



RIVER CITY ATHLETICS

Title: Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy	
Standard Operating Procedure / Club Policy	Date Distributed:
Initial Effective Date: 2025-26 Season	Date Last Revised: 10/23/2025
Author: Wayne Harvey	
Presented To Board of Directors Date: 10/5/2025	Board Vote: Unanimous
Supersedes:	Dated:

SCOPE All Players, Coaches, Staff, and Board Members of River City Athletics

PURPOSE River City Athletics is committed to fostering a safe and positive environment for all youth participants.

POLICY By adhering to this Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, we aim to prevent harm and promote the well-being of every individual involved in our programs.

PROCEDURE –

1. Background Checks

- To ensure all individuals in positions of authority or trust undergo thorough screening to prevent harm to children.
 - Mandatory Screening: All coaches, volunteers, and staff members must undergo comprehensive background checks before engaging in any activities with youth participants.
 - Compliance with Standards: Background checks will be conducted in accordance with U.S. Soccer's Safe Soccer Framework and Soccer Maine's Risk Management Policy
 - Scope of Checks: Background checks will include:
 - National and state criminal databases
 - Sex offender registries
 - Identity verification
 - Reference checks
 - Frequency: Background checks will be conducted as set forth by Soccer Maine to maintain up-to-date records.
 - Adjudication: Any adverse findings will be reviewed in accordance with U.S. Soccer's Safe Soccer Clearance program

2. Training

- To equip all adults involved with the necessary knowledge and skills to recognize, prevent, and respond to child protection concerns.
 - Mandatory Training: All adult participants, including coaches, managers, and administrators, must complete safeguarding and child protection training before engaging in any club activities.
 - Training will cover:

- Recognizing signs of abuse and neglect
- Reporting procedures
- Safe interaction practices
- Understanding boundaries and appropriate behavior
- Emotional and physical misconduct awareness
- Certification: Training will be provided through U.S. Soccer's Safe Soccer Framework and Soccer Maine's Risk Management Program
 - Refresher Courses: Training will be refreshed annually to ensure ongoing awareness and compliance.

3. Reporting Protocols

- To establish clear procedures for reporting and addressing concerns related to child protection.
 - Immediate Reporting: Any concerns or allegations of abuse must be reported within 24 hours to the Risk Manager of Soccer Maine or appropriate authorities.
 - Confidentiality: All reports will be handled with the utmost confidentiality, ensuring the protection of all parties involved.
 - Non-Retaliation: The club prohibits retaliation against individuals who report concerns in good faith.
 - Documentation: All reports and actions taken will be documented by the Risk Manager and Club Secretary and stored securely for future reference.

4. Supervision

- To ensure that all youth participants are supervised appropriately during club activities.
 - Two-Adult Rule: At least two adults must be present during all training sessions, matches, and events involving youth participants.
 - One-on-One Interactions: One-on-one interactions between adults and youth participants should be avoided unless in an observable and interruptible setting.
 - Travel and Overnight Events: Additional supervision measures will be implemented for travel and overnight events, including:
 - Written parental consent
 - Gender-appropriate rooming arrangements
 - Clear communication of itineraries and contact information
 - Monitoring: Regular checks will be conducted to ensure adherence to supervision protocols.

REFERENCES

ATTACHMENTS

NA

This document was approved by the committee(s) noted below on the date(s) as noted: