



CHILD PROTECTION CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Purpose and Scope

UFootballSC is committed to providing a safe, positive, and supportive environment where all children can participate in soccer free from abuse, neglect, harassment, discrimination, exploitation, or inappropriate conduct.

This Child Protection Code of Conduct applies to all coaches, staff members, volunteers, contractors, team officials, and academy representatives involved in any UFootballSC activity, program, event, training session, competition, camp, or travel activity.

2. Commitment to Child Safety

The safety and well-being of children are the highest priorities of UFootballSC.

Every child has the right to participate in a safe environment where they are treated with dignity, respect, fairness, and care.

All academy representatives share responsibility for promoting and protecting the physical, emotional, social, and psychological well-being of participants.

3. Duty of Care

All academy representatives have a duty of care toward participants and must take reasonable steps to protect children from foreseeable risks.

The welfare of a child must always take priority over competition results, personal interests, convenience, or organizational objectives.

4. Safe Participation Standards

Academy representatives are expected to:

- Create a welcoming, inclusive, and respectful environment.
- Treat all participants equally and fairly.
- Encourage positive behaviour and personal development.
- Promote teamwork, sportsmanship, and mutual respect.

- Support participants in a manner appropriate to their age and stage of development.
- Follow all academy safety policies and procedures.

5. Supervision and Visibility Requirements

All interactions with participants should occur in open, observable, and accountable environments whenever possible.

Academy representatives should:

- Follow the Rule of Two Policy.
- Avoid isolated one-on-one situations.
- Ensure activities remain visible and interruptible.
- Maintain appropriate supervision during all academy activities.
- Use approved academy facilities and environments.

6. Physical Interaction Standards

Physical contact with participants should only occur when necessary for:

- Coaching instruction.
- Injury prevention.
- Medical emergencies.
- Player safety and welfare.

All physical contact must be appropriate, respectful, and proportionate to the situation.

Any contact that may be perceived as intrusive, excessive, intimidating, inappropriate, or harmful is strictly prohibited.

7. Electronic Communication and Online Safety

Communication with participants must remain professional, respectful, and directly related to academy activities.

Academy representatives should:

- Use approved communication channels.
- Include parents or guardians whenever appropriate.
- Maintain transparency in all communications.
- Avoid personal, secretive, or unnecessary communication.

The use of social media must reflect professional standards and support participant safety.

8. Photography, Video, and Image Protection

Photographs and videos may only be captured for legitimate academy purposes.

Academy representatives must:

- Respect participant privacy.
- Follow academy media policies.
- Use images responsibly.
- Protect personal information associated with photographs and recordings.

Images must never be used in a manner that could compromise the safety, dignity, or well-being of a child.

9. Recognizing Child Welfare Concerns

Academy representatives should remain vigilant and responsive to signs that may indicate:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Harassment
- Bullying
- Exploitation
- Grooming behaviour
- Discrimination

Any concern affecting the welfare of a child must be taken seriously.

10. Reporting and Escalation Procedures

Any concern involving child safety, misconduct, abuse, neglect, harassment, exploitation, or inappropriate behaviour must be reported immediately through established academy reporting procedures.

Individuals reporting concerns in good faith will be supported and protected from retaliation.

All reports will be handled appropriately, confidentially, and in accordance with applicable laws and academy policies.

11. Non-Compliance

Failure to comply with this Child Protection Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including:

- Verbal or written warnings
- Suspension from academy activities
- Removal from coaching or volunteer responsibilities
- Termination of employment or involvement
- Referral to appropriate authorities when required

12. Acknowledgement

All coaches, staff members, volunteers, contractors, and academy representatives are required to read, understand, and comply with this Child Protection Code of Conduct.

By participating in academy activities in an official capacity, individuals acknowledge their commitment to protecting the safety and well-being of every child participating in UFootballSC programs.