



UMSC Guidelines: For Appropriate/Inappropriate Conduct between Adults/Adolescents and Children

Accreditations: Canadian Centre for Child Protection, Canada Soccer, Commit to Kids – A Program for Canadian Centre for Child Protection' and other sources

Individuals working or volunteering in sport are expected to model behaviour that upholds public confidence and enhances healthy relationships with children and families. It is important that all individuals involved with the UMSC are aware of what is appropriate and what is inappropriate behaviour between Adults, Adolescents and Children.

Below are some examples of appropriate and inappropriate behaviour. This is not an exhaustive list. The UMSC has developed an associated set of Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for the mandatory reporting of inappropriate behaviour that any member must report.

Examples of Appropriate Behaviour:

- Respectful language, tone and attitude towards others
- Respectful of personal physical and emotional boundaries
- Responding to children to meet the child's needs and not the adult's
- Engaging with children in a manner that would be seen by a reasonable observer as maintaining reasonable boundaries
- Keeping practices open to observation by parents
- Communication with children (including electronic) is transparent and accountable

Examples of Inappropriate Behaviour:

- Disrespectful language
- Humiliating or intimidating children
- Inappropriate touching of children (e.g., massaging, stroking, caressing, roughhousing, tickling)
- Confiding or sharing overly personal information with a child
- Asking children to keep secrets
- Electronic communication with children that is personal and not directly tied to coaching duties
- Communication that is sexual or flirtatious in nature
- Pictures taken with personal devices or in change rooms

Standard of Measure for Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries

All interactions and activities with children should be (including electronic communication):

- Transparent
- Accountable
- Tied to coaching/volunteer duties
- In response to meeting the child's needs



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Parents and Coaches Play a Role

It can be difficult to respond to a situation where you notice a coach and athlete relationship that appears inappropriate. Reporting inappropriate behaviour creates accountability so proper action can be taken and expectations can be re-established. Parents or coaches who have concerns should speak with that coach's supervisor.

Parents and coaches should also have regular age-appropriate conversations with children about personal safety and boundary-breaking behaviour. Some topics to talk with children about are the qualities of healthy relationships, importance of personal boundaries, and how to get help/where to bring concerns.

For this information and more, visit: kidsintheknow.ca/safetyworksheets

If you are concerned about a sexual image that has been shared, visit Cybertip.ca. This site has information for teens and adults. For more information on reporting inappropriate conduct and child sexual abuse visit commit2kids.ca/safesport

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