



# Lions Soccer Club and Academy Inclusive Programming

## Objective:

To create a soccer program that embraces diversity and inclusivity, providing accessible opportunities for underrepresented groups in alignment with the Canada Soccer Guide to Accessibility and Inclusion.

## 1. Inclusive Outreach

### Community Partnerships:

Develop strategic partnerships with local community organizations, schools, and youth groups to facilitate outreach efforts.

Establish a dedicated outreach team to engage with underrepresented communities and promote soccer as an inclusive and accessible sport.

### Community Events:

Organize inclusive soccer clinics and events in collaboration with community partners to introduce the program to a diverse audience.

Host information sessions to address any concerns and highlight the inclusive nature of Lions Soccer Club.

## 2. Accessible Facilities

### Facility Assessment:

Conduct a comprehensive accessibility assessment of current facilities.

Implement necessary modifications to ensure facilities are fully accessible for individuals with disabilities.

#### Adaptive Equipment:

Invest in adaptive soccer equipment to accommodate players with diverse abilities.

Provide training for coaching staff on the effective use of adaptive equipment during sessions.

### 3. Financial Accessibility

#### Scholarship Program:

Establish a scholarship program to reduce financial barriers for participants from low-income backgrounds.

Publicize the availability of scholarships in promotional materials and on the club's website.

#### Affordable Membership Options:

Introduce tiered membership options with affordable rates, ensuring accessibility for all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Collaborate with local businesses to sponsor registration fees for individuals in need.

### 4. Cultural Sensitivity

#### Coaching Staff Training:

Implement cultural sensitivity training for all coaching and support staff.

Foster an environment that respects and appreciates the cultural diversity within the club.

#### Cultural Celebrations:

Incorporate cultural celebrations and awareness programs within the club calendar.

Encourage players to share and celebrate their cultural backgrounds.

### 5. Language Accessibility

#### Multilingual Communication:

Translate key information and communication materials into multiple languages.

Ensure that website content, registration forms, and promotional materials are accessible to speakers of various languages.

Multilingual Staff/Volunteers:

Recruit multilingual staff or volunteers to assist with language-related needs.

Establish language support during training sessions to enhance communication.

## 6. Training and Education

Diversity Workshops:

Conduct ongoing diversity and inclusion workshops for coaching staff.

Integrate diversity education into player development programs.

Team-Building Activities:

Organize team-building activities that promote mutual respect, understanding, and teamwork among players from diverse backgrounds.

## 7. Specialized Programs

Tailored Training Sessions:

Develop specialized soccer programs for underrepresented groups, including girls and women, individuals with disabilities, and newcomers.

Customize training sessions to address the unique needs and interests of each group.

Inclusive Competitions:

Organize inclusive soccer competitions and tournaments that showcase the talent and diversity within the club.

## 8. Community Engagement

Feedback Mechanisms:

Establish regular feedback mechanisms to collect input from the community and participants.

Use feedback to make informed adjustments and improvements to programming.

#### Community Forums:

Organize town hall meetings and forums to encourage open dialogue between the club and the community.

Seek input on inclusivity initiatives and gather ideas for further improvements.

#### 9. Flexible Scheduling

##### Varied Practice Times:

Offer flexible training schedules to accommodate individuals with diverse commitments.

Rotate practice times to ensure accessibility for participants with varying schedules.

##### Accessible Locations:

Choose training locations strategically to minimize transportation barriers for participants.

#### 10. Representation

##### Diverse Staff Recruitment:

Actively recruit coaching and support staff that reflect the diversity of the community.

Showcase the diverse backgrounds and experiences of staff members as a source of inspiration for players.

##### Highlighting Success Stories:

Regularly feature success stories and achievements of players and staff from underrepresented backgrounds in club communications.

Use these stories to inspire and motivate others within the community.

##### Monitoring and Evaluation

Establish measurable metrics to assess the success of inclusivity initiatives.

Regularly evaluate the impact of the program on underrepresented groups and adjust strategies accordingly.

Periodically review and update the programming based on emerging needs and community feedback.