

What's Your Role in Player Development

Presented By
Ian Mulliner
Technical Director
Illinois Youth Soccer Association



The Heart of the Matter

- We are faced with a number of substantial challenges to player development in this country.
 - Geography
 - Climate
 - Infancy of Professional Infrastructure
 - Focus on Winning at an early age
 - Composition of playing population
 - Economic incentives versus other sports
 - Education as a priority



Why Do Children Participate?

- Competence (Learning and Improving)
- Affiliation (Being a part of a group)
- Fitness (physical health and development)
- FUN (Enjoying performance and relationships)



Where are they now?

- Paiget's Stages of Development

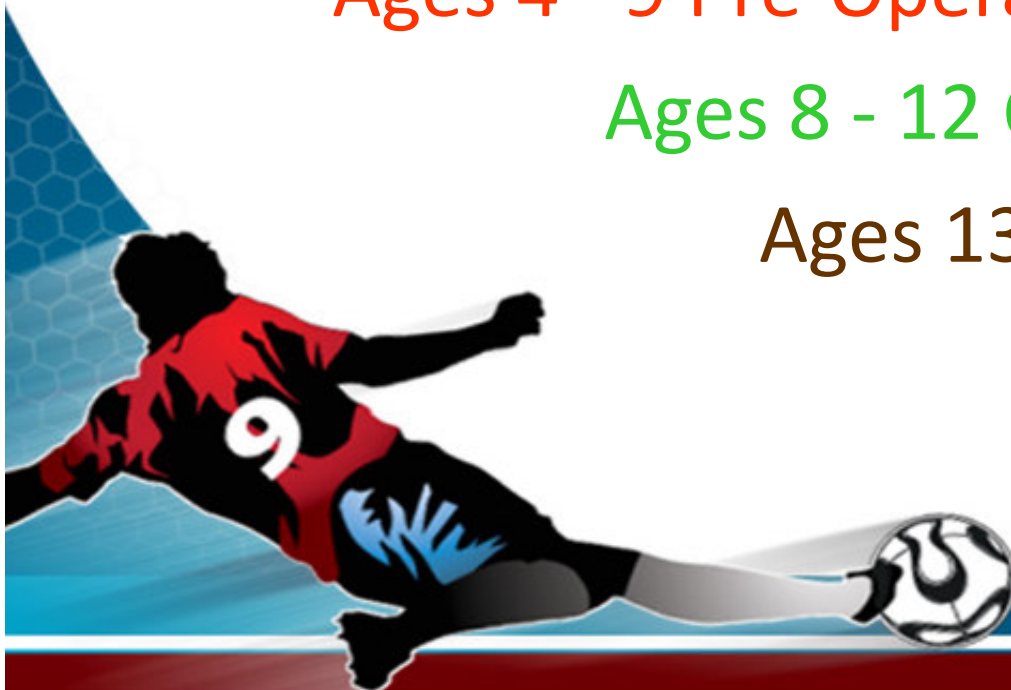
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Ages 2 – 4 Sensory-Motor

Ages 4 - 9 Pre-Operational

Ages 8 - 12 Concrete Operational

Ages 13 + Formal Operational



The Coaches Role

- Get Educated, exercise good ethical and moral behavior
- Know your players each and every one
- Communicate – Players, Parents, Team Administrators.
- Coach the individual
- Respect the officials



Coaches Checklist

- Are the players engaged?
- Technical repetition in a fun environment
- Use Small Sided Games to teach
- Give players problems to solve NOT answers to remember
- What is your player retention goal?



