



Child Protection - Risk Management Program

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page Number
Introduction from the Board of Directors	2
What is Child Abuse?	3
• Suicide Intervention	4
• Domestic Violence	4
• Substance Misuse	4
• Child Protection Contact Information	5
Physical Contact	6
• Your responsibilities are	7
• Chilliwack FC's responsibilities	7
Language	8
Special needs	8
Health and Well-Being	9
• Common judgement issues and guidelines for these issues are	9
Safe Play Concerns	10
• Goal Safety	10
• Goal Safety Tips	10
Field Incidents and Upkeep	11
Transportation	12

INTRODUCTION FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you for volunteering. The Chilliwack FC Board of Directors appreciates your efforts, whether you are coaching, managing, refereeing or any other task.

Kurt Thiessen is the Child Protection-Risk Management (CP-RM) Officer for Chilliwack FC. Kurt does not act with the responsibility of a delegated child protection social worker. Although Kurt is a delegated child protection social worker with the MCFD he acts in this position solely within the areas described below for Chilliwack FC. Kurt, at no time, will conduct a child protection investigation or assessment for Chilliwack FC. All communication with Kurt will remain confidential. Kurt is required to disclose any situation in which someone may be at risk of harm, or at risk of harming someone else and/or disclose criminal activity to the appropriate authorities.

The CP-RM program will assist you in providing a safe and productive environment for the kids. Our goal is to give you support that will help maintain a healthful and playful situation for the kids.

The purpose of this program is to provide parents and CFC volunteers with guidance to best help children/youth in need/at-risk. It does not provide professional legal advice and may not be relied upon for that purpose. Consult an attorney for legal advice or information.

We look forward to working with you for many years of creating a challenging, fun and growth-oriented soccer program. Please remember the actions of your Board and its Officers are designed to provide a positive environment for the kids.

What is Child Abuse?

***Note: A child/youth is defined as any person age 0-19 in British Columbia.**

Child Protection in the Province of British Columbia is the sole responsibility of the parents and guardians of children and youth. The Ministry of Children and Family Development's (MCFD) duty is to support parents in this process and increase parenting capacity, while at the same time advocate for the safety and well-being of children and youth. Should a parent/guardian and child/youth's extended family/friend network not be able, or willing to protect their child(ren) MCFD is in a position to protect children and youth. Protection of children and youth by MCFD is administered by delegated child protection social workers under the legislation of the Child Family and Community Services Act (1996). As per this act under section 13 child protection concerns are defined as:

- A) If a child has been, or is likely to be, physically harmed by the child's parent
- B) If the child has been, or is likely to be, sexually abused or exploited by the child's parent
- C) If the child has been, or is likely to be physically harmed, sexually abused or sexually exploited by another person and if the child's parent is unwilling or unable to protect the child
- D) If the child has been, or is likely to be, physically harmed because of neglect by the child's parent
- E) If the child is emotionally harmed by the parent's conduct
- F) If the child is deprived of necessary health care
- G) If the child's development is likely to be seriously impaired by a treatable condition and the child's parent refuses to provide or consent to treatment
- H) If the child's parent is unable or unwilling to care for the child and has not made adequate provision for the child's care
- I) If the Child is or has been absent from home in circumstances that endanger the child's safety or well-being
- J) If the child's parent is dead and adequate provision has not been made for the child's care
- K) If the child has been abandoned and adequate provision has not been made for the child's care
- L) If the child is in the care of a director or another person by agreement and the child's parent is unwilling or unable to resume care when the agreement is no longer in force

If a parent, coach, or other volunteer with Chilliwack FC receive a disclosure or information relating to one of the above a report must be made immediately to MCFD and/or the RCMP and/or the Chilliwack FC risk management officer.

The following may also apply to the above-noted CFCSA Section 13. Please consult with CFC Child Protection-Risk Management (CP-RM) Officer if you have any questions. The CFC CP-RM Officer will keep all discussions confidential.

If at any time a child protection disclosure is made to MCFD please inform MCFD if your call is regarding a volunteer with CFC. MCFD will determine if contact with the club should be made.

Suicide Intervention

Should a parent, child, or other volunteer of Chilliwack FC express thoughts of suicidality the immediate safety of the child(ren) involved must be ensured. The child must not be left alone under any circumstances until such time as the child's parents/guardians or trusted adult are present. MCFD must be contacted immediately. If informing the child's parents presents further risk to the youth it is the duty of the MCFD or RCMP to inform the parent of the concern regarding their child.

