

# SV/SLV Soccer Club Youth Protection and Adult Leadership Policy

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## **SV/SLV Soccer Club Barriers to Abuse**

The SV/SLV Soccer Club has adopted the following policies for the safety and well-being of its players, coaches, trainers, and other volunteers. These policies primarily protect youth members; however, they also serve to protect adult leaders.

**Two-deep leadership required.** Any situation in which an adult leader will be with a non-custodial youth requires two adults to be present.

**One-on-one contact between adults and youth is prohibited.** In situations requiring a personal conference, the meeting is to be conducted with the knowledge and in view of other adults and/or youth.

**Physical contact limitations.** Physical contact between youth and adult leaders is to be minimized and restricted. Anything that could be perceived as intimate (hugs, kisses, backrubs, etc.) is strictly prohibited. High-fives are acceptable as are other basic assistance situations (e.g. tying shoes, goalkeeper gloves application/removal, helping injured player off the field). If there is a possibility that actions might be misinterpreted, no matter how innocuous, you must refrain.

**Two-deep leadership and no one-on-one contact between adults and youth includes digital communication.** Leaders may not have one-on-one private online communications or engage one-on-one in other digital activities (games, social media, etc.) with youth members. Leaders should copy a parent and another leader in digital and online communication, ensuring no one-on-one contact exists in text, social media, or other forms of online or digital communication.

**Age-appropriate and separate accommodations for adults and youth are required when travel is included.** No youth may share a room with an adult or a person of the opposite sex other than a family member or guardian. Assigning youth more than two years apart in age to sleep in the same tent should be avoided unless the youth are relatives.

**The buddy system should be used at all times.** The buddy system is a safety measure for all activities. Buddies should know and be comfortable with each other. Self-selection with no more than two years age or significant differences in maturity should be strongly encouraged. When necessary, a buddy team may consist of three youth. No youth should be forced into or made to feel uncomfortable by a buddy assignment.

**Privacy of youth is respected.** Adult leaders and youth must respect each other's privacy and adults must protect their own privacy.

**Inappropriate use of smart phones, cameras, imaging, or digital devices is prohibited.** Although most youth and leaders use cameras and other imaging devices

responsibly, it is easy to unintentionally or inadvertently invade the privacy of other individuals with such devices. The use of any device capable of recording or transmitting visual images in or near areas where privacy is expected is inappropriate.

**Discipline must be constructive.** Discipline used in coaching must be constructive. Corporal punishment is never permitted. Disciplinary activities involving isolation, humiliation, or ridicule are prohibited. Examples of positive discipline include verbal praise and high fives.

**Appropriate attire is required for all activities.** Proper clothing for activities is required.

**No hazing.** Hazing and initiations are prohibited and may not be included as part of any team activity.

**No bullying.** Verbal, physical, and cyberbullying are prohibited.

### **Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse**

All persons involved in SV/SLV Soccer Club must report to local authorities any good-faith suspicion or belief that any child is or has been physically or sexually abused, physically or emotionally neglected, exposed to any form of violence or threat, exposed to any form of sexual exploitation including the possession, manufacture, or distribution of child pornography, online solicitation, enticement, or showing of obscene material. This duty cannot be delegated to any other person.

Immediately notify the SV/SLV Soccer Club President ([president@svslvsoccerclub.org](mailto:president@svslvsoccerclub.org)) of this report, or of any violation of SV/SLV Soccer Club's Youth Protection policies, so he or she may take appropriate action for the safety of our youth, make appropriate notifications, and follow up with investigating agencies. If the President is not available, or the possibility of a conflict of interest exists, please contact the Vice-President ([vicepresident@svslvsoccerclub.org](mailto:vicepresident@svslvsoccerclub.org)).

State-by-state mandatory reporting information: [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov) 

**All adult leaders and youth members have responsibility.** Everyone is responsible for acting in accordance with the SV/SLV Soccer Club's Youth Protection Policies. Physical violence, sexual activity, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, unauthorized weapons, hazing, discrimination, harassment, initiation rites, bullying, cyberbullying, theft, verbal insults, drugs, alcohol, and pornography have no place in the SV/SLV Soccer Club and may result in suspension and/or expulsion from SV/SLV Soccer Club.

**Units are responsible to enforce Youth Protection policies.** Adult leaders are responsible for monitoring the behavior of youth members and other leaders and interceding when necessary. If youth members misbehave, their parents should be informed and asked for assistance.

**Incidents requiring an immediate report to the SV/SLV Soccer Club President.** The following must be reported to the Club President for action immediately:

- Any threat or use of a weapon
- Any negative behavior associated with race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability

- Any reports to authorities where the SV/SLV Soccer Club's Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse policy or your state's mandatory reporting of child abuse laws apply
- Any abuse of a child that meets state reporting mandates for bullying or harassment
- Any mention or threats of suicide

If someone is at immediate risk of harm, call 911.

### **Your Responsibility**

- Stop the policy violation or abuse.
- Protect the youth.
- Separate alleged victim from alleged perpetrator.
- Summon needed assistance (911, EMS, additional leaders, etc.).
- Notify parents.
- Notify the Club President.