means a person under the age of eighteen (18) years who is participating in an activity of RA.

Mediator means a person appointed to mediate complaints made under this policy. It is preferable that the mediator has relevant skills, qualifications and/or training in mediation.

Member means any Member Association or Life Member.

Member protection is a term used by the Australian sport industry to describe the practices and procedures that protect members – both individual members such as players, coaches and officials, and the member organisations such as clubs, state associations, other affiliated associations and the national body. Member protection involves:

- Protecting those that are involved in sport activities from harassment, abuse, discrimination and other forms of inappropriate behaviour
- Adopting appropriate measures to ensure the right people are involved in an organisation, particularly in relation to those involved with juniors, and
- Providing education.

Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) means a person trained to be the first point of contact for a person reporting a complaint under, or a breach of, this policy. The MPIO provides confidential information and moral support to the person with the concern or who is alleging harassment or a breach of this policy. They help the complainant deal with any emotions they may have about what has happened and operate as a sounding board as the complainant decides what they want to do. The MPIO may accompany the complainant in anything they decide to do, if it feels appropriate and they are happy to do it.

Natural justice incorporates the following principles:

- A person who is the subject of a complaint must be fully informed of the allegations against them
- A person who is the subject of a complaint must be given full opportunity to respond to the allegations and raise any matters in their own defence
- All parties need to be heard and all relevant submissions considered
- Irrelevant matters should not be taken into account
- No person may judge their own case
- The decision maker/s must be unbiased, fair and just
- The penalties imposed must not outweigh the 'crime'

Police check means a national criminal history record check conducted as a prudent pre-employment or pre-engagement background check on a person.

Policy and this policy mean this Member Protection Policy.

Respondent means the person who is being complained about.

Role-specific codes of conduct means standards of conduct required of certain roles (e.g. coaches).

Sexual harassment means unwanted, unwelcome or uninvited behaviour of a sexual nature which makes a person feel humiliated, intimidated or offended. Sexual harassment can take many different forms and may include unwanted physical contact, verbal comments, jokes, propositions, display of pornographic or offensive material or other behaviour that creates a sexually hostile environment.

Sexual harassment is not behaviour based on mutual attraction, friendship and respect. If the interaction is between consenting adults, it is not sexual harassment.

Sexual offence means a criminal offence involving sexual activity or acts of indecency including but not limited to (due to differences under state/territory legislation):

- Rape
- Indecent assault
- Sexual assault
- Assault with intent to have sexual intercourse
- Incest
- Sexual penetration of child under the age of 16
- Indecent act with child under the age of 16
- Sexual relationship with child under the age of 16
- Sexual offences against people with impaired mental functioning
- Abduction and detention
- Procuring sexual penetration by threats or fraud
- Procuring sexual penetration of child under the age of 16
- Bestiality
- Soliciting acts of sexual penetration or indecent acts
- Promoting or engaging in acts of child prostitution
- Obtaining benefits from child prostitution
- Possession of child pornography
- Publishing child pornography and indecent articles.

Transgender is a general term applied to individuals and behaviours that differ from the gender role commonly, but not always, assigned at birth. It does not imply any specific form of sexual orientation.

Victimisation means subjecting a person or threatening to subject a person to any detriment or unfair treatment because that person has or intends to pursue their rights to make a complaint under government legislation (e.g. anti-discrimination) or under this policy, or for supporting another person to make a complaint.

Vilification involves a person or organisation doing public acts to incite hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of a person or group of persons having any of the attributes or characteristics within the meaning of discrimination. Public acts that may amount to vilification include any form of communication to the public and any conduct observable by the public.

Working with Children Check (WWCC) laws aim to prevent people who pose a risk from working with children as paid employees or volunteers.

Young People/person means people in the 13–18 year age group.

PART B: ROWING AUSTRALIA'S CHILD PROTECTION AND WORKING WITH CHILDREN REQUIREMENTS

Background

Child protection is about keeping children safe from harm/abuse. Child abuse is illegal, and all states and territories have their own systems and laws that cover screening and/or the reporting and investigation of cases of child abuse.

Working with Children Check (WWCC) laws aim to prevent people who pose a risk from working with children as paid employees or volunteers. In New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia laws require individuals involved in areas such as sport and recreation to undertake a check to determine their suitability to work (in a paid or volunteer capacity) with children. This is done by checking certain criminal history and other matters. In some states this also involves reviewing relevant findings from disciplinary proceedings. There are also requirements placed on organisations.

The Northern Territory government has passed new law and screening will be compulsory from January 2010. The Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania are currently reviewing their screening laws. New requirements and amendments will be added to this policy as they are introduced.

Please be aware that state and territory WWCC requirements may also apply to individuals who visit states with screening laws. For example, if a state association or club takes players U18 into New South Wales for training camps, competition or other activities, those travelling with the teams must comply with NSW law.

The state WWCC requirements apply regardless of our national, state or club Member Protection Policy.

The following attachments provide:

- summary information on state and territory WWCC requirements and where to obtain more information and relevant forms
- our Member Protection Declaration (for all states/territories except NSW who must complete a Prohibited Employment Declaration provided by the NSW Commission for Children and Young People)
- our screening requirements for people residing in ACT and Tasmania

As part of RA's commitment to protecting the safety and welfare of children and young people involved in RA activities, RA requires the following measures to be met:

- Provide opportunities for juniors to contribute to and provide feedback on program development;
- Provide education and/or information on child abuse and child protection to those involved in our sport such as coaches, juniors, parents and officials; and
- Where applicable meet the requirements outlined in:
 - B1. Child Protection requirements (generic);
 - B2 Member Protection Declaration;
 - B3 QLD Blue Card Requirements;
 - B4 NSW Child Protection Requirements
 - B5 WA Child Protection Requirements
 - B6 VIC Child Protection Requirements
 - B7 SA Child Protection Requirements

Attachment B1: CHILD PROTECTION SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

For states/territories without Working With Children Checks such as ACT and Tasmania

This attachment sets out the screening process *for people* in RA who work, coach, supervise or have regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years.

