



CANADA SOCCER

237 rue Metcalfe Street
Ottawa, ON K2P 1R2

The "Big Tent" Sideline Code of Conduct

1. We Cheer for the Beautiful Game, Not Just One Team

In this club, we don't have "opponents"; we have "partners in competition".

- **The Action:** Celebrate a great save, a clever pass, or a display of sportsmanship regardless of which team your child is on that day.
- **The "Big Tent" Goal:** We recognize that meaningful competition, where games are close and unpredictable, is the best way for every child to learn.

2. We Embrace the "Open Roster"

We understand that rosters are fluid and can change from week to week.

- **The Action:** Avoid questioning why a child is moving between groups; instead, celebrate the fact that they are gaining a variety of learning experiences and making new friends.
- **The "Big Tent" Goal:** We prioritize the child's ability to adapt to new environments and social groups and value the development that comes with varied experiences and roles.

3. We Use Inclusive Language

We protect the Safe Sport environment by using terminology that welcomes everyone.

- **The Action:** We never use labels like "elite," "prospect," or "high performance" to describe our children or their peers.
- **The "Big Tent" Goal:** We maintain an atmosphere where soccer is about passion for the ball and skill development, not status or marketing labels.

4. We Respect the "Four Corners" of Development

Success is not measured by the scoreboard, but by holistic growth.

- **The Action:** On the ride home, ask "What did you learn?" or "Did you have fun?" rather than "Did you win?".
- **The "Big Tent" Goal:** We support the technical, physical, mental, and social-emotional needs of every child in the player pool and value their holistic development through sport.

5. We Trust the Grassroots Leadership

Every Grassroots Program session is overseen by a qualified Grassroots Lead to ensure high-quality standards.

- **The Action:** Let the coaches coach and the grassroots leads lead. Our role as parents is to provide unconditional "Big Tent" support.
- **The "Big Tent" Goal:** We provide an atmosphere where as many players as possible can stay in the game for as long as possible, in the best environments possible.

Why This Works



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By signing on to this code, parents acknowledge that the club's role is to keep children playing and make them better, regardless of their starting point. It removes the "sideline pressure" of traditional tiered systems and replaces it with a communal focus on the entire age group's development.