

**RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND INFORMED CONSENT 2009**

MINNESOTA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (MYSA) CENTRAL MINNESOTA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (CMYSA) CMYSA TRAVEL SOCCER

**PURPOSE:** To protect players and provide a safe, healthy environment for players participating in MYSA sanctioned events and/or Affiliate Members leagues, programs and tournaments.

**BACKGROUND:** As awareness increases about the potential risks associated with individuals who work with children, MYSA (state soccer organization) has developed a program outlining safety guidelines and procedures. **APPLICABILITY:** The policy applies to any of the following that have regular contact with those defined as PLAYERS, (as stated in the Player/Adult protection guidelines outlined below). A.

COACHES, including assistants B. TRAINERS C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS **GUIDELINES:** These guidelines recognize that the lines of authority and separation between ADULTS and PLAYERS must be respected.

**PHYSICAL CONTACT**

- ADULTS must be aware that any physical contact with PLAYERS can be misinterpreted. Physical contact should be limited to that necessary and appropriate to teach a skill, treat an injury, or console or congratulate a PLAYER.
- Sexual contact of any kind or type is prohibited between ADULTS and PLAYERS, whether or not contact is consensual

**SOCIAL CONTACT**

- ADULTS should not socialize or spend time alone with PLAYERS except at games, practices or team functions.
- An ADULT in a one-on-one situation with a PLAYER is generally inappropriate.
- ADULTS should avoid instances such as driving alone with a non-family PLAYER. However, never leave a PLAYER at the field waiting for transportation. ADULTS should stress with their PLAYERS and parents that it is their responsibility to provide safe and timely transportation to and from the field.
- ADULTS should respect the privacy of PLAYERS.

**HEALTH**

- ADULTS share responsibility for PLAYERS health while at practices, scrimmages and games.
- Head injuries resulting in disorientation should result in a PLAYER remaining out of the rest of the game.
- ADULTS transporting PLAYERS must model safe driving techniques and enforce seat belt use.
- ADULTS need to be aware of the signs of neglect and abuse (physical, emotional or sexual) of PLAYERS. Observations should be reported to local law enforcement.

**LANGUAGE**

- Offensive and vulgar language by ADULTS or PLAYERS is unacceptable. ADULTS should model good communication skills.
- Language that is denigrating in nature, content or tone, or refers to ones gender, race, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or religion is unacceptable.
- Inappropriate language targeting officials, opponents or spectators may be grounds for PLAYER penalties or removal of ADULTS from the game.

**VIOLATIONS**

- Violators of these GUIDELINES by ADULTS or PLAYERS will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to WARNINGS, SANCTIONS, SUSPENSIONS, or the release of the PLAYER by the AffiliateMember or MYSA.
- Appropriate legal authorities may be called based on the nature of the violation.
- Violations will be held to discipline from the board. Suspensions will be warranted.

PLAYER/ADULT Protection Guidelines **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT** I/WE have received and reviewed the PLAYER/ADULT PROTECTION GUIDELINES. I/WE understand that our soccer association will use these guidelines as the basis for decisions regarding the conduct of those who participate in coaching, training or other activities that bring them into direct contact with PLAYERS in the organization. I will also obey the Honor code for CMYSA and MYSA.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age Group \_\_\_\_\_

Players Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Custodian (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