Should a parent or other volunteer with Chilliwack FC make a claim of suicidal thoughts or plans, this person should not be left alone under any circumstances. The safety of all children involved with this person should be considered. A report to the Chilliwack FC risk management officer should be made as soon as possible. This person should be accompanied to an appropriate assessor to determine their safety (ie, Chilliwack General Hospital). The RCMP should be contacted immediately for transport of this person if they are unwilling to accept your assistance in this regard.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence involves an argument between parents/common-law parents in which one parent feels unsafe. The immediate safety of children should be determined as soon as possible. All reports of domestic violence must be reported to the RCMP. If a child is involved, the RCMP will report the domestic violence to the MCFD. Safety of the children will be determined by the MCFD/RCMP. Appropriate services will be administered by the RCMP and/or the MCFD. Should the person receiving the initial disclosure require assistance for planning for the safety of the parent involved in the domestic violence the risk management officer is available. However, the RCMP should be contacted and/or a women's abuse shelter (IE, Anne Davis or Xolhemet Society) should be contacted for assistance. Such services provide shelter for children of women who are victims of domestic violence. There are also shelters for men requiring emergency residence.

Substance Misuse, Dependence & Addiction

Substance misuse is defined as the consumption of illegal substances and/or dependence of a substance by any person. A person requiring intervention and support for a substance dependence is not restricted to illegal substances (ie, gambling). CFC volunteers and parents/guardians of children participating in sport with CFC may under no circumstances imbibe in illegal substances while in direct contact with children registered with CFC or

otherwise. Should a parent, or volunteer be found to be under the influence or having had used illegal substances their access to children within Chilliwack FC will be immediately restricted until such time as an appropriate course of action can be taken. This course of action will be determined by the risk management officer in consultation with the offending parent, and the Chilliwack FC board of directors. Following consultation with counsel Chilliwack FC may take legal action. The risk management officer's role is to determine the safety of the children who may be affected by the parent or volunteer's use of an illegal substance. This may require a report regarding the safety of children to the MCFD and/or the RCMP.

Chilliwack FC will actively seek to support any parent or child who has disclosed or been found to have a dependence of an illegal or legal substance. Chilliwack FC will also seek to support any parent or child who may have developed an addiction to gambling or other such activity which does not involve consumption of illegal or legal substances habitually.

Child Protection Contact Information

Ministry of Children and Family Development, Chilliwack District Office

604.702.2331 (Child Protection Intake)

604.702.2344 (Fax)

RCMP Chilliwack Non-Emergency Number

604.792.4611

Chilliwack FC Risk Management Officer

Kurt Thiessen – Ministry of Children and Family Development Social Worker

604.703.6877

Kurt.thiessen@gov.bc.ca

PHYSICAL CONTACT

Physical contact is limited to that necessary and appropriate to teach a skill, treat an injury, console or congratulate a player. In the instance of teaching a skill, minimal contact should be involved and none which places the adult in a position of power or intimidation. Injury requiring physical contact by coach/parent should be visible by at least one other person.

A volunteer (other than a parent or legal guardian) alone in a one-on-one situation with a player is generally inappropriate, or may be misconstrued as such. If an adult is alone with a player then the adult always be in a visibly public site.

There are those volunteers who are expressive by using their hands to give a pat on the back, a rub of the head, or other acts of touching to show appreciation or indicate a job well done. In a public setting those acts are understood. Chilliwack FC acknowledges there are appropriate times and places for showing such affection.

However, there should be no such touching in a one on one situation. Even the hint of inappropriate contact with a player may be enough to create the impression of inappropriate contact with children. Volunteers should act in a defensive mode so that there is no air of impropriety.

During an out-of-town tournament, a non-parent/custodian adult shall not share any sleeping arrangement with a player or players. Adults should respect the privacy of players. Adults should provide privacy to players in changing rooms, showers, and bathrooms.

