**Canterbury Athletic Association**

**Coach/Volunteer Code of Conduct and Commitment**

Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Moreover, adults involved in youth sports events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self-control.

1. The importance of winning must never supersede the player’s safety and welfare.
2. Coaches must train their players to exhibit sportsmanship and ethical values that reflect fairness, integrity, respect and accountability.
3. Coaches are responsible for becoming familiar with the rules of the game in which they are coaching.
* Rules for soccer are referred to as “laws of the game”. The laws of the game are available at <http://www.cjsa.org> under the “Coaching” heading.
* Rules for Basketball will be given to coaches at the start of the season.
1. Coaches/volunteers must avoid “abusive” conduct, as defined below, towards any referee, player, opposing coach or spectator;
	1. “physical abuse” means any intentional act of violence intended to cause physical harm, or any intentional act intended to result in the damage or destruction of personal property, and includes, but is not limited to, hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing, head butting, kicking or throwing an object that could inflict injury, grabbing or bodily running into, or damaging, destroying or defacing personal property.
	2. “Verbal abuse” means any verbal statement, or physical act not resulting in bodily contact, but which implies or threatens physical harm, or damage, destruction or defacing of personal property, and includes, but is not limited to, profane language, using language that implies or threatens physical harm, spewing any beverage or liquid on personal property or spitting at (but not on).
		* A NOTE ON PROFANITY: Please remember, you are surrounded by children, and are expected to set the highest example at all times. Your job as a coach/volunteer is to teach and encourage children in a positive manner. The language you use should reflect that attitude. The use of profanity is not appropriate under any circumstance!
2. Coaches are responsible for controlling the conduct of their players, as well as parents and spectators supporting their team.
3. It is the coach’s responsibility to remove a player from a game when the player’s conduct is deemed inappropriate.
4. It is the coach’s responsibility to insure an ethical and fair game. It is expected that the coach will not run up the score of their game as this is poor sportsmanship.
5. A coach or assistant coach is required to be present at all practice sessions and games, remaining until the last player has been picked up by their parent. If a coach is not available for any reason, then it is his or her responsibility to make sure an assistant coach is present.
6. In the event that a game has to be canceled for any reason, the coach will be responsible for notifying the league official in charge of scheduling referees so that the league can assure they are properly notified of the cancelation. The coach should make every effort to reschedule the game with the opposing coach. The coach should also notify the appropriate league official when the game is rescheduled so that referees can be obtained.
7. Coaches should bring their medical release forms to all practices and games.
8. OTHER PROHIBITED CONDUCT: In addition to the items listed above, the CAA Board may also consider any involvement with the criminal justice system by any coach/volunteer for any assaultive, threatening, abusive, stalking, or sexually inappropriate conduct, or any other similar conduct which the Board deems to pose a safety risk to players, coaches, or spectators, as a violation of this code. Further, no coach/volunteer shall use, or be under the influence of, illicit drugs or alcohol while acting in his or her capacity as coach/volunteer at any CAA event.

I acknowledge that I have read the Coach/Volunteer Code of Conduct and Commitment and accept its terms and conditions as part of my commitment to the CAA Program. I also understand that any violation will subject me to such penalties as the Board, in its sole discretion, deems necessary and appropriate for the best interest, safety and security of CAA, its members, players, coaches, and spectators, up to and including dismissal.

SIGNATURE: DATE: