SAFEGUARDING

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

AT

ABBOTSFORD SOCCER ASSOCIATION

WE ARE A PROUD CSA LICENSED QUALITY SOCCER PROVIDER

Abbotsford Soccer Association is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all the individuals and communities with whom we engage, and therefore, our aim is for the golden thread of safeguarding to run through every element of the club's work.

Through the application of this policy, we will develop a positive and proactive welfare program to enable all children and young people to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment, a program which applies equally to the safety and security of those working with, and responsible for, activities.

ASA Board of Directors

Abbotsford Soccer Association is fully committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all children, young people and adults at risk (vulnerable groups) that are in our care at training and/or games or, as part of a club/team meeting or other club related function.

Through the application of our policies and procedures we aim to provide a safe environment for those engaging with our Club. This equally applies to the safety and security of those working with and responsible for the activities involving our vulnerable groups.

The Club takes our responsibilities for safeguarding and duty of care seriously and we are committed to getting the right people involved through safe recruitment and training, while also creating a positive environment for all participants, spectators and staff.

The Club complies with National & Provincial Charter legislation relating to safeguarding vulnerable groups and has comprehensive safeguarding procedures.

If you have a concern of a safeguarding nature please contact the person in charge of the activity who will refer on to the club safeguarding officer, or you can contact:

Ian Knight (ASA Safeguarding Officer)
Email: td@abbotsfordosccer.com
Tel: 604-807-7448

Curtis Hines (Health & Safety Officer)
Email: healthandsafety@abbotsfordosccer.com
Tel: 604-518-3272

If you are concerned about the immediate safety or welfare of a child/young person, please contact:

THE POLICE – 911 in an emergency

CANADA SOCCER
Whistleblower Hotline 1-800-661-9675
e-mail: whistleblower@canadasoccer.com

THE CANADIAN SPORT HELPLINE - 1-888-837-7678 (8am to 8pm ET, seven days a week)
Web Site http://abuse-free-sport.ca/en/

Child Protection Services in BC - 1-800-663-9122
If you think a child or youth (under 19 years of age) is being abused or neglected, at any time of the day or night.

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WHAT IS 'SAFEGUARDING'?

OUR AIMS

At ASA we put the safety and well-being of all children and young people at the centre of everything we do. We aim to create an environment where children and young people feel encouraged, are listened to and able to reach their full potential.

We call it 'safeguarding' and it's really important to us because we want to make sure all our players are safe and happy.

You have the right to be safe wherever you are:

at home, school, out and about and at soccer.

Everyone at ASA has a responsibility to make sure

the well-being of children and young people is our first priority.

That means:

– Listening to children and young people

– Making sure children and young people are safe

– Taking action when needed.

WHO IS THIS POLICY FOR?

THIS POLICY IS FOR YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT:

– What we do at ASA to keep young people safe and well

– Where you can go if you are worried about something

– What we do if we are worried about your safety or well-being.

CREATING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT…

It is important to us that everyone at ASA feels safe and happy.

WE MAKE SURE THAT:

– We have an open environment where you feel comfortable to tell someone in authority if something worries you

– What you say is taken seriously

– Our staff have special training and clear guidelines that explain the best way to work.

WHO IS CONSIDERED A CHILD OR A YOUNG PERSON?

Under the Child, Family and Community Services Act:

- **Child =** anyone under the age of 19.
- **Youth =** anyone who is 16 years of age or over but, is under 19 years of age.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE AT ASA?

EVERYONE!

All ASA staff and volunteers working with children and young people at ASA are trained to ensure the safety of all young people with whom they work.

We also have specialist people whose job it is to make sure that the things you say are listened to and acted on. They are specially trained and know how best to deal with any worries about your safety and well-being. We want you to feel safe, happy and comfortable talking to us no matter what the worry.

Talk to an adult you trust.

The following ASA staff are specifically trained to help you

ASA SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE:

CLUB SAFEGUARDING OFFICER
IAN KNIGHT
TEL: 604-807-7448

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFCIER
CURTIS HINES
TEL: 604-518-3272

ASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SHERI HANSON
TEL: 604-819-7040

GETTING IT RIGHT AT ASA

At ASA, we want to recruit staff, coaches and volunteers who respect young people and who are safe to be around.
We take a serious approach to ensure that every person you encounter at ASA is safe and capable.

TO DO THIS, WE;

- Ensure ALL program staff and team officials complete a Criminal Record Check (CRC) before they start working with young people.

- Interview potential candidates prior to appointment to ensure they have values that fit with ASA and put children first.

- Obtain references (where applicable), to ensure the person has the abilities and skills to fulfill their role well at ASA.

- All Board of Directors & Staff are trained in Respect in Sport -Workplace module.

- All Team Head Coaches are trained in Respect in Sport – Activity Leader module.

DATA PROTECTION

WHAT INFORMATION DOES ASA HOLD ABOUT ME?

If you have ongoing contact with The Club, for example, attending training or events, it's likely that we would ask for your personal details.

Things like:
name, address, date of birth and, where applicable, details of parents or guardians.

