

## **YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY – COACH/VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECKS AND REPORTING OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE**

The Beavercreek Soccer Association (BSA) vision is to provide a safe and caring environment for the physical, mental, and emotional development of today's youth to meet the challenges of tomorrow through the use of its organized soccer programs and soccer facilities.

As our society's awareness increases about the risk associated with individuals working with children whom misuse their authority by committing sexual, physical, mental, and emotional abuse, there is a need to provide a means of protection. In response to this need the BSA has created this policy. Our ultimate goal is the safety and protection of the children participating in the BSA.

The BSA will not tolerate the abuse of any child. We actively attempt to screen out molesters through background checks. We take any allegations of abuse seriously and refer allegations to the proper law enforcement authorities.

### **GUIDELINE FOR COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS:**

We recommend that all activities be structured so that coaches and volunteers are not alone with children. All activities should avoid "unsupervised access to a child" as defined by Ohio state law. A person has "unsupervised access" to a child if either of the following applies:

1. No other person eighteen years of age or older is present in the same room with the child.
2. If outdoors, no other person eighteen years of age or older is within a thirty-yard radius of the child or has visual contact with the child.

The BSA fulfills the criteria for requirements for background checks by requiring annual background checks of its coaches and other volunteers.

1. The BSA requires background checks on all head and assistant coaches.
2. Ohio state law (Ohio Revised Code 109.574, et seq.) requires background checks and fingerprinting of volunteers, including coaches, in order for the BSA to receive certain immunity as an organization.

Consistent with this policy the BSA restricts its coaches and other volunteers to only those persons who have not been convicted of one or more of the offenses listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 109.572(A)(1).

Note: Results of the background checks will be used only for the purposes stated above under this policy. BSA shall not share results with organizations other than within the BSA and with appropriate soccer-sanctioning organizations, without the written consent of the volunteer. All volunteers shall have the right to review the results of their background checks and to file a written objection to the results obtained from the background checks. Any such objections must be made in writing, with a stated basis for the objection, and mailed or hand delivered to the BSA Executive Director.

#### DUTY TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE:

Any coach, volunteer, or other individual acting within or on behalf of the BSA during any soccer activity or related activity such as practices, games, travel and lodging, or health or medical treatments, has a duty under federal law to report any incident of suspected child abuse, which includes any physical, mental, or sexual abuse, as soon as possible to a BSA official, preferably to the BSA Executive Director, or the president or commissioner of the particular soccer program in which the child participates.

The Beavercreek Soccer Association