

OBTA Safeguarding Policy

FOR ALL OBTA HOSTED AND SANCTIONED EVENTS

Safeguarding is a fundamental responsibility in baton twirling, to ensure that all OBTA members (athletes, judges, coaches, badge adjudicators, club directors, Board of Directors, event staff and volunteers) can learn and enjoy baton twirling in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment. This document outlines OBTA's commitment to safeguarding. Includes links to more specific policies and resources for our members to reference. By being aware of and adhering to these principles and practices, OBTA members can help be protected and foster a positive atmosphere for growth and creativity.

PRINCIPLES OF SAFEGUARDING

1. Protection from Harm
2. Prevention
3. Creating a Safe Environment
4. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
5. Confidentiality
6. Empowerment
7. Accountability

1. PROTECTION FROM HARM

All OBTA-sanctioned baton twirling events have policies and procedures in place to protect members from harm.

OBTA's Policies and Procedures Manual acts as a resource to assist in identifying and mitigating risks, in addition to signage and other methods of communication as applicable.

2. PREVENTION

In compliance with [CBTF's Safe Sport Policy](#), all OBTA Professional Members (which includes but is not limited to coaches, judges, administrators, board members, and

technical members) are required to take the [Safe Sport Training](#) that is offered by coach.ca in the multisport category.

All OBTA Professional Members (which includes but is not limited to coaches, judges, administrators, board members, and technical members) are required by the OBTA Vulnerable Sector Police Checks Policy to submit a valid Vulnerable Sector Check every three years. Refer to the OBTA Policy & Procedures Manual Part 5 Section 5

Complaints, disciplines and grievances are found in Part 12 Section 9 of the Policy & Procedures Manual.

Please refer to OBTA's Policies on Conduct and Risk Management in the Policy & Procedures Manual Part 3. These policies are applicable for ALL OBTA sanctioned events.

3. CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

OBTA has ZERO TOLERANCE FOR VIOLENCE AND ABUSE regardless of severity or context.

Physical Environments

Regular risk assessments should be conducted to identify and mitigate potential hazards that could be present in the physical environment. Potential hazards would include insufficient lighting, inconsistent flooring surfaces, overcrowding in practice areas, etc. Please refer to the OBTA Risk Management Policy for additional considerations for all OBTA Sanctioned Events (including practices and training events). Refer to Appendix "I" in OBTA Policy and Procedures

Psychological Environments

The baton twirling environment should be safe, secure and free from any form of discrimination or bullying.

For more information about creating a psychologically safe environment for our members, refer to the Coaching Association of [Canada's Safe Sport Training and Toolkit](#).

4. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

OBTA's Mission Statement, Vision, and Values all reflect our ongoing commitment to ensure that everyone is treated equitably. Please refer to our policies on Gender,

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity in Part 4 of the OBTA Policy & Procedures Manual for more information about our current efforts.

5. CONFIDENTIALITY

OBTA Policies dictate that personal information about any OBTA member will be handled with care and confidentiality. Only authorized personnel will have access to sensitive information. Refer to OBTA Policy & Procedures Manual Part 6 Section 2.

6. EMPOWERMENT

OBTA encourages all members to share their views, feel heard, and be involved respectfully in decisions that affect their safety and well-being. We welcome feedback, ideas, and your involvement in decision making. Contact information for all OBTA Board Members can be found [here](#).

7. ACCOUNTABILITY

OBTA is committed to ensuring that all Professional Members of OBTA (including members of the Board of Directors, Club Directors, and Technical Members) are knowledgeable in and aware of safeguarding practices.

Regular reviews and updates of all of our policies and procedures will be conducted to ensure they are effective and up-to-date.

OBTA has an established process for Reporting and Responding to concerns whether they are raised by a child, or an adult. All concerns are taken seriously and are handled with discretion. Complaints, disciplines and grievances are found in Part 12 Section 9 of the Policy & Procedures Manual.

8. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents and guardians should be informed about OBTA's safeguarding policies and are encouraged to communicate any reasonable concerns that they may have. Complaints, disciplines and grievances are found in Part 12 Section 9 of the Policy & Procedures Manual. OBTA will not be held responsible for any unsanctioned events of any type or classification. Parents/guardians may ask the event organizer for sanction information in order to understand what policies are expected to be in place at any given event.

Additional Resources

<https://www.cbtf.ca/page/cbtf-safe-sport-and-anti-doping>

<https://www.ibtf-batontwirling.org/safety>

<https://www.respectgroupinc.com/respect-in-sport/>

<https://coach.ca/sport-safety/create-quality-sport-environment>

<https://cces.ca/safesport>

<https://www.protectchildren.ca/en/>

<https://www.crdsc-sdrcc.ca/eng/safe-sport>