



## COACHING CODE OF CONDUCT

Doc. No.	BCSA-POL-009
Rev.	0
Originator:	D. Hawkins
Checker	I. Toellner
Approver:	C. Craig
Status:	Published
Effective:	December 2023

The success of Big Country Soccer Association is largely dependent on the members and their volunteers that support youth soccer development in the Association. One group of volunteers that are crucial for this success are the coach volunteers. However, Big Country Soccer Association also acknowledges that this position is one of trust and requires its volunteer coaches to review and adhere to the associated policies, governance, guidelines, and other published requirements to help achieve a safe environment for youth soccer development.

As a coach, it is essential that dedication be in place to the proper development of all players, regardless of technical level and experience. The coach is a role model to the players that are assigned to the team.

Specifically, coaches shall adhere to the spirit of the following Codes of Conduct and must sign off on the following requirements at the start of every season. Once signed, a copy is to be provided to their member association. Note the following requirements:

- 1) All coaches shall promote and maintain good sportsmanship at all times, including at all practices, games and team functions. This is most important in your interactions with referees and parents. All interactions must be done with respect for the individual and the game in mind. Your role as a role model is most valued and observed at these times.
- 2) Coaches shall place the emotional and physical well-being of the players ahead of the desire to win.
- 3) Coaches will review and practice the basic first aid principles needed to treat injuries of the players.
- 4) Coaches shall comply with the coaching codes of conduct as published Alberta Soccer Association, and Canada Soccer Association, as available.
- 5) At no time may a coach be alone with a single child where the coach cannot be observed by others. The "Rule-of-Two Policy" (*Ref: BCSA-POL-0014*) will be followed at all times. A child must never be left alone with a volunteer unless it is the child's parent.
- 6) Coaches will never leave a child unsupervised.
- 7) Abuse of a child will not be tolerated and may be cause for immediate investigation and removal from volunteer positions. Coaches will not abuse children in any way, including:
  - a) Physical Abuse – striking, shaking, use of excessive punishments or excessive physical training techniques, not allowing children to use the bathroom.
  - b) Verbal Abuse – humiliating, degrading, threatening, cursing.
  - c) Sexual Abuse – touching or speaking inappropriately.
  - d) Mental Abuse – Shaming, withholding kindness, being cruel.
  - e) Neglect – withholding basic care, depriving children of water.
- 8) Coaches will respond to children with respect and consideration and treat all children equally, regardless of sex, race, religion, culture, economic level of the family, or fundamental ability.



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- 9) Coaches must be prepared and keep an eye out for possible signs of abuse displayed by a child. Such as:
- a) Physical abuse: Has unexplained burns, bites, broken bones, a black eye, bruises or faded bruises.
  - b) Emotional abuse: Displays extreme behavior, such as overly compliant or demanding; extreme passivity or aggression.
  - c) Neglect: Is frequently absent; consistently dirty; severe body odor; lacks sufficient clothing; abuses alcohol or other drugs.
  - d) Sexual abuse: Has difficulty walking or sitting; sudden change in appetite; or demonstrates bizarre, sophisticated, or unusual sexual knowledge or behavior.
- 10) Not publicly criticize other referees or any soccer association nor shall they make any statements to the media related to any game in which they were involved.
- 11) Comply with the Big Country Soccer Association “Smoke-Free Sport Policy” (Ref: BCSA-POL-012) and “Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco Policy” (Ref: BCSA-POL-017).
- 12) The youth soccer players are to be coached following the general principles of Long-Term Player Development (LTPD) as supported by Canada Soccer Association, Alberta Soccer Association, and Big Country Soccer Association (Ref: BCSA-POL-023).
- 13) Be subject to disciplinary action for not complying with this Code of Conduct.

### Coaching Guidelines

- 1) COMMUNICATION: Ensure the terminology you use is clear and precise. Let players know you are in charge.
- 2) POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT: Whenever possible give individuals and/ or groups positive reinforcement. Refrain from using negative comments. Use praise as an incentive.
- 3) BE CREATIVE AND USE INITIATIVE: If the drill or game is too advanced, modify to increase the chances of success.
- 4) MAKE A DIFFERENCE: Be motivational and inspirational. Enthusiasm and being energetic are contagious.
- 5) KEEP PLAYERS ACTIVE: If the drill is static, create a need of helpers or assistants to keep everyone involved.
- 6) EACH PLAYER IS AN INDIVIDUAL: Be aware of player differences. Aggressive or quiet, recognition of player personalities will allow you to respond to all players, and they will respond to you positively.



