



**Policy Name:** Safe Sporting Environment Guiding Principle  
**Policy Number:** NCSA-019-06.17.2024  
**Policy Approver:** NCSA Board of Directors  
**Approval Date:** June 19, 2024

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## **POLICY STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES**

**Nose Creek Swim Association (NCSA) strives to provide a safe sporting environment where everyone has the right to enjoy the sport at whatever level or position they participate.**

### **Definitions:**

1. The following terms have these meanings in this guiding principle:
  - a. "Duty of Care": Is the requirement that reasonable care will be taken to avoid acts or omissions that could expose others to risk or harm.
  - b. "Representative" – All individuals employed or contracted by, or engaged in activities on behalf NCSA. Representatives include, but are not limited to all employees, directors, volunteers, coaches, athletes, officials and members of NCSA.
  - c. "Position of Trust" – A job or position in which one individual may exercise power or authority over another individual, such as a team manager or coach.
  - d. "Vulnerable Individual" – A person under the age of 18 years old and/or a person who, because of age, disability or other circumstance, is in a position of dependence on others, or is otherwise at a greater risk than the general population of being harmed.
  - e. Safe Sporting Environment Policy as implemented by Swimming Canada and the Safe Sporting Environmental Guiding Principle as implemented by Swim Alberta.

### **Purpose**

2. NCSA believes that everyone in the sport has the right to enjoy the sport at whatever level or position they participate. All members and staff have the right to participate in a safe and inclusive training and competitive environment that is free of abuse, harassment or discrimination.
3. NCSA believes the welfare of everyone involved in the sport is a foremost consideration and in particular the protection of children/athletes in the sport is the responsibility of each individual, member, club and special interest group in the swimming community.

### **Guiding Principle Statement**

4. NCSA provides a fun, healthy, inclusive and safe environment. Swimming enriches the lives of everyone involved by ensuring that the training and competitive environment is one where athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and staff know they are safe, and are treated with respect and dignity.

### **Ongoing Commitment to a Safe Sporting Environment**

5. NCSA, in understanding its Duty of Care, will ensure standards and procedures, based on best practices, support a safe, inclusive, open, observable and transparent sporting environment for all members.
6. The framework for Safe Sporting Environment focuses on the role, responsibility and practices of everyone involved in Swimming to ensure the safety of and development of athletes.
7. NCSA programs and services will be consistent with and support the Safe Sporting Environment Policy by Swimming Canada and the Safe Sporting Environmental Guiding Principle as implemented by Swim Alberta.
8. NCSA recognizes the critical role of the clubs and special interest group members in the delivery of Safe Sporting Environment programs initiatives as implemented by Swimming Canada and the Safe Sporting Environmental Guiding Principle as implemented by Swim Alberta.
9. NCSA programs and services will adopt the Open and Observable Environment requirements as found in their Safe Sporting Environment Policy and Guiding Principle . Open and observable environments means making meaningful and concerted efforts to avoid situations where a coach, official or other representative might be alone with an athlete and/or vulnerable individual. All interactions between an athlete and an individual who is in a position of trust should normally, and wherever possible, be in an environment or space that is both “open” and “observable” to others.

### **Evaluation**

10. NCSA shall continually monitor and evaluate all its policies, practices and procedures in order to ensure we are meeting the Safe Sport Guiding Principle.