Long Term Player Development in Ontario

“Doing what is best for the players”
State of our nation

How we are implementing change and why!

Key Learnings “tips”
1. State of our nation
Canada
- 35 Million
- 850,000 Players
- 10 Provinces (3 territories)

Ontario
- 13.5 Million
- 350,000 Players
- 70,000 Coaches
- 21 Districts
- 400 Clubs
OUR REALITY

• Leadership/Disconnect
• Need to move from VS to AND
• Ownership
• Player Registration
• Coaching
• Competitive Structure
2. How we are implementing change...... and why?
OVERARCHING TAC PRINCIPLES

To Guide Decisions for Ontario Implementation

1. The needs of the player should be put first in all decisions.

2. Lowering barriers to participation, especially in the early development stages.*

3. Developmental needs of the player will guide decisions, especially in Talent Identification and Selection and ongoing scouting.

4. Balance – Importance of retention and pathways for all (Player, Coach, Referee & Administration)
OVERARCHING TAC PRINCIPLES
To Guide Decisions for Ontario Implementation

(5) Strong foundation in “Participation” starting from bottom up.

(6) Communication and education is critical at all times.

(7) Consistency and alignment throughout the province, cognizant of geographical challenges.
EARLY DECISIONS

1. Removal U12 division of Ontario Cup
2. No promotion / relegation from 2014 in all competitive soccer U12 and below
3. U8 festivals replace tournaments (5v5)
4. New Standards based league 2014
   • OYSL phased out
5. Development and Recreational Matrix
1. Pathway / Competitive Structure

- 2020 Vision
- Shift away from winning at all costs
- Grassroots focus (U12 and below, bottom up)
  - Focus on opportunity for all / Matrices
  - No promotion relegation or standings
- Standards based league (OPDL)
- Soccer for Life U13 up (Comp and Rec)
2. COACHING

- New CSA curriculum and development focus (LTPD aligned)
- Shift in methodology
  - “What” to the “how”
  - Instruction to Facilitation training (LF’s MLF’s)
- Appointment of a Manager of Coach Development
- Female mentorship program
- Grassroots focus (70%)
- New learning course environment
- Changes to License delivery
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th><strong>NO SCORES, NO STANDINGS</strong></th>
<th>Learning to Train</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age Group</td>
<td>U8</td>
<td>U9 and U10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing Format</td>
<td>5v5 (with GK) or 4v4 (no GK)</td>
<td>7v7 (including GK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coaching Requirement</td>
<td>Fundamentals + MED and RIS</td>
<td>Learning to Train + MED and RIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squad Size (Game day only)</td>
<td>Max 10 (5v5)</td>
<td>Ideal 9 / Max 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max 8 (4v4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substitutions</td>
<td>Unlimited (on the fly)</td>
<td>Unlimited (any stoppage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training to playing ratio</td>
<td>2:1 or 3:1</td>
<td>2:1 or 3:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max competition days per outdoor season</td>
<td>20 (including festivals)</td>
<td>20 (including other forms of competition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of competition days per week</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended Training Time</td>
<td>30 – 45 minutes</td>
<td>45 – 70 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended Playing time</td>
<td>Fair time in all positions</td>
<td>Fair time in all positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Duration</td>
<td>2 x 20 min</td>
<td>2 x 25 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing time per festival / tournament day</td>
<td>Max 60 minutes playing time</td>
<td>Max 80 minutes playing time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum rest between matches</td>
<td>20 min</td>
<td>30 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Season length (outdoor or indoor)</td>
<td>12 – 20 weeks</td>
<td>16 – 20 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended Team Travel Time</td>
<td>30 minutes each way, within Club or District preferred.</td>
<td>45 minutes each way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referee</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throw ins</td>
<td>No (pass ins)</td>
<td>No (pass ins)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offside</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field width</td>
<td>25 to 30m</td>
<td>30 to 36m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field length</td>
<td>30 to 36m</td>
<td>40 to 55m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal Size (no larger than)</td>
<td>5F / 1.52m x 8F / 2.44m</td>
<td>6F / 1.83m x 16F / 4.88m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball size</td>
<td>3 or 4 (or 5 light)</td>
<td>4 (or 5 light)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PLEASE NOTE**

MED = Making Ethical Decisions  
RIS = Respect in Soccer

Participation mementos (certificates or t-shirts) are allowed at Festivals or other forms of competition. The OSA would encourage clubs / districts organizing Festivals or other forms of competition to move away from participation medals and trophies and look to lower participation costs where possible.

The current LTPD Development Stages (Fundamentals, Learning to Train etc) relate to the different development stages as players develop and are different for males and females. The CSA Coaching courses are tailored to these development stages. At the current time to assist in the understanding and acceptance of changes to competition we have kept competition specific to age groups and consistent for both male and female competition i.e. U8.
3. COMMUNICATION

• Paradigm shift
• Proactive communication
  – Membership Outreach (connect “having a face”)
  • Roadshows
  • LTPD Champions
  • Regular membership messages
  • Video development
  • Website (FAQ’s, Research, LTPD questions)
• Media demands
  – Positive and negative (opportunity either way)
LISTEN, DAD, I KNOW YOU YELL BECAUSE YOU WANT ME TO DO WELL, BUT IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE HELPFUL IF YOU'D VICARIOUSLY RELIVE YOUR CHILDHOOD THROUGH MY MATH TESTS...
COMMUNICATION

Educational Resource Development
Talented Pathway Vision
Ontario’s best players are given the opportunity to reach their full potential

Grassroots Vision
Making soccer more child friendly, to develop better players and people

Soccer for Life Pathway Vision
Provide an enjoyable and challenging environment that keeps all participants returning to soccer
Challenges

• Organisational structure
• Strategic focus
• Communication filters
  – Reaching audiences
  – Media twisting
• Cultural change “Parent Education”
• Resources (capability and capacity)
• Academies
your comfort zone
3. Key Learnings

“tips”
Philosophy first

Vision and plan

National alignment

– Best practice sharing / research

Governance support

Leaders / people

– Use of experts as needed

Membership engagement

Patience, Compass…
Why are we doing this...?
Grassroots football is not about the amount of trophies you win.

It is about the difference you make to young people.
THANK YOU

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