WEST NIAGARA SOCCER CLUB

PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

RESPECT • DEVELOPMENT • COMMUNITY • TOGETHER WE RISE

As a player of West Niagara Soccer Club, I understand that I am a representative of my team, my club and my community. I will always strive to demonstrate respect, integrity, sportsmanship and a positive attitude on and off the field.

1. **Participation –** I will play soccer because I want to, not because others want me to.
2. **Rules –** I will play by the rules of soccer, and in the spirit of the game.
3. **Respect –** I will always show respect for my teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, spectators and all club officials.
4. **Conduct –** I will control my temper. I will not fight, use foul or abusive language, or make inappropriate gestures.
5. **Sportsmanship –** I will acknowledge all good play and performances – those of my teammates and of my opponents.
6. **Team Player –** I will be a true team player. I know that winning isn't everything – having fun, playing fair, improving my skills, making friends and doing my best are all important.
7. **Coaches and Officials –** I will respect my coaches and accept their decisions. Coaches are there to coach and not to improve my behaviour. If I am behaving inappropriately, my coach may remove me from the event.
8. **Attendance and Punctuality –** I will arrive at least 15 minutes before practice and at least 30 minutes before a game, unless otherwise directed by my coach. If I cannot attend a practice or game, I will notify my coach or team manager at least 48 hours in advance.
9. **Effort –** I will show a positive attitude, follow directions, work hard and support my teammates at all times.
10. **Playing Time – U14+ Division:** I understand that playing time is not always equal. At development and recreational levels, playing time will be equitable. At the competitive level, an "earned playing time" system may be used based on factors such as attendance, effort, attitude and position.
11. **Bullying and Discrimination –** I will not take part in any form of bullying, harassment or discrimination, either in person or online (including social media). I will not use racist, sexist or otherwise inappropriate language or behaviour.
12. **Drugs and Alcohol –** I will never take part in a practice, game or team event while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
13. **Electronic Devices –** I will turn off all electronic devices (cell phones, video games, etc.) before arriving at practices, games or team events and leave them off until I am finished.
14. **Social Media –** I will use social media in a positive and respectful manner and follow the Club's Social Media Policy.
15. **Equipment and Uniform –** I will wear shin guards, socks and appropriate footwear, and bring my own water bottle to all games and practices. I will wear approved attire as directed by my coach or wear anything that is dangerous. Accessories are permitted as long as they are not dangerous and are safely and securely covered. Dangerous items must be removed and may not be taped or covered
16. **Appropriate Attire –** I understand that rolling up my shorts, wearing short tops to expose my midriff, or exposing my bare shoulders is not appropriate soccer attire.
17. **Care of Facilities –** I will leave all venues as neat and tidy as I found them and remove all refuse from my area.
18. **Uniform Care –** I will take good care of my uniform and wear it only on game days and practices.
19. **Character Development –** I agree to participate in and apply myself to any character development training the Club mandates.
20. **Loyalty –** I will be loyal to my teammates, my team, my Club and the community it represents.
21. **Responsibility –** I understand that my behaviour, on and off the field, reflects on West Niagara Soccer Club. The Club may take disciplinary action if I do not follow this Code of Conduct.
22. **Enjoy the Game –** I will enjoy the game, do my best and always strive to be a positive role model.

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.

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