**West Deptford Soccer, Inc.**

TO OUR COACHES, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

The purpose of these guidelines and this agreement is to state the philosophy, objectives, codes of conduct, and a few basic rules that pertain to all participants in West Deptford Soccer Inc. (WDSI).National trends have consistently shown that negative behavior among the participants in sports has overshadowed the goals of team sports. The negative behavior has manifested itself in verbal and physical abuse and a win-at-all cost mentality. Our goal at WDSI is to raise the bar with honorable standards that keep sports a fun, positive learning experience for our young. We acknowledge that winning is an important component of the game; however, the qualities of good

sportsmanship, team play, positive communication, and civil behavior are truly what we hope to teach the youth of West Deptford.

The mission of the WDSI Soccer program is to provide an environment that promotes the positives of team sports:

1. Learning basic knowledge and understanding of the sport
2. Achieving motor skill development through exercise
3. Developing lifelong habits of physical fitness
4. Challenging participants to improve and achieve living within the rules and goals of the sport
5. Sharing positive experiences with teammates
6. Promoting confidence
7. Learning to win and lose gracefully
8. Learning and practicing high standards of good sportsmanship, fair play, and healthy and balanced competition that will carry over for a life time.
9. Learning the relationship between success, practice, discipline, preparation and teamwork
10. Having fun!

Sportsmanship is moral behavior. There is more to sportsmanship than simply being nice. Sportsmanship is learned and doesn’t always happen by itself. A positive coach and parents can be genuine role models for a team. Positive reinforcement of a player, even in losing a game, or a parent who cheers for a player on the opposing team are far greater examples to a child than one who makes disparaging remarks meant to “shake ‘em up.” When players and parents show respect to officials’ efforts we all learn to respect authority figures. We hope to promote the recreational benefits and emphasize the educational values of team sports while putting *winning* and *losing* into age-appropriate perspective. Mastering the skills of the game and having fun go hand-in-hand with developing a lifelong interest in team sports. Our goal is to encourage every child to have fun and come back to the program year after year. We also hope that all parents will enjoy their experience and feel rewarded by their involvement. In order to make our objectives clear to coaches, parents, and athletes, we have provided an agreement to be executed by all coaches, players and parents or guardians. We hope that you find this a fair condition to participation in our program. We hope that you will emphasize these concepts with your children, so that your expectations of their behavior are clear, and so each child will know that it is not just a family expectation, but a community expectation.

In this spirit, we present these guidelines and Codes of Conduct. Let’s stop, take a breath and understand what our behavior and teachings will have on our children. We

*do* chart the course for our children. We *do* have a substantial impact on their future behavior. We *can* send them off into the world instilled with the best in us. We

hope you find this effort valuable. WDSI wants to work with you as you teach your child good sportsmanship. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Thanks for your support

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**COACHES’CODE OF CONDUCT & AGREEMENT**

I acknowledge that my conduct and responsibilities, both on and off the field, are important for maintaining and perpetuating the standards established by this youth

program. As a Coach/Manager/Trainer, I realize that I have a strong influence on the players, and I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to learn and adhere to the rules and regulations, philosophy, objectives and coach’s code of conduct as established below:

Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one.

* I will care more about the child than winning the game.
* I will remember that the players involved themselves in the program to learn the game and have fun.
* I will be generous with praise when it is deserved, be consistent, honest, fair and just.
* I will never criticize, abuse, or ridicule players, officials, or opposing coaches, and I will always strive to be a more effective communicator.
* I will maintain an open line of communication with my players and their families.
* I will explain the philosophies, goals and objectives and codes of conduct of this program.
* I will never argue with officials, opposing coaches, parents, spectators or others. This violates the spirit of sportsmanship and sends a negative message to players.
* I will proactively control unsportsmanlike conduct and communicate with the parents when such activities are exhibited.
* I will adjust to personal problems of players by being a good listener.
* I will give players the opportunity to improve their skills, gain confidence and develop self-esteem.
* I will remember to teach them the basics.
* I will organize practices that are fun and challenging for the players.
* I will learn the rules, techniques and strategies of the sport I am coaching.
* I will encourage each of my players to be an active part of the team environment.
* I will be concerned with the overall well-being and development of the players.
* I will stress positive habits, health, and physical fitness.
* I will always protect the physical safety and mental wellbeing of all players, officials, coaches and spectators.
* I will refrain from using foul language, alcohol, tobacco, or drugs.
* I understand that actions conveying any lack of sportsmanship or improper behavior are not permitted.

**PARENT’S CODE OF CONDUCT & AGREEMENT**

* I will help make it fun, remembering children are involved in organized sports for *their* enjoyment, not mine!
* I will not force my child’s participation in sports, but rather support his/her desire to play his/her chosen sport.
* I will become familiar with the rules of the game and support the officials on and off the field.
* I will volunteer when I have the opportunity.
* I will encourage my child to play by the rules.
* I will remember that children learn by example.
* I will teach my child that hard work and honest effort are more important than a victory.
* I will applaud the good player and the effort of both teams.
* I will not make derogatory statements to the opposing players or coaches about their efforts.
* I will promote sportsmanship.
* I will show respect and a positive attitude towards the game and all its participants.
* I will never ridicule, yell at or physically abuse my child or any child for making a mistake or for losing a game.
* I will emphasize skill development and the practice necessary to become a better player.
* I will applaud a good effort in victory and in defeat.
* I will remember that my child’s coaches are volunteers. They are important to the development of my child and the sport. I will communicate with them and support them.
* I will respect the officials’ decisions, and I will not publicly question their judgment or honesty.
* I will be on time when dropping off and picking up my child from practices and games.
* I will remain on the sidelines and not behind the bench unless my child’s coach permits it.

**PLAYER’S CODE OF CONDUCT & AGREEMENT**

* I will play for the fun of it, not to please family or coaches.
* I will work hard to improve my skills and concentrate on playing and on affecting the outcome of the game with my best effort. I will work equally hard for my team and for myself.
* I will be a team player, getting along with and cooperating with my teammates, coaches, opponents, and officials. I will assist my teammates when they are having difficulty with a skill and/or strategy.
* I will learn teamwork, sportsmanship, and discipline.
* I will respect my coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, and parents. I will treat each the way I would like to be treated.
* I will always be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether they are by my team or my opponent’s team.
* I will also be supportive of my teammates when errors occur.
* I will learn the rules and play by them.
* I will control my temper and resist the temptation to retaliate when I feel I have been wronged.
* I will never argue with or complain about an official’s or coach’s decision.
* I will be on time to practices and games and be prepared with all my equipment.
* I will notify my coach if I cannot attend a practice or a game.
* I will try my best to learn the basic skills.
* I will listen to and respect my coaches.
* I will conduct myself properly using my best behavior and manners during practices and games.

**SIGNATURES**

We, the undersigned, have read and agree to the WDSI Codes of Conduct. We also agree to be bound by the By-Laws and Policies of WDSI.

Name of Player (please print)

Name of Team and Head Coach (please print)

Parent or Guardian Signature/ Date

Player Signature/ Date

Coach Signature /Date