

# **West Coast Invitational Youth Protection Policy**

## **Revision 1.0**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Youth Protection Policy (YPP) is to ensure the physical, emotional, and psychological safety of all minors participating in or attending events organized, hosted, or sanctioned by the Event Planning Board (“the Board”).

### **Scope**

This policy applies to:

- All Board members
- Any consultants
- All volunteers, including short-term and day-of-event volunteers
- All mentors, coaches, judges, referees, inspectors, and staff
- All vendors or contractors with access to minors
- All events, meetings, travel, online communications, and social activities related to the event

Compliance with this policy is mandatory in order to be eligible to participate with any events held by the Board.

### **Definitions**

**Student:** Any individual under 18 years of age or an individual that has not graduated secondary school and is currently enrolled in a secondary school.

**Adult:** Any individual 18 years of age or older that has graduated secondary school or is no longer enrolled in a secondary school.

**One-on-One Interaction:** Any situation where one adult is alone with one minor and not observable by others.

**Observable and Interruptible:** Interactions that are visible to others and can be interrupted at any time.

### **Guiding Principles**

- The safety and wellbeing of Students is always the top priority of the Board.
- All Adults share responsibility for creating and maintaining a safe environment.
- Transparency, accountability, and prompt reporting are essential.

- Policies will be enforced consistently and fairly.

## Code of Conduct

All Adult participants are expected to:

- Treat all Students with respect, dignity, and fairness.
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries at all times.
- Follow supervision and communication requirements outlined in this policy.
- Comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws regarding youth safety.

## Prohibited Conduct

The following behaviors are strictly prohibited:

- Any form of physical, sexual, emotional, or psychological abuse.
- Sexualized comments, jokes, gestures, or materials.
- Inappropriate touching, physical restraint, or contact outside of approved activities.
- Being alone with a minor in a non-observable and non-interruptible setting.
- Providing alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or controlled substances to students, or encouraging use of or using such around them.
- Harassment, bullying, intimidation, or retaliation.

## Supervision and Interaction Standards

### Three Person Rule

- Interactions involving Students and Adults must involve a minimum of three people, with preference towards two Adults.
- If a two-Adult situation is not feasible, interactions must be observable and interruptible.

### One-on-One Interactions

- One-on-one interactions should be avoided.
- If unavoidable, they must occur in an observable and interruptible environment.
- Private meetings (e.g., mentoring or judging discussions) should take place in open areas or rooms with windows and must always comply with the Three Person Rule.

### Physical Contact

- Physical contact must be appropriate, non-invasive, and related to the activity.

- Any physical assistance must be explained beforehand and consented to when appropriate.

## Electronic Communication and Online Safety

- Communications with minors must be professional, transparent, and related to event activities.
- Adults should not engage in private social media interactions with Students. Always use the Planning Board channels or open a modmail ticket in the West Coast Invitational official Discord server to contact a Student.
- No sharing of explicit, suggestive, or inappropriate content.

## Reporting Concerns and Allegations

- Any suspected abuse, misconduct, or violation of this policy must be reported immediately.
- Reports should be made to FIRST's [Youth Protection Program](#) and to the Executive Board.
- If there is immediate danger, local authorities or emergency services should be contacted first.
- Reports may be made confidentially and without fear of retaliation.
- Adults must comply with all mandatory reporting laws applicable in their jurisdiction.

## Response and Enforcement

- All reports will be taken seriously and handled promptly.
- Executives may take immediate action to ensure safety, including removal from duties.
- Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal, banning from events held by the board, or referral to authorities such as FIRST or local authorities.

## Policy Review, Updates, and Acknowledgment

- This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Executive Board. Modifications will be announced at least 14 days before they take effect, and continuing to participate in West Coast Invitational and any related activities after the revisions take effect signifies acceptance of all revisions.
- Updates will be communicated to all covered individuals.
- All individuals covered by this policy are required to acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with the Youth Protection Policy.

## Revision History

01/15/2026 - Initial Revision