

B.C. UNIVERSAL CODE OF CONDUCT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why is there a B.C. Universal Code of Conduct (BC UCC) in place?

A: The goal of the BC UCC is to set standards for the culture of sport in B.C. and to align language and expectations across all sports.

Q: Does my sport organization need to adopt the BC UCC?

A: Organizations that receive annual funding from viaSport and the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport are now required to ensure that their organizational Code of Conduct references and is aligned to the BC UCC, by adopting the following statements (by October 15, 2021):

This policy adopts and accepts all the language contained in the B.C. Universal Code of Conduct.

An individual who violates the B.C. Universal Code of Conduct may be subject to sanctions pursuant to the <Organization's> Discipline and Complaints Policy.

Q: In what context does the BC UCC apply?

A: All activities organized by a viaSport Accredited Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) and/or its members, or by a viaSport Accredited Disability Sport Organization (DSO) and/or its members, or by a viaSport Multi-Sport Organization (MSO) and/or its members.

Q: If our organizational policy aligns to our National Sport Organization and the Universal Code of Conduct to Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS), is that sufficient?

A: The purpose of the BC UCC is to establish consistent language and definitions that apply to all sport organizations. Therefore, a sport organization's policies must still acknowledge the B.C. Universal Code of Conduct as the first step to establishing alignment in the system.

Q: How was the UCCMS adapted in order to create the BC UCC?

A: The following edits were made to the UCCMS for implementation in B.C. following extensive consultation with the viaSport Safe Sport Advisory Committee and other experts:

- Modified scope of application to the B.C. context
- Added reference to B.C. specific legislation and clarified age of majority
- Added new section on the responsibilities of participants in order to establish standards for the culture of sport in B.C.
- Modified definitions related to Participant and Vulnerable Participants
- Added definitions on boundary transgressions, discrimination and federated sport

Q: Who was involved in the development of the BC UCC?

A: viaSport worked with our Safe Sport Advisory Committee made up of legal experts from a wide range of subject expertise, including; criminal law academics, civil litigation specialists, crown counsel, employment and labour solicitors and child protection counsel. Additionally, we consulted with sport sector leaders and hosted a community consultation.

Q: What are boundary transgressions and why have they been included in the BC UCC?

A: Boundary Transgressions was a concept introduced through the Canadian Centre for Child Protection's Commit to Kids Training and can be defined as interactions or communications that breach reasonable boundaries between individuals and are inconsistent with duties or responsibilities of the individual. The introduction of this concept to the BC UCC was deemed as critical to raising the expected standards of behaviour and supporting a culture of accountability. The goal is that a shared understanding of what constitutes a boundary transgression will help to create the space for conversations to occur about behaviours in a non-accusatory way and help to catch patterns of behaviours and head them off before they lead to more severe behaviours.

Q: What is in place to support implementation of the BC UCC?

A: The following resources are available to support the implementation of the BC UCC, including

- Sport Law Connect Program, which enables PSOs to access case management, mediation or panel review services to manage participant complaints, at no cost.
- Safeguarding Officer, who is able to provide tools, resources and guidance for PSOs looking to engage their members in a dialogue about their behaviours.
- Communication tools for social media, newsletter content and a summary guide to support socialization of the BC UCC.

Q: Who is responsible for responding to violations of the BC UCC?

A: The BC UCC defers to the organizational policies for reporting and conduct review. Therefore, all complaints should be reported directly to the PSO (or NSO in some cases).

In the future, a harmonized approach to reporting and management of complaints may be available.