



WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

April 2021

1. Purpose

This Whistleblower Policy (the “Policy”) is intended to support a strong culture of integrity and ethical conduct at USA Boccia by encouraging, valuing, and protecting good faith reporting by athletes, directors, officers, employees, members, committee members, task force members, hearing panel members, and volunteers (“Affiliated Individuals”) of USA Boccia of any alleged violation of any applicable law or policy or any potential ethics issue.

The freedom to speak up means being able to raise concerns in whatever way is most comfortable and effective and feeling free to cooperate in investigations that follow. It also means that USA Boccia has zero tolerance for retaliation of any kind against people who speak up in good faith.

2. Violations Covered by this Policy

This Policy is for use where there may be a violation of:

- any applicable law, rule or regulation
- any USA Boccia policy
- principles of ethics
- accounting or financial practices (e.g., fraud)

If an Affiliated Individual is unsure about whether a matter might be a policy violation or is unsure about their reporting responsibility for a particular type of matter, please start by reviewing the particular policy involved. USA Boccia staff should refer to the Governance page available at usaboccia.org or reach out to usaboccia@gmail.com for more information.

Also, keep in mind that some violations *must* be reported. Specifically, please be familiar with the requirements in the USA Boccia Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies, USA Boccia SafeSport Policy and the SafeSport Code. If an Affiliated Individual suspects any criminal activity against a person or property, they should report this directly to law enforcement immediately.

Nothing in this Policy changes or replaces any mandatory reporting obligations under the SafeSport Code for the Olympic and Paralympic Movements – email usaboccia@gmail.com if you have any questions about those obligations.

3. Reporting

No Retaliation

USA Boccia has an open-door policy and encourages Affiliated Individuals to share questions, concerns, suggestions or complaints in the way and to the people with which they are most comfortable. This means Affiliated Individuals have options for how to report any concern about a potential ethical, policy, financial or legal violation.

USA Boccia has zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, financial or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no Affiliated Individual may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment (where applicable) or participation related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, non-assignment, negative review) on that basis.

Any such retaliation can be reported as described above in the same way as any other policy violation. It will be treated as a violation of this Policy and USA Boccia's Code of Ethics, and may lead to serious consequences including termination of employment or participation for anyone involved in retaliation.

How to Report

Affiliated Individuals may always report to a USA Boccia staff member or their supervisor (if applicable) or, the Affiliated Individual can make a report directly to the USA Boccia ethics committee chair, who can also discuss the concern and help make sure it is addressed. The USA Boccia ethics committee chair can be contacted via email at ethicscommittee@usaboccia.org.

Please remember that as a reporter, Affiliated Individuals do not need to (and should not) investigate the matter of concern or determine fault or how to fix it. The Affiliated Individual does his or her part by making it known so the right people can take action. Investigations of reports are discussed below.

Acting in Good Faith

Anyone reporting a perceived ethical, policy, financial, or legal violation must be acting in good faith and have some basis for believing there may be a violation. Anyone that makes a false report knowing that it is false or that it has no basis is violating this Policy and the USA Boccia Code of Ethics in the same way as someone retaliating against a good faith reporter. Such a violation may itself be reported under this Policy and it may lead to serious consequences, including termination of employment or participation.

4. Investigation

Once a report is made in one of the ways described above, the person receiving the report is responsible for getting it to the person who can best address the concern, based on the matter reported and in keeping with other appropriate policies. In all cases, USA Boccia is committed to ensuring that no good faith report goes unheard or ignored.

The USA Boccia ethics committee chair is responsible for coordinating among these people so that reporters can be confident that reported concerns get to the people best positioned to act on them. The USA Boccia Ethics Committee Chair will report regularly to the USA Boccia ethics committee members.

5. Confidentiality

In many cases, a reported matter will need investigation in order to reach the right resolution. Cooperation as a reporter or otherwise may be very helpful and much appreciated. Reports will be treated as confidentially as possible; some information may have to be disclosed to certain parties in order to conduct a thorough investigation, to comply with the law, and to provide accused individuals access to due process.

If a matter is reported anonymously and the reporter chooses to remain anonymous as it is investigated, USA Boccia will respect that.

6. Follow Up

If an Affiliated Individual reports an alleged violation of ethics, USA Boccia policy, or applicable laws, USA Boccia will report back to the Affiliated Individual on the progress and investigation results as appropriate. The Affiliated Individual is always free to follow up to learn more from the person they reported to. Confidentiality and legal obligations may affect the details available.

USA Boccia Code of Ethics Policy refers to the applicable other USA Boccia policies and/or Bylaws to note that follow ups to Speak Up complaints will be handled under the auspices of the appropriate policy (Conflicts of Interest, Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, etc.) and that those policies have appropriate investigation procedures and appropriate checks to ensure that conflicted individuals are not involved in the decision making process.

If the investigation of a report that was made in good faith is not to the satisfaction of the reporter, then the reporter may report that, too.

Thank you for helping to ensure that USA Boccia is a safe zone for speaking up in good faith on important matters.