



ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

The Governing Body of Soccer in Alberta

9023 111 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5B 0C3

Ph: 780 474 2200
Fax: 780 474 6300



ALBERTA SOCCER CODE OF CONDUCT, SOCIAL MEDIA & SUPERVISION POLICY FOR PROVINCIAL TEAM AND EXCEL PROGRAMMING

Alberta Soccer Code of Conduct

The ALBERTA SOCCER Code of Conduct applies to all parents/guardians of players as well as the players themselves, during participation in Provincial Team and EXCEL programming, including the team selection and training process as well as during any competition(s) and travel. From here forward, any reference to 'members' entails those listed above and any reference to "EXCEL programming" refers to FC Edmonton REX and Whitecaps Alberta South Academy Centre.

All members must:

- Act as ambassadors for their local clubs, their District Association, ALBERTA SOCCER, EXCEL programming and the province of Alberta;
- Participate in ALBERTA SOCCER and EXCEL Programming and/or Competitions in the spirit of fair play, co-operation and respect for others at all times;
- Respect the rules of the sport, the ALBERTA SOCCER and EXCEL Programming and/or Competitions Rules and Code of Conduct;
- Perform to their best ability in every competition and accept with pride the result their effort brings;
- Respect their opponents and the directions and decisions of competitive and other officials;
- Be gracious in victory and defeat;
- During competition, respect the rights of the residents of the Host Association and members from other provinces and territories;
- Regard participation in the ALBERTA SOCCER Programs and EXCEL Programming as a privilege;
- Conduct themselves in accordance with the Alberta Soccer Association Code of Conduct to ensure that training and all competitions take place in an environment which is safe, free from harassment and discrimination for all members.



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Members will:

- Play the game of soccer of their own accord not because others want them to.
- Maintain self-control and model the highest degree of respect for teammates, coaches, opposing players, game officials, and the laws of the game.
- Remember that “winning isn’t everything” – that having fun, improving skills, making friends and giving a complete effort are also important.
- Abide by the established ALBERTA SOCCER and EXCEL Programming curfews, coaches may set an earlier curfew if the game schedules warrant
- Reside in the designated Host Accommodation for the duration of competition;
- Respect the Clean Air policy and ban on smoking at all training/competition venues and facilities;
- Obey all federal laws, provincial laws of the Host province and municipal by-laws, on alcohol consumption and illegal substance (drug) and tobacco use;
- Respect the Canadian Policy and Penalties for Doping in Sport.
- Participants shall not use or be in possession of illicit drugs/narcotics, performance-enhancing drugs or methods, or drug paraphernalia. All National Competitions are subject to random Doping testing by the Canadian Center for Ethics in Sport;
- Respect the Zero Tolerance of alcohol (acquiring, possession of purchasing or consuming) at competitions;
- Be punctual for all official games, practices, functions and activities.

Members will not:

- Verbally or physically abuse other members of their team or other participants during training and/or competitions;
- Show disrespect to officials, including the use of foul language and obscene or offensive gestures;
- Breach any of the established competition rules;
- Abuse, damage or destroy accommodations, facilities or equipment;
- Fail to comply with rulings by officials, coaches, managers, or any other person in a position of authority or responsibility;
- Publicly remove their ALBERTA SOCCER or EXCEL programming jersey/apparel in anger or frustration, or disrespect the ALBERTA SOCCER or EXCEL programming logo at any time.



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- Use their position as an ALBERTA SOCCER or EXCEL programming player/Parent to recruit or influence any player to leave their current home club and move to a different club;
- Indulge in any other unreasonable conduct which brings the Alberta Soccer or EXCEL programming into disrepute, including but not limited to, activities which disturb or disrupt the peace, infractions of municipal, provincial or federal laws, the abusive use of alcohol, the non-medical use of drugs, tobacco, or the use of alcohol by minors.

Parent/Guardians – in conjunction with the member expectations listed above:

- Parents will not force their child to participate in soccer.
- Parents will do their best to help their child fulfill their team commitments.
- Parents will encourage their child to play by the rules, in the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship, and to respect the decisions of game officials.
- Parents will never question the official's judgment or honesty in public or in front of their child, recognizing that officials are being developed in the same manner as players. Parents will not coach, give instruction to, or ridicule any player from the sideline, no matter what the situation.
- Parents should give praise to players, including the opposition, for good performances, hard work and fair play so that players see other beneficial outcomes to sport besides winning.
- Parents will support all efforts to remove all forms of abuse and neglect from our game. Parents will respect and show appreciation for the volunteers and paid personnel who work on behalf of the sport.
- Parents will adhere to a 24-48 hour cooling off period before discussing any grievance or concern.
- Parents will first approach team management if they have an issue or concern.
- Failing resolution from this point, the chain of inquiry shall be Coach, Technical Director, the Executive Director and then the Chair of the ALBERTA SOCCER Technical Committee.

Players may receive suspensions and/or removal from ALBERTA SOCCER or EXCEL Programming for their Parents breaching the ALBERTA SOCCER Code of Conduct.



