WEST NIAGARA SOCCER CLUB

COACH & TEAM OFFICIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

West Niagara Soccer Club (WNSC) is committed to ensuring that all players are protected, safe and supported. The safety, rights and well-being of players, volunteers, coaches, team officials and spectators are a priority in the Club's daily operations. Coaches and team officials play an essential role in creating a positive, respectful and safe soccer environment.

All coaches and team officials are expected to review and agree to this Code of Conduct at the beginning of each season and to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on WNSC and the sport of soccer.

1. COMMITMENT TO PLAYERS AND THE GAME

- I will make the development, safety and well-being of my players a priority. I will work to improve the performance of players and the team both physically and mentally. I will provide a high-quality soccer program within a positive, inclusive and supportive environment.
- I will remember that players participate in soccer to learn, develop, compete and enjoy the game, and I will encourage confidence and enjoyment.
- I will be enthusiastic, positive and generous with praise when it is deserved. I will teach players to play fairly and to respect the Laws of the Game, themselves, teammates, opponents, match officials and spectators.
- I will ensure that players receive appropriate instruction, encouragement and support. I will provide playing time in a fair and reasonable manner, taking into account factors such as attitude, attendance, weather, fitness, positions and the needs of the game. In recreational programs, I will make every reasonable effort to provide equal playing time.

2. RESPECT, SPORTSMANSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- I will show respect for all players, coaches, team staff, Club staff, match officials, opponents, parents/guardians and spectators at all times.
- I will work cooperatively with match officials for the benefit of the game.



- Any questions or concerns I direct toward match officials will be constructive and respectful. - I will never engage in verbal, physical, discriminatory, threatening, abusive or inappropriate conduct.
- I will maintain high standards of personal conduct and fair play and conduct myself in a manner that reflects well on West Niagara Soccer Club.
- I will never participate in any circumstance or interaction with a player that is offensive, inappropriate or suggestive of sexual conduct or connotations.
- I will dress appropriately at practices, games and Club activities and present a professional image that allows me to be readily identified as a team official.

3. PLAYER SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDING

- I will ensure that equipment and facilities are safe and appropriate for the age and abilities of the players.
- I will arrive early and be prepared for practices, games and team activities. - I will not take part in any practice, game or team event while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- I will not consume alcohol prior to or during interaction with my team.
- I will not smoke or vape at any park, field or facility while in the company of my team and will encourage spectators and parents/guardians to respect Club requirements regarding smoking and alcohol.
- I will inform the appropriate parent/guardian and Club personnel of any injury a player may suffer and follow applicable Club procedures.
- I will not take a child to a washroom alone.
- I will follow appropriate two-adult and safeguarding practices whenever transporting or otherwise supervising players.
- If providing transportation to a player, I will not transport a player alone unless permitted under Club policy and appropriate adult/child safeguards are in place. Where a coach has their own child on the team, any permitted transportation of another player will follow Club requirements, including appropriate seating and supervision.

4. COACHING KNOWLEDGE, DEVELOPMENT AND PREPARATION

- I will understand and coach within the Laws of the Game and remain current with sound principles of coaching.



I will obtain appropriate training and continue to upgrade my coaching skills and knowledge in accordance with Ontario Soccer and West Niagara Soccer Club standards and requirements. I will prepare appropriately for practices and games and provide organized, age-appropriate instruction.

- I will ensure that coaching decisions are made with the development and best interests of the players and team in mind.

5. COMMUNICATION AND TEAM MANAGEMENT

- I will communicate with players and parents/guardians in a respectful, timely and professional manner.
- I will make reasonable decisions when rescheduling practices and games, recognizing that players and families have other obligations.
- I will encourage players to communicate concerns appropriately and will address disagreements respectfully and through the appropriate Club process.
- I will not use my position as a coach to pressure, embarrass, ridicule or intimidate a player. **6.**

SOCIAL MEDIA AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

- I will use social media, messaging platforms and other digital communication in a positive, professional and responsible manner.
- I will not post or share content involving players, families, officials or Club matters that is inappropriate, discriminatory, threatening, confidential or damaging to the reputation of the Club or its members.
- I will follow all West Niagara Soccer Club policies and guidelines relating to social media, communications, privacy and the use of player images.

7. CLUB POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

I will follow all policies, procedures, rules and directives of West Niagara Soccer Club. I will comply with applicable Ontario Soccer requirements and standards. I understand that my conduct can affect the reputation of the Club, my team and the players I coach.

- I will cooperate with Club investigations, disciplinary processes and reasonable requests from Club officials.

8. ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

I understand that failure to abide by this Code of Conduct, Club policies or applicable rules may result in disciplinary action by West Niagara Soccer Club. Disciplinary action may include, without necessarily following progressive steps:

- Warning
- Probation
- Suspension from practices and/or games
- Removal from coaching or team official duties
- Removal from a Club program or other disciplinary action permitted under Club policies

Where a situation requires interpretation, West Niagara Soccer Club will consider the best interests of the athlete, the team, the Club and the integrity of the game when determining an appropriate response.

COACH / TEAM OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the West Niagara Soccer Club Coach & Team Official Code of Conduct. I understand that my responsibilities extend beyond the field and that I am expected to model respect, sportsmanship, professionalism and safe conduct at all times while representing WNSC.

Name: _____

Role **/** **Team:**

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Signature:

_____ **Date:**

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