



# Youth Protection Program

VICTOR SOCCER CLUB – TRAVEL LEAGUE  
VERSION 1



# Purpose

- ▶ The Victor Soccer Club (VSC) understands the importance of protecting youth in the community and in our programs and therefore wishes to provide a safe and secure environment. The Board Of Directors of the Victor Soccer Club has adopted this policy on 11/1/2019 in order to provide practices that will **protect youth from incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior and also protect the employees and volunteers from false accusations.**



# Policy

- ▶ Registered Sex Offenders (Levels 1,2,&3) will NOT be permitted to administer or coach in VSC Travel or Recreation Leagues.
- ▶ All League staff and parent coaches will be trained to VSC Youth Protection Guidelines.
- ▶ Records of all background checks and training to be kept for 7 years.



# Background Check

- ▶ All adult administrators and coaches (18 years and older) to supply personal information as follows:
  - ▶ Full Name
  - ▶ Current Address
  - ▶ Date of Birth
- ▶ This information to be checked against NYS Registered Sex Registry for Level 1, 2, & 3 offenders. Anyone determined to be on this list will not be permitted to coach or administer in the VSC League.



# VSC Youth Protection Guidelines

## 1. “Two-Deep” Coaching

- ▶ Never, ever coach alone. If one coach will not be there for a practice or game, ask another parent to stay with you, even if they only observe from the sideline.
- ▶ Always make sure that there is at least one other adult parent with you when you are with any child other than your own.
- ▶ This is for your protection as much as the children's.

## 2. Stay Visible

- ▶ Always be on the field or in a public area, if you are with any of your players.
- ▶ Staff members will never be alone with an individual youth where they are not observable by others.



# VSC Youth Protection Guidelines (cont.)

**3. All team communications must be with parents.**

- Do not contact any players directly (i.e. text, social media, etc.)

**4. Wear a VSC coach shirt to identify yourself as a coach.**

- As much as possible.
- Previous year shirts acceptable.

**5. Youth never to be left unsupervised.**

**6. Know your parents.**

- Do not release youth to anyone other than parents, legal guardians, or other known family members who they arrived with.
- Call the parent if any questions about who is picking them up.



# VSC Youth Protection Guidelines (cont.)

## 7. **Prevent Bullying:**

- ▶ Utilize constructive methods for maintaining group control and managing youth behavior. Never demean and insult any of your players.
- ▶ Do not allow any bullying to any of your players, even from their teammates.

## 8. **Parents will always be allowed to observe practices and games.**

## 9. **Enlist Parental Support:**

- ▶ Notify your parents about these rules and ask them for their support to help protect our children.

## 10. **Avoid inappropriate and/or affectionate touching of your players.**



# Game Injuries

- ▶ Help us limit any rough play by players to avoid injuries.
- ▶ Head injuries – please take any hits to the head seriously.
  - ▶ Remove the player from the game if any hit to the head.
  - ▶ Do not return player to the game unless 100% sure that there are no lingering effects.
  - ▶ Notify parent after the game that their player was hit in the head.
- ▶ Have parent take any injured player to doctor/hospital. Call 911 if there is an emergency or serious injury.



# Remember, Soccer is Fun!

- ▶ Purpose for VSC League is for our kids to have fun playing soccer.
- ▶ Our job as coaches and other volunteers is to make that happen in a safe and friendly environment.
- ▶ The Score is not important!
- ▶ Our kids will remember whether they had an enjoyable experience.
- ▶ Let's make sure that happens for all our players.