



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 needs. As such, the Ottawa South United Soccer Association (OSU) expects all those directly involved with children in soccer, to always be and present a positive and ethical representation of themselves and OSU, and to always take into account children's safety. As such, and on behalf of the OSU Board of Directors, the following child protection policy must be adhered to at all times.

A Coach/Coordinator/Staff, must not:

1. Engage directly with children through the phone or social media channels such as: email, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, texting, etc. Should such communications to players be necessary it **MUST** always be directed to or indirectly (CC) via the parent/guardian. Club and team-based group communication sites such as TeamSnap are to be utilized whenever possible;
2. Participate in any direct meeting with an individual player that is not done in the presence of another adult such as the team manager, assistant coach and/or the player'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 in a visible setting;
3. Be alone with a child in a non-visible place and/or enclosed space, such as a car, change room or similar at any time;
4. Provide transportation to and from practices, tournaments, festivals and games to children unless accompanied by the player's guardian and/or parent;
5. Leave children alone after a game or practice if their parent/guardian has not arrived to pick them up. In such cases the Coach and or Team Manager must remain with child in a visible place until the player is picked up;
6. Conduct practices alone with a children's team. Make sure you are in a visible place and that there are parents/guardians and or other adults present in the direct vicinity;
7. Use profanity, swearing, ridicule or violence towards a child.

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

Manager, as even the most innocent type of situations can lead to unwanted challenges and misunderstandings. The core essence of this framework is to put the child's safety and wellbeing 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.

As a coach / team official, you must also be aware and keep all requirements as part of Ontario Soccer up to date. Please reference this links for more information:

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

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