



## **Barrie Cardinals Soccer Club De Futbol INC Policy for Responding to Suspicion of Child Abuse**

### **1. Purpose**

To protect the well-being of children involved in our programs by establishing clear procedures for identifying, addressing, and reporting suspected child abuse. This policy ensures compliance with provincial and federal laws, as well as alignment with Canada Soccer and Ontario Soccer standards.

### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all representatives of the organization, including:

- Board Members
- Coaches
- Volunteers
- Administrative staff
- Parents and Guardians
- Participants in all club-approved activities and events

### **3. Legal and Ethical Obligations**

#### **1. Duty to Report:**

- All representatives of the Barrie Cardinals Soccer Club De Futbol INC have a legal obligation to report any reasonable suspicion of child abuse directly to the appropriate child protection authority or law enforcement agency.
- Failure to report may result in legal consequences under provincial law.

#### **2. Confidentiality:**

- Information regarding suspected abuse must be treated with the utmost confidentiality and shared only with authorized parties, including child protection authorities, law enforcement, and designated organizational leaders.



### 3. **Protection from Retaliation:**

- Individuals who report suspected abuse in good faith are protected from retaliation, as mandated by law.

### 4. **Recognizing Signs of Abuse**

Child abuse may include but is not limited to:

- **Physical Abuse:** Unexplained injuries, bruises, or burns.
- **Emotional Abuse:** Persistent criticism, threats, or rejection.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Inappropriate touching, exploitation, or exposure to explicit material.
- **Neglect:** Failure to provide basic needs, such as food, shelter, or medical care.

Training will be provided to all representatives to recognize these signs and understand their obligations.

### 5. **Reporting Procedures**

#### 1. **Immediate Action:**

- If a child is in immediate danger, call 911 or the local law enforcement agency without delay.

#### 2. **Notification of Authorities:**

- Suspicions of abuse must be reported directly to the local child protection agency or the police.
- Representatives are not responsible for investigating the situation; their role is strictly to report concerns.

#### 3. **Internal Notification:**

- After reporting to external authorities, inform the organization's **Child Protection Officer** to ensure the club is aware of the situation and can provide appropriate support.



## 6. Documentation of Concerns

When reporting, the following information should be documented to the best of the reporter's ability:

- The child's name, age, and contact information.
- Details of the suspected abuse, including dates, times, and observations.
- Names of individuals involved or witnesses, if known.
- Actions taken, including reports made to external authorities.

All records must be securely stored and accessible only to authorized personnel.

## 7. Supporting the Child

The club will provide appropriate support to any child affected by abuse, including:

- Offering emotional support and reassurance.
- Ensuring their immediate safety and well-being.
- Referring the child and family to professional counseling services, if needed.

## 8. Training and Awareness

To ensure adherence to this policy, the club will:

- Provide mandatory child protection training to all staff and volunteers annually.
- Distribute this policy to all representatives and require acknowledgment of their understanding.

## 9. Alignment with Provincial and National Laws

This policy aligns with the **Child, Youth and Family Services Act (CYFSA)** in Ontario, which mandates that any suspicion of abuse must be reported to a child protection authority such as the **Children's Aid Society (CAS)**. It also complies with the broader legal framework of **Canada's Criminal Code** regarding child protection.

## **10. Review and Updates**

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it reflects the latest legal requirements and best practices in safeguarding children. Updates will be communicated promptly to all representatives.

## **11. Commitment Statement**

Barrie Cardinals Soccer Club De Futbol INC is unwavering in its commitment to safeguarding the children in our care. Together, we will take every action necessary to protect their safety, uphold their rights, and ensure their development in a secure and nurturing environment.