

**FREESTYLE BC**

**DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY**

Effective date	November 3, 2023
Archived date	-
Date last reviewed	June 2024
Scheduled review date	June 2025
Replaces and/or amends	-
Approved by and date	FBC Board of Directors, June 11, 2024
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	-

**Purpose**

1. Freestyle BC <sup>18</sup> supports Individuals in seeking to resolve their own conflicts and recognizes that, in many cases, disputes can be resolved directly and quickly in an informal way. In situations where direct action by Individuals may be inappropriate or unsuccessful, Freestyle BC supports the principles of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) to resolve disputes, which can be achieved through negotiation, facilitation, and mediation. ADR avoids the uncertainty, costs, and other negative effects associated with lengthy appeals or complaints, or with litigation.
2. Freestyle BC encourages all Individuals to communicate openly, and to collaborate and use problem-solving and negotiation techniques to resolve their differences. Freestyle BC believes that negotiated settlements are most often preferable to arbitrated outcomes. Negotiated resolutions to disputes with and among Individuals are strongly encouraged.

**Application of this Policy**

3. This Policy applies to all Individuals.
4. Opportunities for ADR may be pursued at any point in a dispute when all Parties to the dispute agree that such a course of action would be mutually beneficial.

**Facilitation and Mediation**

5. If all Parties to a dispute agree to ADR, a mediator or facilitator, acceptable to all Parties, shall be appointed to mediate or facilitate the dispute. The costs of the mediation or facilitation shall be borne by the Parties, unless agreed to otherwise with Freestyle BC.
6. Where Freestyle Canada is involved in the matter and where the SDRCC permits, Freestyle Canada may, upon agreement of the Parties, refer the matter for mediation using the mediation services of the SDRCC.

<sup>18</sup> A separate document with term definitions that apply to all Freestyle BC Policy is found online and in the Freestyle BC Safe Sport Policy Manual.

7. The mediator or facilitator shall decide the format under which the dispute shall be mediated or facilitated and may, if they consider it appropriate, specify a deadline before which the Parties must reach a negotiated decision.
8. Should a negotiated settlement be reached, the settlement shall be reported to Freestyle BC. Any actions that are to take place as a result of the decision shall be enacted on the timelines specified by the negotiated settlement. Where Freestyle BC may be required to implement any part of a negotiated settlement, it shall become a Party to the mediation or it shall be given the opportunity to approve the negotiated settlement, but only with respect to aspects of the settlement that it may be required to implement.
9. Should a negotiated settlement not be reached by the deadline specified by the mediator or facilitator at the start of the process (if set), or if the Parties to the dispute do not agree to ADR, the dispute shall be considered under the appropriate section of the *Discipline and Complaints Policy* or *Appeal Policy*, as applicable.

### **Final and Binding**

10. Any negotiated settlement will be binding on the Parties and shall, unless the Parties decide otherwise, remain confidential and will be protected by Freestyle BC 's usual policies and practices regarding private and/or confidential information. Negotiated settlements may not be appealed.
11. No action or legal proceeding will be commenced against Freestyle BC in respect of a dispute, unless Freestyle BC has refused or failed to provide or abide by the dispute resolution processes set out in its governing documents.

### **Privacy**

12. The collection, use and disclosure of any personal information pursuant to this Policy is subject to Freestyle BC 's usual policies and practices regarding private and/or confidential information.
13. Freestyle BC or any of its delegates pursuant to this Policy, shall comply with Freestyle BC's usual policies and practices regarding private and/or confidential information in the performance of their services under this Policy.