



# PROGRAMS, PARTNERSHIP, & MECHANISMS TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION GREATER VANCOUVER UNITED SPORTS CLUB

## **Club:**

Sports should be available to all residents in Canada. GVUSC believes in belonging and fitting in. Our club attitude is to include everyone who wishes to be involved in our sport and to give a fair chance to join at any position in our club such as player or a coach – both male and female.

We try to have a diverse group of people in every part of our club such as our directors and coaches. We recently have gotten female members on our board to diversify our board. Having a female representative in our board of directors lets us see things from different perspectives. Members from diverse communities are also involved in our coaching club. We have coaches from different communities which show our community that our club is open to everyone.

Creating opportunities and removing barriers to participation are essential at all stages of sport involvement from awareness all the way through training to win and being active for life. Therefore, we have a welcoming environment with the coaches having fun with the kids from time to time as well as getting to connect with the parents.

## **Coaches:**

During our annual club meeting, we discuss and send out information to our club coaches which mentions to involve everyone and not discriminate.

All coaches have or are in the process of getting their coaching certification training which involves being trained on players with disabilities, unconscious bias, and harassment. Our coaches also identify stereotypical comments, assumptions, and language and figure out solutions to such issues. If any incident is not solvable by the coach, or is too big, the issue must be reported to either the technical director or a member from the board of directors and they will step in and try to resolve the issue, this includes getting parents involved if required.

We are always looking for more involvement, therefore in 2021, in addition to our Facebook page, we also created an Instagram page. This ensures that in case anyone does not have access to other means of communication, and we can now be reached via social media.

## **Low-Income:**

We encourage everyone to be able to have an opportunity to participate in our club, thus we refer low-income families to the following child grant applications:

- KidSport Canada
- Jumpstart – Canadian Tire
- Athletics for Kids

Single parents in our club pay less.

Parents with multiple children in our club pay less.



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## **Disabilities:**

For kids with disabilities to engage in sport, they must be aware of opportunities and have a positive first experience. We encourage parents to connect with the club and coaches to better understand how to assist the players. The coach's priority is to make sure the players have positive experiences engaging in soccer. If any soccer adaptive equipment is needed, the club will provide it.

**Adaptive Soccer Program:** This program is open for all youth who are unable to participate in organized soccer

<b>Age:</b>	U5 – U18
<b>Day:</b>	Wednesday
<b>Time:</b>	5:30pm – 7:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Spring/Summer – Strawberry Hill Park; Fall/Winter – Creekside Elementary
<b>Coach:</b>	Sadiq Abubakar