

Sun County United Soccer Club

Code of Conduct to Protect Children

1. Purpose

Sun County United Soccer Club (SCUSC) is committed to providing a safe, positive, and respectful environment for all participants. This Code of Conduct establishes standards of behavior to protect children and youth from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and misconduct, in accordance with Ontario Soccer safeguarding principles.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All coaches
- Team officials
- Board members
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Chaperones
- Any individual acting in a position of trust or authority with SCUSC

3. Guiding Principles

SCUSC is committed to:

- The physical, emotional, and psychological safety of children
- Treating all children with dignity and respect
- Acting in the best interests of the child at all times
- Creating a culture of transparency and accountability

4. Expected Standards of Behavior

All adults in positions of trust must:

- ✓ Act as positive role models
- ✓ Maintain appropriate boundaries
- ✓ Place the child's welfare above all else
- ✓ Treat all children fairly and without favoritism
- ✓ Communicate in a respectful and age-appropriate manner

- ✓ Follow all club policies and Ontario Soccer regulations
- ✓ Report concerns or suspicions of misconduct

5. Prohibited Conduct

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited:

- ✗ Any form of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
- ✗ Inappropriate touching or contact
- ✗ Sexualized language, jokes, or gestures
- ✗ One-on-one isolated situations with a child where not observable
- ✗ Sharing personal contact information for private communication without parental knowledge
- ✗ Transporting a child alone without written parental permission
- ✗ Alcohol, drugs, or vaping during youth activities
- ✗ Bullying, harassment, or intimidation
- ✗ Favouritism or gift-giving intended to influence a child
- ✗ Sharing or requesting inappropriate photos or messages

6. Supervision and One-on-One Interaction

- The **Rule of Two** will be followed whenever possible (two screened adults present)
- All one-on-one interactions must be:
 - In open and observable spaces
 - Known to parents/guardians
 - Documented if necessary

7. Communication with Players

All electronic communication (text, email, social media) must:

- Be professional and sport-related
- Include parents/guardians for minors
- Use club-approved platforms where possible
- Never be secretive or personal

8. Physical Contact

Physical contact must:

- Be appropriate, necessary, and non-sexual
- Be explained before occurring
- Respect the child's comfort level
- Never be for discipline

9. Changing Rooms and Washrooms

- Adults must not be alone with a child in a changing area
- Supervision must be of a general nature only
- Privacy must be respected
- Cameras and phones are prohibited

10. Transportation

- Written parental permission is required
- No private transportation without approval
- Avoid being alone with a single child

11. Reporting Obligations

All suspected or witnessed misconduct must be reported immediately to:

- Club Safeguarding Officer
- Club President
- Ontario Soccer
- Local Child Protection Services if required

Reports must include:

- Date, time, location
- Individuals involved
- Description of concern

Failure to report may result in disciplinary action.

12. Confidentiality

- All reports will be handled confidentially
- Information shared only with those who need to know
- Retaliation is strictly prohibited

13. Screening and Training

SCUSC will:

- Require background screening for applicable roles
- Provide safeguarding training
- Keep records of compliance

14. Discipline

Violations of this Code may result in:

- Removal from activities
- Suspension
- Termination of position
- Reporting to Ontario Soccer
- Legal action if necessary

15. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated to reflect Ontario Soccer and legal requirements.