

Covington Community Sports
STATEMENT FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE

The goal of Covington Community Sports (CCS) is to provide a healthy atmosphere for the development and growth of children. Affectionate touch and the warm feelings it brings is an important factor in helping a child grow into a loving and peaceful adult. However, CCS staff and volunteers need to be sensitive to each person's need for personal space, regardless of age. The mistreatment or neglect of children and the resulting severe effects is of primary concern.

Because of CCS's concern for the welfare of children, policies and guidelines for staff and volunteers have been developed. This helps in recognizing, reporting, and preventing child abuse.

Guidelines for Ethical Behavior

- Do not discipline children by use of physical punishment or by failing to provide the necessities of care.
- Do not verbally or emotionally abuse children.
- Inform children in a manner that is age appropriate of their right to set their own touching limits. Touching should:
 - Avoid breast, buttocks, and groin.
 - Be governed by age and developmental stage.
 - Be open and not secretive.
- Avoid being alone with a single child where other staff or adults cannot observe you.
- **At the first reasonable cause to believe child abuse exists, report it to a supervisor where procedure for reporting to the proper authorities will be reviewed.**
- Be sensitive to the need for confidentiality; refrain from discussing any abuse matters with co-workers or parents and limit conversations to a supervisor, or designated office staff.
- Document in writing any information regarding abuse, suspected abuse, or potential abuse.
- Release children to authorized persons only.
- Do not date a participant in a program who is under 18 years of age.
- At no time will a coach, assistant coach, staff member, or volunteer (or anyone helping with the team) be allowed to attend any team function under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.

In the event an incident or suspicion is reported which involved a staff member or volunteer, regardless of when the alleged incident takes place, it is considered job-related because of the youth-oriented nature of Covington Community Sports. The staff member or volunteer will be immediately suspended or terminated. Reinstatement occurs **only** if all allegations have been cleared to the satisfaction of Covington Community Sports' Board of Directors and investigating agency.

I UNDERSTAND THE STATEMENT FOR PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE GUIDELINES FOR ETHICAL BEHAVIOR.

Signature Required

Date

Please Print Name

Date