

Respect in Sport & Safe Sport Overview

What is Respect in Sport?

Respect in Sport is a nationally recognized online program focused on fostering a culture of respect in sport settings. It provides practical tools to help coaches, officials, leaders, and volunteers create safe, ethical, and inclusive spaces.

Respect in Sport training covers:

- Understanding power dynamics and responsibility
- Communication strategies that support athlete well-being
- Managing conflict and modelling positive behavior
- Preventing discrimination, bullying, and emotional harm
- Encouraging equitable, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate sport experiences

ABTA now has designated provincial links for Respect in Sport, ensuring our members can complete the program at no cost.

What is Safe Sport?

Safe Sport is a national movement designed to ensure that all participants—athletes, coaches, judges, volunteers, and administrators—experience sport in a healthy, positive, and respectful environment. It focuses on preventing maltreatment, promoting physical and emotional safety, and ensuring that everyone involved in sport is protected and supported.

Safe Sport training provides education on:

- Recognizing and preventing all forms of maltreatment (bullying, harassment, abuse, discrimination)
- Understanding the legal and ethical responsibilities of individuals in positions of trust
- Creating athlete-centered environments grounded in respect, fairness, and inclusion
- Responding appropriately to concerns, disclosures, or unsafe situations
- Establishing boundaries and professional standards of conduct

What Course Do I Need?

RESPECT IN SPORT

Respect in Sport certification is now required for coaches, judges, club board members, ABTA board members, and regional board members. This course promotes respectful communication, positive behavior, and inclusive, athlete-centered environments, helping ensure consistent expectations and a safe culture across all ABTA programs.

SAFE SPORT

ABTA is implementing mandatory *Safe Sport* certification for all coaches, judges, and ABTA board members, in alignment with new CBTF requirements. This training equips leaders with essential knowledge to prevent maltreatment, understand boundaries and duty of care, and maintain safe, ethical environments for all athletes and participants.



2025-2026 SEASON

ALL REGISTERED COACHES & JUDGES
AND CLUB, REGIONAL AND ABTA BOARD
MEMBERS

SUBMIT CERTIFICATION BY
JANUARY 1, 2026

ACTIVITY LEADER COURSE (COACHES)
OFFICIALS COURSE (JUDGES)
PARENT COURSE (BOARD)

CONTACT YOUR CLUB OR THE ABTA
OFFICE FOR THE LOGIN CODE TO ENSURE
YOU RECEIVE THE COURSE AT NO COST

YEAR



WHO



TIME FRAME



LINKS



COST

2025-2026 SEASON

ALL REGISTERED COACHES, JUDGES,
ABTA BOARD, CLUB CHAIRS

SUBMIT CERTIFICATION BY
JANUARY 1, 2026

SAFE SPORT TRAINING

NO COST

INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY COMPLAINT MECHANISM

In early 2026, the Government of Alberta will launch a province-wide *Safe Sport* Strategy to protect participants in amateur sport. A key part of this initiative is the pilot of an Independent *Third Party Complaint Mechanism (ITPM)*, called the *Alberta Safe Sport Complaint Mechanism (ABSSCM)*, which will oversee and manage maltreatment complaints.

Maltreatment—including physical or psychological abuse, neglect, sexual misconduct, grooming, discrimination, and retaliation—requires independent handling to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure fair, professional investigations. The ABTA is committed to providing a safe environment for all baton participants and will take part in this pilot. More information will be shared when finalized.