

German Canadian Football Club

Safe Sport, Rule of Two, & RCM Policies



Safe Sport

The German Canadian Football Club is committed to creating an environment where everyone can feel safe to grow and develop as a person and as a player. Coaches, administrators, players, and their families must work together to create this community.

Guidelines for Appropriate Conduct

All members of GCFC, including coaches, administrators, players, and their families will follow the responsibilities outlined in the *Canada Soccer Code of Conduct and Ethics*.

All adults interacting with children in sport are responsible for maintaining a safe and fun environment. Each child has the right to participate and to be protected from mental and physical maltreatment. The guidelines for appropriate conduct are provided below to illustrate how we can continue to create a positive space free from bullying, abuse, harassment, violence, discrimination, neglect, and exploitation as a community.

Appropriate Conduct

- Using respectful language towards all members of GCFC, opposing teams, and match officials.
- Prioritizing the emotional and physical wellbeing of players
- Helping children with equipment, including pinnies, gloves, shoelaces, and hair ties.
- Engaging with children and their parents to make decisions as a team.
- Keeping parents updated with relevant information about the player and the team.
- Evaluating players using Canada Soccer Guidelines and communicating feedback to players with a parent/guardian present.

Inappropriate Conduct

- Using offensive or obscene language
- Humiliating or intimidating children from our club or opposing clubs.
- Inappropriate touching of children, including massaging, stretching, roughhousing, and tickling
- Talking to players without another adult present.
- Asking children to keep secrets.
- Any electronic communications with children outside of a team chat and without parental consent.
- Any communication that is sexual or flirtatious in manner.

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What to do if you witness inappropriate conduct:

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child, you can contact youth@gcfcclondon.com or ask to speak to one of our board members.

Any suspicion of child abuse **must** be reported to law enforcement.

Rule of Two

To protect all members of our community from potentially vulnerable situations, GCFC has established a Rule of Two Policy following the Canada Soccer Rule of Two Guidelines. In the exception of an emergency, there will always be two screened and NCCP-trained adults or certified coaches present when interacting with one of our players.

Guidelines for Applying the Rule of Two

- Coaches, volunteers, or any other adults may not be alone in a car, change room, or meeting room with a player unless they are that player's parent or guardian.
- Parents/guardians should arrive and remain at the field with their player until at least two coaches or screened volunteers are present.
- Coaches, volunteers, and any other adults should ensure that an adult other than a player's parent/guardian is not left alone with a single athlete after any meeting or training session.

Rowan's Law and Concussion Policy

Full information is present under Concussion Awareness Resources on the Registration Page. Designated persons from GCFC will be responsible for appropriately following the removal-from-sport and return-to-sport protocols. Please read and review the concussion safety guidelines before the season begins to ensure that all players and families are aware of the importance of following these protocols. The Ontario Government has provided more information on Rowan's Law on this webpage:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/rowans-law-concussion-safety>

Responsible Coaching Movement Pledge

GCFC has taken the Coaching Association of Canada's Responsible Coaching Movement Pledge, signalling our commitment to implement supportive policies and processes that adhere to the three key areas, ensure the safety and protection of our athletes and coaches, and provide our coaches with the tools and training necessary to model ethical behaviour. More about the RCM pledge can be found here:

<https://coach.ca/sport-safety/responsible-coaching-movement>

