

Lawn Bowls Association of Alberta

Policy Manual Harassment and Abuse Policy

Policy Statement

The Lawn Bowls Association of Alberta (LBAA) is committed to promoting a sport environment in which the terms and conditions of participation are equitable and non-discriminatory. Every participant has the right to be treated with dignity and respect and to work, train and compete in a milieu conducive to productivity, self-development and performance advancement based upon individual interest and ability. The **LBAA** will foster a sport environment free of harassment on the basis of race, ancestry, place of origin, color, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital/family status, language or of an offence for which a pardon has been granted.

Definition

Harassment means any behavior by a person engaged in any paid or volunteer capacity, role, or function with the **LBAA** that is offensive to any person or group of people and which the individual knew or ought to have known would be unwelcome.

Harassment may be intentional or unintentional and can take many forms, but generally involves conduct, comment, or display which is insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, demeaning, belittling, malicious, degrading, or otherwise causes offence, discomfort, or personal humiliation or embarrassment to a person or group of people.

The following types of harassment are intolerable, whether or not individuals complain:

Sexual Harassment - unwelcomed sexual behavior such as inappropriate sexual comments about a person's body or appearance, use of derogatory sexual terms, enquiries or comments about an individual's sex life or sexual preferences, unwanted touching, petting or leering; sexual advances or requests for sexual relations by any person in a position of authority; or reprisal by any person in a position of authority against an individual who has rejected a sexual advance or unwelcomed sexual behaviour.

Racial Harassment - racial slurs, jokes or name calling based upon race, ancestry, place of origin, color, ethnic origin, and creed (or religion), use of terminology which reinforces stereotypes, derogatory nicknames.

Abuse of Authority - improper use of power and authority inherent in a position to endanger or undermine another's job, position, membership or participation on a team, or in any way interfere with or influence the performance or advancement of any person engaged in any such function; intimidation, threats, blackmail or coercion.

It is the overall objective of the **LBAA** Policy on Harassment to create and maintain a work and sport environment free from harassment. Individuals who experience harassment are encouraged to take the appropriate actions to put an end to the harassment and seek adequate redress.

Harassment which is unintentional may be stopped by informing the harasser(s) that the behavior is offensive. If the behaviors continue, the individual should file a complaint in the manner described in the **LBAA** Complaint Review Procedure.

If an individual feels uncomfortable or threatened about confronting the harasser(s) on their own, a complaint should be filed directly in accordance with the **LBAA** Complaint Review Procedure.

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The **LBAA** takes any complaint seriously, and will investigate and respond in a sensitive, effective and timely manner.

The **LBAA** believes that harassment is a serious offence. It is also a serious offence to falsely accuse someone of harassment.

If the results of the investigation find that there has been harassment or that there has been an intentional false accusation of harassment, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the **LBAA** Discipline and Complaints Policy.

Policy issue date February 15th 2013

Signed (President) _____

This policy replaces all previous policies

Last policy dated (none before)

This policy will be reviewed every five years –next review February 2018

References

Lawn Bowls Association of Alberta: Complaint Review Procedure.

Lawn Bowls Association of Alberta: Discipline and Complaints Policy.