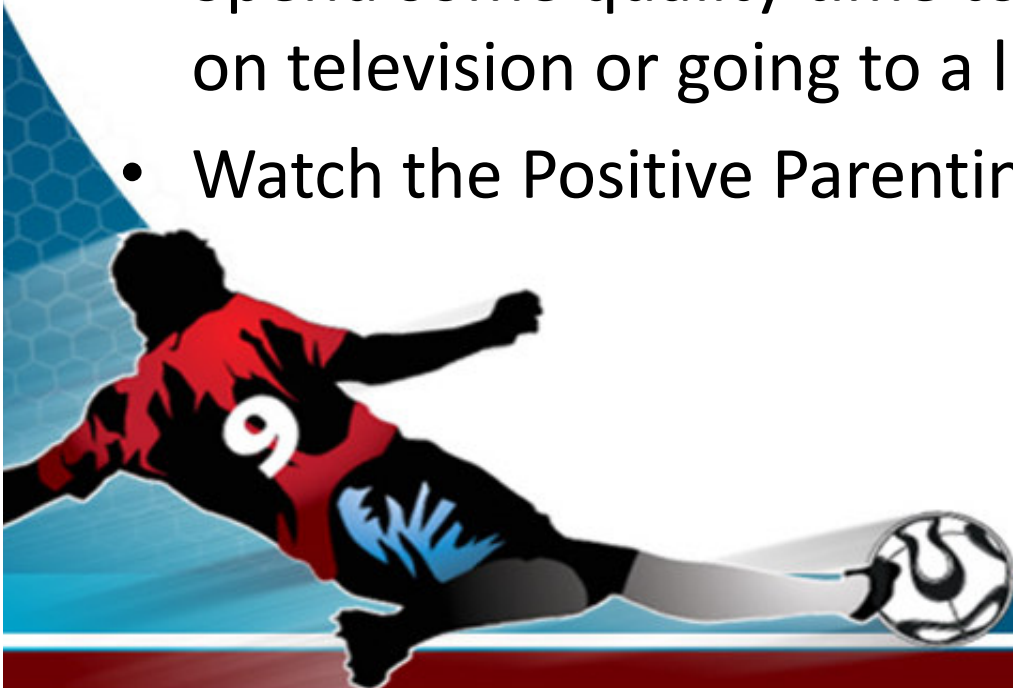
The Parents Role

- Do your homework - Learn about the team/club your child intends to play on.
- Be supportive – Child, Coach, Club, Officials
- Know the rules – Game, Club, League, Competition
- Nutrition



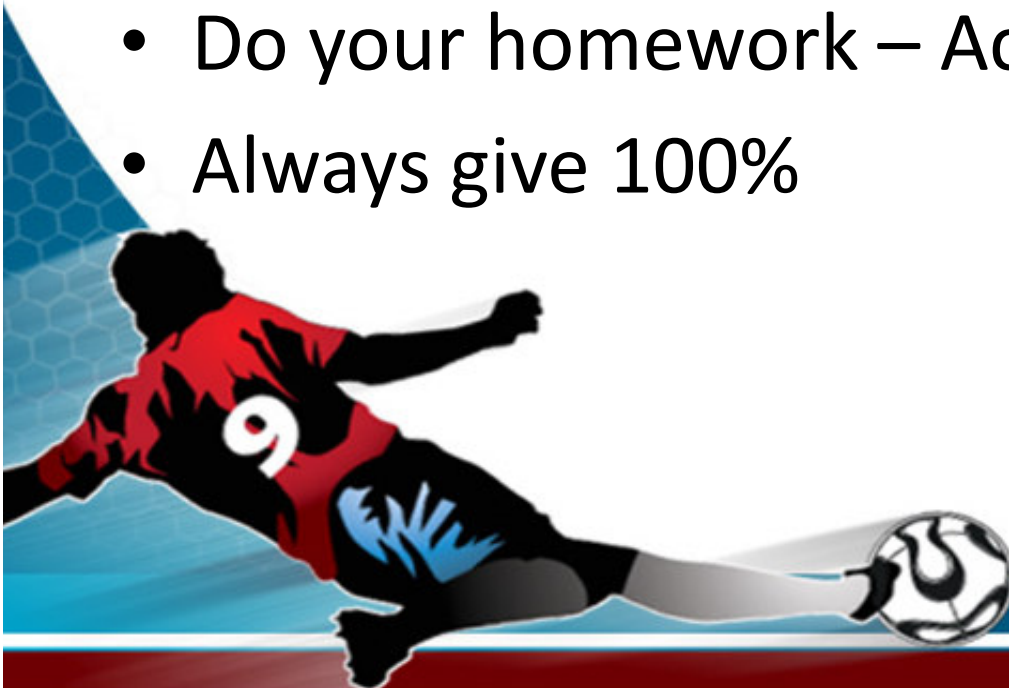
What Else Can I do?

