



# Program Policy Committee

Report 2015-2016



# Mandate

- Develop, implement and oversee SSO's governance and compliance program
- Review the status of SSO's compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- Review the status of SSO's compliance with its By-laws and board policies
- Review each of SSO's By-laws and board policies at least every three years and recommend changes, as required.

# Committee Members

- Ruth Belcher (Chair & Board Secretary)
- Ted Smith (Member-at-large)
- Liz Simmie (Member-at-large)
- Mary Dwyer (Executive Director, ex officio)

# Activities 2015-2016

- Revisions to:
  - SSO By-laws (November 2015 and March 2016)
  - Athlete Registration & Transfer Policy (March 2015)
  - Appeal Policy (November 2015)
  - Code of Conduct & Ethics (November 2015)
  - Discipline & Complaints Policy (November 2015)
  - Dispute Resolution Policy (November 2015)

# Other Activities

- SSO Synchro-specific Concussion Guidelines and Return to Play Protocol
  - Developed in collaboration with researchers at the University of Toronto Concussion Lab (released April 2016)
  - Circulated to Members June 2016
- Advice and counsel, tools, training and assistance to board, Executive Director and SSO Members on governance, compliance and policy development

# Activities since March 2016

- SSO Insurance Presentation
  - Circulated to Members May 2016
- Revised Privacy Policy
  - Pending board approval
- Sanction Guidelines
  - To be circulated to Members before start of new competitive season
  - Will require revisions to supporting documents including Sanction Request Application A & B

# Activities since March 2016

- Launch of SSO Rulebook review
  - Working group members include Ruth Belcher, Liz Simmie and Rachel Klein
  - In collaboration with Referees and OOMT
  - Goal is to make Rulebook web-friendly & searchable
  - Clean-up includes elimination of overlap with CASSA Rulebook, edits for clarity, etc.
  - Email suggestions to [rklein@synchroontario.com](mailto:rklein@synchroontario.com) by July 15, 2016

# Looking Forward (cont'd)

- Sport Recognition Policy
  - Important because it establishes the foundation for the relationship between PSOs and the Government of Ontario
  - Hasn't been reviewed in substantive way for 10 years
  - Reviewing the policy was one of the commitments under **Game ON** – the Ontario Government's sport plan
    - Legacy of Pan Am/Parapan Am Games



# GameOn Sport Recognition Policy

- Objectives of the policy review are to:
  - Ensure that PSOs meet high standards in the areas of governance, administration & programming
  - Promote public confidence in the Ontario sport sector
  - Position Ontario as a best-in-class PSO jurisdiction

# GameOn Sport Recognition Policy

- Government expects that the revised policy will launch in June 2016
- PSOs will need to apply for recognition by the end of August
  - Must meet requirements in order to be a recognized provincial body for sport
- Notification of status (in good standing) should be provided by October 2016
- Only PSOs recognized under the revised policy will be eligible to apply for Ministry funding
  - Funding model is also going to change – one fund program
  - Synchro base funding has been approximately \$60,000 in the last few cycles

# Overview of Approach

- Mandatory requirements
  - Administration / Governance
    - Not-for-profit, elected board of directors, by-laws, strategic & operational plans, annual budget & audit report, insurance, hold annual general meetings, etc.
  - Policies
    - Approved by board of directors and posted on website

# Mandatory Policies

- Here are the government's proposed mandatory policies
  - Code of conduct
    - For directors, coaches, officials and athletes
  - Discipline
  - Dispute resolution
  - Harassment
  - Screening
  - Concussion management & return to play
  - Membership
  - Privacy
  - Inclusion
  - Accessibility
  - Selection to provincial team

# Overview of Approach (cont'd)

- Recommended requirements
  - Policies including confidentiality, social networking, anti-doping and code of conduct for parents
- Programming standards
  - Programming for athletes and certification of coaches and officials
- Technical safety standards
  - Adopt and comply with rules of NSO

# Next steps

- We have two months to get our policy house in order
- Gap analysis & remediation
  - Draft new policies
  - Turn some guidelines into policies
  - Ensure all policies are posted publicly on our website
- Complete application for Sport Recognition status



**Thank you**  
Questions?

