



Player Safety and Weather Policy

In the PGYSA IMPACT Soccer Club we take player and member safety very seriously. All grounds and equipment should be maintained in good condition and inspected regularly. The playing surface is the most integral component of the game of soccer and must be kept in good condition. This is to prevent injuries and make the game more enjoyable for the participants. This document is associated with our Emergency Action Plan, Goalpost Safety Policy, Return to Play Protocol, Weather policy, Concussion policy, and all other safety policies and procedures. Within this document a safety outline will be provided.

To enhance safe and enjoyable participation, the PGYSA IMPACT has adopted British Columbia and/or Canada Soccer's safety policies and guidelines in the following areas:

- https://cdn2.sportngin.com/attachments/document/30cb-2468465/CanadaSoccer_Guide_Safety_EN.pdf
- <https://bcsoccer.net/safe-sport-risk-management>
 - Portable Goal Safety
 - Blood
 - Jewelry
 - Headscarf and Turban
 - Players Wearing Casts
 - Player Insulin Pump
 - Lightning Safety/Severe Weather
 - Extreme Heat

PGYSA IMPACT SC subscribes to the guidelines outlined in BC Soccer's Youth Safe Program.

- https://www.bcsoccer.net/files/MemberService/RiskManagement/Youthsafe_June2011.pdf
- Insurance – As part of the registration fees, Prince George Youth Soccer Association players are covered under BC Soccer Insurance coverage for liability and sports accident issues. Information and claim forms are available at this BC Soccer Link: <https://bcsoccer.net/insurance>
- The PGYSA IMPACT SC Risk Management contact is the Director of Club Operations.
- First Aid/Medical Information – Medical as well as Emergency Contact information is collected from each registered player and securely filed within our Club database. This information is always accessible by Club staff. In terms of travel, medical information is held with the coach of the squad during the competition.
- Players with pre-existing medical conditions (e.g., Asthma, Diabetes, etc.) will discuss with the Director of Club Operations upon joining the programs offered in order to devise a plan of action in the event of an emergency while during games, training or travelling competition.
- Proper First Aid Kits will be on site at all PGYSA Training/Matches for Staff to use in case of medical emergencies. Suggested First Aid supplies to be carried are as follows: Emergency Phone numbers, sterile gauze, adhesive tape, different sizes of adhesive bandages, scissors, tweezers, safety pins, towels, sterile wipes, sterile eye wash, ice bags, disposable gloves, emergency blankets, barrier device (Sterile mask), splint, tensor bandages and a First Aid Manual.



Lightning and Severe Weather

The safety of our players, parents and staff is the main priority when it comes to extreme weather instances. Our Club abides by the weather and lightening policy created by the Canadian Soccer Association which can be found at:

- https://www.bcsoccer.net/files/Referee/Documents/CSA_Lightning_Safetyv.pdf

Weather Review

- The weather is reviewed up to 5pm daily
- Programming will be postponed and/or rescheduled during the following circumstances:
 - Heavy rain whereby player safety is in question
 - The Rotary fields are closed by the City of Prince George Parks Department
 - There is lightning or a high potential risk for lightning
 - Snow, heat, or cold temperatures that may negatively impact player health and safety
- *Unless notified of a program postponement by 5pm daily, all members are to assume programming is going ahead.
- After 5pm, if the weather changes to the point whereby it becomes unsafe, the decision to postpone will be made at the field and posted on our Club Facebook and Instagram pages.

Injury Prevention – The PGYSA IMPACT SC promotes safe play in both training and match settings

- All players must wear shin pads in all training sessions and matches.
- All players must remove all jewelry prior to training sessions and matches.
- All players must wear the appropriate footwear for the field type, field conditions and the weather impacting the field itself.
- Coaches must ensure that team equipment is in safe condition and in good working order.
- Players must not hang from the goalposts or goal netting under any circumstances.
- Coaches must survey the playing surface prior to training and matches to mark out or remove any potential hazards that could pose injury.
- Obstacles that are dangerous such as benches must be cleared away before training in any gymnasium type setting.
- Coaches must ensure playing surface conditions and weather conditions are safe before commencing any sort of training or match.
- Injured players should not be permitted to train or play unless they have attained professional medical clearance.
- Players will not be permitted to participate if dehydrated and are suspected of a concussion. If they are suffering from any medical condition that could potentially put them at risk, they will be not allowed to partake in activity unless cleared by a medical professional.
- Parents drop off and pick up times must be strictly adhered to.
- Coaches must ensure no player is left behind after training/matches, as well as team functions or events.
- Coaches should not be left alone with a player waiting for parents/guardians of that particular athlete. If this is the case another adult should be waiting with you (Rule of Two).



Concussion Awareness & Education

- PGYSA IMPACT SC Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are recommended to educate themselves on concussion awareness via the online NCCP course - Making Headway:
 - <https://coach.ca/making-head-way-concussion-elearning-series>
- Any player suspected of suffering a concussion in training or match play will be removed from the activity and medical attention will be sought after for the player.
- Players will not be permitted to train or play in matches unless they have received medical clearance from a medical professional or concussion specialist.

Concussion Resources

- <https://coach.ca/concussion-awareness>