RA will, and also requires state associations and clubs to:

1. Identify positions that involve working, coaching, supervising or regular unsupervised contact with people under the age of 18 years.
 2. Obtain a completed *Member Protection Declaration (MPD)* (Attachment B2) from all people who are identified in the above step and keep it in a secure place.
 3. Provide an opportunity for a person to give an explanation if a MPD isn't provided or it reveals that the person doesn't satisfactorily meet any of the clauses in the MPD. We will then make an assessment as to whether the person may be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years. If unsatisfied we will not appoint them to the role/position.
 4. Where possible, check a person's referees (verbal or written) about his/her suitability for the role.
 5. Ask the people identified in step 1 to sign a consent form for a national police check.
 6. Possibly request (or ask the person to request) a national 'Part Exclusion' police check from our relevant police jurisdiction. This check excludes irrelevant records. If the police check indicates a relevant offence, we will provide an opportunity for the person to give an explanation, and then we will make an assessment as to whether the person may pose a risk to or be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years. If unsatisfied we will not appoint them to the role/position.
 7. Make an assessment as to whether the person may be unsuitable to work with people under the age of 18 years if the person does not agree to a national police check after explaining why it is a requirement under our policy. If unsatisfied, we will not appoint them.
 8. Decide whether to offer the person the position taking into account the result of the police check and any other information the club has available to it. Where it is not practical to complete the police check prior to the person commencing in the position, we will complete the check as soon as possible, and if necessary, act immediately on the outcome.
 9. Protect the privacy of any person who is checked and maintain confidentiality of any information obtained through the checking process.
 10. Return information collected during screening (such as a completed MPD form, police records and referee reports) to the relevant person if that person is not appointed to the position, or otherwise be destroyed within 28 days of the date of the decision or the expiry of any appeal period, unless within that time the person requests that the documents be returned to them. For appointed persons, information will be kept on file in a secure location.
-

Attachment B2: MEMBER PROTECTION DECLARATION

RA has a duty of care to its members and to the general public who interact with its employees, volunteers, members and others involved with RA activities. As part of this duty of care and as a requirement of the RA's Member Protection Policy, RA must enquire into the background of those applying for, undertaking or remaining in any work (paid or voluntary) that involves regular contact with people under the age of 18 years

I(name) of

.....(address) born/...../.....

sincerely declare:

1. I do not have any criminal charge pending before the courts.
2. I do not have any criminal convictions or findings of guilt for sexual offences, offences related to children or acts of violence, acts of indecency, child abuse, narcotics or murder.
3. I have not had any disciplinary proceedings brought against me by an employer, sporting organisation or similar body involving child abuse, sexual misconduct or harassment, acts of violence, intimidation or other forms of harassment.
4. I have never been sanctioned for an anti-doping rule violation under any anti-doping policy applicable to me.
5. I have never participated in, facilitated or encouraged any practice prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency Code or any other anti-doping policy applicable to me.
6. To my knowledge there is no other matter that RA may consider to constitute a risk to its members, employees, volunteers, athletes or reputation by engaging me.
7. I will notify the CEO of the organisation(s) engaging me immediately upon becoming aware that any of the matters set out in clauses 1 to 6 above has changed for whatever reason.

Declared in the State/Territory of

on/...../.....(date) Signature

Parent/Guardian Consent (in respect of person under the age of 18 years)

I have read and understood the declaration provided by my child. I confirm and warrant that the contents of the declaration provided by my child are true and correct in every particular.

Name:.....

Signature:.....

Date:.....

Attachment B3: WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHILD PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

1. QUEENSLAND (BLUE CARD REQUIREMENTS)

This information is subject to change at any time. Refer to the Queensland Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian's (Commission) website: www.bluecard.qld.gov.au or contact 1800 113611 if you have any queries about your obligations under their legislation. This information is provided as a guide only.

In Queensland the *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000* requires people who work with children under 18 years of age in certain categories of employment regulated by the Act, and people carrying on certain categories of business regulated by the Act to hold a blue card, unless specifically exempt.

A person will need a Working with Children Check, also known as the **blue card**, if they propose to work in a paid or voluntary capacity or to carry on a business in a child-related area regulated by the *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000*. Once a person is checked and approved they are issued with a "blue card." Volunteers and paid employees employed in sporting organisations generally fall under the 'churches, clubs and associations' category of regulated employment. Volunteers and paid employees employed in private businesses may fall under the 'sport and active recreation' category of regulated employment. The check is a detailed national criminal history check including charges and investigations relating to children.

People such as those with previous convictions involving children are disqualified from applying for or renewing a blue card (refer to website below for details).

A blue card remains current for two years. Existing card holders will be notified by the Queensland Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian before their card expires.

In addition to obligations regarding the blue card, **employers** must develop and implement a written child protection risk management strategy and review it each year.

For more information on the blue card, including current forms:

- www.ccypg.qld.gov.au
- 1800 113 611

2. NEW SOUTH WALES

All organisations within NSW that employ people in child-related employment (in a paid or unpaid capacity) must meet the requirements of the Working with Children Check (WWCC). Child related employment is work which primarily involves direct unsupervised contact with children. The WWCC involves three components:

1. **Ensuring** all paid and unpaid employees sign a [Prohibited Employment Declaration](#) which states they are not prohibited from working with children.
2. **Submitting** all applicants for **paid** employment to NSW Sport and Recreation for a WWCC background check. NSW Sport and Recreation only carries out checks for paid employees.
3. **Reporting** relevant employment proceedings for any paid and unpaid employees to the Commission for Children and Young People. A relevant employment proceeding involves any reportable conduct committed outside of work as well as in the workplace with or in the presence of a child/ren.

Sporting organisations are responsible for managing the WWCC process. Individuals cannot apply for a WWCC directly. Sporting organisations should register with [NSW Sport and Recreation](#), providing a contact who will receive the information on the background checks.

A WWCC is valid for employment in that position within the organisation. Short-term employees (where that person is being employed for periods of less than six months and returning for short periods throughout a 12 month period) only need to be checked **once** every 12 months.

For more information, including the required forms:

- www.kids.nsw.gov.au or 02 9286 7219
- www.dsr.nsw.gov.au/children/resources.asp or 02 9006 3700

3. WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Working with Children Check (WWC Check) is a compulsory and rigorous criminal record check for certain people who carry out 'child-related work' in WA. A person is in 'child-related work' if the usual duties of their work involves, or is likely to involve contact with a child in connection with specified categories of work (see the website below for further details) It includes child-related work carried out by paid employees, volunteers, unpaid people and the self-employed. Parents volunteering in connection with their child's activity are exempt (although this does not apply to overnight camps); however they should still be required to complete the non-WWC Check screening process. There are other exemptions, for example volunteers under 18 years old. Further details about exemptions can be found on the website below. Only those in child-related work under the Act may apply.

Applicants will be issued with either:

- An Assessment Notice in the form of a WWC Card enabling them to be in all types of child-related work for three years unless there are new offences of concern.
- An Interim Negative Notice, which prohibits them from child-related work until a final decision is made on their application.
- A Negative Notice, which prohibits them from child-related work.

There are set obligations and strong penalties for non-compliance including for employers and volunteer co-coordinators.

For more information:

- www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au or call 1800 883 979 (toll free)

4. VICTORIA

The Working with Children (WWC) Check creates a mandatory minimum checking standard across Victoria. The *Working with Children Act 2005* requires that some people who work or volunteer in child-related work require a WWC Check. The check involves a national police records check and a review of relevant findings from prescribed professional disciplinary bodies (currently only the Victorian Institute of Teaching). There is an exemption for volunteers whose own children are involved in the particular activity; however they should still be required to complete the screening process.

A person who has no criminal or professional disciplinary history will be granted an *assessment notice*. This notice will entitle the person to undertake child-related work in Victoria and is valid for five years (unless revoked). A person deemed unsuitable to work or volunteer with children will be given a *negative notice* and cannot work in child-related work in Victoria.

