

Our Player Development Philosophy

We will focus on excellence in the development of our young footballers. We will let winning come as a result of development, not in place of it.



What does this mean?

An obsession with winning is the enemy of excellence in junior sport. Teaching our young players to be creative, to try and pass out from the back and beat players 1v1 may cost us goals and games, but it will help make our players better for when it really matters – later in life.

Excellence is all about the process, while winning is all about the outcome. A focus on excellence promotes a growth mindset that is crucial to learning, improving and, ultimately, better performance. A focus on winning promotes the destructive, outcome oriented, fixed mindset that fears failure and inhibits development.

Excellence allows room for failure and learning, while an obsession with winning does not.

There are many people, particularly in sport, who think that success and excellence are the same thing. They are not the same thing. Excellence is something that is lasting and dependable and largely within a person's control. In contrast, success is perishable and is usually outside our control. Striving for excellence will typically lead to success anyway.

We are competitive. We love winning. We believe that every time a player takes the field, he or she should give maximum effort in the pursuit of victory.

But players who play to win is one thing, and has nothing to do with coaches who *only* coach to win. Such an approach will rob kids of their sporting education and will set them up for failure later in life. Junior coaches who only coach to win love to say, "I am developing winners." Sorry, but no. They are not. They are developing losers because they are not giving their players the tools to compete and win later at the higher levels of their sport.

Therefore...

We choose to focus on excellence in the development of our young footballers.

