



CODE OF CONDUCT TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN SPORT

Effective Date: February 1, 2024

Why a Code of Conduct is Important

The Blackfalds Minor Soccer Code of Conduct is crucial for creating a safe and positive environment for children participating in our soccer programs. This code serves as a guideline to ensure that everyone involved, including coaches, parents, and participants, understands their responsibilities and obligations. By promoting respect, sportsmanship, and fair play, we aim to provide a supportive atmosphere where children can thrive both athletically and personally.

General Rules of Behaviour

Respect for All

- Treat everyone with respect, courtesy, and dignity.
- Avoid any form of discrimination, including but not limited to race, gender, religion, or ability.

Positive Sportsmanship

- Encourage fair play, teamwork, and good sportsmanship.
- Applaud the efforts of all participants, both on your team and the opposing team.

Safe Environment

- Ensure the physical and emotional safety of all participants.
- Follow safety guidelines and report any unsafe conditions.

Compliance with Rules and Regulations

- Abide by the rules and regulations set by Blackfalds Minor Soccer Association and other relevant sports authorities.

Guidelines for Coaches

Role Model Behavior

- Demonstrate the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and ethical conduct.
- Serve as positive role models for players and uphold the values of sportsmanship.

Equal Opportunity

- Provide equal opportunities for all players, regardless of their skill level.
- Foster an inclusive and supportive environment for every participant.

Development Focus

- Prioritize skill development, teamwork, and personal growth over winning.
- Encourage players to learn from both successes and failures.

It is important to monitor your own behavior towards children and pay close attention to the behavior of your peers to ensure that behavior is appropriate and respectful, and will be perceived as such by others.

All of your interaction and activities with children:

- Should be known to, and approved by the board, where applicable, and the parents of the child
- Tied to your duties, and
- Designed to develop the child's skills in the sport program

Always consider the child's reaction to any activities, conversations, behavior or other interactions. If at any time you are in doubt about the appropriateness of your own behavior or the behavior of others, you should discuss it with a member of the Blackfalds Minor Soccer Association board.

Guidelines for Parents

Positive Support

- Support your child's involvement in soccer and encourage their efforts.
- Maintain positive and constructive communication with coaches, officials, and other parents.

Respect Boundaries

- Respect the decisions and strategies employed by coaches and officials.
- Avoid any form of aggressive or disrespectful behavior towards players, coaches, or officials.

Safety Awareness

- Ensure the safety and well-being of your child by adhering to the program's safety guidelines.
- Report any concerns related to safety promptly.

What Constitutes Inappropriate Behavior

Inappropriate behavior within the Blackfalds Minor Soccer community encompasses a range of actions that violate the principles of respect, fair play, and safety. This includes, but is not limited to:

Physical or Verbal Abuse:

- Any form of physical harm or the threat of physical harm towards players, coaches, officials, or spectators is strictly prohibited.
- Verbal abuse, including the use of offensive language, insults, or derogatory comments, is considered inappropriate and detrimental to the positive atmosphere we strive to maintain.

Bullying or Harassment:

- Bullying, harassment, or intimidation of any kind is unacceptable. This includes actions that cause emotional distress, ostracization, or any other harmful treatment towards individuals within the soccer community.

Discrimination:

- Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic is strictly forbidden.
- The soccer community must embrace diversity and promote an inclusive environment that celebrates differences.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

- Actions that go against the spirit of fair play, such as cheating, intentional fouls, or disrespectful gestures, are considered unsportsmanlike.
- Participants are expected to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship, even in the face of challenges or adversity.

Violation of Safety Guidelines:

- Failure to adhere to established safety guidelines, including equipment regulations, medical protocols, and emergency procedures, is considered inappropriate behavior.
- Safeguarding the well-being of all participants is paramount, and any negligence in this regard is unacceptable.

Misuse of Authority:

- Coaches, officials, and other individuals in positions of authority must not misuse their power for personal gain or to exert undue influence.
- Any abuse of authority that compromises the integrity of the soccer program is considered inappropriate.

Substance Abuse:

- The use or distribution of illegal substances or the abuse of legal substances, such as alcohol or performance-enhancing drugs, is strictly prohibited within the soccer community.

Failure to Follow Program Rules:

- Participants must adhere to all rules and regulations set forth by Blackfalds Minor Soccer and relevant sports authorities.

- Non-compliance with these rules is considered inappropriate and may result in disciplinary action.

Reporting Requirements

In cases where inappropriate behavior is observed, it is essential to report the incident promptly. This ensures that appropriate actions can be taken to address the issue and maintain the safety and integrity of the soccer program. If you witness firsthand any inappropriate conduct as outlined by this code it must be reported to a Blackfalds Minor Soccer Association board member.

The commitment to reporting extends to suspected child abuse, or other potentially illegal behaviour which requires immediate notification to the police to protect the well-being of the children involved.

Conclusion

The Blackfalds Minor Soccer Code of Conduct is a commitment to creating a positive and safe sporting environment. By adhering to these guidelines, we can collectively contribute to the well-being and development of all children involved in our soccer programs. Together, we strive to make soccer a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone.