

Force Soccer Academy

Developing confident, inspired, and competitive athletes.

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Reduction of Barriers Policy

Updated November 2023

I. Policy Statement

Burlington Force Soccer Academy (BFSA) is committed to fostering an inclusive environment that provides equal opportunities for all individuals who wish to participate in our programs, regardless of their background or circumstances. We believe that soccer is a powerful vehicle for positive change, personal growth, and community development and recognize that certain barriers may impede potential participants from fully engaging with our Academy. This policy outlines our commitment to reducing these barriers through proactive programs, partnerships, and other mechanisms.

II. Identification of Barriers

BFSA acknowledges that barriers to participation can take various forms, including but not limited to:

- Limited experience or expertise in soccer.
- Disabilities, whether physical or mental, present from birth or acquired later in life.
- Differing stages of psychological and sociological development.
- Socioeconomic challenges that may limit access to soccer programs.
- Discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics.

III. Approach and Actions

To effectively reduce these barriers, BFSA will undertake the following actions:

- **Flexibility:** BFSA will remain flexible in its approach to every aspiring participant, ensuring that individual needs are met with tailored responses.
- **Supportive Partnerships:** BFSA will actively seek and nurture partnerships with organizations that can provide resources, expertise, and support to help facilitate inclusion and reduce barriers to participation.
- **Individual Compassion:** Coaches, volunteers, and members of BFSA will show compassion and understanding to the needs of each individual, providing a nurturing environment that respects the dignity of all participants.

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- **Health and Welfare:** The health and well-being of participants will be a primary concern, with the assurance that no request or expectation from BFSA will lead to undue stress or harm to an individual's physical or mental health.
- **Appropriate Challenge and Development:** BFSA will provide suitable levels of challenge and development opportunities, taking into account the unique abilities and growth potential of each participant.

IV. Continuous Education and Training

BFSA is dedicated to the ongoing education and training of its members, coaches, and volunteers. The Academy will provide access to resources and learning opportunities as they become available to ensure that our community remains informed and prepared to support our inclusive ethos.

V. Commitment to Standards

BFSA upholds the highest standards of child welfare, safety, community spirit, and inclusion. All actions and programs will reflect our unwavering commitment to these principles, ensuring that the Academy not only meets but exceeds the expectations of a forward-thinking, equitable soccer organization.

VI. Review and Adaptation

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and will be adapted in response to the evolving needs of our community and the feedback from our participants. BFSA is dedicated to continual improvement and open dialogue to effectively break down barriers to participation.

VII. Implementation

All members of the BFSA community, including staff, volunteers, and participants, are responsible for the implementation of this policy. It is through our collective effort that we can create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.