



Opeongo Minor Soccer Club

Recreational Fair Play Policy

Purpose

Opeongo Minor Soccer Club is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and positive soccer experience for every player. Recreational soccer exists first and foremost for children to have fun, learn new skills, build friendships, stay active, and develop a lifelong love of the game. Fair play is the responsibility of everyone involved in the game—players, coaches, parents/guardians, volunteers, and match officials.

Guiding Principles

All recreational programming at Opeongo Minor Soccer Club will be guided by the following principles:

- **Fun First** – The enjoyment of the players comes before results, standings, or winning.
- **Respect for All** – Every participant will be treated with respect regardless of age, ability, gender identity, race, background, or experience.
- **Development Over Winning** – Player growth, confidence, and learning are prioritized over competition outcomes.
- **Inclusion and Opportunity** – Every child deserves the opportunity to participate meaningfully.
- **Good Sportsmanship** – Positive behaviour on and off the field is expected at all times.

Expectations

Players

Players are expected to:

- Play by the rules and in the spirit of the game.
- Respect teammates, opponents, coaches, and referees.
- Try their best, support one another, and show kindness on and off the field.
- Win with humility and lose with dignity.
- Have fun and encourage others to do the same.

Coaches and Team Staff

Coaches and team staff are expected to:

- Create a positive and supportive environment for every player.
- Promote skill development, teamwork, and enjoyment over winning.

- Ensure fair participation and meaningful playing opportunities for all players over the course of the season.
- Use positive instruction and encouragement; yelling, ridicule, or public criticism of players is not acceptable.
- Model respectful behaviour toward players, officials, opponents, and spectators.

Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians are expected to:

- Encourage effort, learning, and enjoyment rather than focusing on results.
- Respect referees, coaches, players, and other spectators.
- Applaud fair play and good effort from both teams.
- Allow coaches to coach and referees to officiate without interference.
- Never engage in verbal abuse, harassment, intimidation, or inappropriate sideline behaviour.

Equal Participation

At the recreational level, all players should receive fair and meaningful opportunities to participate throughout the season. No player will be denied participation due to skill level, experience, or game situation. Coaches are encouraged to rotate positions whenever appropriate to support development and enjoyment.

Behaviour and Accountability

Abusive language, bullying, discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or aggressive conduct toward any participant will not be tolerated.

The Club may take action where behaviour does not align with this policy, including:

- verbal reminder or warning;
- sideline discussion with coach or parent;
- temporary removal from a game or field area;
- suspension from club activities;
- further disciplinary action in accordance with Club and Ontario Soccer policies.

Commitment

By registering with Opeongo Minor Soccer Club, all participants agree to uphold this Fair Play Policy and help ensure soccer remains safe, respectful, inclusive, and fun for every child.

At Opeongo Minor Soccer Club, fair play means every child plays, every child belongs, and every child enjoys the game.