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- 7) STRIVE FOR QUALITY: In all demonstrations make the desired objectives clear. If a player shows mastery of a skill, use him/ her to demonstrate.
- 8) REINFORCE CORRECT TECHNIQUE: In all drills and games continually emphasis the use of correct techniques.
- 9) ENCOURAGE PLAYER MOVEMENT: At all times make players aware of importance of readiness. Emphasize weight forward on toes and bouncing instead of flat footed-ness.
- 10) ROTATE POSITIONS: All players should be active as servers, assistants. In game situations change positions.
- 11) DEVELOP PLAYER RESPECT: Continually get players to support one another. To show good sportsmanship towards all players including opponents, and respect for others' attempts and effort.
- 12) EQUALITY AMONGST PLAYERS: Give equal attention to all players in group or games. Do not leave the less competent players behind nor slow the advanced players.
- 13) FUN AND ENJOYMENT: Players will respond and want to continue if things are fun. Create their enjoyment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coach Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Coach Printed Name

### **Reference**

Alberta Soccer Association- Steps for Reporting Inappropriate Conduct  
Big Country Soccer Association Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-001)  
Big Country Soccer Association Coaching Youth in Sport Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-003)  
Big Country Soccer Association Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-010)  
Big Country Soccer Association Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-011)  
Big Country Soccer Association Smoke-Free Sport Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-012)  
Big Country Soccer Association Rule of Two Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-014)  
Big Country Soccer Association Volunteer Screening Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-015)  
Big Country Soccer Association Alcohol, Drugs, and Illicit Substances Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-017)  
Big Country Soccer Association Long-Term Player Development Policy (Ref: BCSA-POL-023)

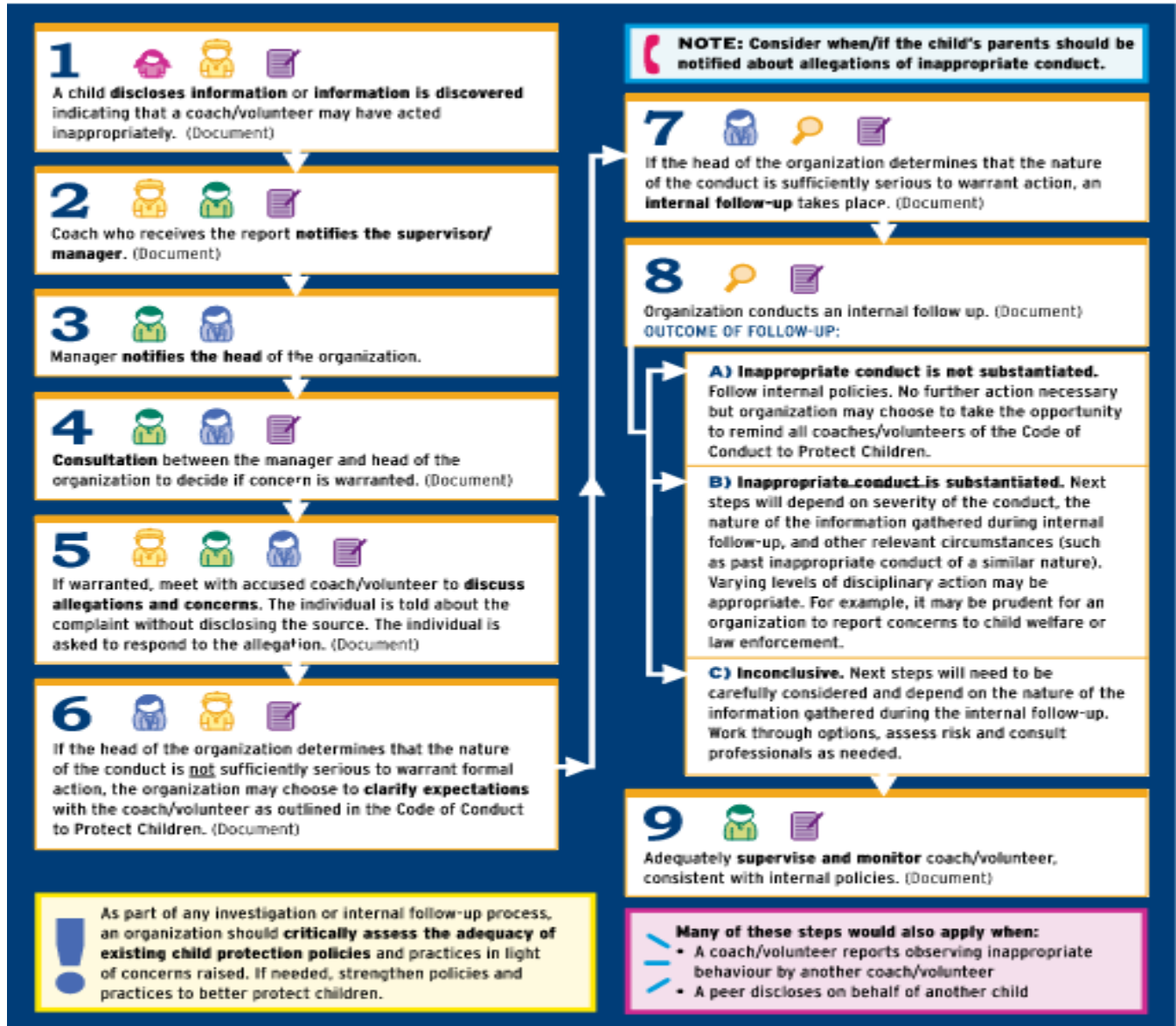


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## INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT STEPS FOR REPORTING:

This card is a component of the Commit to Kids® program. It is intended as a quick reference for use in a sporting environment and is not meant to be exhaustive or to replace legal advice. Users are strongly encouraged to consult with any or all of child welfare, law enforcement and legal counsel as appropriate to a given situation.



The safety of the child and other children in the organization must be ensured at all times in the process.



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