



VELO NB Appeal Policy

1. GOAL

1.1. This policy provides a process for handling appeals of Velo NB (VNB) decisions.

2. PRINCIPLES

2.1. Any affected individual has the right to appeal a decision of the Board, of any VNB Committee, or of any external organization or individual who has been delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of VNB, subject to the limits set out in clauses 3, and 6 of this Policy.

2.2. Any such appeal must be filed according to the Provisions in this Policy. Only after a decision has been rendered under this Policy may an appeal request be filed with the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) in accordance with Section 6.10.

3. FIELD OF APPLICATION

3.1. This Policy will apply to decisions made by VNB relating to eligibility, selection, selection criteria, allocation of competitive opportunities, or athlete assistance programs.

3.2. This Policy applies to decisions of the Board and committees made to govern Velo NB.

3.3. For further clarity, this Policy will NOT apply to matters relating to:

- a) Policies and procedures, selection criteria, and quotas established by any organization external to VNB.
- b) Infractions for doping offences, which are dealt with pursuant to the Canadian Anti - Doping Program or any successor policy.
- c) Issues of operational structure, staffing, employment or allocation of volunteer leadership opportunities.
- d) Issues of budgeting or budget implementation.
- e) Disputes over competition rules.
- f) Commercial or contractual matters for which another dispute resolution process exists under a contract or applicable law.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. Member: A Member is the provincial or territorial association recognized by the Board.

4.2. Appellant: The Appellant is the individual who initiates the appeal.

4.3. Respondent: The Respondent is the person or organization that is required to respond to the complaint/report (appeal) made by the Appellant.

4.4. Statement: The written response submitted by the Respondent.

4.5. Tribunal: The Tribunal is the arbitrator or arbitrators selected by the Independent Case Manager to conduct the Hearing and render a decision in the matter.

4.6. Hearing: The method of listening to the submissions from the Appellant and the Respondent in a manner that the Tribunal determines appropriate to render a decision.

4.7. Independent Case Manager: An external organization or individual appointed by Velo NB to address complaints under this Policy. The Independent Case Manager shall not be a Member of, or affiliated with, Velo NB or affiliated with a Member.

4.8. Days: Calendar days, including weekends and holidays.

4.9. Interested Parties: Any individual who would be directly affected or impacted by a decision of the Tribunal.

4.10. SDRCC: Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

5.1. VNB is committed to conducting appeals by applying a timely, transparent, affordable, and unbiased process as outlined in this Policy.

5.2. VNB is committed to appointing an Independent Case Manager to oversee this policy on an ongoing basis

6. PROVISIONS

6.1. Whenever possible, all individuals are encouraged to seek an amicable settlement of disputes through open and frank discussion prior to submitting a formal appeal.

6.2. The following maximum timelines govern this Policy. The Independent Case Manager reserves the right to modify these timelines to accommodate the circumstances of any appeal and will notify both the Appellant and Respondent in writing immediately with justification for the timeline amendment.

| Appeal Process Step (Policy Subsection) | Maximum Duration | Cumulative Days |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Filing Notice of Appeal (6.3) | 7 days from written announcement of the decision being appealed | 7 |
| Screening of Appeal (6.4) | 4 days from receipt of Notice of Appeal | 11 |
| Statement by Respondent (6.5) | 4 days from receipt of Notice of Appeal transmitted to Respondent | 15 |
| Early Resolution Facilitation (6.6) | No set timeline but must be completed prior to Conduct of Hearing. | 14 (max.) |
| Appointment of Tribunal (6.7) | 4 days from Screening of Appeal decision that the appeal may proceed to a Hearing. | 15 |
| Conduct of Hearing (6.8) | 7 days from appointment of Tribunal | 22 |
| Release of Decision (6.9) | 7 days from conclusion of a Hearing | 29 |

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| SDRCC Request for Review (by either party) (6.10) | 15 days from release of Decision. The SDRCC process is not part of this policy. | N/A |
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6.3. Filing Notice of Appeal

6.3.1. Third-party resources may be engaged as required depending on the nature of the complaint in the absence of a relevant NSO process or if the NSO process refers a provincial level complaint back to the PSO for resolution.

