



Ice Climbing Canada Policy Document

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the framework that governs the relationship between Ice Climbing Canada (ICC) and its athletes, particularly those selected to represent Canada in ice climbing and drytooling competitions. It ensures that all parties are aware of their rights, obligations, and responsibilities, providing clear guidelines for athletes, coaches, officials, and committee members.

1.2 Scope

This policy applies to all athletes, coaches, officials, and committee members involved with Ice Climbing Canada (ICC) at both the recreational and competitive levels. It governs participation in ICC - sanctioned programs, events, and National Team selections and outlines expectations regarding behavior, safety, training, and compliance with organizational standards.

1.3 Definitions

This section provides key definitions used throughout the document to ensure consistency and clarity, including terms such as “ACC,” “ICC,” “UIAA,” and “Safe Sport.”

2.0 Definitions

2.1 Alpine Club of Canada (ACC)

A national non-profit organization that supports climbing and mountaineering activities across Canada. ACC provides administrative, financial, and insurance support to Ice Climbing Canada (ICC), serving as the parent organization.

2.2 Ice Climbing Canada (ICC)

A committee under the ACC that is responsible for the development, promotion, and governance of (**competitive**) ice climbing and drytooling in Canada. ICC coordinates athlete development, national team selection, competitions, and safety protocols.

2.3 Union Internationale des Associations d’Alpinisme (UIAA)

The international governing body for climbing and mountaineering, responsible for setting the global standards for the sport, organizing international competitions, and enforcing rules and regulations, including anti-doping policies.

2.4 Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD)

A structured framework that guides athletes through various stages of development, from beginner to elite levels, focusing on physical conditioning, skill acquisition, and mental

readiness. The LTAD model aligns with Sport Canada's standards and is applied to all ICC programs.

2.5 Youth Coordinators

Individuals within ICC who are tasked with managing and overseeing youth programs in the West, Central, and East regions of Canada. Youth Coordinators ensure that all youth participants have access to a safe and supportive environment while also serving as key contacts for any youth-related issues.

2.6 Safe Sport

A commitment to maintaining a sport environment free from harassment, abuse, or discrimination, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants. This includes mandatory criminal record checks for all staff and volunteers and required training in ethics and safe sport practices.

2.7 Athlete Development Subcommittee

A dedicated group within ICC responsible for athlete training and development programs, identifying talent, and supporting the growth of competitive ice climbing in Canada. This subcommittee focuses on both youth and adult athletes.

2.8 Criminal Record Check (CRC)

A required background check for individuals involved in ICC programs, particularly those working with youth or vulnerable populations, to ensure they have no criminal record that would make them unsuitable for their roles.

2.9 Route Setter

A trained individual who is responsible for designing and setting routes for competitions and training sessions. This role is crucial for ensuring safe, challenging, and engaging routes in ice climbing and drytooling competitions.

2.10 Youth Drytooling Program

A structured training program designed to introduce youth to drytooling—a form of climbing using ice tools on artificial surfaces without ice. The program typically follows a 6-week or 24-week curriculum that builds foundational skills.

2.11 Grassroots Approach

The development of a sport or organization from the community level, focusing on local engagement and building a support base, especially in the initial stages of ICC's development in Canada.

2.12 Indigenous Engagement

ICC's commitment to inclusivity by fostering connections with Indigenous communities and ensuring their participation in ICC programs and competitions, especially as part of Canada's broader reconciliation efforts.

2.13 Committee Quorum

The minimum number of committee members required to be present at meetings for decisions to be made. ICC has set the quorum for its main committee at six members.

2.14 Google Drive

A secure, cloud-based system used by ICC for storing organizational data, including athlete information, records, and administrative files.

2.15 Doodle

An online scheduling tool used by ICC to organize meeting times and dates. This tool ensures that all committee members can provide their availability to maximize participation.

2.16 Ethics and Safe Sport Training

Mandatory training for ICC committee members, coaches, and volunteers focused on proper behavior, inclusivity, harassment prevention, and maintaining a safe environment for all athletes, particularly youth.

3.0 Inclusivity and Reconciliation Efforts

3.1 Indigenous Groups Engagement

ICC is committed to fostering inclusivity by engaging with Indigenous communities in areas where ice climbing and drytooling are accessible. This includes working with these communities to provide opportunities for Indigenous athletes to participate in ICC programs and competitions.

3.2 Reconciliation Initiatives

As part of Canada's ongoing reconciliation efforts, ICC will actively involve Indigenous groups in the development of the sport, ensuring that Indigenous representation is prioritized. This engagement will be conducted in a respectful and ongoing manner, aiming to build long-term relationships based on mutual understanding and respect.

3.3 Grassroots Development

ICC is focused on a grassroots approach in its inaugural year. This includes developing highlight reels and other media to showcase milestones and events that document the organization's growth and progress, ensuring transparency and community engagement.

