

NEW FRONTIER SOCCER

REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE POLICY



Policy:

New Frontier Soccer staff and volunteers are required to report child abuse or neglect when a child is suspected to be at risk of abuse or neglect.

Definitions:

Child: any person under the age of 18 years.

Abuse: any act of maltreatment of a child that results in injury or harm, and includes physical, sexual or emotional injury or harm.

Neglect: a child is neglected if the parent or guardian is unable or unwilling to:

- Provide the child with the necessities of life;
- Obtain for the child, or to permit the child to receive, essential medical, surgical or other remedial treatment that is necessary for the health or well-being of the child; or
- Provide the child with adequate care of supervision.

Guidelines:

A child is in need of intervention if there are reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the survival, security or development of the child is endangered because of the any of the following:

- The child has been abandoned or lost;
- The parent or guardian of the child is dead and the child has no other parent or guardian;
- The child is neglected by the parent or guardian;
- The child has been or there is substantial risk that the child will be physically injured or sexually abused by their parent or guardian;
- The parent or guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to protect the child from physical injury or sexual abuse;
- The child has been emotionally injured by the parent or guardian;
- The parent or guardian of the child is unable or unwilling to protect the child from emotional injury;
- The parent or guardian of the child has subjected the child to, or is unable or unwilling to protect the child from, emotional injury;
- The parent or guardian of the child has subjected the child to, or is unable or unwilling to protect the child from, cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.

Procedures:

1. When a child discloses an abusive or neglectful incident(s), it is important that staff/volunteers allow the child to make their comments in an “uninterrupted free narrative”
 - a. Stay calm and react without shock, disbelief, anger, judgment or fear;
 - b. Let the child tell you what happened in their own words without interruptions
 - c. Listen carefully without asking any questions
 - d. Acknowledge how they are feeling (e.g., scared, angry, embarrassed, hurt, sad)
 - e. Help them feel comforted and supported by saying things like:
 - i. I believe you and I will support you
 - ii. It is okay to feel scared, angry, hurt
 - iii. I will try to help you figure out what happens next
 - iv. You are brave for talking about this and it is right to tell someone
2. Staff and volunteers must assess whether the child is immediately at risk. Indicators of “immediate risk” include:
 - a. Abandonment (or lack of supervision appropriate to age)
 - b. Child is afraid to return home
 - c. Severe unexplained bruises or marks especially in place where children do not normally get injuring during regular play or movement.
 - d. Child is at high risk for suicide. Guardians have been notified and are unable or unwilling to make plans to keep the child safe.
 - e. Disclosure that sexual abuse is occurring currently.
3. If a child is deemed to be at risk, staff and volunteers must report the need to contact the Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-387-5437 (KIDS) to Adam Monkman (NFS Grassroots Director), Cat Fox (NFS Foundation Phase Lead), Ross Quinton (Formation Phase Lead and co-owner of NFS), Kevin Francis (Performance Phase Lead) or Brendan O’Connell (NFS Director of Football).
 - a. Staff will take the appropriate steps to ensure the safety of the child
 - b. Staff will have the information ready to make the report which include:
 - i. Using the same words the child used
 - ii. Describe the way the child looked, how they behaved, and other observations
4. Unless there is a risk of endangering the safety or well-being of the child, the process will include parents/guardians.
 - a. There may be instances when the family/child is not informed that a report is being made. Such instances may include, but are not limited to, reports whereby the parent/guardian is the identified “abuser” by the child.

References:

For guidance on how to help and report abuse and neglect, <https://www.alberta.ca/how-to-help-and-report-child-abuse-neglect-and-sexual-exploitation.aspx>

*Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act, Province of Alberta, Revised Statutes of Alberta, Chapter C-12 (current as of January 2021), Section 1, pages 10-11.