



# Toca Juniors Football Club<sup>®</sup>

## Youth and Adult Soccer

### Maryland, USA

#### **Policies and Procedures for the Prevention and of Abuse or Sexual Misconduct**

Effective: February 13, 2019

Toca Juniors FC has zero tolerance for any type of abuse – verbal, emotional, physical and/or sexual – of minor athletes participating in all Club activities. This document sets forth Toca Juniors FC's policies and procedures to enforce this zero-tolerance policy.

#### **1- PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

- A. Toca Juniors FC prohibits all forms of physical, mental or emotional abuse against its minor athletes by any and all adult participants in all Club activities. Adult participants include but is not limited to: coaches, volunteers, board members, administrators and staff.
- B. Except in an emergency situation, Toca Juniors FC prohibits one adult (who is not the minor athlete's legal guardian) from being alone with a minor athlete without a second adult being present.
- C. Physical contact with minor athletes should be limited to that necessary to teach a skill, treat an injury, console or congratulate that minor athlete, or greet or say goodbye.

#### **2- REPORTING**

- A. Federal law requires that instances of suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, be reported within 24 hours to law enforcement or local Maryland Department of Human Services – Child Protective Services (<http://dhs.maryland.gov/child-protective-services/reporting-suspected-child-abuse-or-neglect/local-offices/>)
- B. If any adult participant is witness to or receives a credible report of suspect child abuse, this information is to be provided to Toca Juniors FC management (e.g., a Club board member or a coach) immediately. Please have as much information available regarding the suspect incident, including a description of incident, name of victim(s) and perpetrator(s), witnesses' names, dates, location, etc. (Notice to the Club may also be provided via its general email: [info@tocajuniors.com](mailto:info@tocajuniors.com).)



Web site: [www.tocajuniors.com](http://www.tocajuniors.com) Email: [info@tocajuniors.com](mailto:info@tocajuniors.com)

### 3- VIOLATIONS

- A. Any adult participant who is subject of an abuse report or otherwise alleged to have engaged in a case of abuse shall be promptly suspended from participating in all Club activities until the investigation is completed.
- B. Any adult participant who is convicted of (or pleads guilty to) a crime a material element of which is "Abuse of a Youth Participant" in connection with the Club's activities shall be prohibited from participating in any current or future activity sponsored by the Club.

### 4- APPLICATION AND TRAINING

- A. All adult participants in the Club's activities will be required to complete a written application before participating in any activities. Such applications will be required no less than bi-annually. The Abuse and Awareness Training must be taken before the application can be submitted because the completion certificate must be uploaded. The application can be found at <https://form.jotform.com/90418194083155>
- B. The written application will include questions about whether the individual has ever been convicted for any crime involving physical violence or sex related offenses. If the applicant answers yes, then the applicant may not participate in any Club activities.
- C. The Club will conduct a background check as part of the application process.
- D. Toca Juniors FC requires applicants and/or adult participants to participate in abuse and awareness training. The training must be completed before the application is submitted. This training can be completed for free via a link that will be sent to each adult participant email. Completion certificate must be uploaded in the application.

### HELPFUL LINKS:

- US Soccer: Prohibited Conduct Policy ([https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bb3a6cd8d9740440aff1c54/t/5bd1d5f315fcc016eb7d9890/1540478451959/USSF\\_Prohibited+Conduct+Policy\\_FINAL.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bb3a6cd8d9740440aff1c54/t/5bd1d5f315fcc016eb7d9890/1540478451959/USSF_Prohibited+Conduct+Policy_FINAL.pdf))
- US Center for SafeSport: Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (<https://www.teamusa.org/-/media/USA-Diving/PDFs/September-2018/Minor-Athlete-Abuse-Prevention-Policies.pdf?la=en&hash=E5AFC8BA76A4E60113D492EEFFA3FB2835AD7120> )
- Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-126) (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/534>)

