



Barrie Cardinals Soccer Club De Futbol INC.

Policy on Accessibility, Inclusion, and Welcoming Environment

Introduction

At Barrie Cardinals Soccer Club De Futbol INC., we are steadfast in our commitment to fostering an environment that is accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to all individuals, irrespective of their abilities, backgrounds, or circumstances. Our mission aligns with the principles set forth by Canada Soccer and Ontario Soccer, emphasizing the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the sport.

Commitment to Accessibility and Inclusion

We recognize that certain groups have been historically underrepresented in soccer. To address this, our programming is intentionally designed to be open and inviting to all, with targeted efforts to engage:

- **Women and Girls:** We offer programs specifically tailored to encourage female participation, aiming to bridge the gender gap in soccer.
- **Indigenous Communities:** We collaborate with local Indigenous groups to create culturally relevant programs that honor and integrate Indigenous traditions and values.
- **Newcomers to Canada:** Understanding the challenges faced by newcomers, we provide accessible entry points into soccer, facilitating community integration and social connections.
- **Persons with Disabilities:** Our facilities and programs are designed to accommodate individuals with diverse abilities, ensuring equitable access and participation opportunities.
- **Economically Disadvantaged Individuals:** We offer financial assistance programs and work to eliminate cost barriers, making soccer accessible to all economic backgrounds.



Reducing Barriers to Participation

To effectively reduce barriers and promote inclusivity, we have established relationships and partnerships with various community organizations and stakeholders. These collaborations enable us to:

- **Provide Financial Assistance:** Through partnerships with local businesses and charitable organizations, we offer subsidies through Canadian Tire Jumpstart and Youth Reach through YMCA, to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation.
- **Enhance Facility Accessibility:** Our facilities are designed to be accessible to individuals of all abilities, featuring amenities such as ramps, accessible restrooms, and adaptive equipment.
- **Offer Transportation Solutions:** We collaborate with community groups to provide transportation options for participants facing mobility challenges or lacking access to reliable transportation.
- **Deliver Inclusive Programming:** Our programs are adaptable to meet the diverse needs of our participants, ensuring that everyone can engage meaningfully in soccer activities.

Appreciation of Diversity and Fostering a Sense of Belonging

We deeply value the diversity within our community and strive to create an environment where every individual feels safe, respected, and a true sense of belonging. Our initiatives include:

- **Cultural Sensitivity Training for Coaches:** Our coaching staff undergoes regular training to enhance cultural competence, ensuring they are equipped to engage with participants from diverse backgrounds effectively.
- **Culturally Appropriate Activities:** We incorporate activities that reflect the cultural backgrounds of our participants, celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity.
- **Safe Haven Commitment:** We are dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming space for all members, regardless of origin, where respect and inclusion are foundational values.



Accessible Facilities

Our facilities are strategically located within the city to ensure ease of access for all community members. We are committed to:

- **Physical Accessibility:** Ensuring that our venues are equipped to accommodate individuals with varying physical abilities.
- **Proximity to Public Transportation:** Selecting facility locations that are accessible via public transit to facilitate easy access for participants.
- **Inclusive Scheduling:** Offering programs at various times to accommodate diverse schedules and commitments.

Ongoing Commitment

The Barrie Cardinals Soccer Club De Futbol INC. is dedicated to the continuous cultivation of an inclusive culture. We regularly assess and evolve our policies and programs to ensure they meet the needs of our diverse membership. Our goal is to provide memorable experiences that reflect our core values of unity, respect, and inclusivity, embodying the spirit of "a family united."

Conclusion

In alignment with Canada Soccer and Ontario Soccer's and the Huronia District Soccer Associations's commitment to inclusion and accessibility, we strive to be a beacon of diversity and acceptance in the soccer community. We believe that the universal language of soccer has the power to bring people together, transcending differences and building a stronger, more inclusive community.

This policy reflects our unwavering commitment to creating an environment where every individual feels valued and empowered to participate in the beautiful game of soccer.