PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!
CODE OF CONDUCT TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN SPORT AND GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN IN SPORT

Why a Child Protection Code of Conduct is important?

Soccer Pointe-Claire is committed to ensuring all children are protected and safe. A Code of Conduct is an important part of creating safe environments for children. The safety, rights and well-being of children participating in our programs is a priority in our daily operations.

Treating Children with Dignity and Maintaining Boundaries

All staff/volunteers **must**:

- Treat all children with respect and dignity.
- Establish, respect, and maintain appropriate boundaries with all children and families involved in activities or programs delivered by Soccer Pointe-Claire.

All staff/volunteer interactions and activities (including electronic communication) with children **should be**:

- Known to the parents of the child.
- Tied to coaching/volunteer duties.
- In response to meeting the child's needs and designed to develop the child's skills in the sport program.

It is important to monitor your own behaviour towards children, and pay close attention to the behaviour of your peers to ensure that behaviour is appropriate and respectful and will be perceived as such by others.

Generally, coaches are in a position of trust, and it is through professional boundaries that this foundation of trust between coaches and athletes is built. If boundaries are broken, that pillar of the relationship crumbles. The coach and athlete relationship is also characterized by a power imbalance in favour of the coach. Athletes are taught to respect and listen to their coaches, and they are dependent upon the coach's knowledge and training to further develop their skills.

Both trust and power can be used to breach the coach-athlete relationship, and often this happens through boundary violations, which occur when the adult places their needs above the needs of the child and gains personally or professionally at the child's expense.

The responsibility is always with the adult to establish and maintain appropriate boundaries with children.

Team Coaching Staff Behaviour

Team coaching staff (includes coaches, managers, and trainers) **will**:

- Maintain a high level of sportsmanship, professionalism, and integrity both on and off the field of play.
- Maintain and model the highest degree of respect for game officials, members of the opposition and the laws of the game.
- Be reasonable when scheduling games and training sessions, remembering that athletes have other needs and obligations.
- Do their best to obtain proper training and endeavor to improve their skills through their respective educational opportunities.
- Ensure that all players receive equal instruction, discipline, and support.
- Ensure that all players receive playing time in accordance with Soccer Pointe-Claire guidelines for competitive and recreational divisions.
- Ensure the equipment and facilities under their control are safe and appropriate to the players' ages and abilities.
- Refrain from the use of alcohol or drugs, including tobacco, in the presence of youth players.
- Dress in an appropriate manner including wearing the Soccer Pointe-Claire supplied shirts for all soccer related activities.

The coaching staff is responsible for ensuring that all coaches, players, and parents involved with their team adhere to the Club Codes of Conduct and deal with any violation of the Club Codes of Conduct in a responsible and prudent manner. This includes reporting serious violations to the Club Sporting Director and Director General or to the PILS (Protecteur de l'intégrité en loisir et en sport), using "Je Dénonce" if the violation deals with - violence or negligence, - harassment or cyber-intimidation, - abuse, discrimination, maltreatment or exploitation, - or any unfair treatment likely to compromise a person's integrity.

Page 1 Initials: _____

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General Rules of Behaviour

Staff/volunteers of Soccer Pointe-Claire **must not**:

- Engage in any sort of physical contact with a child that may make the child, or a reasonable observer feel uncomfortable, or that may be seen by a reasonable observer to be violating reasonable boundaries.
- Engage in any communication with a child within or outside of duties with the child, that may make the child uncomfortable or that may be seen by a reasonable observer to be violating reasonable boundaries.
- Engage in any behaviour that goes against (or appears to go against) Soccer Pointe-Claire's mandate, policies, or Code of Conduct to Protect Children, regardless of whether or not they are serving Soccer Pointe-Claire at that moment.
- Conduct their own investigation into allegations or suspicions of potentially illegal or inappropriate behaviour – it is a staff/ volunteer's duty to report the matter to PILS "Je Dénonce" (as well as the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) or the police depending on the nature of the incident), not to investigate.

Appropriate and Inappropriate Behaviour

Individuals working or volunteering in sport are expected to model behaviour that upholds public confidence and enhances healthy relationships with children and families.

Examples of Appropriate Behaviour:	Examples of Inappropriate Behaviour:
• Respectful language, tone, and attitude towards others • Respectful of personal physical and emotional boundaries • Responding to children to meet the child's needs and not the adult's • Engaging with children in a manner that would be seen by a reasonable observer as maintaining reasonable boundaries • Keeping practices open to observation by parents • Communication with children (including electronic) is transparent and accountable	• Disrespectful, foul, and abusive language • Humiliating, intimidating, embarrassing, shaming, blaming, threatening, putting down and making fun of children • Inappropriate touching of children (e.g., massaging, stroking, caressing, roughhousing, tickling) • Confiding or sharing overly personal information with a child • Asking children to keep secrets • Electronic communication, personal phone calls and personal letters with children that are personal and not directly tied to coaching duties • Communication that is sexual or flirtatious in nature • Telling sexual jokes to a child • Pictures kept on personal devices or taken in change rooms • Singling out a child or certain children and providing special privileges and attention

Reporting Requirements

All staff/volunteers must report suspected child sexual abuse, inappropriate behaviour or incidents that they become aware of, whether the behaviour or incidents were personally witnessed or not.

Where to report:

1. All allegations or suspicions of **potentially illegal behaviour** (for example, child sexual abuse) that a staff/volunteer witnesses first-hand, or learns of, must be promptly reported to police and/or the Director of Youth Protection (DYP). Police and/or the Director of Youth Protection (DYP) will make the determination as to whether the allegation or suspicion requires further investigation.
2. In addition to that, all allegations or suspicions of - **violence or negligence, - harassment or cyber-intimidation, - abuse, discrimination, maltreatment or exploitation, - or any unfair treatment likely to compromise a person's integrity** are to be submitted to the PILS "Je Dénonce". They will make the determination as to whether the allegation or suspicion requires further investigation.

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Keep in mind that you may learn of potentially illegal or inappropriate behaviour through the child or some other third party, or you may witness it first-hand. Examples of the type of behaviour you may learn of or witness and that you must report as set out above includes:

a) Potentially Illegal behaviour by a Staff/Volunteer of Soccer Pointe-Claire
b) Potential Illegal behaviour by a third party, such as a Parent, Teacher, Babysitter, Coach

If you are not sure whether the issue you have witnessed or heard about involves potentially illegal behaviour or inappropriate behaviour, PILS – "Protecteur de l'intégrité en Loisir et en sport", through "Je dénonce", will assess the admissibility of the complaint and the direction it must take.

Remember: You have an independent duty to report all suspicions of potentially illegal behaviour directly to police and/or the Director of Youth Protection (DYP).

I agree to comply with the Soccer Pointe-Claire Code of Conduct to Protect Children.

Date: _____

Affiliation number (passport): _____

_____

Staff / volunteer's Name (printed)

_____

Staff / volunteer's signature

SOCCER POINTE-CLAIRE DOCUMENT APPROVAL

_____

President signature

2025-06-10

_____

Date

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