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Provincial Team & EXCEL Programming Recruitment Policy

The resources in developing and nurturing players from both a human and financial impact is quite significant. To that end, any player that enters a Provincial Team Program, CSA REX Centre or Whitecaps Alberta South Academy Centre will be required to return to the club they were registered with upon entering the program at the conclusion of their involvement of the program for that current year. Understandably, there will be circumstances whereby players need to transfer clubs and in such circumstances, a request to transfer form can be completed. The Alberta Soccer Technical Committee will examine such requests on a case by case basis. The Technical Committee will have the right to impose sanctions on players for breach of this provision as it relates to Provincial Team, CSA REX Centre or Whitecaps Alberta South Academy Centre participation.

Social Media Policy

Since your site is a public space, as representatives of Alberta Soccer and/or EXCEL Programming, we expect you to be respectful of Alberta Soccer and/or EXCEL programming plus their respective competitions, officials, volunteers, team staff and athletes.

During the course of participation in ALBERTA SOCCER and/or EXCEL programming, including training, travel and competition, members are to refrain from uploading content to, or participating in, social media activities in the following situations; including but not limited to:

- a) Posting explicit pictures and/or inflammatory language that can be linked to the program, staff, volunteers, athletes and/or competitions.
- b) Before, during, or after a match, training session or team meeting when strategic, tactical, or medical information is discussed.
- c) Criticism of any provincial or national soccer association, coaches, athletes, officials, other team staff, volunteers and/or parents.



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Alberta Soccer and EXCEL Programs Supervision Policy

Types of Infractions:

Breaches of this Code of Conduct are divided into two types: minor infractions and major infractions. Minor infractions by players are dealt with informally by the program Head Coach. Minor infractions involving coaches, managers and other team staff, as well as Major infractions involving any member of the program, are dealt with more formally by the ALBERTA SOCCER Technical Director, or ALBERTA SOCCER Discipline Committee, where appropriate.

Minor infractions include, but are not limited to:

- Single instances of disrespectful behaviour.
- Single instances of unsportsmanlike conduct such as arguing.
- Being late, or absent from, team activities or functions.
- Failing to follow the dress code.
- Use of tobacco products by minors (under 19 years of age).
- A minor disturbance or disruption in the Host Accommodation.
- Other similar infractions of minor severity.

Major Infractions include, but are not limited to:

- Repeated minor infractions.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct such as fighting.
- Major disruptions after curfew.
- Use of alcohol by a minor at any time.
- Pranks, jokes, or other activities which endanger the safety of others.
- Possession or use of illegal drugs.
- Alberta Soccer Association Governing Body of Soccer in the Province of Alberta.
- An anti-doping rule violation under the Canadian Anti-Doping Program.
- Failure of coaches to enforce discipline for minor infractions.
- Other similar infractions of major severity.



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DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

The following are examples of disciplinary sanctions that may be applied, singly or in combination, by a Program Head Coach, the ALBERTA SOCCER Technical Director, ALBERTA SOCCER Technical Committee or the Competitions Discipline Committee. Other sanctions may be applied depending on the circumstances. These sanctions are listed generally in order of severity:

- a) Impose an earlier curfew;
- b) Issue a verbal reprimand or warning to the member;
- c) Issue a written reprimand or warning to be filed with the Provincial Representative;
- d) Require the member to make a verbal apology to the host organization, his/her team mates, his/her coaches, or such other parties as are appropriate;
- e) Require the member to hand deliver a written apology to such parties as are appropriate;
- f) Confinement to accommodation for a specified period of time;
- g) Require the member to do voluntary team service for his/her team;
- h) Suspend the member from a Tournament's non-competition events such as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies;
- i) Expel the member from the Team after the completion of his or her competition;
- j) Suspend the member from the competition;
- k) Expel the member from competitions before completion of his or her competition;
- l) Send the member home at his/her own cost following expulsion from a competition;
- m) Prohibit the member from participating in other Soccer activities;
- n) Involve local authorities (i.e. Police, RCMP).

In applying sanctions, the Head Coach, ALBERTA SOCCER Technical Director, ALBERTA SOCCER Technical Committee and Disciplinary Committee may consider the following aggravating or mitigating circumstances:

- The nature and severity of the infraction;
- Whether the infraction is the member's first offence or a repeat offence;
- The member's acknowledgement of responsibility;



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- The member's extent of remorse;
- The age, maturity or experience of the member; and
- The member's prospects for rehabilitation.

The above mitigating factors do not apply to any offense of a criminal nature - in all such instances the local Police or RCMP must be involved.

Any team member may be subject to further disciplinary procedures by the Alberta Soccer Association and/or EXCEL Program.



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**ALBERTA SOCCER and EXCEL PROGRAMMING CODE
OF CONDUCT AND SUPERVISION POLICY
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

ALBERTA SOCCER Team Name/EXCEL Program:

I, _____, hereby acknowledge that I have read the Provincial Code of Conduct and Team Supervision Policy, and am aware of the consequences should I fail to adhere to the Rules and Regulations of the Tournament, the Alberta Soccer Association.

_____ Player Signature

_____ Date

_____ Parent/Guardian of Player Signature

_____ Date