

## **Somerset West Soccer Club**

### **Policy No. 003.3**

#### **Child Protection**

Adopted: May 4, 2004

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the Somerset West Soccer Club (“the club”) child protection procedures.

#### 2. References

- A. Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA) KidSafe Program

#### 3. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, “Child Abuse” and “Abuse” shall be defined as follows:

- A. Intentional conduct that results in:
  - 1) Any physical injury to a child; or
  - 2) Any mental injury to a child which results in observable and substantial impairment of the child’s mental or psychological ability to function caused by cruelty to the child, with due regard to the culture of the child.
- B. Rape of a child, which includes, but is not limited to, rape sodomy, unlawful sexual penetration, and incest.
- C. Sexual abuse when the victim is a child.
- D. Sexual exploitation of a child.
- E. Neglect of a child.

#### 4. Background

Somerset West Soccer Club (SWSC) Policy No. 003 created a club risk management program and outlined a need for the club to adopt risk management policies where necessary to manage risks not separately or fully addressed by the policies of the club’s affiliated organizations.

The U.S. Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) formulated and adopted the KidSafe Risk Management Program to address the prevention of child abuse. The USYSA also charged each state association with responsibility for developing a formal, written program addressing the topic of child abuse prevention. The Oregon Youth Soccer Association adopted the USYSA KidSafe Risk Management Program as their formal, written program.

The KidSafe Risk Management Program provides background information about child abuse, outlines expectations for behavior, and describes the handling of violations.

This policy recognizes the requirements and expectations of the KidSafe Risk Management Program and provides additional details about the procedures and practices the SWSC will use to protect its players from abuse.

## 5. Policy

- A. The SWSC and its Board of Directors, volunteers, and members shall not knowingly allow any person convicted of a crime of violence, physical abuse, or the sale of illegal substances or any person who has any other criminal convictions that would indicate a pattern of behavior that would have a detrimental effect on children to be placed in a position that would involve contact with children. Any such person shall be prohibited from participating with the club.
- B. The SWSC incorporates herein and adopts the OYSA KidSafe Risk Management Program. A copy of the referenced program is attached hereto.
- C. Notwithstanding any of the reporting requirements set forth by the OYSA, all reports of suspected instances of child abuse (as defined herein) should be reported to the Chair of the SWSC Risk Management Committee or to any other member of the club's Board of Directors as well as to the OYSA Risk Manager.
- D. It is the intent of the club to maintain confidences, except when required to report criminal activity to appropriate law enforcement officials or other individuals entitled to information gained through SWSC dealings in this regard.

## 6. Prevention

- A. The club's Board of Directors and its members, participants, parents of participants, and other volunteers shall be required to acknowledge that their services as volunteers are rendered at the sole discretion and approval of the SWSC, THJSL, and OYSA. Volunteers have no right to participate

unless such participation is approved by the SWSC Board of Directors, the THJSL, and the OYSA at their sole discretion.

- B. Recognizing that the SWSC is a volunteer organization, it will use reasonable care to ensure the safety of participants from the risk of child abuse. Preventive measures may include – requiring disclosures and criminal records checks for all volunteers; providing copies of this policy and OYSA’s KidSafe program to every coach; limiting the distribution of team rosters and practice schedules; and requiring approval of parents/guardians prior to release or posting of photographs. The club may implement such other preventive measures from time to time as may be deemed reasonable or necessary.

8. Enforcement

- A. Whenever a member of the SWSC Board of Directors receives information which the reporter of the information believes to indicate child abuse, such information shall be immediately forwarded to the club’s Risk Management Committee for further review. The Risk Management Committee shall, in conformance with the club bylaws and SWSC Policy 003.1, develop a Recommended Course of Action for the SWSC Board of Directors. In making the recommendation, the Risk Management Committee shall consider the following factors:

- 1. The policy of the OYSA, THJSL, and SWSC towards individuals who may pose or be perceived as posing a risk to children, club volunteers, or club administrators;
- 2. The best interests of the children participating in the SWSC;
- 3. The sensitive nature of the information presented and the intent of the club to maintain confidences; and
- 4. Any other pertinent information or law that may apply to the situation at hand.

- B. If the Risk Management Committee finds that a reported action violates this policy, the Recommended Course of Action and report to the Board of Directors may suggest sanctions including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1. Restriction of duties;
- 2. Suspension or expulsion; and/or
- 3. Reporting to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

- C. Upon receipt of a Recommended Course of Action, the President shall call an emergency meeting of the SWSC Board of Directors to discuss and act upon the issue and the recommendation. The meeting shall be held within seven (7) days of the President's receipt of the Recommended Course of Action. A majority vote of the Board members present and voting is required for any action. The President shall not vote except in case of a tie. The meeting may be conducted electronically if necessary. The decision of the Board at this point shall be the final decision of the club.
- D. At the emergency meeting, the SWSC Board of Directors may either approve or disapprove the Recommended Course of Action or vote to further investigate the matter. If further investigation is required, the final decision of the Board of Directors shall be made within fifteen (15) days of the President's initial receipt of the Recommended Course of Action.
- E. The deliberations of the Risk Management Committee and the Board of Directors with regard to child protection issues as set forth in this policy shall be conducted in private.

9. Confidentiality

All investigatory information obtained and any Recommended Course of Action shall be maintained in the strictest confidence by the club. However, certain information gathered may be or may become a matter of public record and the club cannot guarantee its confidentiality.