ANNEX E to

Thunderbirds Swim Club Constitution/By-Laws

October 2016

**Commitment to Children**

HIGH FIVE®is a standard committed to enhancing healthy child development within sport and recreation. Organizations involved with HIGH FIVE are aware that there is an expectation and responsibility to uphold the [Commitment to Children](http://www.highfive.org/sites/default/files/HF%20Commitment%20to%20Children%20Policy%20-%202013.pdf) policy seen below.

**Environments for children must be:**

* Secure, safe, and stable
* Caring
* Stimulating
* Accessible
* Challenging
* Considerate of personal space needs and special needs
* Equipped with age, size, and ability-appropriate equipment, furniture, and materials and
* Welcoming of diverse races, cultures and abilities

**Activities for children must:**

* Allow for a combination of self-directed and leader-directed activities
* Provide children with opportunities for input, involvement, and choice
* Reflect both assessed and expressed needs
* Provide opportunities for active participation and reflection
* Encourage co-operation and friendship
* Incorporate varied learning styles and developmental stages
* Recognize uniqueness and encourage mastery and
* Value and incorporate cultural, racial and linguistic delivery

**Leaders must:**

* Ensure all children are treated with respect, honesty, and trust
* Recognize and accept children's individual needs and circumstances
* Employ positive behavior-management methods
* Help children value and celebrate diversity in the community
* Consistently model appropriate behavior and
* Continually evaluate the program and leadership to ensure improvement and reflect changing needs

**Organizations must:**

* Encourage and support the on-going development of staff and volunteers with regard to their knowledge and understanding of healthy child development
* Ensure clear and on-going communication with parents and families
* Encourage participation and input from children and families and
* Provide the organizational supports necessary to ensure that children feel safe, welcome, competent, connected, empowered and special