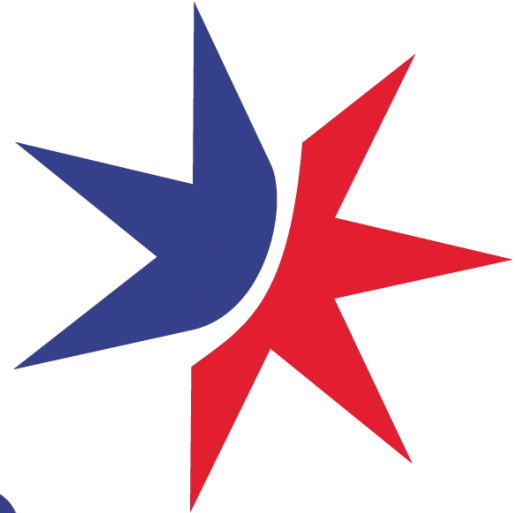


OFFICIAL



# DANCESPORT AUSTRALIA

## **Personal Grievances Policy**

**Commencement Date: 1 August 2022**

Policy to be reviewed by Sport Integrity Australia  
September - December 2022

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## 1. Definitions

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Defined terms not otherwise defined in this Policy have been defined in and have the meaning given to them in the DanceSport Australia National Integrity Framework. In this Policy the following words have the corresponding meaning:

**DanceSport** means the sport of DanceSport, as governed by DanceSport Australia.

**DanceSport Australia** means DanceSport Australia.

**DanceSport Organisation** means DanceSport Australia and each Member Organisation of Affiliate that has adopted this Policy. **Personal Grievance** means any type of interpersonal conflict or dispute between Relevant Persons and/or Relevant Organisations that falls short of the threshold for abuse, bullying, harassment, or sexual misconduct under the DanceSport Australia Member Protection Policy.

**Policy** means this Personal Grievances Policy including any schedules and annexures.

- (a) **Relevant Organisation** means any of the following organisations: DanceSport Australia;
- (b) DanceSport Organisations, which includes:
  - (i) Member Organisations;
  - (ii) Studios; and
  - (iii) Authorised Providers, which means any non-Member organisations authorised to conduct Activities sanctioned by DanceSport Australia or a Member Organisation;
- (c) Team, which means any collection or squad of athletes who compete and/or train in DanceSport; and
- (d) Any other organisation who has agreed to be bound by this Policy.

**Relevant Person** means any of the following persons:

- (a) Individual Member;
- (b) Participant;
- (c) Employee;
- (d) Contractor;
- (e) Volunteer; and
- (f) Any other individual who has agreed to be bound by this Policy.

## 2. Purpose

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### 2.1 Purpose of this Policy

This Policy has been adopted alongside the DanceSport Australia National Integrity Framework to establish a formal process for people and organisations engaging with the sport of DanceSport to resolve interpersonal conflicts and disputes that arise in the context of their involvement in DanceSport, but do not involve a breach of an Integrity Policy or other DanceSport Australia policy.

## 3. Jurisdiction

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### 3.1 Who the Policy applies to:

This Policy applies to Relevant Persons and Relevant Organisations.

### 3.2 When the Policy applies

- (a) This Policy applies to interactions between Relevant Persons and Relevant Organisations in their capacity as Relevant Persons or Relevant Organisations relating to their involvement in the sport of DanceSport.
- (b) The Policy does not apply to the following:
  - (i) a breach of an Integrity Policy under the DanceSport Australia National Integrity Framework;
  - (ii) a breach of another DanceSport Australia or DanceSport Organisation policy;
  - (iii) disputes relating to the employment of a Relevant Person;
  - (iv) interactions between Relevant Persons and Relevant Organisations that are not related to the sport of DanceSport and/or are not in their capacity as Relevant Persons or Relevant Organisations.

## 4. Dealing with Personal Grievances

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### 4.1 Steps for resolving Personal Grievances under this Policy

- (a) Relevant Persons and Relevant Organisations are encouraged to attempt to resolve any disagreement or dispute that is subject to this Policy amongst themselves in the first instance.
- (b) Where a disagreement is unable to be resolved directly through discussion, or one of the parties to the disagreement is uncomfortable with approaching the other party directly or is otherwise unable to do so, the matter may then be referred to the management of the DanceSport Organisation of the level at which the dispute occurred. For example, if the subject of the disagreement relates to interactions at local studio level and the parties to the disagreement are unable to resolve it amongst themselves, it may then be referred to the management of that studio.
- (c) Where the relevant DanceSport Organisation or a member of the administration of the relevant DanceSport Organisation is a party to a Personal Grievance, the matter should instead be referred to the management of the DanceSport Organisation of the next level up. For example, if a dispute at local studio level involves an individual involved in the running of the studio it should instead be referred to the relevant state-level organisation.
- (d) If DanceSport Australia or a member of the administration of DanceSport Australia is a party to a Personal Grievance, the matter should instead be referred to the National Sports Tribunal and managed in accordance with the processes of the National Sports Tribunal.
- (e) The DanceSport Organisation will appoint an independent third party to help facilitate a resolution to the dispute.
- (f) The matter will be considered closed under this Policy once the facilitation process has concluded. Any ongoing issues between the parties to the disagreement must be dealt with by them in their personal capacity, unless either party engages in conduct that would amount to a breach of an Integrity Policy, which should then be handled under the DanceSport Australia Complaints, Disputes and Discipline Policy, or any other DanceSport Australia policy, which should be handled in accordance with the relevant policy.

## 5. Process for facilitated resolution of Personal Grievances

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- (a) Where a Personal Grievance is referred for facilitated resolution, the relevant DanceSport Organisation will appoint an independent third party to assist in resolving the matter.
- (b) The individual appointed as a facilitator does not require formal qualifications as a mediator or conciliator but must have no connection with the parties or the issues involved in the disagreement and be a person who the DanceSport Organisation considers to be capable of facilitating a discussion to resolve Personal Grievances.
- (c) The facilitator to the discussion may make suggestions about possible ways of resolving the grievance but cannot impose a resolution. The facilitation process will be concluded either when the parties agree on an outcome, or after 14 days or such longer period as agreed by all parties involved if a resolution cannot be reached.
- (d) The parties must participate in the facilitated discussion in good faith.

## 6. Role of Member Protection Information Officers

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- (a) Relevant Persons are encouraged to contact a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) if they:
  - (i) Are unsure how to handle the problem by themselves;
  - (ii) Require advice about the options open to them;
  - (iii) Want to talk confidentially about the problem; or
  - (iv) Want support while going through the Personal Grievance resolution process.
- (b) If a Relevant Person contacts a MPIO, the MPIO will:
  - (i) Take confidential notes about the Complaint;
  - (ii) Try to find out the facts of the problem;
  - (iii) Ask what outcome/how the Relevant Person wants the problem resolved and if they need support;
  - (iv) Provide possible options for the Relevant Person to resolve the problem;
  - (v) Act as a support person if requested;
  - (vi) Assist the Relevant Person with the steps for resolving Personal Grievances under this Policy;

- (vii) Inform the relevant government authorities and/or police if required by law to do so; and
  - (viii) Maintain confidentiality (except if the law requires disclosure or if disclosure is necessary to effectively deal with the Complaint).
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, MPIOs cannot be appointed to facilitate discussions under section 5, as they are not considered to be independent.

## **7. National Integrity Framework**

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The DanceSport Australia National Integrity Framework does not apply to this Personal Grievances Policy but sits alongside it. When interpreting this Policy, any provisions inconsistent with the DanceSport Australia National Integrity Framework apply only to the extent of that inconsistency.