

**Calgary Blizzard
Soccer Club
Policies &
Procedures**Chapter:
HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTSubject:
**GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN IN
SPORT**Authorization:
N/AWhite Paper:
N/ADate:
October 10, 2019

POLICY NUMBER: 02-1**REFERENCE:** [CANADA SOCCER GUIDE TO SAFETY](#)**POLICY:** Generally, coaches are in a position of trust, and it's through professional boundaries that this foundation of trust between coaches and athletes is built. If boundaries are broken, that pillar of the relationship crumbles.

The coach and athlete relationship is also characterized by a power imbalance in favour of the coach. Athletes are taught to respect and listen to their coaches, and they are dependent upon the coach's knowledge and training to further develop their skills.

Both trust and power can be used to breach the coach-athlete relationship, and often this happens through boundary violations, which occur when the adult places their needs above the needs of the child and gains personally or professionally at the child's expense.

The responsibility is always with the adult to establish and maintain an appropriate boundary with children.

Appropriate and Inappropriate Behaviour

Individuals working or volunteering with CBSC are expected to model behaviour that upholds public confidence and enhances healthy relationships with children and families.

Examples of Appropriate Behaviour:

- Respectful language, tone and attitude towards others
- Respect of personal physical and emotional boundaries



**Calgary Blizzard
Soccer Club
Policies &
Procedures**

Chapter:

HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

Subject:

**GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN IN
SPORT**

Authorization:

N/A

White Paper:

N/A

Date:

October 10, 2019

- Responding to children to meet with the child's needs and not the adult's
- Engaging with children in a manner that would be seen by a reasonable observer as maintaining reasonable boundaries
- Keeping practices open to observation by parents
- Communication with children (including electronic) is transparent and accountable.

Examples of Inappropriate Behaviour:

- Disrespectful language
- Humiliating or intimidating children
- Inappropriate touching of children (e.g. massaging, stroking, caressing, roughhousing, tickling)
- Confiding or sharing overly personal information with a child
- Asking children to keep secrets
- Electronic communication with children that is personal and not directly tied to coaching duties
- Communication that is sexual or flirtation in nature
- Pictures taken with personal devices or in change rooms

Standard of Measure for Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries

All interactions and activities with children should be, including electronic communication:

- Transparent
- Accountable
- Tied to coaching/volunteer duties
- In response to meeting the child's needs

Age of Protection

**Calgary Blizzard
Soccer Club
Policies &
Procedures**

Chapter:
HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

Subject:
**GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN IN
SPORT**

Authorization:
N/A

White Paper:
N/A

Date:
October 10, 2019

The Age of Protection in Canada is the age at which a young person can legally consent to sexual activity. The Age of Protection in Canada is generally 16 years old, but the Criminal Code increases that age to 18 in the context of certain relationships. If the child is:

- under the age of 12 years old – No person can engage in sexual activity with the child under any circumstances
- 12 or 13 years old – The age difference must be LESS THAN 2 years AND the relative positions of the parties must be so that a child is able to give consent.
- 14 or 15 years old – The age difference must be LESS THAN 5 years AND the relative positions of the parties must be so that a child is able to give consent.
- 16 or 17 years old – The relative positions of the parties must be such that a child is able to give consent.

Provided however, for all children ages 12-17, if the other person is in a position of trust or authority over the child (e.g. a coach, technical staff etc), the child is dependent on the other person or the relationship is exploitative of the child, the child is NOT able to give consent, making sexual activity in the context of such relationships illegal. **In these situations, only a person aged 18 or older is capable of consent.** The increased age takes into account the inherent vulnerability of the child is meant to protect the child in situations that involve a power or other imbalance.

Reporting Procedure – Inappropriate Behaviour

Any athlete who feels that inappropriate activities should take one or more of the following steps:

- Talk to their parents



**Calgary Blizzard
Soccer Club
Policies &
Procedures**Chapter:
HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTSubject:
**GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN IN
SPORT**Authorization:
N/AWhite Paper:
N/ADate:
October 10, 2019

- Talk to a coach, Board member or other designated CBSC individual.
- Write a letter or email to a coach, Board member or other designated CBSC individual.
- Make a report of CMSA.

There is no express time limit for initiating a complaint under this procedure, but every effort should be made to bring the complaint to the attention of the CBSC leadership as quickly as possible to stop the inappropriate behaviour as soon as possible and to make sure that memories are fresh and the behaviour can be accurately recalled.

Reporting Procedure – Sexual Abuse

All staff and volunteers must report suspected child sexual abuse, inappropriate behaviour or incidents that they become aware of, whether the behaviour or incidents were personally witnessed or not.

Where to report:

1. All allegations or suspicions of potentially illegal behaviour (for example, child sexual abuse) that a staff/volunteer witnesses first-hand, must be promptly reported to police and/or child welfare.
2. To ensure the protection of all children in our care, all allegations or suspicions of potentially illegal behaviour that a staff/volunteer learns of must also be promptly reported to police and/or child welfare. Police and/or child welfare will



**Calgary Blizzard
Soccer Club
Policies &
Procedures**

Chapter:
HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

Subject:
**GUIDELINES FOR ADULTS INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN IN
SPORT**

Authorization:
N/A

White Paper:
N/A

Date:
October 10, 2019

make the determination as to whether the allegation or suspicion requires further investigation.

INTERPRETATION:

1.0 Coach or Adult

Any person working, volunteering or otherwise interacting with children in sport.

2.0 Children

Anyone under the age of 18 years old.



**Calgary Blizzard
Soccer Club
Policies &
Procedures**

Chapter:

Subject:

Authorization:

White Paper:

Date:

