

Ames Soccer Club Child Safety Policy – Supervision at Soccer Fields

Adopted September 25, 2007

Coach's Responsibilities: Ames Soccer Club players may not be left alone after practices or games under any circumstances. An Ames Soccer Club coach* *must* remain with players at the practice field until they have been picked up by either; a parent, a legal guardian, an emergency contact, a responsible adult or the Ames Police Department (see schedule). In addition, it is highly recommended that at least one other adult be present in any situation that would otherwise leave a coach alone with a player. Staff coaches who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action, including termination for cause.

*Ames Soccer Club coach is defined as any paid coach or volunteer parent coach.

Parent's Responsibilities: Parents are obliged to try to pick up their children, or make arrangements for that child to be picked up by someone else, on time. If you are going to be late, you *must* attempt to contact your coach (or the DOC). In cases where your child remains more than 15 minutes after the normal end of a practice or game, the coach will attempt to contact you, an emergency contact, a responsible adult known to have transported your child before, or the Ames Police Department (see schedule). Repeated lateness offenses may result in your being asked to leave the club.

Action Schedule:

Step 1: 15-20 minutes after practice or game: The coach *must* attempt to contact parents or a legal guardian by telephone (all contact numbers must be attempted).

Step 2: 21-30 minutes after practice or game: If the coach is unable to contact a parent or legal guardian he or she *must* now attempt to phone the emergency contact for that child to arrange a pickup. The coach *may*, at this time, transfer responsibility for that child to another coach remaining at the complex. All contact information for that child must be given to the remaining coach.

Step 3: More than 30 minutes after practice or game: If, after this time, arrangements for the child have not been made, the coach *must*, at his or her own discretion, either:

- a. Wait longer with the child (recommended, if possible)
- b. Allow the child to go home with a responsible adult as long as there is a precedent for that child traveling to and from practices or games with that person. Authorization to do so is implicit in the precedent.
- c. Contact the Ames Police to have the child picked up and taken to the police station.

In all three cases, the coach *must* contact the DOC or Club President to let them know of the situation.

Weather Cancellation:

If a practice session is cut short due to weather conditions the coaches will immediately begin attempting to contact the parents or legal guardian (Step 1) to pick up early. Step 2 and Step 3 will be conducted according to the time line of the originally scheduled practice time. Parents are encouraged to keep track of the weather in order that players may be picked up in a timely manner should there be a sudden cancellation.