We collect this information so we know who you are and can contact you when required.
We may ask to take your picture to celebrate an event or achievement, while other times may be to look at your football techniques, as part of a training program. Either way we ask for your or your parent/guardian permission to do this. Normally if you give permission once, we apply it to all situations where photographs may be taken.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE OPTION TO OPT OUT
This means that you, or the people who look after you, no longer give consent or permission for your image to be taken. This is your choice and you can opt out at any time. We store all your information and images in line with data protection law.

This means that all information is:
– Collected with you and your parent/guardian consent

– Stored safely

– Deleted within the correct timescales.

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Abuse is anything another person does that could cause harm.
Abuse can happen in families, school or anywhere. There are different types of abuse:

PHYSICAL ABUSE

When someone is hurting you.

Things like:

- Hitting, smacking and slapping
- Scalding or burning you
- Spitting or throwing things at you
- Shaking or suffocating you.

SEXUAL ABUSE

This is when someone:

- Touches you
- Says things...
- Makes you watch...
- Makes you take part in...

...things that make you feel uncomfortable.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

When a person intentionally makes you feel bad about yourself, ignores you or puts you down.

Some examples are:

- Putting you in a dangerous situation
- Calling you names
- Being aggressive and violent to other people in your family

BULLYING

Means different things to different people.

Generally, it's when you are made to feel bad or humiliated by name calling, pushing or pulling or being threatened. This can happen anywhere - online or offline.

NEGLECT

When you don't have the things you really need to be well. Things like:

- Food, clean clothes, medicine.

It also includes things like protection from harm and dangerous people.

ABUSE IS NEVER OKAY. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. YOU ARE NOT ALONE
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP.

KIDS HELP PHONE 1-800-668-6868

WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?

How to report a concern and what we do with the information.

We hope that ASA is a place where you can reach your goals and have fun. We also understand that ASA needs to be a place where you can share any worries or concerns you might have. This could be about something happening at home, school or at ASA.

WE WILL LISTEN

It can be difficult to share some things.
You might wonder whether what's happening is wrong or you might struggle to find the words to explain it. Either way, adults at ASA will listen and give you the time you need to talk.

There are times when you may not feel confident to tell anyone what is happening. Sometimes, people who know you well can spot when things aren't quite right. They may notice a change in your behavior or see something that makes them worry about your safety. If this happens, or you tell a member of staff something that makes them concerned about your safety, they have a responsibility to act on this and help to make sure you are safe.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU

RAISE A CONCERN?

1. The person you've told or someone who is worried about your safety will explain the concerns to a member of the Safeguarding Hub.

2. The Safeguarding Hub are specially trained to help. They will start thinking about how they can support you and keep you safe.

3. The Safeguarding Hub may need to talk to other adults about what you tell them to help keep you safe. These people could be Children's Services, the Police or health professionals.

Your information is only shared with people who need to know to keep you safe. Anything you tell us will be stored securely.

ASKING FOR HELP

If you have a problem, or are worried about something, it's always best to speak to an adult you trust. It can be difficult to find the right words so here are some tips to help make it a bit easier…

START SOMEWHERE

You don't have to share everything all at once. Say what comes to mind – it is okay if it does not come out perfectly.
Telling someone is the most important thing.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PERSON

Speak with an adult you trust – someone that makes you feel safe and listened to. This could be:

– A member of the Safeguarding Hub
– A family member
– A teacher
– A coach
– A school nurse or counsellor
– A close family friend.

TRY TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY

Fears, worries and problems can be hard to put into words. You might feel nervous about what to say and how the other person might react.
Don't worry, this is normal. Sometimes it's helpful to go over what you want to say beforehand. Practice aloud or just say the words in your head. Doing this can help you to feel less nervous about saying it to someone else.
At times, asking for help can mean saying words you would not normally say. Words that might be considered rude or embarrassing. That's okay. You can say the words and you won't get into trouble. Some children and young people find it easier to write it down and share it with a trusted adult. The adult may need to ask you questions about what you have written down but remember this is because they want to make sure they understand clearly and it is not because they do not believe you.

Talk to us or get in touch with these organizations if you have any worries or concerns

ASA Safeguarding Hub:

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:
Ian Knight
td@abbotsfordsoccer.com
604-807-7448

HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER:
Curtis Hines
healthandsafety@abbotsfordsoccer.com
604-518-3272

Local Authority Safeguarding:

Child & Family Services Office (Abbotsford)
Phone Number: 1-604-870-5880
Web Site: Child & Family Services – Abbotsford
Address: 2828 Cruickshank Street, Abbotsford, BC, V2T 5M4

National & Provincial Resources:

Where you have a complaint about an adult who works with children.
In an emergency, where there is a threat to life, serious injury, or a crime in progress call: 911.

CANADA SOCCER
Whistleblower Hotline 1-800-661-9675
e-mail: whistleblower@canadasoccer.com
Canada Soccer WhistleBlower program(PDF)

THE CANADIAN SPORT HELPLINE
1-888-837-7678 (8am to 8pm ET, seven days a week)
E-Mail info@abuse-free-sport.ca
Web Site http://abuse-free-sport.ca/en/

KIDS HELP PHONE
1-800-668-6868
https://kidshelpphone.ca

CANADIAN CENTRE for CHILD PROTECTION
1-800-532-9135
www.protectchildren.ca

THE B.C. HANDBOOK for ACTION on CHILD ABUSE and NEGLECT (PDF)