For more information:

- www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren or 1300 652 879

5. SOUTH AUSTRALIA

There are provisions under the *Children's Protection (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 2005* that apply to non-government and volunteer organisations that are entrusted with the care of children or who regularly come into contact with children. These provisions require organisations to have strategies in

place to prevent and minimise opportunities for abuse and to appropriately respond when abuse occurs or is suspected, and to implement guidelines and processes that clearly outline effective and timely responses to child protection issues and steps of action.

Be aware that criminal history reports are likely to be introduced and mandatory for some positions in sporting organisations from 2010/2011.

Staff and volunteers who work with children are mandated notifiers and have a legal obligation to report any suspected child abuse and/or neglect.

For more information:

- www.families.sa.gov.au/childsafe or 08 8226 7000

6. NORTHERN TERRITORY

From January 2010, all persons employed in child related work, either paid or as a volunteer, must hold a valid clearance notice issued by the SAFE NT Screening Authority. There are penalties for failure to comply. Sports coaches, trainers, team administrators, officials and volunteers of Sporting Organisations that deal with children are caught.

Clearance notices are valid for two years from date of issue unless revoked, and are transferable within employment fields. As a part of the assessment process, SAFE NT will consider the applicant's criminal history record and other relevant information.

For more information contact 1800 SAFE NT (1800 723 368)

7. OTHER STATES AND TERRITORIES

Please note that other States and Territories such as Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory which are without Working With Children Checks should refer to *Attachment B1: CHILD PROTECTION SCREENING REQUIREMENTS*.

PART C: PROCEDURES

To ensure due process, consistency and that the principles of natural justice are followed in all aspects of handling or conducting complaints, allegations, investigations, tribunals and disciplinary measures, RA will follow and implement the following procedures:

- C1 Complaints Procedure
- C2 Mediation Procedure
- C3 Investigation Procedure
- C4 Investigation Procedure for allegations of child abuse
- C5 Hearings and Appeals Tribunal Procedure
- C6 Disciplinary Measures

Attachment C1: OVERVIEW OF COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

A complaint can be about an act, behaviour, omission, situation or decision that someone thinks is unfair, unjustified, unlawful and/or a breach of this policy. Complaints will always vary. They may be about individual or group behaviour; they may be extremely serious or relatively minor; they may be about a single incident or a series of incidents; and the person about who the allegation is made may admit to the allegations or emphatically deny them.

Given all of the variables that can arise, RA provides a step-by-step complaint procedure that people may use/enter at any stage. Individuals and organisations to which this policy applies may also pursue their complaint externally under anti-discrimination, child-protection or other relevant legislation.

If at any point in the complaint process the CEO considers that a complainant has **knowingly** made an untrue complaint or the complaint is vexatious or malicious, the matter will be referred to the RA Hearings Tribunal for appropriate action. All complaints will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to another person without the complainant's consent except if law requires disclosure or if disclosure is necessary in the opinion of the CEO to effectively deal with the complaint.

Step 1

As a first step you (the complainant) should try to resolve the problem with the person or people involved if you feel able to do so.

Step 2

If:

- The first step is not possible/reasonable; or
- You are not sure how to handle the problem by yourself; or
- You just want to talk confidentially about the problem with someone and get some more information about what you can do; or
- The problem continues after you tried to approach the person or people involved; then

talk with one of our Member Protection Information Officers (MPIOs). A list of MPIOs is available on the RA website- www.rowingaustralia.com.au

The MPIO will:

- Take notes about your complaint (who will keep in a secure and confidential place);
- Try to sort out the facts of the problem;
- Ask what outcome/how you want the problem resolved and if you need support;
- Provide possible options for you to resolve the problem;
- Explain how our complaints procedure works;
- Act as a support person if you so wish;
- Refer you to an appropriate person to help you resolve the problem, if necessary;
- Inform the relevant government authorities and/or police if required by law to do so; and
- Maintain strict confidentiality.

Step 3

After talking with the MPIO, you may decide:

- There is no problem;
- The problem is minor and you do not wish to take the matter forward;
- To try and work out your own resolution (with or without a support person such as a MPIO); or
- To seek an informal mediated resolution with the help of a third person (such as a mediator).

If you wish to remain anonymous, RA can't assist you to resolve your complaint. We have to follow the principles of natural justice and be fair to both sides. This means that RA or you may be required to provide the person/people you have complained about with full details of the complaint so they have a fair chance to respond to all the allegations.

Step 4

If your complaint is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may:

- Make a formal complaint in writing to the RA Chief Executive Officer or
- Approach a relevant external agency such as an equal opportunity commission, for advice.

Step 5

If you decide to make a formal complaint in writing to the CEO under Step 4, the CEO will, on receiving the formal complaint and based on the material you have provided, decide whether:

- They are the most appropriate person to receive and handle the complaint;
- The nature and seriousness of the complaint warrants a formal resolution procedure. Some complaints may be of a minor and/or purely personal nature with no connection to the activities of RA. In these cases, the CEO may determine that the complaint does not warrant a formal resolution procedure;
- To appoint a person to investigate the complaint;
- To refer the complaint to an informal or formal mediation session;
- To refer the complaint to a hearings tribunal;
- To refer the matter to the police or other appropriate authority; and/or
- To implement any interim administrative or other arrangements that will apply until the complaint process set out in these Procedures is completed.

In making the decision(s) outlined above, the CEO will take into account:

- Whether they have had any personal involvement in the circumstances giving rise to the complaint and, if so, whether their ability to impartially manage the complaint is compromised or may appear to be compromised;
- Whether, due to the nature of the complaint, specific expertise or experience may be required to manage the complaint;
- Your wishes, and the wishes of the respondent, regarding the manner in which the complaint should be handled;
- Whether, due to the nature of the complaint, the relationship between you and the respondent and any other relevant factors, the complaint should be referred (or should not be referred) to informal or formal mediation or to a hearings tribunal. Relevant factors may include an actual or perceived power imbalance between you and the respondent, the nature of any ongoing working relationship between you and the respondent, and the personal attributes of you and the respondent (for example, if one party does not speak English fluently, some of the possible complaints resolution mechanisms may not be appropriate);
- The nature and sensitivity of any information or other material that must be provided by you, the respondent, and any of the other people involved in the complaint;
- Whether the facts of the complaint are in dispute; and
- The urgency of the complaint, including the likelihood and the consequences (if the complaint is ultimately proven) that you will be subject to further unacceptable behaviour while the complaint process set out in these Procedures is being conducted.

If the CEO is the appropriate person to handle the complaint they will, to the extent that these steps are necessary:

- Get full information from you (the complainant) about your complaint and how you want it resolved (if this information has not already been obtained through earlier steps);
- Put the information they've received from you to the person/people you're complaining about and ask them to provide their side of the story;
- Decide whether they have enough information to determine whether the matter alleged in your complaint did or didn't happen; and/or
- Determine what, if any, further action to take. This action may include disciplinary action in accordance with Attachment C6, appointing a person to investigate the complaint, referring the complaint to an informal or a formal mediation session or a hearings tribunal and/or referring the complaint to the police or other appropriate authority.

Step 6

If:

- A person is appointed to investigate the complaint under **Step 5**, the investigator will conduct the investigation and provide a written report to the CEO who will determine what, if any, further action to take. This action may include a direction to the investigator to make further enquiries and obtain additional information, disciplinary action in accordance with Attachment C6, and referring the complaint to an informal or a formal mediation session, a hearings tribunal and/or the police or other appropriate authority;
- The complaint is referred to an informal or a formal mediation session under **Step 5**, the mediation session will be conducted in accordance with Attachment C2 or as otherwise agreed by you and the respondent;
- The complaint is referred to a hearings tribunal under **Step 5**, the hearing will be conducted in accordance with Attachment C5;
- The complaint is referred to the police or other appropriate authority under **Step 5**, RA will use its best endeavours to provide all reasonable assistance lawfully required by the police or other appropriate authority; and
- Interim administrative or other arrangements are implemented under **Step 5**, RA will periodically review these arrangements to ensure that they are effective.

Any costs relating to the complaint process set out in this Policy (e.g. investigation and/or mediation and/or hearings tribunal) are to be met by the individual.

Step 7

If, under **Step 6**, an informal or formal mediation session is conducted, and you and the respondent(s) can not reach a mutually acceptable mediated solution to the complaint, you may request that the CEO reconsider the complaint in accordance with **Step 5**.

You or the respondent(s) may be entitled to appeal where:

- Under **Step 5**, a decision was made by the CEO:
 - Not to take any action; or
 - To take disciplinary action; or
- Under **Step 6**, a decision was made by the CEO or the RA Hearings Tribunal:
 - Not to take any action; or
 - To take disciplinary action.

The grounds for appeal and the process for appeals under this Policy are set out in Attachment C5.

If the internal complaints processes set out in this Policy do not achieve a satisfactory resolution/outcome for you, or if you believe it would be impossible to get an impartial resolution within Rowing Australia, you may choose to approach an external agency such as an equal opportunity commission to assist with a resolution.

Step 8

The CEO will document the complaint, the process followed and the outcome. This document will be stored in a confidential and secure place. If the complaint was dealt with at a state/district level, the information will be stored in the state association office. If the matter is of a serious nature, or if the matter was escalated to and/or dealt with at the national level, the original document will be stored at the national office with a copy stored at the state office.

External procedure

There may be a range of external options available to you depending on the nature of your complaint. If you feel that you have been harassed or discriminated against, you can seek advice from your State or Territory equal opportunity commission without being obliged to make a formal complaint. If the commission advises you that the problem appears to be a type of harassment that comes within its jurisdiction, you may then make a decision as to whether or not to lodge a formal complaint with the commission.

Once a complaint is received by an anti-discrimination commission, an investigation will be conducted. If it appears that unlawful harassment or discrimination has occurred, there will usually be an attempt to conciliate the complaint confidentially first. If this fails, or is inappropriate, the complaint may go to a formal hearing where a finding will be made as to whether unlawful harassment or discrimination occurred. The tribunal will decide upon what action, if any, will be taken. This could include financial compensation for such things as distress, lost earnings or medical and counselling expenses incurred.

An anti-discrimination commission can decline to investigate a complaint, or dismiss a complaint at any point in the investigation, conciliation or public hearing stages.

If you do lodge a complaint under anti-discrimination law, you may use an appropriate person (e.g. an MPIO) as a support person throughout the process. It is also common to have a legal representative, particularly at the hearing stage of a complaint.

You could also approach another external agency such as the police.

Attachment C2: MEDIATION

Mediation is a process by which people who are in conflict can be helped to communicate with each other about what is important for them and how to make decisions about resolving their dispute. Mediators provide a supportive atmosphere and method of talking to one another, to assist in sorting out the issues, coming up with acceptable solutions and making mutually satisfactory agreements.

This attachment outlines the general procedure of mediation that will be followed by Rowing Australia.

1. The people involved in a formal complaint (complainant and respondent(s)) may work out their own resolution of the complaint or seek the assistance of a neutral third person or a mediator. Mediation may occur either before or after an investigation of the complaint.
2. Mediation (getting those involved to come to a joint agreement about how the complaint should be resolved) will only be recommended:
 - a. After the complainant and respondent have had their chance to tell their version of events to the CEO on their own; *and*
 - b. The CEO, does not believe that any of the allegations warrant any form of disciplinary action - proven serious allegations will not be mediated, no matter what the complainant desires; and
 - c. Mediation looks like it will work (i.e. the versions given by the complainant and respondent tally or almost tally and/or at the very least, it looks as though it will be possible for each party to understand the other party's point of view).
3. Mediation will **not** be recommended if:
 - a. The respondent has a completely different version of the events and they won't deviate from these;
 - b. The complainant or respondent are unwilling to attempt mediation; or
 - c. Due to the nature of the complaint, the relationship between you and the respondent(s) and any other relevant factors, the complaint is not suitable for mediation.
4. If mediation is chosen to try and resolve the complaint, the CEO will, in consultation with the complainant and the respondent(s), arrange for a mediator to mediate the complaint.
5. The CEO will notify the respondent(s) that a formal complaint has been made, provide them with details of the complaint and notify them RA has decided to refer the matter to mediation to resolve the complaint.
6. The mediator's role is to assist the complainant and respondent(s) reach an agreement on how to resolve the problem. The mediator, in consultation with the complainant and respondent(s), will choose the procedures to be followed during the mediation. At a minimum, an agenda of issues for discussion will be prepared by the mediator.
7. The mediation will be conducted confidentially and without prejudice to the rights of the complainant and the respondent(s) to pursue an alternative process if the complaint is not resolved.
8. At the end of a successful mediation the mediator will prepare a document that sets out the agreement reached between the complainant and respondent(s) and it will be signed by them as their agreement.
9. If the formal complaint is not resolved by mediation, the complainant may:
 - a. Write to the CEO to request that the CEO reconsider the complaint in accordance with **Step 5**; *or*
 - b. Approach an external agency such as an anti-discrimination commission.

Attachment C3: INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE — GENERAL

If an investigation needs to be conducted the following steps are to be followed:

1. A written brief will be provided to the investigator to ensure the terms of engagement and scope of the investigator's role and responsibilities are clear.
2. The complainant will be interviewed and the complaint documented in writing.
3. The details of the complaint will be conveyed to the person/people complained about (respondent(s)) in full. The respondent(s) must be given sufficient information to enable them to properly respond to the complaint.
4. The respondent(s) will be interviewed and given the opportunity to respond. The respondent(s) response to the complaint will be documented in writing.
5. If there is a dispute over the facts, then statements from witnesses and other relevant evidence will be obtained to assist in a determination.
6. The investigator will make a finding as to whether the complaint is:
 - Substantiated (there is sufficient evidence to support the complaint);
 - Inconclusive (there is insufficient evidence either way);
 - Unsubstantiated (there is sufficient evidence to show that the complaint is unfounded); and/or
 - Mischievous, vexatious or knowingly untrue.
7. A report documenting the complaint, investigation process, evidence, finding and, if requested, recommendations, will be given to the CEO.
8. A report documenting the complaint and summarising the investigation process and key points that were found to be substantiated, inconclusive, unsubstantiated and/or mischievous will be provided to the complainant and the respondent(s).
9. Both the complainant and the respondent(s) are entitled to support throughout this process from their chosen support person/adviser (e.g. MPIO or other person).
10. The complainant and the respondent(s) may have the right to appeal against any decision based on the investigation. Information on our appeals process is in Attachment C5.

