



# CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE POLICY

Surrey United Soccer Club (the “Club”) is committed to the *Coaches Association of Canada Responsible Coaching Movement* and support the best practice policies and procedures within the Canadian Soccer Association’s *Guide to Safety*. In support of its commitment to the safety and welfare of the Club’s child and youth participants, Surrey United Soccer Club endorses and adopts the statements within this Child Safety and Welfare (“Policy”). This Policy applies to all Club staff, volunteers, referees, members, and each of their family members (“Members”).

## Key Principles

- Member welfare is paramount.
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from physical, sexual, or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying regardless of their age, gender, disability, culture, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

## Club Screening Process

- The Club’s Risk Manager is the first point of contact for all Club Members with respect to concerns of child welfare under this Policy.
- All players and their parents/guardians must agree to the Club’s Codes of Conduct & Ethics at the time of their registration with the Club.
- Club staff and volunteers must complete a Criminal Record Check and Respect in Sport Activity Leader certification and be kept current and on file with the Club’s Risk Manager.
- Members and their families are required to adhere to the guidelines of the *Commit to Kids Guidelines* of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection in determining appropriate behaviour when interacting with children and young people.

## Rule of Two

It is the policy of the Club that when a potentially vulnerable situation arises between a player and a Club volunteer or staff member, a second Club volunteer or staff member or the guardian of the player(s) must be present.

A ‘Person in Authority’ is defined as an NCCP-trained or certified coach, a screened volunteer, or other club representative with both a Criminal Record Check and Respect in Sport certification on Club record. The organization is meeting the Gold Standard for the Rule of Two if the Person in Authority is always an NCCP-trained or certified coach. Furthermore, the Club seeks to meet the Gold Standard for the Rule of Two defined by Canada Soccer by setting the following standards under this Policy:

### Rule of Two: Travel

- A Person in Authority may not be alone in a car with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete’s parent or guardian.
- A Person in Authority may not share a room or be alone in a hotel room with an athlete unless the Person in Authority is the athlete’s guardian.
- Room or bed checks during overnight stays must be done by two Persons in Authority.

### **Rule of Two: Locker Room / Changing Area / Meeting Room**

- Interactions between a Person in Authority and an individual athlete should not occur in any room where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, a second Person in Authority should be present for all necessary interactions in any such room.
- If Persons in Authority are not present in such room, or if they are not permitted to be present, they should still be available outside the room and be able to enter the room or area if required.

### **Rule of Two: Training / Competition Environment**

- A Person in Authority should never be alone with an athlete prior to or following a game or practice unless the Person in Authority is the athlete's own parent or guardian.
- If the athlete is the first athlete to arrive, the athlete's parent should remain until another athlete or Person in Authority arrives. Similarly, if an athlete would potentially be alone with a Person in Authority following a game or practice, the Person in Authority should ask another Person in Authority (or a parent or guardian of another athlete) to stay until all the athletes have been picked up.
- If an adult is not available, then another athlete should be present in order to avoid the Person in Authority being alone with a single athlete.
- Persons in Authority giving instructions, demonstrating skills, or facilitating drills or lessons to an individual athlete should always be doing so within earshot and eyesight of another Person in Authority.

### **Rule of Two: Gender Identity**

- A Person in Authority who is interacting with athletes should be of the same gender identity as the athletes.
- For teams consisting of athletes of just one gender identity, a Person in Authority of the same gender identity should be available to participate or attend every interaction.
- For teams consisting of athletes of more than one gender identity (e.g., co-ed teams), a Person in Authority of each gender identity should be available to participate or attend every interaction.

### **Facility and Equipment Safety**

The Club has adopted the *Canada Soccer Guide to Safety* policy verbatim as it applies to the safety of our facilities and equipment; specifically:

- Check and maintain the surface of the field to remove hazards
- Replace balls once their water-resistant qualities are lost
- Use appropriately sized balls for the age and gender of players

### **Portable Goal Safety**

- Goalposts of any size (including those which are portable) must always be anchored securely to the ground.
- Portable goalposts must be secured appropriately to prevent them from toppling forward. It is essential that under no circumstances children or adults should be allowed to climb, swing on, or play with the structures of the goalposts.
- Goalposts which are "home-made", or which have been altered from their original size or construction should not be used. These have been the cause of a number of deaths and injuries.

## Additional Safety references

- [Concussion Policy](#)
- [Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy](#)
- [Environment Canada Video - Lightning Safety](#)
- [Players Wearing Casts Policy](#)
- [Insulin Pump Policy](#)

## Hotlines

The **National Safe Sport Hotline** is designed to ensure that Canadian sport participants of all levels compete in a safe and welcoming environment, resources are listed here: [www.http://abuse-free-sport.ca/en/](http://abuse-free-sport.ca/en/)

The **Canada Soccer Association** has an established independent whistleblower hotline, operated by a third party, which provides a secure manner for which to lodge complaints or share information anonymously.

**Whistleblower Hotline:** 1-800-661-9675

**Email:** [whistleblower@canadasoccer.com](mailto:whistleblower@canadasoccer.com)

## QUESTIONS

Questions about this policy may be directed to the Risk Manager: [riskmanagement@surreyunitedsoccer.com](mailto:riskmanagement@surreyunitedsoccer.com)