

WEST OTTAWA SOCCER CLUB CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



As a soccer club primarily focused on delivering soccer programs to children, we must always, as coaches, coordinators and/or staff, be attentive and ensure that the environment is safe and supportive to their safety and needs. As such, the West Ottawa Soccer Club (WOSC) expects all of those directly involved with children in soccer, to always present a positive learning atmosphere and ethical representation of themselves while taking into account children's safety.

On behalf the Board of Directors, the following child protection policy must be adhered to at all times. For purposes of this document and policy, WOSC considers a child to be under 18 years of age.

A Team Official/Coordinator/Staff, **must not**:

- Engage directly for personal reasons not pertaining to soccer related issues with children through the phone or social media channels such as: email, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, texting, etc. Club and team-based group communication sites such as TeamSnap or PowerUp are to be utilized whenever possible.
- Participate in any direct meeting with a child that is not in an openly visible location to another adult such as the team manager, assistant coach and/or the child's parent or guardian. Ad-hoc direct feedback before, during or post games/practice scenarios is encouraged but must always be done at the training ground or similar venues within a visible setting.
- Be alone with a child in a non-visible place and/or enclosed space, such as a car, change room or similar area or provide transportation to and from practices, tournaments, festivals and games to children unless accompanied by the child's guardian or with the guardian's consent.
- Leave children alone after a game or practice if their parent/guardian has not arrived to pick them up. If such a situation were to arise, it is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that another adult or person remain in the company of the coach and child wherever possible if not in an openly visible location.
- Ensure practices are in a visible area and that there are parents/guardians and or other adults who have children on the team present in the immediate vicinity from

arrival at the session to departure. Wherever possible, do not conduct practices alone with a team.

- Use profanity, ridicule, verbal abuse or engage in any unwarranted physical contact with a child.

Given your important role as coach and your interaction with players, parents and families, your attention to the above is required and appreciated. If at any time you are faced with a “grey” situation, take the side of caution or seek guidance from the club.

Even the most innocent type of situations can lead to unwanted challenges and misunderstandings. The essence of this policy is to put the child’s safety and well-being first and never put yourself in a situation where you are alone with a child whether in a physical space or via direct communication channels.

If a WOSC Team Official/Coordinator/Staff witness or become aware of any contravention of the above policy, it shall immediately be reported to the General Manager of the WOSC. If there is a conflict with that individual, a report can be made directly to the President.

In addition, if any WOSC Team Official/Coordinator/Staff were to witness or have a suspicion of child abuse, the incident(s) shall be immediately reported to the General Manager of the WOSC who shall immediately communicate the incident to the Law enforcement of jurisdiction. The General Manager shall also ensure that the information be shared with the Children’s Aid Society or Child Protection Services of jurisdiction.

As a Team Official/Coordinator/Staff, you must also be aware and keep all Ontario Soccer requirements up to date. Please reference this links for more information:

- [Respect in Sport Program](#)
- [Protecting Children & Youth in Sport](#)

Let’s all help make sport a positive and memorable experience!