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TRAVEL SOCCER COACH APPLICATION

Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

Email: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

<p>Have you completed the MYSA online CORI form at any time since August 2005: Yes: ____, when _____ No: ____</p>

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

Applying for (check one): Head Coach _____ Assistant Coach _____

Playing and/or coaching experience:

Other applicable skills, considerations or comments:

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→ Please continue on the next page with Code of Conduct acknowledgement ←

Coach Code of Conduct

All coaches are expected to agree and adhere to the guidelines provided. The Coach's primary responsibility is the safety, care and well being of the players. SSA wants to ensure that every child has a positive experience. SSA believes that travel soccer should provide a balanced focus on skill development, team play, competition and fun. The following Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) Code of Conduct will be your primary guideline:

The Board of Directors of Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, Incorporated (Mass Youth Soccer) and the leaders of the affiliated Leagues are concerned about the conduct of all coaches and referees during games at all levels, from recreational to premier to ODP. We want to ensure that games are fair, positive and enjoyable experiences for all of the children and adults involved. A soccer game should be friendly and unifying - a spirited social and athletic occasion for players, coaches, referees and spectators. To clarify expectations of coach conduct, we jointly expect all coaches to conform to this Code of Conduct:

- **Before, during and after the game, be an example of dignity, patience and positive spirit.**
- **Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the referee.**
- **During the game, you are responsible for the sportsmanship of your players. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.**
- **During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain acceptable player and parent behavior in a preseason meeting.**
- **Encourage them to applaud and cheer for good plays by either team. Discourage them and you may need to be forceful and direct from yelling at players and the referee.**
- **During the game, you are also responsible for the conduct of spectators rooting for your team.**
- **During the game, do not address the referee at all. If you have a small issue, discuss it with the referee calmly and patiently after the game.**
- **If you have a major complaint, or if you think the referee was unfair, biased, unfit or incompetent, report your opinion to your League. Your reactions will be taken seriously if they are presented objectively and formally.**
- **After the game, thank the referee and ask your players to do the same.**

We stress two points:

1) Referees - especially young and inexperienced ones - are like your players and yourself, in that they need time to develop. You can play an important role in helping them to improve by letting them concentrate on the game. You can help by encouraging them, by accepting their inevitable, occasional mistakes and by offering constructive post-game comments. On the other hand, you could discourage and demoralize the referees by criticizing their decisions, by verbally abusing them and inciting - or even accepting - your own players' overly aggressive behavior.

Your example is powerful, for better or worse. If you insist on fair play, if you concentrate on your players' enjoyment of the game and their overall, long term development, and if you support the referee, your players and their parents will notice. If you encourage (or allow) your players to play outside the rules, if you're overly concerned about results, and if you criticize the referee harshly, your players and their parents will also notice.

Think about what you're doing during a game! Uphold the Spirit of the Game! If you follow the expectations described above, the spirit of the game will be alive and well in Massachusetts and will grow, along with the enjoyment of all.

Coaches who don't follow the expectations described above will be disciplined or removed.

2) You also agree to the following:

- **Respecting officials:** treat game officials/referee's with respect, questioning a call is expected on occasion; arguments and incessant complaining during and after the games is unacceptable.
- **Dealing with parents:** dealing with parents needs to be done in a positive and calm manner. Be clear about the expectations, goals and team policies and maintain open communication at all times.
- **Dealing with players:** Promote effort and teamwork and encourage players to pursue victory with honor, play as a team, continually strive to improve their game through effort and disciplined practice and sportsmanship rather than gamesmanship.
- **Development of all players:** It should be expected that your team will consist of players of differing skill levels; coaching needs to include the instruction and continued development of all players. **Playing time and alternating position play will be as equal as possible, especially at U10 and U12 level. However, the SSA Board recognizes that teams at U12 and U14 level play competitive schedules and that game conditions can change quickly. Still, it is expected that every player will play in every half of every game.**
- Maintain a **professional relationship** with all players: there will be no tolerance for verbal or physical attacks on players, referee's, parents or fans.
- **Players conduct:** You will be expected to teach players that participation in the SSA Travel Program is a privilege and they are expected to exhibit good character and conduct.

As a SSA coach, you are not only a representative of the SSA and the SSA Board, but also of your players, parents, and the Town of Sharon. As a minimum guideline relative to game conduct:

- Any coach receiving a yellow card must sit for the remainder of the game.
- Any coach receiving a red card or who is ejected from a game shall not participate in the next league game and will be subject to review by the SSA Board.
- Any player receiving a red card, who is ejected from a game, shall not participate in the next league game and will be subject to review by the SSA Board.

In addition:

- Egregious acts and/or a second dismissal from a game will be reviewed and a suspension and/or possible dismissal from the program will occur.
- If concerns from parents are sent to the Board, they will be reviewed and brought to the respective coach's attention for discussion. If corrective action is required, it will be taken.

A good faith effort is expected by all coaches to honor the spirit of this code of conduct and, in so doing, improve the quality of our program and the further development of our players. Further you agree to abide by and to comply with its contents.

I agree to abide by all the rules and policies set forth above including all of the policies and procedures of the Sharon Soccer Association.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Name (please print) _____