4.0 Athlete Representation and UIAA Liaison

4.1 UIAA Liaison

ICC acknowledges the importance of maintaining a direct relationship with the Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme (UIAA) Athlete Commission. ICC has a UIAA liaison on its committee to ensure strong ties with the global ice climbing community, providing a point of contact for athletes regarding international competition and representation.

4.2 Future ICC Athlete Commission

As ICC continues to grow, it plans to establish a dedicated Athlete Commission that will serve as a sub-working group under the committee. This group will ensure that athletes are represented at all levels of the sport, including decision-making on competition rules, athlete development, and international participation.

5.0 Development of Coaches, Officials, and Judges

5.1 Research and Development Initiatives

ICC is currently engaged in research and development to create a comprehensive training framework for coaches, officials, and judges. These initiatives will focus on both recreational and competitive athletes, ensuring alignment with UIAA standards to create a highly qualified pool of professionals who can officiate national and international competitions.

5.2 Canadian Contingent of Officials

As ICC expands, it aims to build a contingent of Canadian officials—including certified coaches, route setters, and judges—who will be equipped to support high-level ice climbing and drytooling events across Canada and internationally.

5.3 Youth Development Programs

ICC has already implemented a 6-week youth program that serves as the foundation for long-term athlete development. As these programs grow in popularity, ICC will expand them to 24-week models, offering in-depth training to build a strong talent pipeline in Canada.

5.4 Sustainable Program Costs

ICC is committed to ensuring that all youth programs are offered at a reasonable cost to participants. This model is designed to be sustainable year after year, providing consistent opportunities for youth to engage in ice climbing and drytooling.

6.0 Alignment with Sport Canada Guidelines

6.1 Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD)

ICC adheres to the Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model established by Sport Canada. This framework provides a structured progression for athletes from beginner levels to elite competition, ensuring that physical, technical, and mental skills are developed at each stage.

6.2 Youth and Adult Programs

ICC currently offers 6-week introductory programs for both youth and adults. These programs focus on the fundamentals of drytooling and ice climbing and will be expanded into 24-week sessions for athletes who wish to pursue higher levels of competition and skill development.

6.3 Sustainable Growth

By adhering to LTAD guidelines, ICC ensures that its programming is scalable and adaptable to the growing needs of the Canadian ice climbing community. Programs will be regularly reviewed to ensure that they meet the needs of athletes and contribute to the long-term development of the sport.

7.0 Committee Structure and Participation

7.1 Main Committee Composition

The ICC main committee consists of 11 members responsible for the overall governance of the organization. In addition, a subcommittee focused on athlete development consists of 9 members, tasked with overseeing programs related to athlete training, competitions, and talent development.

7.2 Meeting Schedule and Platforms

To ensure consistent communication and progress, ICC will hold committee meetings every two weeks. These meetings will be conducted virtually via platforms such as Zoom or Google Meet,

allowing members from across the country to participate. Meeting times will be scheduled using Doodle to accommodate the availability of all members.

7.3 Quorum and Decision-Making

For a committee meeting to be valid, a quorum of six members must be present. Decisions made in meetings without a quorum will not be binding, though discussions may proceed to inform future decisions.

7.4 Minute Taking and Documentation

A designated volunteer from the committee will be responsible for taking minutes at each meeting. Only those who have expressed the capacity to do so will take on this role, ensuring that all discussions and decisions are properly documented for future reference and accountability.

8.0 Youth and Athlete Safety

8.1 Criminal Record Checks (CRC)

To ensure the safety and well-being of all athletes, particularly youth participants, ICC requires all committee members, staff, and volunteers working with youth to undergo criminal record checks. This policy aligns with the standards set by the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) and guarantees that individuals in positions of trust are properly vetted.

8.2 Training in Ethics and Safe Sport

All ICC committee members and volunteers will be required to complete ethics and Safe Sport training. This training will equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to create and maintain a positive, harassment-free environment for athletes. It will cover topics such as inclusivity, abuse prevention, and fostering a supportive sport culture.

8.3 Youth Coordinators for Safe Sport

Each region (West, Central, East) of ICC has a designated Youth Coordinator who serves as the primary contact for maintaining a safe sport environment. These coordinators will be responsible for implementing Safe Sport policies at the regional level and addressing any safety or behavioral concerns that arise.

9.0 Data and Athlete Information Management

9.1 Data Storage and Security

ICC will securely store all data related to its operations, including athlete information, in Google Drive accounts that are managed by the ICC Chairman. This secure cloud-based system ensures that sensitive information is protected and only accessible to authorized personnel.

9.2 Athlete Information Management

All athlete-related information, such as registration details, competition results, and training records, will be stored securely in ICC's Google Drive for the duration of the competitive season. At the end of each season, this information will be transferred to the Alpine Club of Canada (ACC), where it will be archived according to their file retention standards.

9.3 Privacy and Confidentiality

ICC is committed to protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all personal data. Access to athlete information will be limited to authorized individuals, and all data will be managed in

compliance with Canadian privacy laws and regulations. Personal information will not be shared without consent unless required for official purposes.

