



Surrey United Soccer Club

Box 34212, 17790-#10 Hwy., Surrey, B.C. V3S 1C7

Child Safety and Welfare Policy

Surrey United Soccer Club (the “Club”) recognizes its responsibility to safeguard the safety and welfare of every child and young person registered within the Club and participating within the Club’s programming and is committed to working to provide a safe environment for all members. We are committed to child protection, 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* as modified from time to time. In support of its commitment to the safety and welfare of the children and young people within the Club, Surrey United Soccer Club endorses and adopts the statements within this Child Safety and Welfare (“Policy”).

Key Principles

1. All children’s welfare is and must always be a paramount consideration.
2. 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.
3. All suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
4. All registered members, Club volunteers and staff must work together with the Club and in partnership with local government organizations to uphold child safety and welfare.

In addition to the policies and codes of conduct of the Canadian Soccer Association (“CSA”) and the BC Soccer Association (“BCSA”), the Club hereby:

1. Acknowledges it plays a role in safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual or emotional harm and from neglect or bullying.
2. Confirms this Policy applies to everyone within the Club whether in a paid or voluntary capacity or a registered player. This includes those who are a volunteer, match official, manager or other team support member, coach, club official, Club executive member, Board member, or medical staff.

Policy Documents:

This Policy consists of this document and the following attachments:

- Appendix A: Volunteer Criminal Record Check Requirements
- Appendix B: Player Health and Safety Rules and Regulations
- Appendix C: Further Resources

Guidelines

1. The Club’s Risk Manager is the first point of contact for all Club members, volunteers, staff, parents or guardians regarding concerns of child welfare, bullying, discrimination or abuse.
2. All registered players and their parents/guardians must agree to the Club’s Codes of Conduct & Ethics at the time of registration. Parents are strongly encouraged to complete the nationally recognized Respect in Sport Parent training available online through the BCSA.
3. All Club staff and volunteers must complete a Criminal Record Check which is always to be kept current in accordance with the Club’s *Volunteer Criminal Record Check Requirements* included as Appendix A to this Policy.



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4. All Club staff and volunteers must complete their Respect in Sport: Activity Leader training available through the Club website and maintain their certification under this program throughout their tenure with the Club.
5. All Club staff, volunteers and registered members are required to adhere to the guidelines of the *Commit to Kids Guidelines* of The Canadian Centre for Child Protection and the Coaching Association of Canada in determining appropriate and inappropriate behaviour when interacting with children and young people.

Rule of Two Policy

It is the policy of the Club that when a potentially vulnerable situation arises between a Club player and a Club Volunteer or staff member, a second Club volunteer or staff member or the parent/guardian of the player(s) must be present. Furthermore, the Club seeks to meet the Gold Standard for the Rule of Two defined by Canada Soccer as follows:

In the guidelines below, 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.

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 parent or 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 such as the locker room, meeting room, washroom, or changing area.
- A second Person in Authority should be present for all necessary interactions in any such room.
- If Persons in Authority are not present in the locker room or changing area, or if they are not permitted to be present, they should still be available outside the locker room or changing area 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 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.



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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.

Sanctions

In order to validate the seriousness of the Club's commitment to child protection and welfare, the Club will impose sanctions to deal with any misconduct reported under this policy at the Club level and acknowledges the possibility of potential sanctions which may be implemented by BCSA, CSA or regulatory and government agencies in more serious circumstances. All prospective members will be informed of this policy upon registration with the Club.



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Appendix A

Volunteer Criminal Record Check Requirements

The Club requires all its staff and volunteers, nineteen (19) years of age and older, complete a Criminal Record Check ("CRC"). All Criminal Record Checks are valid for a maximum period of three years and must be renewed at such time. The Club's Risk Manager will send a reminder for CRC renewal approximately one month prior to any CRC expiry date.

The approved agencies for Criminal Record Checks are:

- Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP) - BC Government/Ministry of Justice - which is free for volunteers
- RCMP
- Municipal Police Departments

Criminal Record Check Process:

The Club is registered with the Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP) Applicant Based Online Service. As part of this process, the Club has signed and agreed to the terms and conditions for the CRRP Applicant Based Online Service to facilitate criminal record checks and sharing of completed CRCs.

Please login to the website below and utilize the access code to get a new Criminal Record Check (CRC), or to share an existing CRC from a previous organization. The Club maintains a unique access code which may be obtained from the Club Secretary or Risk Manager directly.



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Appendix B Player Health and Safety Rules and Regulations

The Player Health and Safety Rules and Regulations of the Club focus on three main areas:

- A. Concussion Rules
- B. Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Policy
- C. Casts and Medical Hardware

A. Concussion Rules

Concussion Recognition & Return to Play

Concussions are one of the most overlooked issues in youth sports. If there is any suspicion of a concussion the player in question must be removed from activity or competition immediately. A concussion is a brain injury that can affect memory, concentration, and more. The player does not need to have lost consciousness to suffer a concussion.

