



CANADA SOCCER

Canada Soccer Safe Sport Roster

Backgrounder

4 May 2019

At its May 4th, 2019 Annual Meeting of the Members, provincial and territorial member associations endorsed the Canada Soccer Safe Sport Roster as a progressive package of initiatives to create safe, fun and welcoming experiences for all participants.

These new initiatives follow the development in 2017 of a [Whistleblower hotline](#), a detailed [Code of Conduct and Ethics](#) and the [Canada Soccer Disciplinary Code](#).

The Safe Sport Roster includes:

1. Minimum coaching certification requirements:

- A. ALL coaches must complete the appropriate training workshop for the age and stage of their athletes.
- B. ALL coaches must complete two courses offered through the Coaching Association of Canada's National Coaching Certification Program:
 - ["Make Ethical Decisions"](#) to further safeguard athletes by ensuring that coaches are fully equipped to handle ethical situations with knowledge and confidence.
 - ["Making Head Way"](#) gives coaches a greater understanding of how to prevent head injuries along with the knowledge and skills to manage them properly.
- C. [Respect in Sport](#) online training which educates coaches to recognize, understand and respond to issues of bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination.
- D. Adopting the requirements of the [Responsible Coaching Movement](#):
 - The "Rule of 2" which requires that all one-on-one interactions between a coach and an athlete take place within earshot and in view of another trusted adult, except for medical emergencies.
 - Background screening, which can include criminal record checks, interviews, job postings and reference checks.
 - Ethics Training, which includes the "Respect in Sport" and "Make Ethical Decisions" courses mentioned above.

2. Club Licensing Program:

- Launched in July 2018 and developed in consultation with the [Canadian Centre for Child Protection](#), the program has established standards to ensure a quality experience for every athlete who registers with Canada Soccer.
- Two of the fundamental principles that underpin the program are devoted to safe sport:
 - Physical, mental and emotional safety
 - Accessible, inclusive, and welcome environments
- Amongst the many tools and resources offered to licensed clubs is a comprehensive [Guide to Safety](#).

3. National Soccer Registry:

- To track coach certifications, licenses and any disciplinary sanctions

4. Concussion Protocols:

- Canada Soccer has implemented the [gold standard of concussion protocols](#) to prevent head injuries and, when they do occur, to manage them effectively.