



Ottawa Pacers Speed Skating Club (OPSSC)

Safe Sport Policy

1. Safe sport is built upon a suite of policies that create a policy framework designed to protect skaters and foster an environment where skaters not only feel safe, but develop a joy and commitment to the sport of speed skating.
2. The Ontario Speed Skating Association (OSSA) Safe Sport Policy was approved by the OSSA Board of Directors on July 23, 2019. It is a very comprehensive suite of policies that includes:
 - a. Code of Conduct and Ethics;
 - b. Abuse Policy;
 - c. Investigations Policy – Discrimination, Harassment, and Abuse;
 - d. Discipline and Complaints Policy;
 - e. Dispute Resolution;
 - f. Appeal Policy;
 - g. Whistleblower Policy;
 - h. Event Discipline Procedure;
 - i. Athlete Protection Guidelines; and
 - j. Social Media Policy.
3. In order to maintain continuity and alignment with OSSA, the OPSSC will adopt the OSSA Safe Sport Policy, with the following stipulations:
 - a. Any references to OSSA will be replaced with OPSSC;
 - b. Any references to the 'organization' will refer to OPSSC;
 - c. With respect to the Whistleblower Policy, the point of contact will be the Safe Sport Committee at safe-sport@ottpacers.ca;
 - d. The OPSSC Board of Directors reserves the right to transfer resolution of any situation to its governing body (Ontario Speed Skating Association) for resolution at its own discretion; and
 - e. With respect to the Screening Policy, OPSSC will not adopt this policy at this time. We will review this policy and determine how best it could be implemented in the future. The OPSSC will, however, continue to require that all Persons in Authority which are part of the club provide a Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC). Should the VSC indicate adverse findings, the Board will implement a process to determine the suitability of the volunteer for the position.

4. The OPSSC is committed to practicing safe sport and ensuring our athletes are provided with a safe and healthy environment in which to learn and develop. It is the responsibility of all members, including coaches, parents/guardians, athletes and volunteers to ensure safe sport policies are respected and followed.