

## POLICY

### **COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES: PARENTS, STUDENTS & STAFF**



#### **These guidelines address issues in relation to: Safe and Supportive Environment – Student Welfare 3.6.2 Teacher Accreditation Authority 4.1**

The College's policies, which are made from time to time, are made pursuant to the registration requirements as detailed by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and any appropriate legislation as an Independent School in NSW.

## PURPOSE

Central Coast Sports College is an organisation encompassing students, parents, and staff. The College values these people and believes that a process for the acceptance, monitoring and resolution of conflict, complaints and grievances is in the best interests of maintaining a harmonious, supportive and productive College community.

This grievance policy is aimed at providing a mechanism for resolving grievances in a quick, simple, well defined manner in a supportive and cooperative environment with the utmost confidentiality and sensitivity.

### **Policy**

- I. The College is open to receiving grievances and approaches them in a positive manner.
- II. The College has a commitment to the fair resolution of complaints at all levels.
- III. The College has a commitment to transparency of process and impartiality in handling complaints.
- IV. The College has a commitment to ensuring that it has the appropriate resources to fully accommodate a procedure for handling complaints.

### **Scope**

- I. The scope of this policy extends to grievances brought by any member of staff, parents or students.
- II. Some grievances are better handled under other policies of the College. The College has specific policies in place for issues such as child protection, discrimination and codes of conduct amongst others.

### **Definitions**

- I. **'complainant'**: any person who has a grievance. This may include any member of staff, employee, parent or student.
- II. **'grievance'**: any concern or complaint about any act, behaviour, omission, situation or decision that someone thinks is unfair or unjustified.
- III. **'grievance policy'**: The procedures and objectives set out in this document.
- IV. **'grievance procedure'**: the procedures defined in this grievance policy.
- V. **'respondent'**: Any person against whom a grievance is brought.
- VI. **'The College'**: Central Coast Sports College Ltd.

## **Confidentiality**

- I. The College is committed to the confidentiality of all complaints, at all steps in the process of their resolution.
- II. Only the College and persons directly involved in a grievance will have access to information on the subject of the grievance. It is expected that parties involved will discuss the matter only with their support persons or the other parties involved.
- III. Complainants and respondents have a duty to uphold strict confidentiality during the grievance procedure for the safety and consideration of others that may be involved. Complainants and respondents must not publicise the grievance or the progress of its resolution. The College considers any breach of confidentiality a serious issue worthy of disciplinary action if warranted.
- IV. Any documents created or dealt with during the course of the procedure will be marked "confidential" and put in a safe place. These documents may only be accessed by the parties involved in the grievance or by the College if the matter impacts upon the review of this policy.
- V. Although the College is committed to the confidentiality of all complaints, there may be situations where it is not possible to uphold a person's right to confidentiality. For example, a person's health and safety may be at risk, or the grievance may involve criminal activity. In these circumstances, the College will always prioritise the safety of the students, staff and wider community.

## **PROCEDURE**

If a parent or student has a complaint or grievance they would like heard the process is as follows:

1. Parent or student expresses their concern in writing, addressed to the child's Teacher/Coach.
2. If the complaint is about the Teacher/Coach, then the complaint should be addressed in writing to the Principal
3. If the complaint is from a member of staff, then the complaint should be addressed in writing to the Principal.

*Delivered via email:*

*Principal Contact: [pchapman@ccsc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pchapman@ccsc.nsw.edu.au)*

*Delivered in person (in writing):*

*Administration Office  
Building 16, The Avenue  
Mt Penang Parklands  
Kariong*

*Delivered via post:*

*Central Coast Sports College  
Attn: Principal  
PO Box 7053*

4. If the complaint is related to the TAA accreditation processes, and is made by the Teacher Seeking Accreditation (TSA), then the complaint should be addressed in writing to the TAA Authorised Delegate (TAAAD).

In cases where the TAAAD determines that a TSA does not meet the requirements for accreditation, the TSA must be advised of his/her access to the internal review process. Requests for an internal review of the decision not to accredit must be:

- Based on issues of procedure
- Made in writing
- Supported by documentary evidence
- Made within fourteen (14) days of the TSA being informed of the accreditation decision

***Written notice of the outcome of the internal review must be provided to the TSA within twenty-one (21) days of the initial request, identifying the reasons for the decision.***

5. If the complaint is related to the TAA accreditation processes and is made by a stakeholder other than the TSA, then the complaint should be addressed in writing to the TAAAD.
6. If the complaint is related to the TAAAD, then the complaint should be addressed in writing to the Board of Directors.
7. If the complaint is about the Principal, then the complaint should be addressed in writing to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

*Delivered via email:*

***Principal Contact: [pchapman@ccsc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:pchapman@ccsc.nsw.edu.au)***

*Chairperson Contact: [board@ccsc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:board@ccsc.nsw.edu.au)*

*Delivered in person (in writing):*

*Administration Office*

*Attn: Principal or Chairperson of the Board of Directors*

*Building 16, The Avenue*

*Mt Penang Parklands*

*Kariong*

*Delivered via post:*

*Central Coast Sports College*

*Attn: Principal or Chairperson of the Board of Directors*

*PO Box 7053*

*Kariong NSW 2250*

The college will acknowledge the complaint in writing (via email or post) within seven (7) days of receipt of the complaint. The college will investigate the complaint and inform the parent, student or member of staff of their findings no later than thirty (30) days from the end of the investigation process (via email or post)

The college adheres to the fundamental concept of procedural fairness and the party

making the complaint will not be penalised in any way for making a complaint.

### **Rights and Responsibilities of the Complainant**

The complainant has the right to:

- be heard and listened to
- have the complaint addressed with procedural fairness have the complaint dealt with quickly
- seek legal advice
- have a support person present at all meetings confidentiality and sensitivity in the resolution of the process

The complainant has the responsibility to:

- approach the process in good faith
- uphold strict confidentiality
- be courteous in dealing with the respondent, contact officer and investigator
- ensure that any support person understands their role in the process

### **Rights and responsibilities of the respondent**

The respondent has the right to:

- present their version of events and reasoning
- be informed of a complaint against them within a reasonable time frame to seek legal advice
- advice and support
- have a support person present during all meetings
- confidentiality and sensitivity in the resolution of the process

The respondent has the responsibility to:

- approach the process in good faith
- uphold strict confidentiality
- be courteous in dealing with the complainant, contact officer and investigator
- ensure that any support person understands their role in the process

***Victimisation and repercussions of ill treatment as a result of bringing the complaint will not be tolerated.***

### **Responsibility for the Maintenance of this Policy**

- The Deputy Principal and the College Board in conjunction with the Principal are responsible for gauging how well the Grievance Procedure is working. The College Board will review the policy annually.
- The College Board reserves the right to amend this policy at any time.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

*Code of Conduct: Staff*

*Code of Conduct: Students*

*Code of Conduct Parents & Visitors*

*TAA Teacher Accreditation Policy*

*TAA Structure and Governance Policy and Procedures*

Date of Next Review: January 2020 or earlier where amendments in legislation require immediate policy reviews

Version #	Date Approved	Author	Purpose/Changes
6.0	July 2021	P. Chapman	Annual Review
7	June, 2022	M.Brown	Annual Review