Player and Parent Code of Conduct

(Last Updated: September, 2025)

London TFC/FC London takes seriously the important role that youth sports programs play in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of young athletes. The purpose of this Code is to ensure a safe and positive environment within London TFC/FC London in which all individuals are treated with respect and fairness. It is important for young athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship, and for parents and guardians to be models of good sportsmanship and to lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self-control.

This Player and Parent Code of Conduct has been developed for the purpose of encouraging and requiring respect, responsibility, fairness and good citizenship for all players in the club and their families.

For you and your child to participate in our programs, you and your child must read and agree with this Code of Conduct. If you choose not to complete registration thereby agreeing to this document, your child cannot participate in our programs. It will be the responsibility of families to ensure this code is adhered to as we strive to maintain a safe and positive environment in our soccer community.

As a parent/guardian/player I will:

1. Refrain from criticizing match officials, coaches, or players.
2. Be respectful at all times of the match officials, coaches, teammates, parents, volunteers, and opposing players.
3. Refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct or negative communication with players, coaching staff or families of opposing teams.
4. Refrain from using foul or abusive language.

5. Refrain from bullying, harassing, or abusing others.
6. Keep comments positive.
7. Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes harassment, where harassment is defined as a comment or conduct directed towards an individual or group, which is offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, degrading, or malicious.
8. Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes violence, which includes but is not limited to: actual physical harm or threats of physical harm communicated verbally, in writing, electronically, or via physical gestures.
9. Refrain from any behaviour that constitutes sexual harassment, where sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual comments and sexual advances.
10. Acknowledge that participation in our programs and attendance at league events, training, and other club events is a privilege not a right, and that I will be held responsible for my behaviour at these events.
11. Acknowledge that at many league events, pets are not permitted, and I agree to abide by that restriction.
12. Refrain from alcohol and/or illegal drug use of any kind at training and league events.
13. Dispose of all litter, garbage and belongings that have been brought to an event.
14. Refrain from bringing/displaying signage or clothing that exhibits offensive remarks of any kind.
15. Ensure attendance at training sessions and games on a regular, consistent basis.
16. Communicate with coaches when attendance at a training session or game is not possible.
17. Ensure arrival to games and training sessions on time, with all necessary equipment, clothing and uniforms.
18. Observe the 24-hour “cooling off” rule by ensuring that any concerns regarding an incident on the field be communicated with coaches respectfully, in writing, and at least 24 hours after the incident.
19. Respond in a timely matter to communications from coaches, team managers, and/or club administration.

20. Refrain from knowingly making false allegations of violations of the Code of Conduct, with malicious intent to harm or harass another person.

As a parent/guardian, I will additionally:

1. Refrain from 'coaching' from the sidelines.
2. Remember that I am here to support my child, and achieving a result is not the primary objective.
3. Refrain from approaching directly any Ontario Soccer technical personnel or any of the match officials.
4. Refrain from contacting coaches to discuss playing time, positional play, the performance of other players or to question coaches' decisions in games.
5. Ensure all club and team fees are paid in a timely fashion including any obligations from previous seasons.

As a player, I will additionally:

1. Remember that I am here to provide a strong performance and that the result of the match is secondary to its benefit as a development tool.
2. Try my best, support my teammates, lose and win with grace and humility.
3. Have fun.

Discipline

I further acknowledge that violation of this Code of Conduct may lead to one or more of the following penalties, singularly or in combination, and that the penalties will escalate with each subsequent offence:

1. Verbal or written reprimand
2. Verbal or written apology
3. Required completion of the *Respect in Sport – Parent Program*, at the parent's expense

4. Removal of certain privileges (only to be reinstated upon the parent's completion of the *Respect in Sport – Parent Program*, at the parent's expense)
5. Reduction of game time for the player
6. Payment of the cost of repairs for property damage
7. Suspension from certain teams, events, and/or activities
8. Suspension from all soccer related events for a set period of time
9. Expulsion from the club

Complaints

London TFC/FC London takes seriously any allegations of breaches of the within Code of Conduct. We therefore encourage all members to report any conduct they believe violates our Code of Conduct. Reports must be made in good faith, meaning the person reporting has a reasonable and genuine belief that the information is true.

No one will be penalized or disciplined for making a report in good faith, even if the investigation finds no wrongdoing. We have a zero-tolerance policy for retaliation against reporters.

The integrity of our reporting process is essential. Therefore, any individual who makes a report knowing it to be false, or with the malicious intent to harm or harass another person, will be subject to disciplinary action, in a form or forms outlined above, up to and including expulsion.

A finding of a malicious or knowingly false allegation is a serious matter. It requires evidence that the person making the report did so with the specific intent to deceive or cause harm, not merely that their account was later found to be unsubstantiated.

Complaints may be made in writing within 14 days of the incident to Jon Hasson[1] at jonh@fclondon.ca.

[1] Jon Hasson is the Primary Liaison for Child Protection at London TFC/FC London. Jon has been a member in good standing with the Ontario College of Teachers since 2004 and has completed the training required on protocols to ensure the safety of children and participants through the London District Catholic School Board, where he has been employed since 2004. This training includes the Commit to Kids online training through the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, and the Safe Sports Training module developed by the Coaching Association of Canada.

Your complaint should include the following:

1. Your contact information;
2. The name and contact information (if possible) of the person alleged to have violated the Code of Conduct (the Respondent);
3. The date, time, and location of the alleged incident;
4. The section(s) of the Code of Conduct that have allegedly been violated;
5. A summary of the incident;
6. The names and contact information (if possible) of any witnesses to the incident;
7. All supporting material and evidence (i.e. emails, witness statements, photographs, etc.); and
8. The remedy that you are requesting be imposed against the Respondent, if found to have violated the Code of Conduct.

Note that in order to meets our obligation of procedural fairness to the Respondent, your complaint and supporting material will be disclosed to the Respondent to allow the Respondent the opportunity to respond to the allegations. Any witnesses listed on the complaint may also be contacted.