

The Role of the Administrator in Player Development

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What is a Soccer Administrator?

- A person responsible for running a soccer business, soccer organization, etc.



Administrators Oversee and Provide Direction



“You can’t know where you are going until you know where you have been.” –George Santayana quote variant

The Decisions of Administrators can Influence Development of the Player in a Positive or Negative Manner



- River Plate
- Age 11 diagnosed with GHD (Medical \$900/month)
- Barcelona



- Youngest pro contract at age 14 (MLS)
- Many referred to him as “the next Pele”
- Has he met expectations????

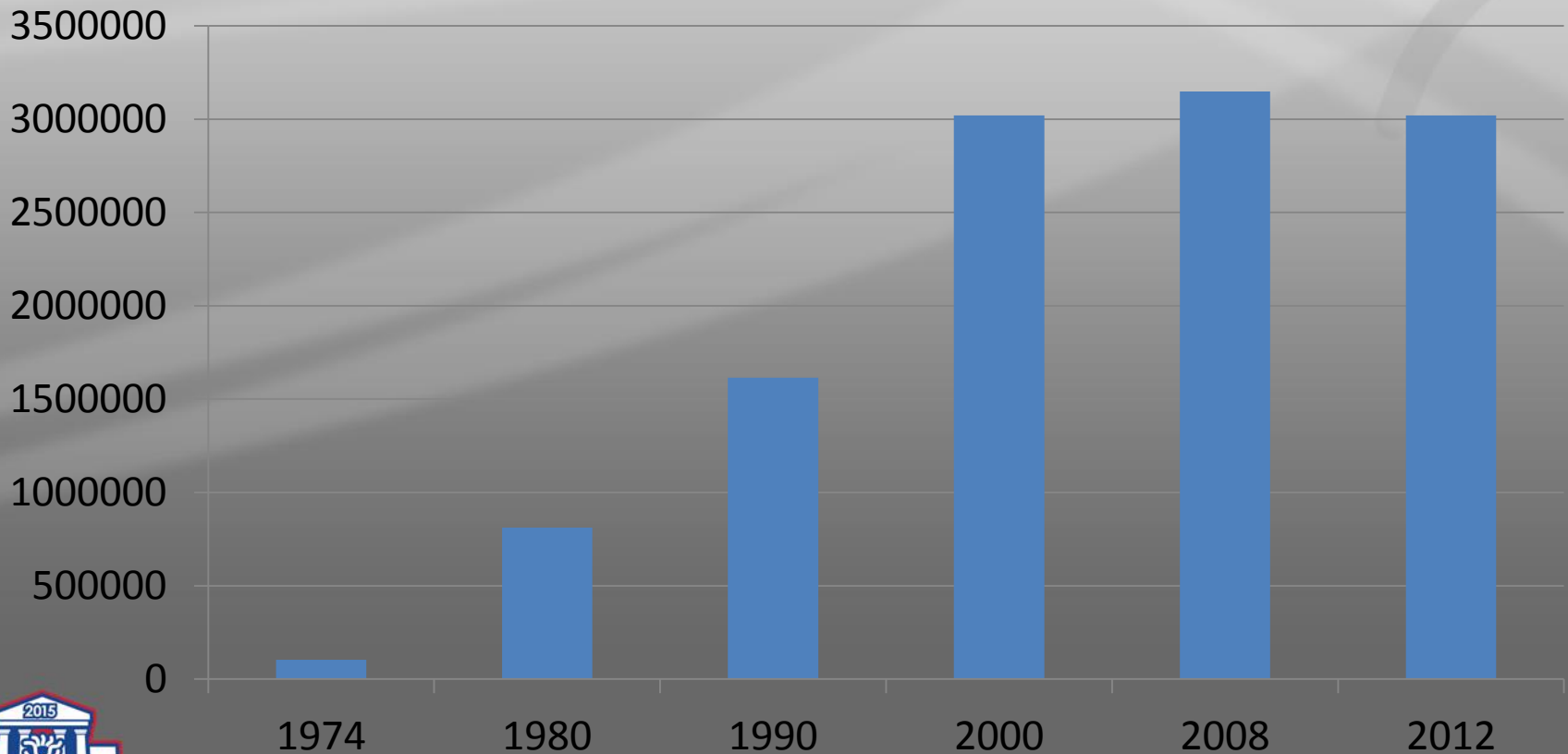
This is NOT an Easy Question Today

- Youth Soccer has changed in the United States
 - Youth Soccer numbers have GROWN
 - Youth Soccer Education has improved
 - Youth Soccer is a Full Time Job
 - Youth Soccer is Expensive
 - Youth Soccer has Competition



US Youth Soccer Player Registrations

(1974 to 2012)



In the Beginning...

- City, Town, or Church Leagues
- Multiple Age Group Play Structure
- Volunteer Coaches (Parents)
- Volunteer Administrators (Parents)
- Non-Profit
- Mostly Recreational (Little or no Travel)
- Lack of Organization



Today...

- Single Age Group Play Structure
- Multiple Leagues (National, Regional, State)
- Paid Licensed Coaches (Full Time)
- Paid Administrators (Full Time)
- Non-Profit and Profit Organizations
- Recreational and Competitive (Travel)
- Organization and Structure??

Positive Stats from Growth Today...

- 1974 to 2012
 - Increase of 2,917,201 Players (Increase of 30x)
- 2006
 - #1 Country in world for youth soccer participation (3.9 million)
- 2011
 - FIFA Soccer ranked #2 only behind Madden Football.



Positive Stats from Growth Today...

- 2012
 - Soccer #4 most played sport by HS Boys
 - Soccer #3 most played sport by HS Girls (overtook Softball)
- 2013
 - Americans age 12-24 rank soccer as 2nd favorite sport behind American Football.

Growth is Good, Right?

Related to rapid growth...
