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Abuse Prevention Policy

Effective Date: Dec 4, 2012 / Revision Number: 1

This policy establishes how the Saratoga-Wilton Soccer Club (SWSC) will prevent the physical, emotional and sexual abuse of children and youth by its Representatives. SWSC seeks to create a welcoming and nurturing environment and has zero tolerance for those whose actions may jeopardize the safety, health or innocence of a minor.

DEFINITIONS

Abuse – Because it takes many forms, abuse can be broken down into the following subtypes, all of which are prohibited within the scope of this policy.

- Physical abuse – Injury inflicted on a child or youth
- Sexual abuse – Contact or activity of a sexual nature between an adult and a child or youth
- Emotional abuse – Mental or emotional injury inflicted on a child or youth by the actions of an adult
- Neglect – Failure to provide adequate care for a child or youth
- Economic abuse – Deliberate misuse of the money or belongings of a child or youth

Child – A child is defined as anyone under the age of 12.

Youth – A youth is defined as anyone between 12 and 18 years of age.



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SWSC Representative – As used in the SWSC Abuse Prevention Policy, SWSC Policy For Reporting Potential Child Abuse Or Potential Violations Of The SWSC Abuse Prevention Policy and SWSC Policy For Monitoring Compliance With The Abuse Prevention Policy, the term “SWSC Representative” shall mean SWSC Board Members, SWSC Administrative Director, SWSC Rec Program Director and any volunteers approved by the SWSC Board and registered as Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers or Team Parents in SWSC’s Travel Program Sports Signup Registration System for the current soccer year.



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POLICY GUIDELINES

Personnel Screenings

Safeguards in the selection process for SWSC Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainers and other SWSC Representatives will be used to eliminate from consideration any candidates who display characteristics that could classify them at a high risk for violating this policy. The required screenings and background information will depend on the positions and its level of involvement with children and youth.

SWSC Representatives: Candidates for positions that involve regular interaction with children or youth will be screened and selected using the following:

- A SWSC Application which shall include position applicable information including philosophies, experience and references.
- For selected Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers, registration through SWSC's Travel Program SportsSignup Registration System which includes appropriate consents and agreements.
- All Head Coaches shall have attended a youth soccer coaching licensing program and received a youth soccer coaching license issued by, or recognized by, Eastern New York Youth Soccer Association (ENYYSA) and the Capital District Youth Soccer League (CDYSL) that is age appropriate for the SWSC team(s) the individual will be the Head Coach.
- All Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Team Managers shall be screened and approved through the ENYYSA and CDYSL Risk Management Program (Background Check Program).
- For other SWSC Representatives that regularly work with or around children or youth, SWSC shall require that they are screened and approved through the ENYYSA and CDYSL Risk Management Program (Background Check Program).



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Structural Guidelines for Programs

All SWSC programs are designed to encourage safe interaction between SWSC Representatives and children or youth. The following guidelines are meant to keep established safeguards effective:

- All SWSC Representatives are restricted from being alone with a child or youth where they cannot be easily observed by others.
- No SWSC Representative is authorized to transport a child or youth in the name of the SWSC.
- Children under the age of six placed in the care of SWSC will only be released to a parent, legal guardian or a person designated by a parent or legal guardian.

General Conduct

In an effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for both mind and body, the following guidelines are meant to guide SWSC Representatives during their interactions with children and youth. These guidelines do not and cannot outline every situation that may be encountered while participating in SWSC programs, requiring Representatives to act with a certain degree of personal discretion. Because a certain action is not prohibited in this section does not mean it is acceptable behavior. SWSC reserves the right to take disciplinary action against Representatives whose actions are found to be inappropriate regardless of whether they appear in this section.

- SWSC Representatives will treat all children and youth with respect and consideration. Treatment must be fair and equal, and must not be based on sex, race, religion, sexual orientation or economic or social status. All effort must be made to avoid favoritism, or the appearance of favoritism.
- While representing SWSC, SWSC Representatives must not possess, distribute, use or allow others to use any alcohol or drugs.



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- SWSC Representatives must not use harsh or inappropriate language, degrading punishment or any type of restraining device in the name of behavior management.
- SWSC Representatives must not participate in or allow others to engage in any form of hazing.
- SWSC Representatives must not have sexual contact with children or youth.
- SWSC Representatives must not dress, undress, shower or bathe with or in the presence of children or youth.
- SWSC Representatives must not use physical punishment in any form. The only time physical force is allowed to be used against a child or youth is when their actions are placing others at an immediate risk for serious harm.
- SWC Representatives are prohibited from sharing sleeping locations with children or youth. This includes beds, tents, hotel rooms and other similar areas. SWSC Representatives can sleep in open areas with children or youth as long as the area is large enough for the SWSC Representative to have their own defined sleeping areas and other SWSC Representatives or parents are also present.
- SWSC Representatives must not discuss their own sexual history, preferences or fantasies nor their use of illicit or pornographic materials while in the company of children or youth.
- SWSC Representatives are not allowed to possess any sexually oriented materials (books, magazines, videos, clothing) when conducting business in the name of SWSC.



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- When one-on-one discussion or counseling is warranted, SWSC Representative interaction with a child or youth will take place in an area that allows for private conversation while remaining in the view of others.
- For all SWSC program activities there shall be a designated lead SWSC Representative and at least one other SWSC Representative, a parent or guardian of a child or youth participant, or other adult present at all times.

If, for any reason, a SWSC Representative feels there is a need to make an exception to these guidelines, they must submit to the SWSC Board a written description of the incident and why their actions were necessary. Their report will be reviewed for wrongdoing and any appropriate action by the SWSC.

SWSC REPRESENTATIVE AGREEMENT

If you have any uncertainty or questions regarding the content of this policy, you are required to consult the SWSC Board. This should be done prior to signing and agreeing to the SWSC Abuse Prevention Policy.

I, (Print Name) _____, have read and understand SWSC’s Abuse Prevention Policy and agree to abide by its terms and conditions throughout the course of my involvement with the SWSC. I understand that my failure to follow the terms of this policy could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of my involvement with SWSC and its Programs.

Signature _____

Date _____