

## *Coaches Code of Conduct Acknowledgment*

The primary mission of The Wachusett Area Youth Soccer Association (WAYSAs) is to provide all the children in the member clubs with a positive soccer experience which will hopefully help them grow into well adjusted, productive citizens. To this end coaches play a key role. They more than anyone else, generally determine how far a player goes in this sport and what kind of effect that this experience has upon him/her.

Recognizing this fact, WAYSAs agrees with and strongly supports *The Coaches Code of Conduct* that has been developed by the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association. We feel that it is vital for all coaches and assistant coaches to be thoroughly familiar with this document and that they conduct themselves accordingly.

We especially want all coaches and assistant coaches to take special note of the provisions that focus on how and when to properly communicate with the referees, or in many cases how NOT to address them. In recent years the League has had to deal with numerous occasions in which coaches and assistant coaches harshly criticize and berate the referees, many of who are young players as well. It must be appreciated that these young referees are also a group of individuals that the League promotes and supports. They too need to be shown the same level of respect and consideration as is afforded to the young players on their own teams. They will make mistakes just like all players and coaches do and our response to them should reflect an equal level of thoughtfulness.

Unfortunately, in the past, the League has had to discipline and in some cases suspend coaches and assistant coaches for improper conduct toward these youthful referees. Many of these young folks were so "shaken" by this negative experience that they have refused to ever officiate a game again.

In an effort to promote a positive environment for all individuals involved with the WAYSAs soccer programs the League is now requiring ALL coaches AND assistant coaches to sign this document below where indicated. This form must accompany the roster for each team that is submitted to the League's registrar. Coaches and assistant coaches will not be permitted to be on the sidelines with their teams during the games until this signed document is in the hands of the League registrar.

**I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE READ THE COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT ESTABLISHED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION AND FURTHERMORE I AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL OF ITS PROVISIONS.**

Head Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

Assistant Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Age & Gender Division \_\_\_\_\_