

WYSA Referee Liaison Policy

Background:

Referee abuse and harassment by spectators and coaches is the main reason why referees, particularly those in their early teens, drop out of the development program resulting in severe shortages of officials at all levels. This unacceptable behavior towards our youth must be addressed as a *priority* particularly if soccer is to have an adequate supply of referees.

In addressing this problem it is now a requirement of every team registering with, or under the auspices of, the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association to designate an individual to act as a *referee liaison*. The *referee liaison* of each team shall be a person who is not an official of that team and their main role will be to act as a deterrent to possible acts of misbehavior by spectators or team officials. The *referee liaison* will also be available to the referee should a request to do so be made or if a potential problem exists.

Description of duties:

Each team shall provide a *referee liaison* that shall:

- Be identified with a *referee liaison* armband provided by their team
- Be identified on the game sheet as the *referee liaison*
- Introduce himself or herself to the referee prior to the start of the game
- Locate themselves on the spectator side of the field
- Monitor the behavior and deal with inappropriate comments, gestures and/or general unsporting behavior directed at the referee, players or any other individual by their teams' spectators
- Quickly diffuse potential problems before they arise by being visible or calmly speaking with the individual(s) involved.
- Be visible and available to assist the referee particularly at half time and full time
- Submit a brief report in writing of any incident that they deem the WYSA should be aware of involving inappropriate behavior by **ANY** individual