Without proper attention and cultivation, company culture is likely to be a hodge-podge of the many different—and often conflicting—mindsets that new employees bring with them from their old jobs.



Negative Stats from 2008 to 2012...

- Combined participation in 4 major sports declined 4%. (Ages 6-17)
 - Basketball decreased 6.3% (Ages 6-14)
 - Football decreased 4.9% (Ages 6-14)
 - Soccer and Baseball slight decreases (Ages 6-14)
- Other competition
 - Hockey increased 64% (Ages 6-14)
 - LAX increased 158% (Ages 6-14)



And who is in charge of Player Development?



Communication

- Tools
 - Website, Email, Facebook, Twitter, Newsletter, etc.
- Town Hall Meetings
- Team Contacts (Coaches, Managers)
- What are we Communicating?

Education

- Player and Parent Education
 - Expectations, Conduct, Discipline, Policies, etc.
- Coach Education
 - Expectations, Conduct, Discipline, Club Philosophy, etc.
- Manager and Volunteer Education
 - Expectations, Conduct, Discipline, Communication, Policies, etc.

Structure

- Vision
 - Mission Statement, Direction
- Cohesiveness Among Leadership
 - Admin, Coaches, Officials, Parents
- Environment
 - Age appropriate, Small sided games, etc.
 - Are your expectations communicated clearly?
 - Does everyone support your ideas?



Risk Management

- Insurance
- Game Day/Events
- Facilities
- Injuries (concussions)
- Child Protection

Community

- Building Pride in your Organization
- Building Loyalty in your Organization
- Culture, Chemistry, among Members



What is Important Today?

- Communication
- Education
- Structure
- Risk Management
- Community



Player Development?

- USYS PD Model- An integrated club-wide curriculum is the key for optimum player development. There must be a line that connects U-6 to U-19, a line that everyone in the club understands and follows. Without a curriculum, the player development process becomes disjointed, difficult to monitor and evaluate, causing players to graduate with skill gaps. A deficit in one stage of the development process will tend to inhibit acquisition of more complex skills at a later stage.

Questions?

Thank you!

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