# **CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS POLICY**



#### What is a crisis?

 A crisis can be any significant event or condition that runs the risk of dramatically upsetting 3STEP organization's (or a 3TEP brand's) profitability, reputation, or ability to operate normally.

## Effective crisis management can help:

- Work toward preventing certain crises from occurring.
- Guide prompt and decisive responses to contain and control a crisis.
- Mitigate loss when a crisis occurs.
- Restore trust and resume operations.
- Balance legal risk with preserving organizational good will and reputation.
- Reduce litigation risk and improve the prospects for settlement.

# **WHAT IS A CRISIS?**



If not appropriately managed, mitigated or communicated, any of the following examples could become a crisis for the company:

- Natural disaster
- 2. Global or widespread financial meltdown
- 3. Epidemic / pandemic
- 4. Terrorism, bomb threat, or an active shooter on-site
- 5. Major supply chain interruption
- 6. Allegation of coach or employee misconduct
- 7. Reports of player abuse or molestation
- 8. Allegation of sexual harassment or discrimination
- 9. Head/spine or other severe injury
- 10. Embezzlement
- 11. Lawsuit
- 12. The compromise of confidential information (e.g., cybersecurity breach)

# **CRISIS COMMUNICATION PROCESS**





- If in a Sport,
   Employee alerts
   Operator,
   Regional Director
   or most senior
   employee
   managing Event
   via phone call
   immediately.
- If in a Supporting Group, Employee alerts Department Head via phone call immediately.

Operator calls
 Sport Director to alert them of issue.

Sport Director /

Department Head calls
Communications
or VP, Legal to alert them of issue.

# Communications and Legal:

- Assess potential for escalation
- Identify internal & external stakeholders.
- Assess risk to company and brand
- Outline next actions.

Communications and Legal determine whether further communication is needed, including whether to assemble the Task Force.

#### **Task Force**

recommends next steps to management and provides instructions to employees. Actions may include:

- Issue external or internal messaging (social media, press statement, message to customers or employees)
- Take legal action
- Continue monitoring on social media for social or public traction

# **CRISIS COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES**



#### **TASK FORCE:**

- Kristin Doerrer: Chief Marketing Officer Marketing / Comms
- Deanna Sheridan: VP, Legal Legal
- Emily Kilgore: Chief People, Compliance & Safety Officer HR, Compliance & Safety
- Sports Director / Department Head as needed per situation

## DO

- Contain / isolate the situation as well as possible before calling
- Call quickly don't wait until Monday
- Report it, if in doubt better for Task Force to determine it's not a crisis than have an unreported one!

### **DON'T**

- Talk to the media refer the press to communications@threestep.com or CMO
- Send texts or emails when reporting call or speak in person whenever possible
- Talk to other employees, customers, coaches or parents about the incident unless necessary – wait for the Task Force to provide communication instructions