



# Codes of Conduct



## Protection of Children

Medicine Hat Soccer Association adhere to Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics ([CSA Code of Conduct and Ethics FINAL 22.09.17 EN.pdf](#)):

The purpose of the Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics (hereinafter referred to as the Code) is to ensure a safe and positive environment (within Canada Soccer's programs, activities, and events) by making individuals aware that there is an expectation, at all times, of appropriate behavior consistent with Canada Soccer's core values. Canada Soccer supports equal opportunity, prohibits discriminatory practices, and is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect.

This Code is not intended to specifically outline every instance of misconduct. Misconduct that is not in line with the values of Canada Soccer or with the purpose of this Code may still constitute a breach of the Code and be subject to sanctions even though not specifically included in the Code.

3 Application of this Code This Code applies to Officials, Athlete Members, Life Members, players and individuals employed or engaged by Canada Soccer. The Code also applies to the Directors of the Provincial / Territorial Association Members, Professional Club Members or League Members or any

other individuals who perform duties on behalf of these Members when the Members are engaged in soccer-related activities sanctioned by Canada Soccer. This Code focuses on the conduct of actions on and off the field of play. Any breach of this Code will be addressed as described in the Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code. Any behavior prohibited by this Code that is experienced or observed must be reported confidentially and in writing to [discipline@canadasoccer.com](mailto:discipline@canadasoccer.com)

## Code of Conduct – Protection of Children

### Child Abuse Hotline

Get help if you, or children you know, are being neglected, abused or sexually exploited. If you believe a child is at risk, you must report it. Help is available in multiple languages 24/7.

- Phone: [1-800-387-5437](tel:1-800-387-5437) (KIDS) in Canada and the United States.
- For Assistance from Medicine Hat Soccer Association call Executive Director or President @ 403-529-6931

### **Code of Conduct - Guideline for Appropriate / Inappropriate Conduct between Adults & Children.**

Medicine Hat Soccer Association has adopted guideline for Adults Interacting with Children in Soccer. The purpose of these guidelines is to establish a common understanding of expectations for adults interacting with children in sport, and a sense of safety for those who need to bring forward any concerns of misconduct towards children. For the purpose of this document, “a coach or adult” refers to any person working, volunteering or otherwise interacting with children in sport. “Children” refers to anyone under 18 years old. This document does not address every situation, nor is it meant to be an exhaustive list of acceptable or unacceptable conduct. It is meant to provide a framework within sport in which individuals are expected to exercise common sense and good judgment when interacting with children.

The responsibility is always with the adult to establish and maintain appropriate boundaries with children.

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- *Asking children to keep secrets.*
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Appropriate and Inappropriate Behavior Individuals working or volunteering in sport are expected to model behaviour that upholds public confidence and enhances healthy relationships with children and families.

### **Examples of Appropriate Behaviour:**

- Respectful language, tone, and attitude towards others
- Respectful of personal physical and emotional boundaries

- Engaging with children in a manner that would be seen by a reasonable observer as maintaining reasonable boundaries.
- Keeping practices open to observation by parents.
- Communication with children (including electronic) is transparent and accountable.

**Examples of Inappropriate Behaviour:**

- Disrespectful language.
- Humiliating or intimidating children.
- Inappropriate touching of children (e.g., massaging, stroking, caressing, roughhousing, tickling).
- Confiding or sharing overly personal information with a child.
- Asking children to keep secrets.
- Electronic communication with children that is personal and not directly tied to coaching duties.
- Communication that is sexual or flirtatious in nature.
- Pictures taken with personal devices or in change rooms

Parents and Coaches Play a Role It can be difficult to respond to a situation where you notice a coach and athlete relationship that appears inappropriate. Reporting inappropriate behaviour creates accountability so proper action can be taken and expectations can be re-established.

Reporting Inappropriate Conduct can be made to Medicine Hat Soccer Association Executive Director via email: [executivedirector@medicinehatsoccer.com](mailto:executivedirector@medicinehatsoccer.com)