More detailed information on conducting internal investigations can be found at www.ausport.gov.au/ethics/policy.asp

Attachment C4: INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE — CHILD ABUSE

An allegation of child abuse is a very serious matter and must be handled with a high degree of sensitivity. It is not the responsibility of anyone working in RA in a paid or unpaid capacity to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there is a responsibility to act on any concerns by reporting these to the appropriate authorities

The following is a basic outline of the key processes to follow. More information can be obtained from your relevant State or Territory government agency.

Step 1 — Clarify basic details of the allegation

- Any complaints, concerns or allegations of child abuse should be made or referred to the CEO of Rowing Australia.
- The initial response of the person that receives the complaint from the child (or person on behalf of the child) is crucial to the well-being of the child. It is important for the person receiving the information to:
 - Listen to, be supportive and do not dispute what the child says;
 - Reassure the child that what has occurred is not the fault of the child;
 - Ensure the child is safe;
 - Be honest with the child and explain that other people may need to be told in order to stop what is happening; and
 - Ensure that what the child says is quite clear but do not elicit detailed information about the abuse. You should avoid suggestive or leading questions.
- Act promptly to accurately record the discussion in writing;
- Do not discuss the details with any person other than those detailed in these procedures; and
- Do not contact the alleged offender.
- The person receiving the complaint should obtain and clarify basic details (if possible) such as:
 - Child's name, age and address;
 - Person's reason for suspecting abuse (observation, injury or other); and
 - Names and contact details of all people involved, including witnesses.

Step 2 — Report allegations of a serious or criminal nature

- Any individual or organisation to which this policy applies, should immediately report any incident of a serious or a criminal nature to the police and other appropriate authority.
- If the allegation involves a child at risk of harm, the incident should immediately be reported to the police or other appropriate government agency. You may need to report to both the police and the relevant government agency.
- The relevant State or Territory authority should be contacted for advice if there is **any** doubt about whether the complaint should be reported.
- If the child's parent/s are suspected of committing the abuse, report the allegation to the relevant government agency.
- If the allegation involves anyone to whom our policy applies, then also report the allegation to the CEO of RA so that they can manage the situation (e.g. contact the parents following advice from the authorities, deal with any media enquiries and manage steps 3 and 4).

Step 3 — Protect the child

- The CEO should assess the risks and take interim action to ensure the child's/children's safety. Some options could include redeployment of the alleged offender to a non-child related position, supervision of the alleged offender or removal/suspension from their duties until the allegations are finally determined.
- The CEO will consider the kind of support that the child/ren and parents may need (e.g. counselling, helplines, support groups).
- The CEO or MPIO will address the support needs of the alleged offender.

- The CEO should also address the support needs of the person against whom the complaint is made. Supervision of the person should ideally occur with the knowledge of the person. If stood down, it should be made clear to all parties that are aware of the incident that this does not mean the person is guilty and a proper investigation still needs to be undertaken.

Step 4 — Further clarify and investigate allegation

- Seek advice from the police and relevant government agency as to whether RA should carry out its own internal investigation (in addition to any police or relevant government agency investigation).
- If the police and/or relevant government agency advises that it is appropriate, then appoint an independent person (where possible) with appropriate expertise to conduct an investigation. The investigator should:
 - Contact the parents/carers of the child at an appropriate time and as directed by the police or relevant government agency.
 - If appropriate, meet with parents/carers and the child to clarify the incident and offer support on behalf of RA if required (example, professional counselling).
 - Meet with the person against whom the allegation refers at an appropriate time and as directed by the relevant authority and give the person an opportunity to explain or respond to the allegation and identify any witnesses and supporting evidence. The person should have an opportunity to invite a support person/adviser to attend at a meeting and should be offered support (example, professional counselling) if necessary.
 - Obtain a signed statement and record of interview from the person.
 - Make contact with any witnesses and obtain written and signed statements outlining details of the allegation (what happened, when, how). This should only occur following advice from the relevant authority.
 - Obtain other information that could assist in making a decision on the allegation.
- The information collected during the investigation should be made available to the relevant authorities.
- Strict confidentiality, impartiality, fairness and due process must be maintained at all times.

Step 5 — Record and analyse all information

- If an internal investigation was conducted under **Step 4**, the investigator will provide a report to the CEO.
- The decision-maker(s) will include the RA CEO & Board and will remain separate and at arm's length from the investigator.
- The RA CEO & Board will consider all the information and determine a finding. It will also recommend action and its rationale for the action.

Step 6 — Undertake disciplinary action

- For incidents of a serious or criminal nature, consideration must be given to the findings of the police and/or the government agency before making a decision on disciplinary proceedings.
- If disciplinary action is to be taken, follow the procedures outlined in Attachment C6 of the policy.
- Implement any disciplinary decision recommended by the RA CEO & Board. The action should be immediate.
- Check with the relevant state government authority to see if you need to forward a report (e.g. the NSW Commission for Children and Young People requires notification of relevant employment proceedings).
- Complete the appropriate report form in Part E of this policy. Retain the original in a secure place and forward a copy to the CEO of Rowing Australia.

Attachment C5: HEARINGS AND APPEALS TRIBUNAL PROCEDURE

The following Tribunal Hearing procedures will be followed by Hearings Tribunals established by RA.

Hearing Tribunal Formation and Notification

1. A Tribunal Panel will be constituted to hear a complaint that has been referred to it by the CEO.
2. The CEO will organise for a Tribunal to be convened by notifying all Tribunal Panel members that they are required to hear a complaint. The Tribunal Panel members will be provided with a copy of all the relevant correspondence, reports or information received and sent by the CEO relating to the complaint/allegations.
3. The Hearing will be scheduled as soon as practicable, but must allow adequate time for the person being complained about respondent(s) to prepare to respond to the complaint.
4. The number of Tribunal Panel members required to be present throughout the Hearing will be three. The Tribunal Panel will not include any person who has any actual or perceived conflict of interest, preconceived opinions, vested interests or personal involvement relating to the complaint.
 - 4.1 The Tribunal Panel will comprise at least one person who has knowledge, and preferably experience, of any relevant laws relating to the complaint (e.g. anti-harassment).
 - 4.2 If a member of the Tribunal Panel cannot continue once the Hearing has commenced, and the minimum number required for the Tribunal Hearing is still maintained, the discontinuing member will not be replaced.
 - 4.3 If the specific or minimum number is not maintained, the discontinuing member may be replaced if it is considered appropriate by the Tribunal Chairperson. Factors to consider should include the circumstances of the complaint and the ability of the new Tribunal member to be reasonably and impartially informed of the hearing evidence up until the time of their appointment. If the Tribunal Chairperson believes it is not appropriate for a new Tribunal Panel member to be appointed then the Tribunal will be rescheduled to a later date. The Tribunal Chairperson will inform the CEO of the need to reschedule, and the CEO will organise for the Hearing, with a new Tribunal Hearing, with a new Tribunal Panel, to be reconvened.
5. The CEO will inform the respondent(s) by written notification that a Hearing will take place. The written notification will outline:
 - That the person has a right to appear at the Hearing to defend the complaint/allegation;
 - Details of the complaint, including any relevant rules or regulations they are accused of breaching (if there is more than one complaint these should be set out separately);
 - The date, time and venue of the Hearing;
 - That they can make either verbal or written submissions to the Tribunal;
 - That they may arrange for witnesses to attend the Tribunal in support of their position;
 - An outline of any possible penalties that may be imposed if the complaint is found to be true; and
 - That legal representation will not be allowed. If the respondent is considered a minor, they should have a parent or guardian present.

