

# **Grassroots Standards**

# 1. Introduction

This policy outlines the standards and guidelines for all Chestermere United FC Grassroots Soccer Programs in accordance with Canada Soccer's recommendations. The aim is to provide a safe, inclusive, and development-focused environment for players, coaches, officials, and parents involved in our Grassroots Soccer Programs.

### 2. Safety and Well-being

- All participants must adhere to the safety guidelines set by Canada Soccer, including but not limited to proper equipment usage, field conditions, and injury prevention protocols.
- Coaches and officials must prioritize the physical and emotional well-being of players, ensuring a positive and respectful environment free from any form of abuse, discrimination, or harassment.
- Adequate first aid supplies and trained personnel should be available at all Grassroots Soccer events.

# 3. Inclusivity and Diversity

- Grassroots Soccer Programs should be open to all individuals, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or ability.
- Efforts should be made to promote diversity and inclusivity within teams, coaching staff, and administrative roles.
- Any form of discrimination or exclusionary behavior will not be tolerated and should be reported and addressed promptly.

# 4. Player Development

- Grassroots Soccer Programs should focus on age-appropriate player development, emphasizing skill acquisition, teamwork, and fair play.
- Coaches should receive appropriate training and education to ensure they can effectively develop players' technical, tactical, physical, and psychological abilities.
- The emphasis should be on long-term player development rather than short-term results or winning at all costs.

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## 5. Coach and Official Development

- Grassroots Soccer Programs should provide opportunities for coaches and officials to enhance their knowledge and skills through training, workshops, and mentorship programs.
- Coaches and officials should adhere to the code of conduct set by Canada Soccer, promoting fair play, respect, and ethical behavior.
- Ongoing evaluation and feedback should be provided to coaches and officials to support their continuous development.

#### 6. Parent and Guardian Involvement

- Parents and guardians should be encouraged to actively participate in Grassroots Soccer Programs, supporting their child's development and fostering a positive environment.
- Clear communication channels should be established to keep parents and guardians informed about program details, expectations, and any changes or updates.
- Parents and guardians should be educated on their role in promoting fair play, respect, and positive behavior on and off the field.

#### 7. Compliance and Monitoring

- Grassroots Soccer Programs should regularly review and assess their adherence to Canada Soccer guidelines, making necessary adjustments to ensure compliance.
- Monitoring mechanisms should be in place to identify and address any violations or concerns related to safety, inclusivity, player development, and coach/official conduct.
- Any reported incidents of misconduct or non-compliance should be thoroughly investigated, and appropriate actions taken, including disciplinary measures if necessary.

#### 8. Conclusion

This policy aims to establish a framework for Grassroots Soccer Programs that align with Canada Soccer guidelines. By prioritizing safety, inclusivity, player development, and coach/official education, Chestermere United FC can create a positive and nurturing environment for all participants involved in our Grassroots Soccer Programs.