

Youth Sports Abuse Prevention Policy

Thurston County Youth Soccer Association (TCYSA) places the highest priority on the safety and well-being of the youth in our programs. We believe that the likelihood of child sports abuse can be reduced by creating a culture of awareness through education, screening, and policy and procedures implementation. The following policy and procedures have been adopted in an effort to provide a safe environment for our youth and their families.

Screening—every coach and volunteer working with youth must complete an online registration and pass an annual Risk Management Assessment (RMA).

Behavior Expectations—our goal is for coaches and players to have a healthy relationship and positive communication. TCYSA clubs adhere to a Three (3) Person Rule—at no time should any coach or team volunteer be left alone with a single youth player that is not a relation or family member. For example, there must always be two (2) youth players present with one (1) adult or two (2) adults present with an unrelated youth. This will always apply in situations including but not limited to:

1. Before, during and after team games and practices
2. Transportation and travel to and/or from games and practices
3. Any social interactions outside of scheduled practices and games

Prohibited Behaviors—TCYSA will not tolerate any inappropriate conduct or behavior on the part of coaches or volunteers which includes but is not limited to:

1. Degrading language or behavior directed towards youth
2. Unwanted physical contact with youth
3. Physical threats or violence against youth
4. Any romantic or sexual contact with youth
5. Any sexual offense against a youth or engaging in any other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature with a youth

Communication—all communication between players, volunteers, and coaches should be professional and team oriented. All electronic communication between players and volunteers or coaches must include a parent or guardian.

Reporting of Suspected Abuse

1. All coaches and volunteers are considered mandatory reporters and as such are required to report any conduct which could be reasonably be considered abuse or neglect within 24 hours.
2. All coaches and volunteers are required to report any incident of suspected abuse they witness or have reasonable grounds to believe has occurred to the proper law enforcement agencies and to their club president or club designated official within 24.