A copy of any information / documents that have been given to the Tribunal (eg investigation report findings) will also be provided to the respondent.

The respondent(s) will be allowed to participate in all RA activities and events, pending the decision of the Tribunal, including any available appeal process, unless the CEO believes it is warranted to exclude the respondent(s) from all or some RA activities and events, after considering the nature of the complaint.

6. The CEO will inform the person making the complaint (complainant) by written notification that a Hearing will take place. The written notification will outline:
 - That the person has a right to appear at the Hearing to support their complaint;

- Details of the complaint, including any relevant rules or regulations they are accused of breaching (if there is more than one complaint these should be set out separately);
- The date, time and venue of the Hearing;
- That they can make either verbal or written submissions to the Tribunal;
- That they may arrange for witnesses to attend the Tribunal in support of their position; and
- That legal representation will not be allowed. If complainant is considered a minor, they should have a parent or guardian present.

A copy of any information / documents that have been given to the Tribunal (eg investigation report findings) will also be provided to the complainant.

7. If the complainant believes the details of the complaint are incorrect or insufficient they should inform the CEO as soon as possible so that the respondent and the Tribunal Panel members can be properly informed of the complaint.

Tribunal Hearing Procedure

8. The following people will be allowed to attend the Tribunal Hearing:
 - The Tribunal Panel members;
 - The respondent(s);
 - The complainant;
 - Any witnesses called by the respondent;
 - Any witnesses called by the complainant;
 - Any parent / guardian or support person required to support the respondent or the complainant.
9. The Tribunal Chairperson will call the hearing to order at the designated time and determine if the respondent(s) is present.
10. If the respondent(s) is not present and the Tribunal Chairperson considers that no valid reason has been presented for their absence, the Tribunal Hearing will continue subject to the Tribunal Chairperson being satisfied that all Tribunal notification requirements have been carried out correctly.
11. If the Tribunal Chairperson considers that a valid reason for the non-attendance of the respondent(s) is presented, or the Tribunal Chairperson does not believe the Tribunal notification requirements have been carried out correctly, then the Tribunal Hearing will be rescheduled to a later date.
12. The Tribunal Chairperson will inform the CEO of the need to reschedule, and the CEO will organise for the Tribunal Hearing to be reconvened.
13. The Tribunal Chairperson will read out the complaint that is to be judged, ask the respondent(s) if they understand the complaint being made against them, and if they agree or disagree with the complaint.
14. If the person agrees with the complaint, they will be asked to provide any evidence or witnesses that should be considered by the Tribunal Panel when determining any disciplinary measures.
15. If the person disagrees with the complaint, the complainant will be asked to describe the circumstances that lead to the complaint being made.
 - Brief notes may be referred to.
 - The complainant will be allowed to call witnesses.
 - The respondent(s) may be allowed to question the complainant and their witnesses.
16. The respondent(s) will then be asked to respond to the complaint.
 - Brief notes may be referred to.
 - The respondent will be allowed to call witnesses.
 - The complainant may be allowed to ask questions of the respondent and their witnesses.

17. Both the complainant and respondent will be allowed to be present when evidence is presented to the Tribunal. Witnesses may be asked to wait outside the Tribunal Hearing until required.
18. The Tribunal will be allowed to:
 - Consider any evidence, and in any form, that it deems relevant.
 - Question any person giving evidence.
 - Limit the number of witnesses presented if it is agreed by all parties that they will support the person who requested them, but will not provide any new evidence.
 - Require the attendance of any witness it deems relevant;
 - Act in an inquisitorial manner in order to establish the truth of the issue/case before it
19. Video evidence, if available, may be presented. The arrangements must be made entirely by the person/s wishing to offer this type of evidence.
20. If the Tribunal considers that at any time during the Tribunal Hearing that there is any unreasonable or intimidatory behaviour from anyone allowed to be present, the Tribunal Chairperson shall have the power to stop any further involvement of the person in the Tribunal Hearing.
21. After all of the evidence has been presented the Tribunal Panel will make its decision in private. If the Tribunal believes the complaint has been substantiated on the balance of probabilities (i.e. more probable than not), the respondent will then be given an opportunity to address the Tribunal Panel and make a submission on any disciplinary measures that may be imposed. Only those disciplinary measures outlined in Rowing Australia's Constitution and any policies made by RA under the Constitution including the Member Protection Policy and Codes of Conduct will be considered. Any disciplinary measure imposed must be reasonable in the circumstances.
22. All decisions made by the Tribunal will be based on a majority vote.
23. The Tribunal Chairperson will announce the decision in the presence of all those involved in the Hearing and will declare the hearing closed.
24. Within 48 hours, the Tribunal Chairperson will:
 - 24.1 Forward to the CEO a copy of the tribunal decision including any disciplinary measures imposed.
 - 24.2 Forward a letter to the respondent(s) reconfirming the Tribunal's decision and any disciplinary measures imposed. The letter should also outline, if allowed, the process and grounds for an appeal to be made.

Appeals Procedure

25. A complainant or a respondent(s) who is not satisfied with a decision described in **Step 7** of the Complaints Procedures can lodge one appeal to RA on one or more of the following bases:
 - 25.1 That a denial of natural justice has occurred;
 - 25.2 That the disciplinary measure(s) imposed is unjust and/or unreasonable; or
 - 25.3 That the decision of the Tribunal Hearing is otherwise wrong at law.
26. A person wanting to appeal in accordance with paragraph 25 must lodge a letter stating their intention and the basis for their appeal with the CEO within 5 days of the relevant decision. An appeal fee of \$500 shall be included with the letter of intention to appeal.
27. If the letter of appeal is not received by the CEO within the relevant time period the right of appeal will lapse. If the letter of appeal is received but the appeal fee is not received by the relevant time, the appeal shall be deemed to be withdrawn.
28. Upon receipt of the letter of appeal, the CEO must convene a special meeting of the RA Board to review the letter of appeal and decide whether there are sufficient grounds for the appeal to proceed. The RA Board will be able to invite any witnesses to the meeting it believes are required to make an informed decision.

