

Nipawin Youth Soccer

Policies & Procedures

May 1 2023

Responsible Coaching

Nipawin Youth Soccer follows the Rule of Two Guidelines set forth by Canada Soccer:

“The goal of the Rule of Two is to ensure all interactions and communications are open, observable, and justifiable. Its purpose is to protect participants (especially minors) and coaches in potentially vulnerable situations by ensuring that a coach is never alone with an athlete. There may be exceptions for emergency situations. The Rule of Two states that there will always be two screened and NCCP-trained or certified coaches with an athlete in situations where the athlete is potentially vulnerable. One-on-one interactions between a coach and an athlete, without another individual present, must be avoided in all circumstances except medical emergencies.” (*Canada Soccer.com*)

All coaches and team personnel that interact with players must have their Respect in Sport qualifications up to date. All coaches and team personnel must also have completed the proper background screening: Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check, or Enhanced Police Information Check within the last two years.

Enjoyment for All

Nipawin Youth Soccer strives to provide an enjoyable soccer experience for all participants. We encourage coaches to use drills that are fun as well as practical. We provide resources that include drills and soccer websites to our coaches. We have a coaching mini session before soccer begins to help coaches understand soccer better and the needs of players.

We are focused on long term retention of players. We take teams to tournaments and organize extra games with other nearby towns when able. We have found that this has been successful in retaining players as they mature. We also organized player clinics by qualified, more experienced coaches.

We are focused on the long-term retention of coaches. We strongly encourage our coaches to become certified through the Grassroots program.

Accessibility, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Nipawin Youth Soccer strives to encourage and include everyone in our soccer community. Each member has the right to feel welcome and valued. We value diversity and are committed to removing barriers to participation. All members are treated equally and with respect. Nipawin Youth Soccer offers co-ed teams that allow all gender representations to participate equally in our programming.

All players are welcome to participate at Nipawin Youth Soccer, regardless of skill level, culture, background, or gender. We aim to provide equal opportunities for all players wishing to participate. We encourage underrepresented groups to participate.

We accept and promote KidSport within our organization.

Anti-Bullying/ Anti-Discrimination & Emotional Safety

There will be zero tolerance for behavior that is deemed bullying or discriminatory. All coaches must complete their Respect in Sport certification and be able to recognize behaviors as such. Coaches must address these instances right away and encourage players to behave in a manner that is inclusive and respectful to all. Any complaints regarding a coach's behavior can be brought forward to the board, and the board will address the issue following the formal complaints process.

Developmentally Appropriate

Our regular soccer nights are one hour long. The first thirty minutes we focus on drills. The second 30 minutes are games within our own club. When there are only three teams, one team only plays games. There is a 5-10 minute break between those games. We have 10-15 players on a team that typically plays 5v5, so the players get time to rest on the sidelines between shifts.

When we play games against other towns, we follow time limitation guidelines set out by Soccer Canada.

Our soccer fields gradually increase in size with each age group, as do the nets. They are all within the Canada Soccer guidelines. We use size 3 soccer balls in U5 and U7, size 4 in U9 and U11, and size 5 in U13 and older.

We have two coaches assigned to each team. The teams consist of 9-14 players for U5-U13. For U15 and older, we have a minimum of two coaches for 20-30 players, depending on the year's enrollment. In our recreational soccer evenings, we don't require additional certification to coach. The head coaches that take our players to tournaments are certified using the Grassroots program. We are working towards having our assistant coaches that attend tournaments certified using the appropriate Grassroot course.

Physical Safety

Our facilities and equipment are inspected and fixed or replaced at regular intervals. At the start of each season, our equipment is checked carefully. Board members and coaches pay attention to the equipment throughout the season, as they are at the fields and gyms regularly.

Players must have secure fitting shoes. Cleats are not required for outdoor play, but are recommended. Clean indoor shoes are necessary for indoor play, cleats are not allowed. Shin guards are mandatory for both seasons of play, and long socks must cover the shin guards. Hats and jewellery are not allowed during game play.

Nipawin Youth Soccer adheres to local Health Authority guidelines.

Outdoor play will be suspended due to thunder and/or lightning in the area. Play will not resume until at least 30 minutes of thunder/lightning free environment has been observed. The board may suspend play due to excessive water pooling on the playing surface. The board may also suspend play due to a smoke index of 7 or higher.

Nipawin Youth Soccer does not promote "heading the ball" at young ages due to the risk of damage to a young person. If a coach suspects concussion of a player, an incident report must be filled out and submitted to the board. The player may not return to play until they have a doctors note clearing them of the concussion.

Formal Complaints Policy

We, as a board, support our coaches and players when problems arise. We work at resolving issues by communicating with those involved and working towards a positive resolution, when possible.

All complaints received by board members must be handled in a respectful and appropriate manner. Board members are expected to work with the complainant and those involved to come to a mutually agreeable outcome. Board members are not to handle domestic disagreements between spouses, especially in those cases in which a legal arrangement over care of the child is in place.

Event Discipline Procedure

All coaches, referees, players, and parents are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and appropriate manner. Any conduct not deemed appropriate will be addressed as follows;

- First offence – Verbal reprimand by the board to the member
- Second offence – Miss one week of participation with a written reprimand
- Third offence – Suspend membership for the remainder of the season

If a coach witnesses conduct that is deemed inappropriate, they have the authority to ask the member to leave the playing area at any time. They must then file an incident report that the board can review and start the discipline procedure as listed above.

Social Media & Electronic Communications

All social media and electronic communications must be appropriate and in relation to Nipawin Youth Soccer business. Any communication deemed inappropriate and in violation to Nipawin Youth Soccer's Code of Conduct shall be reported to the board and disciplined as deemed appropriate by the board of directors.

Inappropriate Conduct & Child Abuse

Any suspicion of child abuse must be reported to law enforcement. Inappropriate conduct must be reported to the board of directors and is subject to the Event Discipline Procedure.