LIFESAVING SOCIETY CANADA
NATIONAL POLICY

SUBJECT: Lifesaving Sport Code of Conduct for Officials	
CATEGORY: Sport	**POLICY NUMBER:**
BYLAW:	**DATE OF BOD APPROVAL:** September 14, 2026

Lifesaving Sport exists to advance the Canadian Lifesaving Society's mission to prevent drowning and reduce water-related injury, and to realize our vision of a Canada free from drowning and water-related injury. Every participant in Lifesaving Sport—athletes, coaches, managers, officials, volunteers, and staff—shares a responsibility to uphold behaviours that reflect the humanitarian purpose of our work. Our conduct, both in and out of competition, must strengthen public trust, model water safety leadership, and reinforce the values that underpin the Society.

Guided by humanitarian principles, Lifesaving Sport is committed to ethical participation that prioritizes safety, fairness, and respect. The Canadian Lifesaving Society believes sport should be conducted in a manner that is inclusive, free from harassment, abuse, discrimination, or harm, and be supportive of physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Ethical behaviour requires accountability, transparency in decision-making, and respect for rules, officials, teammates, competitors, and the broader sport community.

As the Canadian leader in drowning prevention, we recognize that our actions set a standard for others. We value collaboration, innovation, and excellence, and we expect all participants to act with integrity and professionalism. Diversity, flexibility, and creativity strengthen Lifesaving Sport, and we are committed to fostering environments where differences are respected and everyone feels safe, welcome, and valued.

Through volunteerism, proactive leadership, and the humanitarian mission, Lifesaving Sport thrives when individuals place the collective good above personal gain. This ethical framework serves as the foundation for all Codes of Conduct, outlining the expectations for behaviour that supports safe sport, fair competition, and the continued advancement of lifesaving values across Canada and around the world.

(Aligned with Sport Integrity Canada & Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport)

1. PURPOSE

This Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behaviour expected of all Officials involved in Canadian Lifesaving Sport. Officials play a critical role in ensuring fair, safe, and respectful competition. This Code aligns with:

- The Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS)
- Sport Integrity Canada (SIC)
- National Safe Sport and officiating standards

2. SCOPE
This Code applies to all Officials of Canadian Lifesaving Sport, including national, and international events, as well as training, meetings, and online activities.

3. CORE PRINCIPLES
Officials shall:

- Conduct themselves in an ethical manner upholding fairness, impartiality, and integrity
- Prioritize athlete safety and well-being
- Treat all athletes, coaches, manager, parents and spectators with respect
- Apply rules consistently and objectively
- Model professionalism at all times

4. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
4.1 Fairness & Impartiality
Officials must:

- Apply competition rules consistently and without bias; real or perceived
- Avoid conflicts of interest and declare if they arise
- Declare real or perceived conflicts immediately
- Make decisions based on observation and rules, and not personal opinions
- Respect the role of other officials and event staff

4.2 Safe Sport Responsibilities
Officials must:

- Understand and comply with the UCCMS
- Complete required Safe Sport education
- Intervene or report unsafe or inappropriate behaviour
- Maintain professional boundaries
- Support a culture free from maltreatment

4.3 Respectful Communication
Officials shall:

- Communicate clearly, calmly, and respectfully
- Avoid confrontational or demeaning language or behaviour
- Address disputes professionally
- Refrain from public criticism of athletes, coaches, or fellow officials

4.4 Athlete Interaction & Boundaries
Officials must:

- Maintain appropriate professional distance
- Avoid unnecessary physical contact
- Never be alone with a minor in a private setting
- Use public and professional communication channels during competitions
- Avoid private or secret electronic communications with athletes

4.5 Professionalism & Competence
Officials shall:

- Maintain appropriate certification and training
- Be prepared, punctual, and properly attired
- Stay current and review rules and rule changes

- Participate in evaluation and feedback processes

4.6 Use of Technology & Social Media
Officials must:
- Use social media responsibly
- Refrain from commenting on officiating decisions publicly or online
- Never post inappropriate content involving athletes, coaches, managers or events without permission
- Respect confidentiality

4.7 Representation of the Organization
Officials shall:
- Represent Canadian Lifesaving Sport positively
- Follow event protocols
- Respect host facilities and staff
- Avoid behaviour that may damage public confidence in officiating

5. PROHIBITED CONDUCT
Officials must not:
- Engage in any form of maltreatment (UCCMS)
- Harass, bully, or discriminate any athletes, fellow official, volunteers, manger, coach or spectator
- Accept bribes, gifts, or inducements
- Gamble on Lifesaving competitions
- Not be intoxicated while officiating
- Retaliate against those who report concerns
- Abuse authority or position

6. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS
Officials must:
- Report suspected maltreatment or safety concerns
- Use independent reporting mechanisms
- Cooperate with investigations
- Understand mandatory reporting responsibilities

7. DISCIPLINARY MEASURES
Violations of this Code may result in:
- Education or retraining
- Suspension or removal from assignments
- Loss of certification
- Termination of officiating privileges
- Referral to external authorities

8. PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS
All disciplinary processes will:
- Follow principles of natural justice
- Be fair, confidential, and impartial
- Protect against retaliation
- Be conducted by qualified independent reviewers where appropriate

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All Officials must acknowledge:

- Understanding of this Code
- Completion of Safe Sport training
- Agreement to comply with UCCMS standards

10. REVIEW & UPDATES

This Code will be reviewed regularly to ensure alignment with:

- SIC guidance
- UCCMS updates
- National officiating standards

APPROVAL HISTORY

ISSUED BY:	APPROVED BY:	BOARD APPROVAL
Sport Commission	Sport Commission	