



## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Peace Arch Soccer Club (the “Club”) acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all its members.

A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any Club activity. The Club subscribes to the Canadian Soccer Association’s Child Protection Policies and Procedures, Safeguarding Children and Young People in soccer and endorse and adopt the Policy Statement contained in this document.

The key principles of the Canadian Soccer Association’s Child Protection Policy are that:

- The child’s welfare is, and must always be the paramount consideration
- All children and young people have a right to be protected from abuse 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
- Working in partnership with other organizations, children and young people and their parents or caregivers is essential.
- We acknowledge that every child or young person who plays or participates in soccer should be able to take part in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from poor practices and abuse.
- The Club recognizes that this is the responsibility of every adult involved in the Club to ensure the safety of children and young people.

The Club has a role to play in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying. It is noted and accepted that the Club policy applies to everyone in soccer whether in a paid or voluntary capacity. This includes Directors, volunteers, game officials, helpers on team tours, Coaches, team officials and medical staff.

The Club endorses and adopts the Canadian Soccer Association’s Child Protection and Best Practice Guidelines for recruiting volunteers and will:

- Request identification documents
- Meet and discuss with applicants and where possible conduct interviews before appointing persons to positions
- Request and follow up with two references before appointing persons to positions

All current Club members with direct access to children and young people will be required to complete a Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) and/or Child Abuse Registry (CAR) disclosure.

If there are concerns regarding the appropriateness of an individual who is already involved or who has approached the Club to become involved with the Club, guidance will be sought from the Directors of the Club. It is noted and accepted that the Club will consider the relevance and significance of the information obtained via CPIC and or CAR and all decisions will be made in the best interest of children and young people.

It is accepted that the Club's objective is to prevent people with a history of relevant and significant offending from having contact with children or young people and the opportunity to influence policies or practice with children or young people. This is to prevent direct sexual or physical harm to children or young people and to minimize the risk of `grooming` within soccer.

The Club acknowledges and endorses the Canadian Soccer Association's identification of bullying as a category of abuse. Bullying of any kind (physical or emotional) is not acceptable at South Fraser. If bullying does occur, all players or parents and caregivers should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly. Incidents may be report to applicable Government Agencies.

Codes of conduct for coaches, players, parents and caregivers and team staff have been implemented by the Club. In order to validate these codes of conduct the Club has clear sanctions to deal with any misconduct and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by leagues, districts or the British Columbia Soccer Association.