- In an overscheduled world schedule some free time for your child!
- Understand that play (free play) is a serious business
- Make the car ride home a pleasant experience
- Spend some quality time together watching games on television or going to a live game
- Watch the Positive Parenting for Youth Soccer DVD



The Players Role

- Be brave – rise to meet every challenge
- Become a student of the game. Who is your soccer hero?
- Respect the game
- Do your homework – Academic and Soccer
- Always give 100%



Players Checklist

- How did I do today?
- Self assessment – How many successful passes did I make? How many unsuccessful passes did I make? Did I beat anyone 1 v 1? Did anyone take the ball from me?
- Get an evaluation from your coach



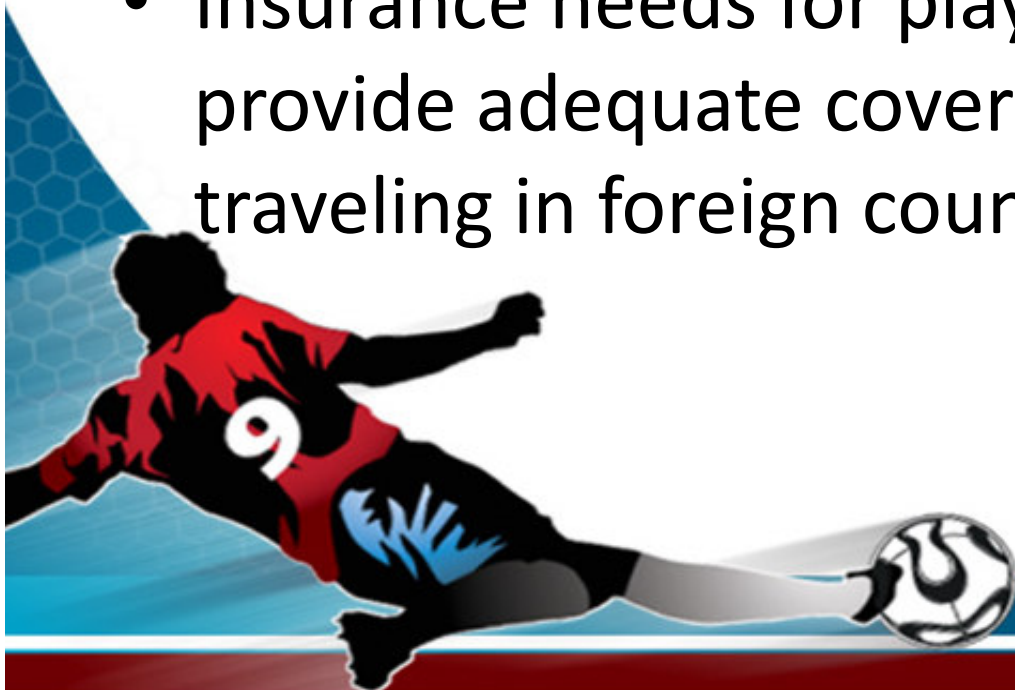
The Officials Role

- Know the rules for the age of the players you are officiating
- Teach the players as they play
- Get a dialogue going
- Set the tone early



The Administrators' Role

- Effectively communicate
- Organize team meetings
- Obtain medical information for your players
- Plan with the players in mind
- Insurance needs for players and coaches to provide adequate coverage; especially when traveling in foreign countries



The Future

- If we are to improve the development of young players, it is crucial that we recognize past mistakes. Awareness of errors is the first step toward more effective training and learning methods.



Developing Youth Soccer Players by Horst Wein

Pages 1 – 2



Where do we go from here?

- Do we follow an existing model? Is this really feasible given the dynamics of this country?
- Do we create our own model? How do we do this?
- Elite – Competitive environment
- Fun – Increase and improve the base



What do you think?

- Coaches?
- Parents?
- Players?
- Officials?
- Administrators?



Any Questions? Comments Welcome

Thank You for your time today.

