

## **BRITISH CANOEING COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

### **1. What is this procedure for?**

- 1.1. As the National Governing Body for paddlesports in the UK, British Canoeing strives to provide an excellent service to its members and stakeholders in line with its corporate values:

Every person matters

Striving for excellence

Always with integrity

Enjoying the journey

Individually committed

Stronger together

- 1.2. If you feel we have fallen short of achieving these high standards, we encourage you to work with us to understand where we could do better, and how we can continually make improvements. This complaints procedure aims to establish a clear, transparent and accountable system for you to do this.

- 1.3. If your complaint concerns a disciplinary, safeguarding, selection or anti-doping matter, please refer in the first instance to the Governance Department where the Head of Governance will advise the best route for your concerns to be considered with the matter subsequently being dealt with under the appropriate regulations. Please note that this procedure cannot be used to address complaints that have already previously been heard or are reasonably considered to have been raised maliciously.

### **2. The Procedure**

#### **2.1. STAGE 1 – Informal Complaint**

- 2.1.1. Please voice your concerns informally as soon as they arise with the volunteer or member of staff within British Canoeing who you have been dealing with. In the case of a staff member you may also choose to discuss with their line manager. Complaints can often arise due to simple misunderstandings and can often be quickly and satisfactorily resolved in this manner.

#### **2.2. STAGE 2 – Formal Complaint**

- 2.2.1. If you feel your concerns are not addressed satisfactorily under stage 1, or you feel they are serious enough to go straight to this stage, please formally raise your complaint, in writing, to British Canoeing's Head of Governance. Within your complaint you should provide your personal contact details and provide all relevant details about your complaint (including dates/times and the name of the person(s) or persons involved). If you raise a complaint by any other means, you will be asked to put your complaint in writing. If your correspondence is not clear whether or not it is a complaint, you may be asked to further clarify the position.

2.2.2. If your complaint relates to the Governance Department, it will be dealt with by a member of British Canoeing's Senior Management from outside this department. If your complaint relates to the Chief Executive Officer of British Canoeing, it will be dealt with by a member of the Board of British Canoeing.

2.2.3. We aim to acknowledge every complaint within three working days of receipt. You will be advised at that time the name of the person who will take responsibility for dealing with your complaint and we may ask for further information so that we can properly investigate your complaint.

2.2.4. We will aim to provide a full written response to your complaint within 10 working days. If this is not possible we will notify you and provide you with an explanation for the delay and a date on which you should expect to receive a response.

2.2.5. If your complaint is upheld, we will advise you what, if any, remedy or rectification can be applied in the particular circumstances.

### 3. **Appeal**

3.1. If you remain unsatisfied with the outcome or the manner in which your complaint has been handled then you can ask the Chief Executive Officer to review your complaint and the response. You should submit any request within 10 working days of our response to you.

3.2. The Chief Executive Officer will aim to acknowledge your request within 3 working days and provide a written response within 15 working days.

3.3. In cases where the Chief Executive Officer, at their discretion, considers it appropriate for the review to instead be heard at board level, the Chief Executive Officer may appoint a member of the British Canoeing Board of Directors to review your complaint and provide a response to you.

### 4. **Contact Details**

Head of Governance – Nancy Squires

British Canoeing  
Adbolton Lane  
Holme Pierrepont  
Nottingham  
NG12 2LU  
[nancy.squires@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:nancy.squires@britishcanoeing.org.uk)

Chief Executive Officer – David Joy

British Canoeing  
Adbolton Lane  
Holme Pierrepont  
Nottingham  
NG12 2LU  
[david.joy@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:david.joy@britishcanoeing.org.uk)

## 5. Equal Opportunities

5.1. British Canoeing aims for this procedure to be clear and accessible to all of our members and stakeholders. We will take reasonable steps to accommodate any reasonable adjustments you may have to enable you to access this procedure or receive responses to complaints in other formats, and provide such assistance as you may reasonably require.

## 6. Confidentiality

6.1. Every effort will be made to ensure your complaint is handled confidentially. However, there may be occasions where due to the nature of the complaint, this is not possible. If this is the case, we will discuss this with you directly. We may consider anonymous complaints but it is often very difficult to investigate complaints made in this manner.

## 7. Record Keeping and Data Protection

7.1. All records from the complaints process, both informal and formal will be retained in a secure and confidential manner by British Canoeing in accordance with the British Canoeing Data Protection Policy, the British Canoeing Data Retention Policy, and any applicable data protection legislation in effect at the time of the complaint including, but not limited to, the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

## 8. Responsibility and Review

8.1. This procedure will be subject to regular review and amendment by British Canoeing and approval by the British Canoeing Board.