6.3.2. Individuals who wish to formally appeal a decision must submit a written Notice of Appeal, as provided in Appendix A to the following address.

appeals@velo.nb.ca

In accordance with this procedure, the Case Manager has the discretion to choose the resolution process based on the nature of the complaint reported. Complaints can be referred back to the club or the NB Safe Sport Dispute Resolution Program. If it is a complaint dealing with maltreatment as defined in the [Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport of Maltreatment](#) in which case it is to be automatically referred to the NB Safe Sport Dispute Resolution Program or legal authority as appropriate.

6.4. Screening of Appeal

- 6.4.1. Within the timeline described in Section 6.2, the Independent Case Manager shall screen the appeal to determine if the appeal lies within the jurisdiction of this Policy, determine if the appeal has been brought in a timely manner, and determine if the appeal has been brought on permissible grounds. Permissible grounds exist only when it is alleged that the Respondent has:
- a) Made a decision for which it did not have authority or jurisdiction as set out in governing documents.
 - b) Failed to follow procedures as laid out in VNB’s bylaws or approved policies.
 - c) Made a decision that was influenced by bias, where bias is defined as a lack of neutrality to such an extent that the decision-maker is unable to consider other views or if the decision was influenced by factors unrelated to the substance or merits of the decision;
 - d) Failed to consider relevant information or considered irrelevant information in making the decision.
 - e) Exercised its discretion for an improper purpose.
 - f) Made a decision that was grossly unreasonable.

6.4.2. Upon receiving the Notice of Appeal, the Independent Case Manager will contact the Appellant if the notice is incomplete or to seek clarifications.

6.4.3. If the appeal is denied based on insufficient grounds, the Appellant will be notified in writing, within the appropriate timeline for Screening the Appeal, of this decision and its reasons.

6.4.4. If the Appellant believes the Independent Case Manager erred in denying the right to appeal a decision, the Appellant may immediately seek a further appeal through SDRCC in accordance with Section 6.10.

6.5. Statement by Respondent

6.5.1. If the Appeal is deemed admissible, the Independent Case Manager will forward a copy of the Notice of Appeal to the Respondent and will request a written Statement by the Respondent that outlines the justification for the decision being appealed. The Statement will contain:

- a) A summary of facts relating to the matter.
- b) All the evidence supporting the Respondent's position including a list of witnesses and the evidence to which they will testify, if applicable.
- c) Solutions proposed by the Respondent.
- d) Any potential Interested Parties and their contact information, if applicable.
- e) The name and contact information of the Respondent's representative, if applicable.
- f) A summary of facts relating to the matter.
- g) All the evidence supporting the Respondent's position including a list of witnesses and the evidence to which they will testify, if applicable.
- h) Solutions proposed by the Respondent.
- i) Any potential Interested Parties and their contact information, if applicable.
- j) The name and contact information of the Respondent's representative, if applicable.

6.5.2. The written Statement must be returned to the Independent Case Manager within the appropriate timeline. The Independent Case Manager must forward a copy of the written Statement to the Appellant without delay after receipt.

6.5.3. If the Respondent submits an incomplete Statement or fails to submit the Statement in writing within the time limit, then the Independent Case Manager will initiate the appointment of a Tribunal, without further delay, without a further attempt to settle amicably and will notify the parties accordingly.

6.6. Early Resolution Facilitation

6.6.1. Before conducting a Hearing, the Independent Case Manager will invite the Appellant and the Respondent to resolve the dispute according the Dispute Resolution and Mediation Policy.

6.6.2. If the dispute is resolved during the Dispute Resolution and Mediation Policy, then the matter will be considered closed. Unless minutes of the settlement were already prepared and duly executed by the parties during the Dispute Resolution and Mediation Facilitation, the Independent Case Manager will document the outcome of the Dispute Resolution Facilitation process and provide it in writing to both parties.