29. If it is considered that the letter of appeal has not shown sufficient grounds for appeal in accordance with paragraph 25, then the appeal will not proceed and the person will be notified of this decision and the reasons for this decision. The appeal fee will be forfeited.
30. If the appeal is considered to have sufficient grounds to proceed then a Tribunal with a new panel will be convened to rehear the complaint, and the appeal fee will be refunded. The GEO shall follow the Tribunal Formation and Notification procedures outlined above.
31. The Tribunal Hearing Procedure shall be followed for the appeal.
32. The decision of the appeal Tribunal will be final.

Attachment C6: DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Any disciplinary measure imposed by the RA Hearings Tribunal, Appeal Tribunal and/or CEO under this policy must:

- Observe any contractual and employment rules and requirements;
- Conform to the principles of natural justice;
- Be fair and reasonable;
- Be based on the evidence and information presented;
- Be within the powers of the RA Hearings Tribunal, Appeals Tribunal and/or CEO to impose the disciplinary measure.

Individual

Subject to contractual and employment requirements, if a finding is made that an individual has breached the RA Member Protection Policy (including the Codes of Conduct), one or more of the following forms of discipline may be imposed by The RA Hearings Tribunal, Appeal Tribunal and/or CEO:

1. A direction that the individual make a verbal and/or written apology;
2. A written warning;
3. A direction that the individual attend counselling to address their behaviour;
4. A withdrawal of any awards, placings, records, achievements bestowed in any tournaments, activities or events held or sanctioned by RA;
5. A demotion or transfer of the individual to another location, role or activity
6. A suspension of the individual's membership or participation or engagement in a role or activity;
7. Termination of the individual's membership, appointment or engagement;
8. Recommend that RA terminate the individual's membership, appointment or engagement;
9. In the case of a coach or official, a direction that the relevant organisation de-register the accreditation of the coach or official for a period of time or permanently;
10. Any other form of discipline that the RA Board considers appropriate.

When imposing any form of discipline, it will be accompanied by a warning that a similar breach of policy by that individual in the future may result in the imposition of a more serious form of discipline.

Organisations

If a finding is made that an RA Member Association or affiliated club or organisation has breached the RA Member Protection Policy (including the Codes of Conduct), one or more of the following forms of discipline may be imposed by the RA Hearings Tribunal, Appeal Tribunal and/or CEO:

1. A written warning;
2. A monetary fine;
3. A direction that any rights, privileges and benefits provided to that organisation by the national body or other peak association be suspended for a specified period;
4. A direction that any funding granted or given to it by the Rowing Australia cease from a specified date;
5. A direction that the cease to sanction events held by or under the auspices of that organisation;
6. A recommendation to Rowing Australia that its membership of the national body be suspended or terminated in accordance with the relevant constitution or rules; and/or
7. Any other form of discipline the RA Board considers to be appropriate.

When imposing any form of discipline, it will be accompanied by a warning that a similar breach of policy by the organisation in the future may result in more serious form of discipline.

Factors to consider when imposing discipline

The form of discipline to be imposed on an individual or organisation will depend on factors such as:

- If the individual is a parent and/or spectator;
- Nature and seriousness of the behaviour or incidents;
- In a case where action is taken concurrently with or in lieu of a resolution of a formal complaint, the wishes of the complainant;
- If the individual concerned knew or should have known that the behaviour was a breach of the policy;
- Level of contrition of the respondent(s);
- The effect of the proposed disciplinary measures on the respondent(s) including any personal, professional or financial consequences;
- If there have been relevant prior warnings or disciplinary action; and/or
- If there are any mitigating circumstances such that the respondent(s) shouldn't be disciplined at all or not disciplined so seriously.

PART D: ROLE-SPECIFIC CODES OF CONDUCT

Attachment D1: GENERAL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Rowing Australia endorses the following code of conduct for members, service providers and employees, particularly those responsible for activities involving members under the age of 18 years.

As a Rowing Australia member, service provider or employee you should meet the following standard of conduct:

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others.
- Be fair, considerate and honest in all dealings with others.
- Be professional in, and accept responsibility for, your actions.
- Make a commitment to providing quality service.
- Be aware of, and maintain an uncompromising adherence to, Rowing Australia standards, rules and policies.
- Operate within the rules of rowing including national and international guidelines that govern Rowing Australia.

Rowing Australia expects all members, service providers and employees to abide by this code of conduct, which upholds the principles and values of the organisation. They should recognise that at all times they have a responsibility, and a duty of care to other members, service providers and Rowing Australia employees.

Specifically, they should:

- Understand the possible consequences of breaching Rowing Australia's member protection policy.
- Immediately report any breaches of the Rowing Australia member protection policy to the appropriate authority.
- Refrain from any form of abuse towards others.
- Refrain from any form of harassment toward others.
- Refrain from any form of discrimination toward others.
- Refrain from intimate relations with members with whom they have a supervisory role or power over.
- Refrain from any form of victimisation toward others.
- Provide a safe environment for the conduct of activities in accordance with any relevant Rowing Australia policy.
- Show concern and caution toward others that may be sick or injured.
- Be a positive role model.

In addition to these general codes of behaviour, role-specific codes of behaviour will also apply to people in those particular roles, as outlined in the following attachments.

Attachment D2: ADMINISTRATOR CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Administrator/director/officer/employee/contractor will:

- Agree to abide by the code of conduct.
- Be fair, considerate and honest with others.
- Operate within the rules of Rowing Australia
- Be professional in their actions, language, presentation, manner and punctuality in order to reflect high standards.
- Maintain confidentiality in regards to sensitive and /or commercial information.
- Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures.
- Maintain strict impartiality in matters relating to the RA Member Protection Policy.
- Maintain a safe environment for others.
- Show concern and caution towards others.
- Be a positive role model for others.

Attachment D3: COACH AND TEAM MANAGER CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

A coach or team official will:

- Agree to abide by the code of conduct.
- Be responsible for matters concerning the coaching, training and development of members.
- Maintain a 'duty of care' towards others and accountability for matters relating to training and competition.
- Have a sound working knowledge of Rowing Australia's policies, rules and coaching techniques.
- Ensure that any physical contact with others is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the persons skill development
- Provide a safe environment for training and competition.
- Be a positive role model for members of Rowing Australia
- Make a commitment to providing a quality service.

* this also applies to team support staff (e.g.. medical, physiotherapy and dietician staff)

A team manager will:

- Agree to abide by the code of conduct.
- Be responsible for the overall welfare and well being of team members and officials when travelling with a team.
- Maintain a 'duty of care' towards team members and accountability for the management of the team.
- Have a sound knowledge of Rowing Australia's policies, responsibilities and competition rules, and ensure that the conduct of the affairs of the team is in accordance with these policies and guidelines.
- Foster a collaborative approach to the management of the team.

