***Code of Conduct – Soccer***

The Point Edward Minor Athletic Association along with the Soccer Committee, strongly believe that the first and most important goal of our soccer program is for the players to have fun. We hope that coaches, parents, spectators and players all support the belief that sportsmanship and fair play are key components of our program. We hope that all involved in our program share these values and that we all show each other the respect that is deserved.

Coaches should try to encourage fair play at all times and try to give each player equal instruction. This will ensure that the players gain confidence in themselves and their place within their team. A successful game is one where all players work together, not necessarily when they score the most goals. Coaches are asked to emphasize that their team follow the rules set out for them and of course lead by example. Players should be praised for a job well done, and instead of criticized, given instruction for areas that need to be worked on. Coaching is a privilege, not a right and we feel very strongly that those who are in charge of the children enrolled in our program conduct themselves in a proper manner.

Coaches are to notify the Convenor or any Committee Member if there is a problem or conflict that they are not able to handle. Persistent or unacceptable behaviour from a player, parent or spectator is not something that is tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly. The coach should be able to focus his attention on the team and the game and not deal with this type of issue.

Players need to want to play and want to learn the game of soccer. They should make every effort to be at the field each week and put forth their best effort. They must agree to play by the rules and take direction from their coaches and their coaches only, while they are on the field. Players will realize that bad behaviour and inappropriate language will not be tolerated. It is NEVER acceptable to talk in a negative tone about anyone and that includes the players, the coaches, the refs and the spectators. If this becomes an issue, disciplinary action may be taken.

Players can celebrate a goal or a great play, but keep the celebration within reason. Remember that winning is not everything, and that having FUN is the number one goal for the season.

Parents and guardians should make every attempt to have the player at the field each week at the designated time. Coaches and the other players are counting on the fact that they will have a full team each week. Parents must also realize that coaches; and only the coaches are to instruct the players during the game and warm up time. Our coaches are all volunteers and all are welcome to sign up for this position at the beginning of the season. If you would like to help, please sign up to do so. Otherwise, it is difficult for the coach to gain the players respect if the parents do not show any respect in this regard. You may offer assistance to the coach but please do not interfere with their instruction of the players.

Parents need to remember that the children are playing soccer for their enjoyment, not yours. The main goal is for them to have fun and to learn some soccer skills throughout the season. You should encourage your child to play by the rules, listen to their coaches and respect everyone involved with the program. Parents are reminded that they are not to ridicule ANYONE involved with our program at any time as this can have adverse effects on anyone that hears or sees this. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child’s behaviour and ensure that a situation does not escalate. If need be, parents are encouraged to speak with their children after the game and off the field to remind them of the rules that need to be followed.

Parents should address any concerns they have with the child’s coach. This should be done by email or if in person, out of range of others hearing the issue. If the problem or concern is not rectified, parents are encouraged to contact a committee member through our website and email. We, as committee members, will be happy to ensure that all issues are given the proper attention and that you will be notified of any action that is taken.

Everyone involved in our program volunteers their time to make it a success. There are countless people who put in numerous hours that most people are unaware of. If you have an issue, please give us the courtesy of being able to address it first. We need to give our volunteers the respect and gratitude they deserve, because without them there would be no soccer program. If you have constructive criticism, please forward it on to us through the website and email account. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please do the same. Each year we look for assistance with different tasks and always welcome those who truly want to make our program the best it can be.

We look forward to a great season and most importantly, HAVE FUN!!!!!!!