

## 13. HARASSMENT

- 13.1 The BCLA is committed to promoting a sport environment in which the terms and conditions of participation are equitable and non-discriminatory. Every participant has the right to be treated with dignity and respect and to work, train and compete in a milieu conducive to productivity, self-development and performance advancement based upon individual interest and ability. The BCLA will foster a sport environment free of harassment on the basis of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital/family status or an offence for which a pardon has been granted.
- 13.2 Harassment means any behaviour by a person engaged in any paid or volunteer capacity, role, or function with the BCLA that is offensive to any person or group of people and which the individual knew or ought to have known would be unwelcome.
- 13.2.1 Harassment may be intentional or unintentional and can take many forms, but generally involves conduct, comment, or display which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, demeaning, belittling, malicious, degrading, or otherwise causes offence, discomfort, or personal humiliation or embarrassment to a person or group of people.
- 13.3 The following types of harassment are intolerable, whether or not individuals complain:
- a) **Sexual Harassment** - unwelcome sexual behaviour such as inappropriate sexual comments about a person's body or appearance, use of derogatory sexual terms, inquiries or comments about an individual's sex life or sexual preferences, unwanted touching, petting or leering; sexual advances or requests for sexual relations by any person in a position of authority; or reprisal by any person in a position of authority against an individual who has rejected a sexual advance or unwelcome sexual behaviour.
  - b) **Racial Harassment** - racial slurs, jokes or name calling based upon race, ancestry, place of origin, colour ethnic origin, and creed (or religion), use of terminology which reinforces stereotypes, derogatory nicknames.
  - c) **Abuse of Authority** - improper use of power and authority inherent in a position to endanger or undermine another's job, position, membership or participation on a team, or in any way interfere with or influence the performance or advancement of any person engaged in any such function; intimidation, threats, blackmail or coercion.
- 13.4 It is the overall objective of the BCLA Policy on Harassment to create and maintain a work and sport environment free from harassment. Individuals who experience harassment are encouraged to take the appropriate actions to put an end to the harassment and seek adequate redress.
- 13.4.1 Harassment which is unintentional may be stopped by informing the harasser(s) that the behaviour is offensive. If the behaviour continues, the individual should file a complaint in the manner described in the BCLA Complaint Review Procedure.
- 13.4.2 If an individual feels uncomfortable or threatened about confronting the harasser(s) on their own, a complaint should be filed directly in accordance with the BCLA Complaint Review Procedure.

- 13.4.3 The BCLA takes any complaint seriously, and will investigate and respond in a sensitive, effective and timely manner.
- 13.5 The BCLA believes that harassment is a serious offence. It is also a serious offence to falsely accuse someone of harassment.
  - 13.5.1 If the results of the investigation find that there has been harassment or that there has been an intentional false accusation of harassment, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the BCLA Discipline Policy.