Attachment D4: ATHLETE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with an official. Always use the appropriate rules and guidelines to resolve a dispute.
- Control your temper. Verbal abuse of officials and sledging other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent are not acceptable or permitted behaviours in any sport.
- Work equally hard for yourself and/or your team.
- Be a good sport. Applaud all good performances whether they are made by your team or the opposition.
- Treat all participants in your sport as you like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
- Cooperate with your coach, team mates and opponents.
- Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, not just to please parents and coaches.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Attachment D5: TECHNICAL OFFICIAL CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

- Compliment and encourage all participants.
- Be consistent, objective and courteous when making decisions.
- Condemn unsporting behaviour and promote respect for all opponents.
- Emphasise the spirit of competition rather than the errors.
- Encourage and promote rule changes, which will make participation more enjoyable.
- Be a good sport yourself. Actions speak louder than words.
- Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating and the principles of growth and development of young people.
- Remember, you set an example. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
- Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.

Give all young people a 'fair go' regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Attachment D6: BOARD/COUNCIL MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

- Agree to abide by the code of conduct.
- Be fair, considerate and honest with others.
- Operate within the rules of Rowing Australia.
- Be professional in their actions, language, presentation, manner and punctuality in order to reflect high standards.
- Maintain confidentiality in regards to sensitive and /or commercial information.
- Resolve conflicts fairly and promptly through established procedures.
- Maintain strict impartiality in matters relating to the RA Member Protection Policy.
- Maintain a safe environment for others.
- Show concern and caution towards others.
- Be a positive role model for others.

Attachment D7: PARENT/GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.
- Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skilful plays by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Attachment D8: SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT

- Remember that young people participate in sport for their enjoyment and benefit, not yours.
- Applaud good performance and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance regardless of the game's outcome.
- Respect the decisions of officials and teach young people to do the same.
- Never ridicule or scold a young athlete for making a mistake. Positive comments are motivational.
- Condemn the use of violence in any form, whether it is by spectators, coaches, officials or competitors.
- Show respect for your opponents. Without them there would be no competition.
- Encourage competitors to follow the rules and the officials' decisions.
- Do not use foul language, sledge or harass other competitors, coaches or officials.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

PART E: REPORTING DOCUMENTS/FORMS

To assist in consistency and accuracy in following procedure and reporting on the issues covered by RA's Member Protection Policy the following documents are to be used:

E1 Confidential Record of Informal Complaint — to be used by MPIOs, CEO or others who receive a complaint or allegation.

E2 Confidential Record of Formal Complaint — to be used when a formal complaint is received by Rowing Australia.

E3 Confidential Record of Child Abuse Allegation — to be used by CEO when receiving complaints/allegations of child abuse.

E4 Record of Mediation — to be used by those who conduct a mediation.

E5 Record of Tribunal Decision

General principles to be followed when completing a report of a complaint:

- Treat all complaints seriously.
- Deal with complaints promptly, sensitively and confidentially.
- Maintain a calm attitude.
- Ask the complainant if they will consent to you taking notes.
- Write the description of the complaint /problem using the complainants own words (as much as is possible).
- Find out the nature of the relationship between the complainant and the person complained about (for example, coach/competitor, team members, etc) and if there is any relevant history.
- Take a note of the facts and do not pre-judge the situation.
- Ask the complainant whether they fear victimisation or other consequences.
- Find out what outcome the complainant wants and if they need any support.
- Ask the complainant how they want the complaint to be dealt with under the policy.
- Keep the complaint confidential and do not disclose it to another person without the complainant's consent except if disclosure is required by law (for example, a report to government authorities) or if disclosure is necessary to effectively deal with the complaint.

Attachment E1: CONFIDENTIAL RECORD OF INFORMAL COMPLAINT

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| MPIO Name | Date: / / | |
| Complainant's Name | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 |
| Role/status in Rowing | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Official | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| Location/event of alleged issue | | |
| Facts as stated by complainant | | |
| Nature of complaint (category/basis/grounds) Can tick more than one box | <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment or <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/sexist <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality <input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Selection dispute <input type="checkbox"/> Personality clash <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Victimisation |
| Feelings expressed by complainant (completing this may help to separate emotional content from facts) | | |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| What they want to happen to fix issue | |
| What information I provided | |
| What they are going to do now | |

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential place – do not enter it on a computer system. If the issue becomes a formal complaint, this record is to be sent to the CEO of Rowing Australia.

| | |
|--|--|
| Methods (if any) of attempted informal resolution | |
| Support person (if any) | |
| Formal resolution procedures followed (outline) | |
| If investigated: Finding - | |
| If went to hearing tribunal: Decision - Action recommended - | |
| If mediated: Date of mediation - Were both parties present - Terms of Agreement - Any other action taken - | |
| If went to appeals tribunal: Decision Action recommended | |
| Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 3 months to resolve <input type="checkbox"/> Between 3–8 months to resolve <input type="checkbox"/> More than 8 months to resolve |
| Completed by | Name: Position in Rowing: Signature: / / |
| Signed by: | Complainant: Respondent: |

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential place. If the complaint is of a serious nature, or is escalated to and/or dealt with at the national level, the original must be forwarded to the national body and a copy kept at the club/state/district level (whatever level the complaint was made).

| | |
|---|--|
| Government agency contacted | Who: When: Advice provided: |
| CEO contacted | Who: When: |
| Police and/or government agency investigation | Finding: |
| Internal investigation (if any) | Finding: |
| Action taken | |
| Completed by | Name: Position in Rowing: Signature: / / |
| Signed by | Complainant (if not a child) |

This record and any notes must be kept in a confidential place and provided to the relevant authorities (police and government) should they require them.

Attachment E4: RECORD OF MEDIATION

| | |
|---|--|
| Present at Mediation | |
| Date of mediation | |
| Venue of mediation | |
| Mediator | |
| Summary of mediation (minutes attached) | |
| Outcome of mediation | |
| Follow-up to occur (if required) | |
| Completed by: (signature) | |
| Signed by: Complainant (signature) Respondent (signature) | |

Original copy of report to be given to the CEO of Rowing Australia and stored at Rowing Australia.

Attachment E5: RECORD OF TRIBUNAL DECISION

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Complainant's Name | | Date Formal Complaint Received: / / |
| Role/status in Rowing | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Official | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| Name of person complained about | | |
| Role/status in Rowing | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrator (volunteer) <input type="checkbox"/> Athlete/player <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Assistant Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Employee (paid) <input type="checkbox"/> Official | <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Support Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| Location/event of alleged issue | | |
| Description of alleged issue | | |
| Nature of complaint (basis/grounds/category) | <input type="checkbox"/> Harassment or <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual/sexist <input type="checkbox"/> Sexuality <input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Child Abuse Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination <input type="checkbox"/> Selection dispute <input type="checkbox"/> Personality clash <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Victimisation |
| Methods (if any) of attempted informal resolution | | |
| Support person (if any) | | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Tribunal Members | |
| Tribunal Hearing Date and venue | |
| Tribunal Decision (attach report) | |
| Action recommended and any follow up report required | |
| Decision Appealed Date of Appeal lodged | |
| Appeal Hearing Date | |
| Appeal Decision (attach report) | |
| Action Recommended | |
| Completed by | Name: Position in Rowing: Signature: / / |
| Signed by: | Complainant Respondent |