WEST NIAGARA SOCCER CLUB

PARENT / GUARDIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

RESPECT • DEVELOPMENT • COMMUNITY • TOGETHER WE RISE

Parents and guardians are an important part of creating a positive, safe and respectful soccer environment. As a parent or guardian of a West Niagara Soccer Club player, I understand that my conduct directly affects my child, their teammates, coaches, match officials and the Club.

1. **Membership and Club Rules –** Through submitting the membership application for my child, I accept the Terms and Conditions of membership and am subject to the rules and regulations of the governing organizations to which West Niagara Soccer Club belongs, as well as all Club policies and rules.
2. **Responsibility for My Child –** I am responsible for my child at every practice, game and team event. I understand that West Niagara Soccer Club is not responsible for unsupervised players.
3. **My Child's Experience –** My child plays soccer for their benefit, not mine. I will support their enjoyment, development, confidence and love of the game.
4. **Coaching from the Sideline –** I will not give instructions to players from the sideline. Coaching is the responsibility of the team's coaching staff. I will allow coaches to coach.
5. **Respect for Match Officials –** I will never question a match official's judgment, integrity or honesty. I understand that match officials are responsible for applying the Laws of the Game and that disagreement does not justify disrespectful behaviour.
6. **No Match Official Abuse –** I will never verbally, physically or electronically abuse, threaten, intimidate, harass or attempt to influence a match official. I will not yell insults, use profanity directed at an official, make personal or discriminatory comments, make threatening gestures, follow or confront an official, enter the field to challenge an official, or continue arguing after a decision has been made.
7. **What Match Official Abuse Looks Like –** Match official abuse includes, but is not limited to: yelling at or insulting an official; questioning an official's honesty, competence or integrity; sarcastic or taunting comments; aggressive gestures or intimidating body language; threatening or attempting to intimidate an official; following or confronting an official before, during or after a match; entering the field or referee area to challenge a decision; discriminatory, racist, sexist or homophobic remarks; unwanted contact or physical aggression; and using text messages, email or social media to harass or threaten an official.
8. **24-Hour Rule –** I will follow the Club's 24-hour rule. If I have a concern, complaint or disagreement regarding a game, coaching decision, playing time, team matter or other issue, I will not approach the coach, team official or Club representative while emotions are high or immediately after the match. I will wait at least 24 hours before initiating a respectful discussion, unless the matter involves an immediate safety concern or requires urgent attention.
9. **Approaching Coaches –** I will not approach the team coach prior to or during a practice, game or session to discuss concerns. I will follow the Club's communication process and use the 24-hour rule before raising non-urgent concerns.
10. **Respect for Everyone –** I will show respect for all players, coaches, team officials, match officials, volunteers, Club representatives and spectators at all times.
11. **Positive Perspective –** I will teach my child that doing their best is as important as winning, so that my child will not feel defeated by the outcome of a game.
12. **Support and Encouragement –** I will make my child feel like a winner by offering praise for competing fairly, showing effort, learning and doing their best.
13. **Conflict Resolution –** I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without hostility or violence. I will support coaches and Club officials in addressing concerns appropriately.
14. **Lead by Example –** Children learn by example. I will applaud good plays by both my child's team and their opponents.
15. **Attendance and Punctuality –** I will make sure that my child arrives for practices and games at the time designated by the coach, prepared and ready to participate.
16. **Bullying and Harassment –** I will not take part in any form of bullying, whether directed toward a parent, player, coach, match official, volunteer or Club representative. Bullying in person or electronically, including through social media, will not be tolerated.
17. **Discrimination –** I will not discriminate on the grounds of race, gender, sexuality or any other protected or personal characteristic, and I will not tolerate discriminatory behaviour around Club activities.
18. **Drugs and Alcohol –** I will never take part in a practice, game or team event while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
19. **Sideline and Field Conduct –** I will respect the boundaries and directions established by coaches, match officials and facility staff. I will not enter the field of play or interfere with the game unless authorized or required for an emergency.
20. **Team and Club Consequences –** I understand that the team or Club can be penalized for my behaviour. I will obey a request by a match official, coach or Club representative to leave the vicinity of the field.
21. **Removal and Discipline –** I understand that failure to abide by this Code of Conduct may result in my removal from the playing area or facility and may result in further Club sanctions, which may include a warning, probation, suspension or removal from Club programs or activities.

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22. **Social Media and Electronic Communication –** I will use social media, email, messaging apps and other electronic communication in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. I will not use these platforms to harass, threaten, shame, intimidate or publicly attack players, coaches, match officials, volunteers or Club representatives.
23. **Club Policies –** I will follow all policies, procedures and codes of conduct of West Niagara Soccer Club and any applicable governing organization.
24. **Positive Role Model –** I will remember that my behaviour reflects on my child, their team and West Niagara Soccer Club. I will model the respect, sportsmanship, patience and integrity that I expect from my child.

POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All WNSC members, participants, coaches, team officials, volunteers, staff and families are expected to support and comply with this policy and help create a soccer environment where everyone feels welcome, respected and included.