10.0 Athlete Code of Conduct

10.1 General Conduct

Athletes are expected to uphold the highest standards of conduct both on and off the field of competition. This includes treating all coaches, teammates, officials, and staff with respect and dignity, avoiding any form of harassment or discrimination, and promoting a positive environment for everyone involved in the sport.

10.2 Representation

As representatives of ICC and the Alpine Club of Canada, athletes are ambassadors of the sport of ice climbing. They are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the organization and their country.

10.3 Commitment to Excellence

Athletes are expected to strive for personal and athletic excellence. They should demonstrate a strong work ethic, adhere to their training plans, and uphold the principles of fair play, integrity, and ethical competition at all times.

11.0 Competition Conduct

11.1 Sportsmanship

Athletes are required to compete in the spirit of fairness and sportsmanship. This includes respecting competitors, officials, and the rules of the competition, and avoiding unsportsmanlike behavior that could negatively impact the sport's integrity.

11.2 Compliance with Rules

Athletes must comply with all competition rules and regulations established by ICC, ACC, and the Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme (UIAA). This includes any additional rules related to safety, equipment, and event participation.

11.3 Alcohol and Substance Use

Athletes must refrain from consuming alcohol or any other substances that could impair their performance during National Team training camps, competitions, or events. Athletes are also expected to abstain from using illegal or banned substances, in compliance with international anti-doping regulations.

12.0 Anti-Doping Compliance

12.1 Banned Substances

Athletes are prohibited from using or possessing banned substances, as defined by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), UIAA, and the Canadian Policy on Doping in Sport. This is to ensure fair and ethical competition.

12.2 Testing Compliance

Athletes must submit to unannounced doping tests, in addition to any scheduled tests, as requested by ICC, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES), or other designated authorities. Refusal to comply with testing requirements will be considered a breach of this policy.

12.3 Anti-Doping Education

Athletes are required to participate in any doping control and education programs provided by ICC, in collaboration with Sport Canada and the CCES. These programs will educate athletes on the dangers of doping and ensure they understand the rules and consequences of violations.

13.0 Communication and Reporting

13.1 Training Program

Athletes are expected to follow the training and competition programs agreed upon by the ACC's designated representative (e.g., National Coach or High-Performance Director), the athlete, and their personal coach. Any changes to the training schedule must be reported promptly.

13.2 Injury Notification

If an athlete is injured or unable to participate in a mandatory event, they are required to notify ICC in writing. If the injury is significant, a medical certificate must be provided within three weeks, detailing the nature and expected recovery time.

13.3 Performance Updates

Athletes must provide monthly updates to the National Coach or designated representative, reporting on any changes to their training schedule, performance progress, or other relevant information.

14.0 Uniform and Promotion

14.1 National Team Uniform

Athletes are required to wear the official National Team uniform and gear while representing Canada in ice climbing competitions and at ICC or ACC-sanctioned events. Athletes are expected to maintain their uniforms in a presentable condition during travel, training, and competition.

14.2 Promotional Activities

Athletes may be asked to participate in non-commercial, sport-related promotional activities on behalf of ICC or ACC. These activities should not exceed one working day per year unless supplementary compensation is provided. Participation in promotional activities will help promote the sport and raise awareness of ice climbing in Canada.

15.0 ICC Expectations for Athletes

15.1 Performance and Training

Athletes are expected to demonstrate a high level of commitment to their training schedules, continuously seek improvement, and participate actively in all mandatory training camps, competitions, and team meetings as scheduled by ICC and ACC.

15.2 Leadership and Mentorship

Athletes are encouraged to serve as role models for younger climbers and act as mentors during training sessions and competitions. Their leadership will contribute to the development of a supportive, inclusive, and encouraging sport environment.

15.3 Respect for Cultural and Regional Diversity

Athletes are expected to respect and engage with Indigenous communities, particularly in regions where ice climbing activities are being developed. Athletes should contribute to inclusivity and participate in ongoing reconciliation efforts, promoting cultural awareness and sensitivity in their interactions.

15.4 Development of the Sport

Athletes are expected to actively support the growth and promotion of ice climbing and drytooling in Canada. This includes participating in outreach activities, volunteering at events, and promoting the sport through personal efforts and social media.

15.5 Compliance with Policies and Procedures

Athletes must adhere to Sport Canada's Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model and comply with ICC's policies regarding Safe Sport, including undergoing criminal record checks and completing all relevant training programs.

16.0 Compliance and Dispute Resolution

16.1 Dispute Resolution Mechanism

If a dispute arises regarding the interpretation or enforcement of this policy, athletes and ICC members will first attempt to resolve the issue through internal discussions. If the dispute cannot be resolved internally, it may be referred to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) for mediation or arbitration.

16.2 Appeal Process

Athletes have the right to appeal any decisions made by ICC that affect their participation, selection, or standing. Appeals must follow the formal procedures outlined by ICC and ACC, ensuring a fair and transparent process.