



## Wallaceburg Soccer Association Code of Conduct to Protect Children

### Purpose

This Code of Conduct establishes clear standards to ensure the safety, well-being, and protection of children participating in soccer activities. All members, including coaches, volunteers, parents, and staff, are required to adhere to these standards to create a positive and secure environment.

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### Core Principles

#### 1. Respect for the Child

- Acknowledge and respect the rights, dignity, and worth of every child, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, ability, or background.
- Recognize the developmental needs of children and prioritize their safety and well-being over performance outcomes.

#### 2. Duty of Care

- Act in the best interest of children at all times.
- Provide a safe and supportive environment free from abuse, bullying, harassment, or neglect.

#### 3. Transparency and Accountability

- Maintain open and transparent communication with children, parents, and guardians.
  - Report and address any breaches of this code or concerns about child welfare promptly.
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### Standards of Conduct

#### 1. Interactions with Children

- Use age-appropriate language and maintain a professional tone.
- Avoid one-on-one interactions with children in isolated settings. If such interactions are necessary, ensure they occur in an open, observable, and interruptible environment.



- Do not engage in or tolerate any form of physical punishment, humiliation, or inappropriate behavior.

## **2. Physical Contact**

- Limit physical contact to that which is necessary, respectful, and appropriate for the activity (e.g., correcting form during training).
- Seek the child's consent and explain the reason for any contact when required.

## **3. Communication**

- Communicate electronically with children only through approved platforms and for soccer-related purposes.
- Avoid using personal accounts or engaging in private conversations via text, social media, or email.

## **4. Supervision and Travel**

- Ensure appropriate supervision ratios for all soccer activities, adhering to Canada Soccer guidelines.
- Obtain parental/guardian consent for any travel or off-site activities.
- Avoid sharing accommodations with children unless the adult is a parent/guardian or in exceptional circumstances with prior consent.

## **5. Reporting Concerns**

- Report any suspected abuse, harassment, or misconduct to the appropriate authorities (e.g., Child Protection Services, law enforcement, or the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Committee).
- Protect the confidentiality of all parties involved in reporting, except as required by law or organizational policies.

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## **Prohibited Conduct**

- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.
- Discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any kind.
- Consumption of alcohol, drugs, or other substances while supervising children.
- Engaging in personal or romantic relationships with children.



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## **Responsibilities of Stakeholders**

### **Coaches and Volunteers**

- **Complete mandatory child protection training and background checks as required by Canada Soccer.**
- **Serve as role models and foster an inclusive, safe environment for all participants.**

### **Parents and Guardians**

- **Support the principles of this Code of Conduct and collaborate with staff to ensure their child's safety and development.**
- **Communicate respectfully with coaches, officials, and other participants.**

### **Children**

- **Follow team rules and guidelines.**
- **Report any behavior or situation that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.**

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## **Implementation and Enforcement**

- **This Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually and updated in accordance with Canada Soccer policies and legislative requirements.**
- **Breaches of this Code will be addressed promptly through disciplinary measures, which may include suspension or dismissal from soccer-related activities.**