6.6.3. If the matter of the appeal is time sensitive, the Independent Case Manager shall set a deadline by which, absent a settlement, the Dispute Resolution Facilitation will be automatically terminated. Upon such deadline being reached or upon notice from any of the parties that the Early Resolution Facilitation was unsuccessful, the Independent Case Manager will take the appeal to the next step in the Velo NB process (6.7).

6.6.4. No evidence from the Early Resolution Facilitation discussions is admissible in the subsequent Hearing process.

6.7. Appointment of Tribunal

6.7.1. Within the appropriate timelines, the Independent Case Manager will appoint a Tribunal consisting of a single Arbitrator to hear the appeal. In extraordinary circumstances, and at the discretion of the Independent Case Manager, a Tribunal of three persons may be appointed to hear and decide a case. In this event, the Independent Case Manager will appoint one of the Tribunal's members to serve as the Chair.

6.8. Conduct of Hearing

6.8.1. Hearing Format: The Independent Case Manager will determine the format of the Hearing, which may involve an oral Hearing in person, an oral Hearing by telephone or videoconference, a Hearing based on written submissions or a combination of these methods. The Hearing will be governed by the procedures that the Independent Case Manager and the Tribunal deem appropriate in the circumstances, provided that:

- a) The Hearing will be held within the appropriate timeline.
- b) The parties will be given appropriate notice of the day, time and place of the Hearing.
- c) Copies of any written documents which the parties wish to have the Tribunal consider will be provided to all parties in advance of the Hearing in accordance with the appropriate timeline.
- d) Both parties may be accompanied by a representative or adviser, including legal counsel.
- e) The Tribunal may request that any other individual participate and give evidence at the Hearing.
- f) If a decision in the appeal may affect another party to the extent that the other party would have recourse to an appeal in their own right under this Policy, that party will become an Interested Party to the appeal in question and will be bound by its outcome.
- g) The Hearing will be conducted in the official language of choice of the Appellant.
- h) In the situation where the Hearing is conducted by a Tribunal consisting of three persons, a quorum will be all three and decisions will be by majority vote.

6.8.2. Hearing Confidentiality: The appeal process is confidential involving only the parties, the Independent Case Manager and the Tribunal. Once initiated and until a written decision is released, none of the parties or the Tribunal will disclose confidential information relating to the appeal to any person not involved in the proceedings.

6.8.3. Hearing Decision: At the conclusion of the Hearing, the Tribunal will, within the appropriate timeline, issue a written decision with reasons. The Tribunal will have no greater authority than that of the original decision-maker. The Tribunal may decide:

- a) To reject the appeal and confirm the decision being appealed; or
- b) To uphold the appeal and refer the matter back to the initial decision-maker for a new decision; or
- c) To uphold the appeal and vary the decision but only where it is found that an error occurred and such an error cannot be corrected by the original decision-maker for reason of lack of clear procedures, lack of time, or lack of neutrality.

6.8.4. Hearing Costs: The Tribunal will also decide whether costs of the appeal, excluding legal fees and legal disbursements of any parties, will be assessed against any party. In assessing costs, the Tribunal will consider the outcome of the appeal, the conduct of the parties and their respective financial resources.

6.9. Release of Decision:

6.9.1. The decision will be considered a matter of public record. A copy of the decision will be provided to the parties and to the Executive Director. Where time is of the essence, the Tribunal may issue a verbal decision or a summary written decision, with reasons to follow provided the written decision with reasons is rendered with the appropriate timelines.

APPENDIX A – APPEAL SUBMISSION FORM

Individuals who wish to formally appeal a Velo NB decision, under the terms of Velo NB's Appeal Policy, must submit the following information to the Independent Case Manager.

Appellant's Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Address:

Appellant's Representative (if applicable) _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Address:

Official Language in which the Appellant wished to communicate: _____

Name of the Respondent: _____

Text of the decision and/or summary of notification of the decision, as applicable:

Detailed reason(s) for the appeal:

Grounds for the appeal:

Summary of the evidence to support these reason(s):

The suggested remedy or remedies requested:
