



ATTACHMENT 4

British Columbia Soccer Association

Suite 250 - 3410 Lougheed Highway, Vancouver, BC V5M 2A4

Phone: 604-299-6401 Fax: 604-299-9610

Website: www.bcsoccer.net

February 8th, 2024

**Burnaby Mayor and Council
c/o Legislative Services
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC
V5G 1M2**

Honorable Mayor Mike Hurley and Members of City Council,

BC Soccer Association is the recognized provincial sport governing body for soccer in British Columbia and represent over 150,000 participants. Our mission is to promote, develop, and govern soccer in British Columbia and our vision is centered on providing everyone a positive soccer experience. The organization is dedicated to enhancing the soccer landscape in BC through inclusive, accessible, and safe environments.

Our organization strongly supports the initiative brought forward to this Council by Ben Rohu to make Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) available on all Burnaby Sports Fields. According to the Heart and Stroke Foundation (HSF), access to early CPR and defibrillation could potentially save the lives of thousands of Canadian adults and children each year. In 2020, the Government of Ontario passed the Defibrillator Registration and Public Access Act to support the creation of a provincial AED registry and set the stage for mandatory placement of AEDs in all public spaces across the province. With this legislation, created a comprehensive and coordinated cardiac arrest response system. We hope we can make the same happen in British Columbia.

BC Soccer believes that everyone involved in soccer has the right to participate in a safe and inclusive environment, enjoying the sport at whatever level or capacity they participate in. The welfare of everyone involved in soccer is the foremost consideration and in particular, the protection of children in the sport is the responsibility of everyone involved. This includes taking tangible actions to ensure a safe environment for all participants of the game. We hope the City of Burnaby can continue to be a leader and a partner of all sport organizations and support us in providing the appropriate conditions for safe sport in the city.

Sincerely,

**Gabriel Assis
Interim Executive Director, BC Soccer**

CC: Gayle Statton, President, BC Soccer
John Charlton, Risk Management Officer, BC Soccer
Soleil Heaney, Sr. Coordinator Membership Engagement, BC Soccer