Concussions may include one or more of the following symptoms:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Fatigue
- Difficulty sleeping
- Sleeping more than usual
- Light-headed or dizziness
- Sensitivity to light or sound
- Blurred vision
- Ringing in ears
- Slowed thinking
- Feeling "in a fog"
- Memory loss
- Difficult concentrating
- Neck pain
- Lack of energy
- Mood changes

If a player is experiencing any of the below severe symptoms they should be taken to the emergency room immediately:

- Loss of consciousness
- Headaches that worsen
- Weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting

Return to Play Policy (Concussion)

The Club adheres to the BC Soccer Association's *Return to Play Policy (RTP)* which includes the following return to play protocol:

A typical RTP process will be made up of 6 steps. There must be a minimum of 24 hours before each step is assessed although this could be considerably longer than 24 hours. Oversight should be provided by a medical professional.

1. No activity, complete rest. Once the athlete is asymptomatic, they proceed to level two. The athlete spends, at the minimum, one day at each stage.



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2. Light aerobic exercise such as walking or stationary cycling, no resistance training. Performing step two without symptoms allows the athlete to proceed to level three. If symptoms return, the athlete moves back on stage then continues.
3. Sport specific training (e.g. skating in hockey, running in football), progressive addition of resistance training at steps three or four. Performing step three without symptoms allows the athlete to proceed to level four.
4. Non-contact training drills. Performing step four without symptoms allows the athlete to proceed to level five.
5. Full contact training after medical clearance. Performing step five without symptoms allows the athlete to proceed to level six.
6. Game play.

B. Lightning Safety / Severe Weather Rules

The safety of players, coaches, management and spectators is the primary concern in any weather event that occurs during all matches and training sessions. By understanding and following the below information, the safety of everyone shall be greatly increased. Ultimately the referee has the final say over delaying or restarting a match due to weather. However, coaches must follow these safety instructions during on field training situations.

1. In the event of lightning:

i. Determine the distance of lightning in your area.

When lightning is detected, determine the distance of lightning in your area by counting the number of seconds between the flash and the first sound of the thunder and dividing by five. This will give you the distance in miles from your location.

ii. Use the 30/30 RULE – Seek Shelter

When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If this time is thirty (30) seconds or less, seek proper shelter. Wait thirty (30) minutes or more after hearing the last thunder before leaving the shelter. Examples of proper shelter would be the clubhouse or a vehicle.

iii. Return to Field

When considering resumption of any athletics activity, it is recommended that everyone should ideally wait at least thirty (30) minutes after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder before returning to the field.

2. In the event of high winds:

In the event that nets are no longer secure, or are moving due to high winds, all training and matches are to be suspended.

3. In the Event of ice or snow

In the event that the fields are closed due to ice or snow, teams are not permitted to use the fields. Fields will be monitored by the city along with club staff members. Coaches will be notified of any field closures.

C. Casts and Medical Hardware Rules

Players may use equipment that has the sole purpose of protecting the individual physically, providing that it poses no danger to the individual or any other player.



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The following casts and hardware are allowable:

1. Hard Casts (provided there is adequate padding)
2. Soft casts
3. Knee braces (some may require a protective sleeve)
4. Insulin pumps

Ultimately during games, the referee will assess each case and make a final decision.



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Appendix C Further Resources

Respect in Sport Training (Parents)

<https://bcsoccerparent.respectgroupinc.com/>

Respect in Sport Training (Activity Leaders)

See Surrey United Soccer Club website: <https://www.surreyunitedsoccer.com/>

Commit to Kids Guidelines

http://commit2kids.ca/app/en/safe_sport?utm_campaign=sl&utm_term=/safesport

Severe Weather & Lightning Policy

[Canada Soccer Association Severe Weather Policy \(PDF\)](#)

[Lighting Safety on the Soccer Field \(a brief video by Environment Canada\)](#)

[Canadian Lightning Danger Map \(from Environment Canada\)](#)

Athletic Performance and Injury Prevention

[Sport For Life – Movement Preparation](#)

Concussion Resources

[CSA Concussion Guidelines](#)

[Concussion Awareness Training Tool \(all players, parents and coaches should complete this brief online course\)](#)

[FIFA's Pocket Concussion Recognition Tool](#)

[Coach.ca – Concussion Awareness for parents, coaches and athletes](#)

Return to Play Guidelines for concussions and other injuries

[BC Soccer Association Return to Play – Concussions](#)

Nutrition

[FIFA Nutrition for Football](#)

[Sip Smart BC \(Helping your child to make healthy drink choices\)](#)

Muscle Cramping

[Canadian Sport Centre Fact Sheet – Cramping](#)

Additional Resources

[BC Soccer Association Sport Science Page](#)

[BC Soccer Association Sport Accident Insurance Claims](#)