Innisfil Soccer Club Facility and Equipment Safety Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all facilities and soccer equipment used by the Club are **safe, well-maintained, and appropriate** for soccer activities, minimizing the risk of injury to players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators. This policy supports the Club's commitment to participant safety and aligns with recognized safety standards, including Canada Soccer and Ontario Soccer practices.

2. Scope & Applicability

This policy applies to all Club activities, including:

- Training sessions
- League games and tournaments
- Camps and events
- Use of any facility or equipment under the Club's responsibility

All participants, coaches, match officials, volunteers, and facility partners must adhere to this policy.

3. Definitions

- **Facility/Venue:** Outdoor fields, indoor domes/turf facilities, gymnasiums, changerooms, storage sheds, clubhouses, parking areas, spectator spaces, and any leased or third-party facilities.
- **Equipment:** Soccer goals, nets, corner flags, balls, cones, agility equipment, benches, first-aid kits, AEDs (if available), and any training tools.
- **Unsafe Condition:** A situation, object, or surface that could reasonably cause injury (e.g., holes, exposed anchors, debris, unstable goals, or cracked equipment).

4. Facility Safety Standards

4.1 Pre-Activity Field Inspection

Before every training session and match:

- The designated coach, official, or safety designee shall inspect the playing surface and surrounding areas for hazards.
- Check for holes, debris, rocks, sprinkler heads, exposed irrigation, tree roots, uneven surfaces, stanchions, fences, and other obstacles.
- Ensure that spectator areas are separated safely from the playing field.
- Portable goals must be secured and anchored per manufacturer instructions.
- Permanent goals must be checked for structural integrity and safety supports in place.

If hazards cannot be removed, activities must be **modified or cancelled**.

4.2 Facility Environment

- Playing surfaces must offer safe footing and traction; no glass, bottles or debris.
- Areas near traffic or open roads should be clearly delineated and inaccessible during play.
- Indoor facilities must maintain clear space around the field with no obstacles.
- Adequate lighting and visibility must be ensured for evening activities.

5. Equipment Safety Standards

5.1 Goals & Field Apparatus

- All goals (portable or permanent) must be inspected before use.
- Portable goals must be anchored securely and stored safely when not in use.
- Under no circumstances should players climb, hang, or tamper with goalposts.
- Corner flags and other field markers should have safety bases and no sharp edges.

5.2 Balls & Training Equipment

- Use balls sized appropriately to the age group All equipment (cones, poles, training aids) must be intact, free from sharp edges, and in good condition.
- Broken or damaged equipment must be removed and reported.

6. Reporting & Documentation

- Coaches and officials must report any unsafe conditions or damaged equipment to the Club Administrator within **24 hours** of discovery.
- A formal **Safety Incident Report** should be completed for any hazard, injury, or near-miss.
- The Club shall maintain records of inspections, hazards, and corrective actions.

7. Roles & Responsibilities

7.1 Coaches & Officials

- Conduct facility and equipment inspections before every activity.
- Remove or report hazards before allowing play.
- Enforce safety rules and promote safe behaviour among participants.

7.2 Field Safety Designee / Site Coordinator

- Coaches will support this role as onsite club liaison
- Oversee regular maintenance checks.
- Coordinate hazard mitigation with facility partners (e.g., municipality or school board).
- Ensure first-aid kits and emergency equipment are available.

7.3 Club Board

- Review and update this policy annually.
- Ensure training for coaches/volunteers on safety procedures.
- Provide resources for equipment repair and replacement.

8. Emergency & First Aid

- First aid kits shall be present at every training session and match.
- Coaches should have basic first-aid training and be familiar with emergency procedures.
- Emergency contact information and the location of the nearest medical facility must be known for each venue.

9. Enforcement

Non-compliance with this policy may result in:

- Suspension of activities
- Removal of unsafe equipment
- Disciplinary action for repeated breaches

10. Review & Amendments

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Board and amended as necessary to reflect changes in best practices, regulatory requirements, and guidance from Canada Soccer and Ontario Soccer risk-management principles.

Effective Date: February 2026
Approved By: Board of Directors
Contact for Questions: Club Office