



**Winnipeg South End United Soccer Club**  
**8-10 McGillivray Place Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada R3T 1N4**  
Phone: 204-452-8020 [www.wseu.ca](http://www.wseu.ca)

## **WSEU REFEREE LIAISON POLICY**

Each year we lose approximately 50% of new referees because of intimidation from parents and coaches. 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 in officials at all levels. This unacceptable behaviour towards our youth must be addressed as a **priority** 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 misbehaviour 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.

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

1. Be identified with a **referee liaison** armband provide by their team.
2. Be clearly identified on the game sheet as the **referee liaison**.
3. Introduce him or herself to the referee prior to the start of the game.
4. Locate themselves on the spectator side of the field.
5. Monitor the behaviour and deal with inappropriate comments, gestures and /or general unsporting behaviour directed at the referee, players or any other individual by **their** teams' spectators.
6. Quickly diffuse problems before they arise by being visible or calmly speaking with the individual(s) involved.
7. Be visible and available to assist the referee at **any time**.
8. Submit a brief report in writing of any incident that they deem that WSEU should be aware of involving inappropriate behaviour by **any** individual.

Instructions to referees:

1. A referee **will** not start a match until both teams provide a referee liaison.
2. Teams have up to five (5) minutes after the scheduled kick-off time to provide a referee liaison.
3. If only one team provides a referee liaison within the stipulated time allowed, the referee will abandon the match. The non complying team will default the match and WSEU will award the win to the opposition.



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4. Playing time will not be extended in order to acquire referee liaisons.