

## ASA September 11<sup>th</sup> Observance Protocol

With opening match day falling on September 11<sup>th</sup> this year, the ASA Board of Directors is asking all coaches to recognize the anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks at all In-Town matches and all home Travel matches in the following manner:

1. During pre-game warm-ups, communicate with your opposing coach and the game official (if any) that there will be a short Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> observance prior to the start of the game. Explain to them this procedure.
2. At the completion of warm-ups, gather your players in the bench area, assign starting positions and explain the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> observance procedure to your players.
3. A bag of handheld flags will have been placed at each field for each team, hand one out to each player, home and away.
4. All players and coaches from both teams should simultaneously walk in two, single-file lines along the center line to the center circle or kick-off spot. Both teams should then line up parallel to the side-line, facing the spectators' side of the field. (Coaches may lead each line of players or designate a "captain" for this purpose.) For the younger in-town ages, the coaches may elect to simply gather all the players at midfield and organize the best line of players they can.)
5. Once the players and coaches are organized at the center of the field, the Head Coach for the home team should announce as loudly as possible that **"Andover Soccer asks that you join us in a moment of silence to observe the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks"**.
6. The moment of silence should last for approximately 30 seconds to one minute. The home Head Coach should simply announce **"Thank you"** at the end of the moment of silence.
7. Coaches should collect flags back from players (returning them to the box and placed in the bench area for use in the next match). Any pre-game cheer should be conducted in the center circle area, with starting players immediately taking their positions on the field and substitutes going back to the bench area with the coaches.
8. Kick-off.