

Canada Soccer Club Licensing Program Principles in Action



What is a principle?

prin·ci·ple noun

1. a fundamental truth or proposition that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning.

Why Principles?



- Provide direction but not detailed prescription;
- Allow organizations to develop and select the methods by which they will operate . . .
- based on their available resources, unique situation and context.



1. Prioritize Fun

"Children cite 'fun' as the primary reason for participation in organized sport and its absence as the number one reason for youth sport attrition." Visek, et.al. (2015)





"What counts most for girls and boys are things like 'trying your best,' 'working hard,' 'staying active,' and 'playing well together as a team.' These findings are the same for athletes at younger and older ages and across recreational and more competitive levels of play."

Visek, et.al. (2019)



1. Prioritize Fun

2. Emphasize Physical, Mental, and Emotional Safety

People – Canada Soccer Safe Sport Roster

Organizations – Canada Soccer Club Licensing Program



3. Provide Developmentally–Appropriate, High Quality Programs





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- 2. Emphasize Physical, Mental, and Emotional Safety
- 3. Provide Developmentally–Appropriate, High Quality Programs
- 4. Maximize Attraction, Holistic Personal Development, Progression, and Long—Term Engagement



Key Performance Indicators of Youth Soccer Success





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- 5. Focus on Participant–Centred Decision Making



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- 6. Foster Accessible, Inclusive, and Welcoming Environments



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How can we develop high quality programs that are accessible and inclusive?

Can we evaluate accessibility and inclusion in the same way we do risk (awareness, tolerance, mitigation strategies)?



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- 7. Act as a Good Corporate and Community Citizen

Principles versus Methods

"As to methods there may be a million and then some, but principles are few. The [person] who grasps principles can successfully select [their] own methods. The [person] who tries methods, ignoring principles, is sure to have trouble."

Harrington Emerson