



VAFC Player Safety Policy

Player safety is VAFC's top priority.

VAFC's Player Safety Policy follows safety guidelines as set out by BC Soccer, the senior governing soccer body in British Columbia. The safety policy is therefore a multifaceted one that deals with keeping its players safe while practicing and playing, and ensures they are lead by coaches and staff who are properly trained and cleared through criminal record checks.

On-Field Safety

Injuries in soccer are common, but many are avoidable by taking the right precautions and using proper equipment and gear. VAFC's approach to player safety is pre-emptive. We encourage all players to avoid foul or violent playing tactics as they are harmful and can cause injury. VAFC teaches the rules of the game to its players from the youngest ages and continue to play by them. By fostering respect among teammates, toward opposing players, as well as coaches and match officials, playing with care and attention to avoid injury is part of VAFC culture.

VAFC provides a host of health and safety resources for coaches, team officials, and parents in its [Documents](#) section. These documents are publicly available and members (players, parents, spectators, team officials, game officials, club officials) are actively encouraged to be thoroughly familiar with them. They cover areas of safety concerning:

- General safety: Playing Smart Soccer (Canadian Soccer Association)
- Concussion information for parents and players
- Concussions prevention guidelines
- Concussion assessment tools
- Return to Play following concussion

- Goal Post Safety

In addition, VAFC supports BC Soccer's recommendation that coaches take the "Making Headway" E-learning course.

<http://coach.ca/making-head-way-concussion-elearning-series-p153487>

Coaches, Team Officials & Staff Safety

In addition to on-field safety, VAFC complies, without reservation, with BC Soccer's requirements concerning coach and staff criminal record checks as a means of assuring that our youth are safe in the presence of the adults caring for them.

https://bcsoccer.net/files/AboutUs/BylawsRulesRegsPolicies/bc_soccer_criminal_record_check_policy_april_2018.pdf