



STING FOOTBALL CLUB

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT

Accessibility and Inclusion Statement

Introduction

Edmonton Sting FC is committed to providing an accessible, inclusive, and welcoming soccer environment for all; Players and their families, Coaches, Team Officials, Volunteers and Staff. We believe that every individual should have the opportunity to enjoy and participate in soccer regardless of ability, background, identity, or socioeconomic status. We strive to create a community where all members feel valued, respected, and supported.

Anyone who believes our Club is not fulfilling this statement policy, is encouraged to report it to the Administrator at admin@edmontonsting.com. All reports will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Diversity and Belonging

We recognize and celebrate diversity as a strength of our club. We are committed to ensuring that everyone feels safe and that they belong, regardless of their ability or background. All members are expected to treat one another with dignity and respect. We actively promote a culture of inclusivity and provide education and opportunities that foster understanding, respect, and participation for all.

Accessibility and Inclusion Standards

We actively implement recognized best practices, including the Canada Soccer Guide to Accessibility and Inclusion, to ensure equal access and opportunity. This includes:

- Providing accessible facilities, equipment, and programming
- Making reasonable accommodations to support participation
- Promoting inclusion across all ages, abilities, genders, and cultural backgrounds
- Continuously reviewing and improving our policies through feedback and evaluation

Cultural Sensitivity and Inclusive Programming

Coaches, Team Officials, Volunteers, Staff, and Club Officials are expected to demonstrate cultural sensitivity and actively promote diversity. Training in cultural awareness and inclusion will be provided regularly. Programs will incorporate culturally appropriate activities and opportunities that celebrate and educate participants about diverse backgrounds, helping to create a respectful and welcoming environment for all.

Reducing Barriers to Participation

We are committed to reducing barriers that may prevent individuals from participating in soccer. To support this, we:

- Offer programs for a wide range of skill levels and backgrounds
- Develop partnerships with schools and community organizations
- Provide access to equipment, transportation, and financial assistance where possible
- Create pathways for new and underrepresented participants to join and succeed

Support for Underrepresented Groups

We actively provide programming and outreach that supports underrepresented groups, including individuals with disabilities, Indigenous communities, and those from low-income households. This includes targeted programming, partnerships, accessible resources, and ongoing evaluation to ensure our efforts meet community needs.

Inclusive Communication and Representation

All club communications, promotional materials, and program imagery must reflect inclusivity and diversity. We require the use of respectful, inclusive, and gender-neutral language. Images and materials should represent individuals from diverse backgrounds and abilities, reinforcing our commitment to creating a welcoming environment for all.

Education, Training, and Continuous Improvement

We are committed to ongoing education and training for coaches, staff, and volunteers to ensure effective implementation of this policy. We will regularly seek feedback from participants and the community and use it to improve our programs, policies, and overall environment.

Accountability and Enforcement

All members of the club are responsible for upholding this policy. Any behavior that contradicts these principles, including discrimination, harassment, or exclusion, will not be tolerated and will be addressed promptly. Violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or removal from the club.

