CRDSC SDRCC
Centre de Règlement des Différends Sportifs du Canada
Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada

Monday, October 19, 2026

SDRCC Launches Request for Proposals to Examine Internal Appeal Processes in Canadian Sport

Brossard (Quebec) - The Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) has launched a Request for Proposals seeking a qualified individual consultant, firm or small team to assess internal appeal mechanisms within Canadian sport organizations and identify options for their future modernization.

The study will examine whether internal appeal processes, particularly those used by federally funded National Sport Organizations, continue to meet the needs of the Canadian sport system. It will consider, among other things, whether these processes are accessible, fair and effective, respect the principles of natural justice and allow participants to exercise their right to appeal.

The selected consultant or team will review a diverse sample of internal appeal policies and practices, consult athletes, sport administrators, dispute resolution professionals and other users of appeal processes, and examine relevant models in Canada and internationally. The study will assess the financial, operational, ethical, legal and systemic implications of different approaches to identify practical options for the future of internal appeals in Canadian sport.

> *"Internal appeal mechanisms play an important role in the Canadian sport system, but the environment in which they operate has evolved considerably," said Francis Ménard, Chief Executive Officer of the SDRCC. "This study will allow us to better understand how these processes function in practice and identify options to make the sport appeal system more accessible, consistent and effective."*

The resulting recommendations will address the respective roles of sport organizations and the SDRCC, how internal appeal mechanisms should be managed, and how they should interact with SDRCC services. They will also identify options for modernizing internal appeal requirements for sport organizations, particularly within the context of Sport Canada contribution agreements.

The assessment will be evidence-based and conducted without predetermined conclusions. Its findings will distinguish verified information from stakeholder perceptions and identify practical recommendations, estimated costs, responsibilities and implementation considerations. A preliminary report is expected in January 2027, followed by a final report and recommendations in March 2027.

This Request for Proposals is one of several research, consultation and modernization initiatives supported by additional funding from the Government of Canada. Together, these initiatives will help the SDRCC examine how its services can continue to adapt to the changing needs of the Canadian sport system and contribute to the future of sport dispute resolution and prevention in Canada.

Proposals must be received by **4:00 p.m. ET on November 5, 2026.** Questions concerning the Request for Proposals may be submitted by email until **4:00 p.m. ET on October 29, 2026.**

View the full Request for Proposals and application instructions: https://crdsc-sdrcc.ca/eng/requests-for-proposals-and-calls-for-interest

Learn more about the additional federal funding and the initiatives it will support.

Quick Facts

- The study will examine internal appeal policies and practices within a sample of Canadian sport organizations reflecting different organizational sizes, resources and appeal mechanisms, particularly federally funded National Sport Organizations.
- Consultations will include perspectives from athletes, sport administrators, dispute resolution professionals, Independent Third Parties, and national, multisport, provincial and territorial sport organizations.
- The assessment will consider accessibility, procedural fairness, independence, cost, timeliness, organizational capacity and barriers to participation.
- The final report will include evidence-based findings, scenario and cost analysis, prioritized recommendations and proposed implementation steps for consideration by the SDRCC and Sport Canada.

About the SDRCC

The SDRCC is a not-for-profit corporation created by federal legislation and funded by Sport Canada. Its mission is to provide the sport community with a national alternative dispute resolution service and to strengthen the culture of fairness in Canadian sport by resolving disputes quickly and efficiently, and by providing expertise and assistance in this area.

For more information, please contact:

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