

**ALBERTA RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION (“ARA”)
DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY**

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) “*ARA Member*”- All categories of membership within ARA, as well as all individuals employed by or engaged in activities with ARA, including but not limited to, directors, officers, committee members, volunteers, tournament directors, league organizers, players, coaches, officials, referees and administrators, spectators and parents of ARA members.

Purpose

2. ARA supports the principles of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) and is committed to the techniques of negotiation, facilitation, mediation, and arbitration as effective ways to resolve disputes with and among members, and to avoid the uncertainty, costs, and other negative effects associated with litigation.
3. ARA encourages all ARA Members to communicate openly and to collaborate in using problem-solving and negotiation techniques to resolve their differences. In almost all cases a negotiated settlement is preferable to any outcome achieved through other dispute resolution techniques, and negotiated resolutions to disputes with and among ARA Members are strongly encouraged.

Application of this Policy

4. This Policy applies to all ARA Members as defined in the Definitions.

Facilitation and Mediation

5. Opportunities for facilitation and mediation may be pursued at any point in a dispute within ARA where it is appropriate and where the disputing parties agree that such a course of action would be mutually beneficial.
6. The costs of mediation will be shared equally by the parties.

Arbitration

7. In the event that a dispute persists after all other ARA internal remedies have been exhausted including negotiation, facilitation, mediation and/or appeals, the parties may, upon mutual consent, pursue opportunities for arbitration.
8. Where arbitration is pursued, it will be done using trained arbitrators who are acceptable to the parties.
9. The parties involved in a dispute may also mutually agree to bypass internal avenues of dispute resolution, including appeals, and may directly pursue opportunities for arbitration.
10. Where a dispute is referred to arbitration, all parties to the original dispute will become parties to the arbitration and will share the costs equally.
11. The parties to arbitration will enter into a written Arbitration Agreement that will specify that the decision of the arbitrator will be final and binding upon the parties and not subject to any further review by any court or any other body.

No Legal Action

12. No action, application for judicial review or other legal proceeding will be commenced against ARA respecting a dispute, unless the remedies afforded by this policy have not been offered or have been exhausted. In no case may a party pursue legal action against ARA in respect of arbitration, for which the parties have entered into a written Arbitration Agreement.