

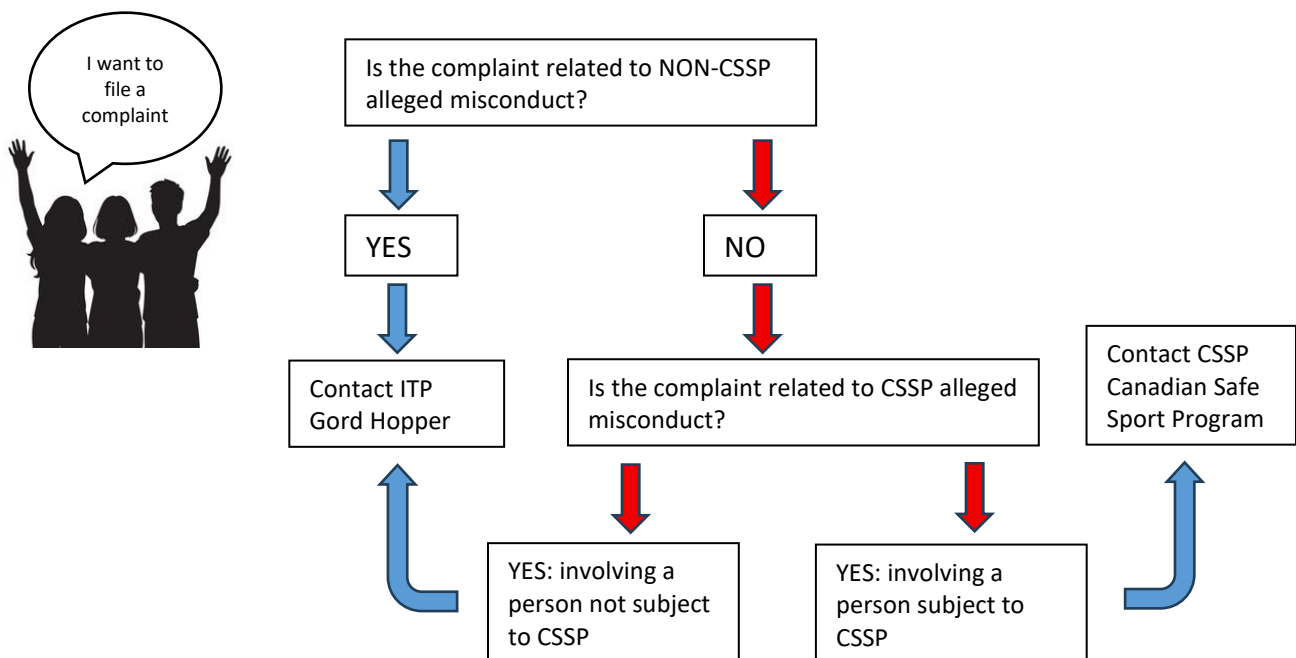
FILING A COMPLAINT THROUGH SAFE SPORT

There are two mechanisms to file a Safe Sport complaint. The first is through the Independent Third Party (ITP) for Rowing which is used primarily for local and provincial athletes and events. The second is with the Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) for national athletes and events.

An Independent Third Party (ITP) for Rowing in Canada has been in place since April 2019 and an RCA initiative was the creation and adoption of a cross-country Safe Sport Policy Manual (2022) which was uniform across the RCA, Provincial Rowing Association and Club levels. This ensured that standards of behaviour and conduct, as well as procedures, breaches and sanctions were consistent across the country and at all levels.

In June 2022, services from the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner (OSIC) became available to National Sport Organizations through Abuse-Free Sport (AFS). As of April 1st, 2025, the Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) has replaced the AFS and is now overseen by [Sport Integrity Canada](#) (formerly the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES)). **Effective April 1, 2025**, complaints will be filed with either the Independent Third Party for Rowing or the Canadian Safe Sport Program.

Not all situations constitute maltreatment or misconduct. Individuals who feel comfortable doing so are encouraged to try to resolve their dispute informally before engaging in the Safe Sport complaint process. When informal resolution of an incident is not possible, depending on the type of complaint, individuals may file a complaint to either the Independent Third Party for Rowing or through the Canadian Safe Sport Program of Sport Integrity Canada. The formal complaint process is a detailed, and at times, resource extensive process that can take several weeks or months to complete.



How to Report/File a Complaint

Independent Third Party for Rowing

Gord Hopper is the Independent Third Party (ITP) for Rowing in Canada.

Gord Hopper can be contacted at itpcomplaints@gmail.com.

Download the RCA Safe Sport Incident Complaint Intake Form [HERE](#).

Gord Hopper has been a sport leader for over 30 years. Originally, he was a coach, an international level judge, and learning facilitator in gymnastics. He has been The Technical Director with Gymnastics BC (1994-2003), the National Team Director with Canadian Freestyle Ski Association 2004-2007, and the Director of Athlete Performance with UBC Varsity Athletics (2014-2022). Each of the roles have included elements of risk management, complaints and investigations, and safe sport. In these roles, he has worked with eighteen different sports including both teams and individuals. From 2009-2012 he was President of the BC Coaches Association. He has been providing ITP services since 2023 and is also consulting with several University sport programs to support prevention, education and policy development related to safe sport.

Canadian Safe Sport Program

As of April 1, 2025, Sport Integrity Canada (formerly CCES) will accept reports through an online report form and by phone – both methods allow you to remain anonymous if you wish. If you choose to share your name when you make a report, Sport Integrity Canada will not share it with your sport organization unless it is necessary to keep you or someone else safe and will make every effort to get your consent beforehand.

Report online: <https://cces.ca/report-safe-sport>

Report by phone: [1-866-971-2777](tel:1-866-971-2777)

Get help and information

You can contact the CSSP team with questions or for support here: <https://cces.ca/contactCSSP>.

Learn more about the CSSP by visiting their website: <http://cces.ca/canadian-safe-sport-program>.

Do you have more questions about Safe Sport and filing a complaint? The **Safe Sport Lead** for the St. Catharines Rowing Club is Mr. Chris Blackwood. Mr. Blackwood is a Club Masters Rower, Recreational Rowing League coach, and a Director on the SCRC Board. You can contact Mr. Blackwood by email cblackwood1@cogeco.ca or by mobile 905-741-1643.