Suspicious behaviour by an adult or claims of a sexual nature shall be reported to the CFC CP-RM Officer. With the assistance of the CP-RM Officer such claims are to be reported to the appropriate authorities such as the MCFD and/or the RCMP. Reports of physical, sexual, emotional abuse or neglect are to be reported to the parents/guardians of the youth by a delegated child protection social worker at MCFD. The CP-RM Officer shall investigate claims only insofar as to gain knowledge immediately pertinent to providing safety for the child in question. Upon which this information is to be reported to MCFD and/or the RCMP. Reports of risk to children will be made known to the Board of Directors following gathering of information by the CP-RM Officer. A recommendation to the Board Chairman and/or counsel will accompany this report.

Molestation can be real, or the allegation can be a tool of revenge. Molesters can be registered at the local police department or they can exist for years without detection. Checking through records may or may not reveal a molester. Therefore, it is everyone's concern to deal with this issue.

It is the goal of CFC to exclude participation by those who have committed violent crimes or crimes

that may bring an unnecessary risk to the health and well being of the participants. CFC will not knowingly allow the participation of anyone that has a history of molestation or other criminal activity wherein the health of kids may be jeopardized. On the other hand, CFC will preserve individual rights and not allow for unjustified pursuit of rumour-based claims on a person's character. The same standards will also apply to those criminal records which may reflect on an inability to work with other individuals or kids. To this end, criminal record checks are to be completed by all volunteers with Chilliwack FC including coaches, and officials.

Keeping the quality of volunteers with the best interest of the kids at heart is everyone's business.

Everyone who volunteers on behalf of Chilliwack FC has certain responsibilities in this regard.

Your responsibilities as a volunteer with CFC are:

- Report any alleged improprieties by parent/coach about other volunteers to the MCFD. Please inform MCFD if the accused is a volunteer with CFC.
- If there are rumours about your conduct then please consult with the CFC Child Protection-Risk Management (CP-RM) Officer.

Chilliwack FC Official responsibilities are:

- Determine the immediate safety of children should a report or charge of molestation be made – consult with MCFD and/or CFC CP-RM Officer.
- Chilliwack FC will complete its own assessment of a convicted molester or criminal through records, interviews and officials, as well as consultation with counsel.
- Determine whether a volunteer's participation would or would not be in the best interest of the children/youth involved with CFC.

LANGUAGE

Offensive and vulgar language is unacceptable. Administrators should model good communication skills. Language which is denigrating in nature, content or tone or refers to one's gender, race, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or religion is unacceptable.

Inappropriate language targeting officials, opponents, players, or spectators may be grounds for player penalties or removal of adults from the game and/or premises.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Leagues can use "special circumstances" for assigning players to allow participation of players with special needs. Accommodations may be made if the league is provide with a written consent from

- parents or guardians
- a physician

Some children may be HIV positive or have other potentially infectious diseases. Coaches should treat any acknowledged condition in the confidential manner with which the information is related by the parent or guardian. This information must be disclosed on the health and well-being disclosure document signed at time of registration. Other than voluntary admission from the parent of guardian, other discussion about a child's medical condition should be considered as rumours and dealt with as such. Coaches who disclose confidential information may open themselves to civil and criminal court action. Therefore, any public disclosure may not be made without permission from the parent.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Each child is required to provide you with a medical consent form. The consent form is required at every Chilliwack FC sponsored event.

The risk of injury in any sport is always present. Parents know this when they sign up their kids to play. However, sometimes parents will blame others for uncontrollable events or for actions perceived to be harmful to their kids. This section is intended to give you some guidelines for keeping injuries or exposures to a minimum, as well as providing you with a sense of protection from liability.

Personal liability for using proper first aid techniques is limited by the British Columbia Good Samaritan Act. This Act provides protection for persons who are responders in good faith and appropriate technique. Responders who act in a responsible manner that is based on proper first aid technique, by the book or within a reasonable degree of similarity to the proper technique, are protected under this act. Furthermore, CFC carries insurance coverage for volunteers against such claims.

Nonetheless, a volunteer who responds to an incident or injury should do so in a knowledgeable manner, or defer any action to a party who has expertise in such matters. The following first aid guidelines should help you with the more common first aid techniques used with soccer related injuries.

Whether to call for an ambulance is a judgement call which carries with it an anxiety if the degree of injury is unclear. If possible defer the question to the child's parent, or a nurse or doctor on the field. Cell phones can be used to contact parents, advise nurses, or ambulances. Follow first aid procedures and make the judgement based on sound criteria. But when in doubt pass the decision to someone with more expertise, such as an ambulance crew.

