

How Can We Improve Our Recreational Programs?

Presenter:

Lee Smith

Director of Coaching

Tennessee State Soccer Association



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What is a typical clubs philosophy?

The recreation soccer program is designed to teach players soccer skills, teamwork and sportsmanship in an environment where participation and fun are the focus, not winning at all cost.

The problem in the U.S.A. is they start travel soccer at too early an age. That's totally detrimental. It becomes more about winning and about collecting hardware than about having the kids play and learning from playing.

- Alfonso Mondelo, Major League Soccer, director of player development

What we are currently doing at our recreational level?

- 1 practice a week for recreation?
- 8-9 weeks per season?
- 8 games per season?
- 1 hr practices?
- ½ field space?
- Trophies each season?

Have some lesson plans online for coaches to read.

(1 hr days) 9 days = 9 hours a season or 18 hours a year for practice

(1 ½ hr days) 9 days = 13 ½ hours a season or 27 hours a year for practice

10,000 hrs to be a professional at a skill



How can we improve parent understanding and involvement?

- Club website with various articles
- A separate section on the club website that is for recreation only (has dates of registration, game schedule/times and location, objectives for players at different age groups and curriculum for program)
- Club structure and different programs available for players
- Newsletter by mail, email, website or Facebook

How can we help administration?

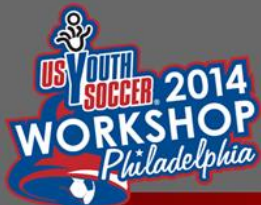
- Background checks
- Play Small Sided Game for U6-U12 (player development, field & time)
- Coaching licenses
- Club philosophy
- Club curriculum

How can we help administration?

- Multiple communication tools
- Create a rain-out schedule built into game schedule
- Online registration
- Have an on site staff to work and support coaches for practices and games (easy way to communicate, help, support, eliminates conflict, bridge between parents, identifies talent and club and shows support...)

How can we help/improve coaches in our recreation program for coaching growth?

- Hire a DOC for recreation
- Club involvement during extra events
- Club curriculum for all ages
- Licensing – Free for coaches
YM, E, D certificate and National D
- Provide age group objectives (ABC's)
- Contact given about club DOC
- Provide lesson plans (club direction)
- Educate about *Best Practice* by: USSF
- Give online education information
(articles, magazine subscriptions,
club/state programs and info...)



How can we help/improve retention of coaches in our recreation program?

- Coaches end of season party
- Club coaching shirt
- Coaches kid plays free with license with YM – U6/U9, E- U10/U12, D-U13 and up
- Feeling equal to competitive coaches

How can we help/improve retention of coaches in our recreation program?

- Have an on site staff to work and support coaches at practice and games. (easy way to communicate, help, support, eliminates conflict, bridge between parents, identifies talent and club and shows support...)
- Make it easy (rosters, lesson plans, field, times, games, trophies...)
- Communication

How can we help recreation based players improve their development and passion for the game? (team)

- Play small sided games U6-U12
- Use the KINS program (Georgia in 2001)
- Bring college players in to help
coach or support (role models and skill factor)
- Tournaments and games
(example: American Cup)
- Jamborees for U6-U10 or higher at beginning or end of season.



How can we help recreation based players improve their development and passion for the game? (Indv.)

- Academy to bridge and/or extra

- All players get technical footwork and tactical perspective.

Example: (first 15 min for U6-U8 then first 20 min for U9 and up during their practice)

- Juggling club



How can we help recreation based players improve their development and passion for the game? (Indv.)

- Skills clinic on a specific night
- College game or pro game night
- Individual and group sessions
- Summer camp



How can we help recreation based players to improve their development and passion for the game.

- 2 days a week for 50min for U9-U10 then 2 days a week 1 ½ for U11 & up
- 10 + weeks (no more that 8 games)
- **Street Soccer / Free Play**
(open up fields for 1 or more days a week all year. For recreation and competitive players to be mixed in). At least provide the fields and cones and let kids be kids.



Cost involvement

Recreation Player Development plan:

1 staff for 10 weeks at 2 hrs. for 3 days a week = \$1,800 at \$30 a session.
(18 players pay for this at \$100 registration fee)

Academy:

1 staff for 7 weeks at 1 ½ hrs. per 10 players = \$280 a season at \$40 a session
Parents would pay \$80 for the season and would also get an academy kit. Profit would go back into program for player development.

Field Supervisors:

Staff onsite during games: 8 weekends for 5 hrs a weekend at \$8hr = \$320
(Per location)



Cost involvement

- Estimated cost to run the program mentioned for 2 locations both practice and games for 10 weeks and 8 games.
- \$4,800 total
- 300 recreational players at \$80 = \$24,000 a season
- 300 recreational players at \$100 = \$30,000 a season



“Soccer is an art not a science and the game should be played attractively as well as effectively. Soccer is a game of skill, imagination, creativity and decision-making. Coaching should not stifle, but enhance those elements”

- Bobby Howe, U.S. Soccer, former director of coaching, professional and National Team coach.

Contact Information:

Lee Smith

Lsmith@tnsoccer.org

901-219-3219



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