General Code of Conduct

Policy category: Safe Sport / Child Protection
Approved by: Squamish United FC Board of Directors
Effective date: November 15, 2026
Review date: Annually

Our Commitment

Squamish United is committed to creating a positive, safe, inclusive and development-focused football environment for all players.

We believe football should provide opportunities to learn, improve, compete, build relationships and enjoy being part of a team.

Everyone involved in our club has a responsibility to contribute to this environment. This Code of Conduct outlines the expectations of our players, parents and guardians, coaches and club staff.

Our standards are built around respect, inclusion, development, integrity and accountability.

1. **Player code of Conduct**

As a Squamish United player, I will:

- Treat teammates, coaches, opponents, referees and spectators with respect.
- Give my best effort and approach training and games with a positive attitude.
- Be punctual, prepared and committed to my team.
- Listen to my coaches, accept feedback and take responsibility for my development.
- Encourage and support my teammates, regardless of their ability or performance.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship, self-control and positive body language.
- Respect the decisions of coaches and match officials.
- Take responsibility for my actions, attitude and behaviour.
- Respect club equipment, facilities, uniforms and property.
- Never engage in bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, violence or inappropriate language.
- Represent Squamish United positively, both on and off the field.

Our expectation: Be a good teammate, work hard, embrace learning and represent the club with pride.

2. **Parent and Guardian Code of Conduct**

As a Squamish United parent or guardian, I will:

- Encourage my child to enjoy football, work hard and develop at their own pace.
- Support all players and recognize that every player develops differently.
- Respect coaches, referees, opposition players, parents and volunteers.
- Allow coaches to coach and players to play.
- Encourage my child without putting unnecessary pressure or expectations on them.
- Refrain from coaching, instructing or directing players from the sidelines.
- Respect decisions regarding team selection, playing time, positions and team management.
- Communicate concerns respectfully and through the appropriate club channels.
- Avoid approaching coaches immediately before, during or after games to discuss emotionally charged concerns.
- Demonstrate positive behaviour regardless of the score or result.
- Ensure my child arrives prepared, on time and ready to participate.
- Refrain from bullying, harassment, discrimination, aggressive behaviour or inappropriate language.
- Use social media responsibly and respect the privacy of players, families and club personnel.
- Support the club's values, policies and commitment to player development.

Our sideline expectations:

- Cheer positively for all players.
- Respect referees and their decisions.
- Do not criticize or instruct players during games.
- Avoid negative comments about coaches, players or opponents.
- Allow players to make decisions, learn from mistakes and enjoy playing.

Our expectation: Be supportive, trust the development process and help create an environment where every player can enjoy and grow through football.

3. **Coach and Club Staff Code of Conduct**

As a Squamish United coach or staff member, I will:

- Put the safety, wellbeing and development of players first.
- Create a positive, inclusive, respectful and safe learning environment.
- Treat all players fairly and equitably.
- Prioritize long-term player development over short-term results.
- Provide age-appropriate, engaging and challenging football experiences.
- Encourage creativity, confidence, decision-making and independence.
- Provide constructive feedback and communicate respectfully.
- Recognize and support individual differences, abilities and developmental needs.
- Demonstrate positive leadership, sportsmanship and professionalism.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries and professional relationships with players.
- Respect player privacy and confidentiality.
- Follow all club, league, provincial and national safeguarding requirements.
- Complete required certifications, screening and safe sport education.
- Communicate professionally and respectfully with parents and guardians.
- Address concerns through appropriate club channels.
- Report any concerns relating to player safety, misconduct or inappropriate behaviour.
- Represent Squamish United positively at all times.

Coaches and staff must never use humiliation, intimidation, threats, discrimination, physical punishment or abusive language as a coaching method.

Our expectation: Lead by example, put players first and create an environment where everyone has the opportunity to develop and enjoy football.

4. **Safe Sport and Accountability**

Squamish United is committed to providing an environment free from abuse, harassment, discrimination, bullying, neglect and other forms of misconduct.

All players, parents, coaches and staff share responsibility for maintaining a safe and respectful environment.

Any behaviour that does not meet the expectations outlined in this Code of Conduct will be addressed appropriately.

Depending on the nature and severity of the behaviour, consequences may include:

- Verbal or written warning.
- Meeting with the individual and/or parent or guardian.
- Formal behaviour expectations or improvement plan.
- Temporary removal from training, games or club activities.

- Suspension from club activities.
- Further disciplinary action, including termination of participation or club membership where appropriate.

Serious misconduct may require immediate interim measures and referral through the appropriate reporting procedures.

All matters will be addressed with consideration for fairness, confidentiality, player safety and applicable club policies.

5. Acknowledgement and Agreement

Squamish United is a community built on shared values and shared responsibility.

By participating in our club, we agree to uphold these standards and contribute positively to the football environment we are building together.

We want every player to feel safe, included, supported and excited to come to the field.

That is the standard we expect. That is the culture we are building.