There are situations wherein a child is injured and there is no health care provider or the policy limits are inadequate. For those cases, Chilliwack FC maintains an excess accident insurance policy which provides coverage of medical bills up to \$300,000 per injury. Please contact Chilliwack FC @ info@chilliwackfc.com for more information.

At the time of registration with a squad within Chilliwack FC a health and well-being disclosure document will be signed by a parent/guardian of the child registering with Chilliwack FC. This document will remain completely confidential. A copy will be provided to the head coach of the respective team. The head coach for the respective squad must have a copy of this document at all practices and games.

Common judgement issues and guidelines for these issues are:

- Head injuries resulting in disorientation, vomiting, or the repeating of words, should

result in a player remaining out of the game and medical attention should be sought.

- Coaches and referees shall treat all blood and bodily fluids as potentially infectious. Players who have an open and bloody wound should not play until bleeding has stopped (in the case of a nose bleed) or the bleeding has stopped and is fully covered to protect against possible contact with another player in case of re-injury.
- First aid kits shall attend all matches/practices. Please see chilliwackfc.com for a reference list.

SAFE PLAY CONCERNS

Goal Safety

The perception of injury in youth soccer is limited to the kids playing on the field. But as with the rest of life, it's what you don't see that can spook you. Each year children die from falling soccer goal posts. Sad to say, Chilliwack FC has not been immune from such incidents.

Movable soccer goals pose an unnecessary risk of tip-over to children who climb on goals (or nets) or hang from the crossbar.

High winds can also cause movable soccer goals to fall over.

Goal Safety Tips

- Securely anchor or counterweight movable soccer goals at *all* times.
- Store movable soccer goals in a place where children cannot have access to them.
- Remove nets when goals are not in use.
- Check for structural integrity and proper connecting hardware before every use. Inform CFC if any goal is damaged and do not use until it is repaired.
- ***Never*** allow anyone to climb on the net or goal framework.
- Always instruct players on the safe handling of and potential dangers associated with movable soccer goals. Coaches/parents should supervise if child/youth are moving a goal – strictly adhere.

FIELD INCIDENTS AND UPKEEP

Field conditions are controllable. While some leagues play on pristine fields, others play on fields where maintenance is obviously on the low priority list. The British Columbia Soccer Association (BCSA) has a checklist to be reviewed before each game. The legal criteria for liability in field conditions is “known or should have known.” Therefore, it is in the interest of both the field owner and the league to inspect the field. Look for depressions, holes, sprinkler heads, and foreign objects on the field. If there are areas that are muddy or have potholes then visible red plastic cones should be used. Furthermore, the appropriate League contact should converse with the field owner and document conversations with the responsible party.

Notifying the field owner does not relieve Chilliwack FC of a legal liability. Once a safety concern is identified it then becomes the owner of the field as well as the user’s responsibility to mitigate injury. On the one hand we want to be responsive to the safety concern of the kids. On the other hand, we do not want to assume the responsibility of field maintenance. Safety concerns should be promptly reported to the league person responsible for contacting the field maintenance staff.

- Areas under construction provide additional risks and require special attention. Whenever a field is under construction and there is any obligation on the part of the Chilliwack FC or affiliated leagues then the Executive Director and Risk Manager shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Photographs of an accident scene on the field (or any area for which Chilliwack FC may have some legal duty) should be taken as soon as possible if there is serious injury.

TRANSPORTATION

Drivers are expected to have at least the minimum insurance required to maintain a valid driver's license. Only those who meet this requirement should be allowed to drive with kids.

For those who rent vehicles the insurance should be handled as if you were renting the vehicle for personal use. Chilliwack FC has insurance for owned and non-owned vehicles for the official business of Chilliwack FC only. No coverage is provided to parents or coaches while transporting youth players to games or practices.

Adults transporting players must model safe driving techniques and enforce seat belt use with players and other vehicle occupants.

Drivers shall conform to all requirements of the vehicle code.

Parents who wish to drive players (other than their own children) to practices, scrimmages, games, and tournaments shall disclose all transportation plans to their respective child/youths coach – if occurring over the course of the season, one notification is sufficient.

A coach/volunteer with Chilliwack FC may transport a child who is registered with Chilliwack FC under no circumstances without expressed permission of the parent/guardian of the youth in question, and without accompaniment by another adult, and/or children/youth.