

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY
Guidelines for Appropriate and Inappropriate Conduct Between
Adults/Adolescents and Children

1. Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that all interactions between adults, adolescents, and children within **OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY** are safe, respectful, and consistent with Safe Sport principles.

These guidelines are designed to protect players, coaches, volunteers, and staff by establishing clear expectations for behaviour and preventing situations that could lead to abuse, misconduct, or misinterpretation.

2. Scope

These guidelines apply to all individuals associated with the Academy, including:

- Coaches, team managers, trainers, and volunteers
- Referees, staff, and administrators
- Players and participants of all ages
- Parents and guardians

They apply to all club-related activities, including practices, games, tournaments, travel, online communication, and social events.

3. Guiding Principles

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY is guided by the following principles:

- All interactions must be open, transparent, and appropriate
- Relationships must promote trust, safety, and respect
- Communication, physical contact, and mentorship must always support the athlete's well-being and development

4. Appropriate Conduct

4.1 General Behaviour

- Treat all participants with dignity, fairness, and respect
- Use positive, constructive, and age-appropriate language
- Always maintain professional boundaries
- Ensure interactions are observable and interruptible
- Uphold Safe Sport and Code of Conduct standards

4.2 Communication

- Use official club platforms or group communication channels
- Ensure communication is professional and soccer-related
- Include parents/guardians in communications with minors
- Avoid private or one-on-one digital communication
- Do not “friend” or privately engage with players under 18 on social media

4.3 Physical Contact

- Only use physical contact when necessary for instruction, safety, or first aid
- Ensure all contact is brief, appropriate, and clearly explained

Examples of Appropriate Contact:

- Handshakes, high-fives, or fist bumps
- Instructional positioning with consent
- First aid provided, preferably with another adult present
- Always respect personal space and seek consent where appropriate

4.4 One-on-One Interactions

- Avoid being alone with a minor whenever possible
- Hold conversations in open, visible, and public environments
- Recognize and manage power imbalances responsibly

If one-on-one interaction is unavoidable:

- Inform another staff member or parent
- Ensure visibility (e.g., open doors, public space)
- Keep interactions brief and professional

4.5 Travel and Supervision

- Adults must not share accommodations with athletes
- Maintain proper supervision ratios
- Ensure gender-appropriate supervision where possible
- Obtain parental consent for all travel and off-field activities

5. Inappropriate Conduct

The following behaviours are strictly prohibited:

5.1 Behavioural Misconduct

- Any form of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse
- Harassment, intimidation, or degrading language
- Favouritism or inappropriate attention toward specific athletes
- Use of alcohol, cannabis, or drugs during activities involving minors

5.2 Inappropriate Communication

- Private messaging, texting, or social media contact with minors
- Sharing inappropriate content, images, or jokes
- Making suggestive, sexual, or discriminatory remarks
- Discussing personal matters unrelated to sport

5.3 Boundary Violations

- Spending unnecessary time alone with a minor
- Providing transportation without prior parental consent
- Meeting athletes outside of official club activities
- Any physical contact that could be perceived as intrusive or inappropriate

6. Reporting and Response

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY maintains a zero-tolerance approach to inappropriate conduct.

Any individual who witnesses or suspects a violation must report it immediately to:

- A Club Executive Member or Safe Sport Officer

Reports will be handled confidentially and in accordance with Safe Sport and reporting policies.

No retaliation will be tolerated against individuals who report concerns in good faith.

7. Training and Education

- All coaches, staff, and volunteers must complete Safe Sport, Respect in Sport, and Rule of Two training
- Ongoing education and workshops will reinforce appropriate conduct
- Players and parents will be informed of their rights and reporting procedures

8. Monitoring and Accountability

- The Board of Directors and Safe Sport Officer oversee compliance
- Policies are reviewed annually to align with governing body standards
- Violations may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or removal

9. Commitment Statement

OAKVILLE JAGUARS SOCCER ACADEMY is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and transparent environment for all participants.

By following these guidelines, we uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and care, ensuring every child and youth feels safe, supported, and valued.