



Athletics NS Safe Sport Policy – Updated April 2020

Athletics Nova Scotia believes that everyone has the right to enjoy the sport at whatever level or position they participate. Athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and administrators have the right to participate in a safe and inclusive training and competitive environment that is free of abuse, harassment or discrimination.

Athletics Canada believes the welfare of everyone involved in the sport is a foremost consideration and the protection of children/athletes in the sport is the responsibility of each individual, member, club and special interest group in the athletic community.

Athletics Nova Scotia abides by our revised Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy. This policy is to help ensure all association members can participate in a safe environment at all times.

Athletics NS has implemented a 4 pillar approach to ensuring the safety of its members.

1) Screening

- a) Vulnerable Sector Checks – All coaches and officials and administrators are required to submit a vulnerable sector check to Athletics NS to validate membership and must be renewed every 3 years. Sector Checks must be submitted within 6 weeks of coach registration. This check can be done in person at your local RCMP/Police station or online at <https://mybackcheck.com/Public/Login.aspx>
- b) Child Abuse Registry checks are also required for all coaches and officials and administrators to validate membership and must be renewed every 3 years. Child abuse registry checks must be submitted within 6 weeks of coach registration. This check is FREE of charge. This form can be found here: https://novascotia.ca/coms/families/abuse/documents/CAR-4001_Request_for_Search_Form_A.pdf

This form must be mailed in.

** Please note – all completed checks MUST be emailed or mailed to Athletics NS upon completion. Trackie will be updated with received dates.

** In order to obtain a free or discounted vulnerable sector check, Athletics NS will provide a letter upon request. Email athletics@sportnovascotia.ca for this letter.

2) Training

All coaches, officials and Athletics NS Board of Directors/staff must complete Safe Sport training through the Coaching Association of Canada. This FREE training can be found here:

<https://thelocker.coach.ca/account/login?ReturnUrl=%2fonlinelearning#SS>

It is offered in English and French, takes 90 minutes to complete, and meets accessibility guidelines. Importantly, it meets the minimum standards for mandated safe sport training for individuals under the authority of all Sport Canada-funded organizations.

The link above will bring you to “The Locker”. If you have a Locker Login please enter it here. If you do not have an account, it will ask you to create one. If you need assistance with this training, please contact our Technical Director at athleticstd@sportnovascotia.ca

This training provides education on recognizing and preventing bullying, abuse harassment, discrimination as well as educating on the duty of care and legal obligations. Safe Sport training must be completed within 6 weeks of registration. Proof of completion must be emailed to athletics@sportnovascotia.ca

3) Policies and Procedures

- a) Athletics NS adheres by the Athletics NS Code of Conduct which focuses on the creation of a safe environment for all those involved in Athletics NS events and those involved with its member clubs. All members of Athletics NS must acknowledge they have read and understand the code of conduct and shall abide by the code of conduct. Athletics NS has signed on to the Responsible Coach Movement is committed to providing a safe sporting environment for all involved.
- b) The Responsible Coaching Movement contains 3 areas of focus: Rule of Two, background screening and ethics and respect training. Rule of Two is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable and justifiable. More information available on our website at:
<https://www.athleticsnovascotia.ca/programs/safe-sport>

4) Reporting

- a) When Athletics NS members are part of, in observance or otherwise aware of violations of the Athletics NS code of conduct, it is imperative that these violations are reported. The appropriate method of reporting will vary with the violation. All legal violations should be reported directly to your local police agency. All minor violations should be reported to Athletics NS. The Canadian Sport Helpline is now available 7 days a week to provide information and help with the process of reporting violations to the correct authority.

Canadian Sport Helpline

Open 8am – 8pm, 7 days a week, this national toll-free confidential helpline for harassment, abuse and discrimination provides a safe place for victims and witnesses to report their concerns.

1-888-83-SPORT (77678) or by email at info@abuse-free-sport.ca.

The Canadian Sport Helpline will provide callers with advice on the next steps they can take, as well as direct them to the most appropriate national and local services and resources available to them, including the police, child protection services, existing provincial/territorial helplines, or any other relevant services.

Athletics Nova Scotia Helpline

If you need help or have a complaint (as it relates to this policy), please email help@athleticsnovascotia.ca This email is monitored by a Safe Sport Volunteer from the Athletics NS Board of Directors.

For more information visit the Athletics NS Safe Sport Website at <https://www.athleticsnovascotia.ca/programs/safe-sport>