

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY

Child Safety Policy

(Aligned with Canada Soccer Safe Sport and Club Licensing Requirements)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to affirm **OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY's** unwavering commitment to safeguarding the welfare, rights, and dignity of all children and youth involved in our programs.

The Academy recognizes its legal and moral responsibility to create a safe, positive, and inclusive environment where all players—especially minors—are protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and inappropriate conduct.

This policy reflects the standards set forth by:

- Canada Soccer Safe Sport Framework
- Canada Soccer Guide to Safety
- Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics
- Ontario Soccer policies
- Rule of Two and Responsible Coaching Movement principles

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals associated with **OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY**, including:

- Players under the age of 18
- Coaches, managers, and team personnel
- Volunteers, contractors, and employees
- Parents, guardians, and caregivers
- Board members and administrative staff

3. Guiding Principles

The Academy is guided by the following principles:

- **Child-Centred:** The best interests and well-being of the child are always the priority
- **Zero Tolerance:** No form of abuse, harassment, or neglect is acceptable
- **Safe Sport:** Every participant deserves a safe, respectful, and supportive environment
- **Shared Responsibility:** Child safety is the responsibility of everyone involved
- **Transparency and Accountability:** All concerns are addressed promptly and appropriately

4. Definitions

Child / Youth

Any individual under the age of 18.

Abuse

Any behaviour that causes harm or potential harm to a child's physical, emotional, or psychological well-being, including:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

Inappropriate Conduct

Behaviour that violates Codes of Conduct or Safe Sport expectations, including breaches of the Rule of Two, even if it does not meet the definition of abuse.

5. Safe Sport and Rule of Two Compliance

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY fully adheres to the Rule of Two:

- A coach is never alone with a player without another screened adult present
- Interactions (including digital communication) must be open, observable, and justifiable
- Training, travel, and meeting environments must prevent isolation

6. Screening and Training Requirements

To ensure a safe environment:

- All adults working with minors must complete Vulnerable Sector Screening and provide valid police background checks
- All staff, coaches, and volunteers must complete Safe Sport and Respect in Sport training prior to working with players
- Screening and certifications must be maintained and renewed in accordance with Canada Soccer standards

7. Supervision and Conduct Expectations

- Always maintain professional boundaries
- Physical contact must be appropriate, non-intrusive, and never sexual in nature
- Overnight travel requires parental consent and must follow Canada Soccer standards
- No adult may be under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, or illegal substances during activities involving minors
- Communication with players must be professional, transparent, and soccer-related

8. Recognizing and Reporting Concerns

All individuals have a duty to report concerns related to child safety or inappropriate conduct.

Examples of concerns include:

- Unexplained injuries
- Signs of fear, distress, or withdrawal
- Disclosure of abuse
- Breaches of the Rule of Two
- Inappropriate communication

Reporting Process:

- 1. Ensure Immediate Safety**
 - Call 911 if a child is in danger
- 2. Internal Reporting**
 - Report immediately to the Academy's Safe Sport Officer or Club Director
- 3. External Reporting**
 - Contact Children's Aid Society or appropriate authorities when abuse is suspected
- 4. Documentation**
 - All concerns must be recorded using the club's Incident Report procedures

All reports will be handled confidentially and in accordance with Safe Sport policies and privacy laws.

9. Responsibilities

a) Club Management

- Enforce Safe Sport policies
- Appoint a trained Safe Sport / Child Safety Officer
- Ensure all screening and training requirements are met

b) Coaches and Team Officials

- Follow all Safe Sport and Code of Conduct standards
- Promote a positive and respectful environment
- Report concerns immediately

c) Parents and Guardians

- Support the Academy's child safety policies
- Monitor communication and interactions
- Report concerns promptly

d) Players

- Treat others with respect
- Speak up if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable

10. Response to Allegations or Incidents

- Allegations involving criminal activity will be referred immediately to law enforcement
- Other concerns will be handled according to Canada Soccer complaint and discipline procedures
- Individuals may be suspended pending investigation

All actions and outcomes will be documented and stored securely.

11. Education and Awareness

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY is committed to:

- Ongoing education on Safe Sport principles
- Promoting awareness of Rule of Two and Respect in Sport
- Making Safe Sport information accessible through club communications and materials

12. Review and Continuous Improvement

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure alignment with:

- Canada Soccer Safe Sport standards
- Ontario Soccer requirements
- Current legislation and best practices

13. Approval and Implementation

This Child Safety Policy has been reviewed and approved by the **OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY Board of Directors** and is effective immediately upon adoption.