

We are excited to start the Spring season. Welcome to all our players and their families!! Spring 2011 begins our second season of soccer and we are looking forward to more growth and fun. Our first and foremost goal this season is to have fun. Below is more information of our philosophy and coaching style. We are truly looking forward to having fun together!

Our Philosophy

Fun, Fun and More Fun!

A Safe environment

Process - not performance

Basic Soccer Skills

We have just a few basic goals this year and I want to share them with you:

Number 1 is FUN! If we aren't having fun then the rest doesn't matter.

2. Get the kids excited about soccer, practices and games.

3. Learn some basic ball handling skills.

4. Practicing skills (not concerned about perfection).

5. We had better be having FUN!

So what does this mean for you as a parent? A few basic tips can help your child become excited about soccer. Here are some basic do's and don't's.

DO:

Give positive encouragement! Examples: **Good Try! Great Kick! Let's Go Geckos! Nice Play!** We know many of you are tempted to yell instructions, (I'm a parent - I would be the first one to speak up to offer guidance to my child, especially if I think he isn't "getting it") however we are working hard to train and organize the players as a team; therefore any coaching from the spectators often proves disruptive and causes confusion. You might yell, "pass" when the coach wants your child to dribble, and you might yell 'shoot' when the coach has instructed your child to pass. So, please if you want to yell something you think is helpful, please ask the coach first!

Even soccer coaches are not supposed to yell instructions to the players, but anyone who has coached younger players knows this is not practical. When children are learning the game, the coach needs to constantly tell players where to be and what to do, although at some point the children need to learn how to think for themselves. For older players, quick thinking without help from the coach is a necessary mental skill needed to reach the next higher level.

DO: Offer encouragement to the other team as well when a goal is scored or an effort has been made. Encourage the other players just as you would your own. There is nothing more encouraging than having an entire crowd cheering you on! (This sets a great example to your child as well! The positive influence this will have will give tremendous payback in the future!)

So, what can you expect in the coming weeks?

Snack Sign-up: We will have a sign-up sheet for snacks at the games. Snacks consist of a drink and a simple snack like crackers, cookies, etc.

Picture day is scheduled for MARCH 5th – as it gets closer I will pass out info and the time we are scheduled for pictures. On picture day please plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to our scheduled time, they will not take pictures until the entire team is there and typically we will be scheduled just prior to our game, which we don't want to miss :)

Patch System: This was started last season and has helped us in achieving some of our goals. Players will receive patches each week for various accomplishments. Only one patch is given per game to each player, and one patch to each player for each week of coming to all practices that week. For a total of two patches each week. This is a small change from last season where a patch was given for each practice, after re-evaluating we have decided to go with one practice patch per week.

Patch color key:

purple – given to a player who gets knocked down but gets up and keeps playing and giving it their all.

red - given to a player who does a good job stopping the ball from going out of bounds.

green – given to a player who hustles the entire game and is always on the go.

orange – given at the coaches discretion for special effort by player.

gold – given to a player who gets control of the ball on an inbound kick.

blue – given to a player who goes after the ball on defense and does a great job on offense.

white – given to a player who does not cross the white goal line during a game.

teal blue – given for coming to all practices in a given week.

Our practices:

Many of our drills do not resemble the traditional soccer drill- dribble around a cone, etc. We have 'games' designed for the kids to play that get them in the situations where the skills we are working on are naturally used by the players in order to 'play the game' such as:

Moving the balls from one end of the field to another:

Purpose: Get the kids dribbling the ball in high traffic. Building endurance, get the kids looking ahead to avoid collisions, make decisions on their path, make decision as to when to try for a goal.

While them moving the balls back and forth across the field may appear as nonsense, the kids are actually building skills necessary for game play. And this is much more fun than dribbling around cones. This particular exercise also allows all players to play at their level and still have fun! It doesn't matter how good of a dribbler you are you still get many chances to take the balls back and forth and have FUN.

PLEASE feel free to talk with me if you have concerns about any of the drills we are doing not having a practical application. I would be happy to talk with you!!

We will be needing parents involved in the practices from time to time.

We will need two assistants for "goal watchers" at the games and during scrimmages. That role will require you instruct the children to "shoot" or "freeze"(keep them from crossing the line) or "turn around"(if they are heading to the wrong goal). We need to keep the number of people "instructing to a minimum during the games and having assistants in proper places during practice and games will help the kids be able to learn to make decisions yet still have the safety net of an adult to guide them when they get off track.

Resources:

There are some great internet resources. Here are just a few:

www.USYOUTHSOCCER.org

www.YOUTUBE.com (tons of videos of soccer skills)

www.SOCCERHELP.com

www.NACSOCCER.org

We are sooo excited about this season. Realistically we will have peaks and valleys, but we truly are looking forward to both as there is no greater joy than overcoming an obstacle and reaching that peak when you know the valley you came from!

There are two camps coming up that we would like to encourage you to participate in. We can do the British Camp as a team. We have signed up for the evening session and I will need to let the organizers know what other players from our team will be joining so that we can be in the same session and group. The evening session is 6-8:30 M-F the week of June 27th.

British Soccer Camp:

The Nacogdoches Soccer Association is pleased to announce another year of partnership with Challenger Sports, providers of the USA's most popular soccer camp, to host the week long British Soccer camp during the week of June 27th– July 1st at Hoya Soccer Complex, E. Main Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75961.

The camp will run Monday through Friday and each child will be coached by a member of Challenger's British coaching staff flown to the USA exclusively to work on these programs. Challenger will hold over 3,000 British Soccer Camps this summer and will coach over 110,000 players between the ages of 3 and 18, as well as completing FREE coach education clinics for over 20,000 parents and coaches.

Challenger's British Soccer Camp is more than a week of drills and skills. In addition to taking part in a daily regimen of foot skill development, technical and tactical practices and daily 'World Cup' tournament style plays, each child will be treated to a rich cultural experience and lessons on respect, responsibility, integrity, leadership and sportsmanship.

Each camper will receive a FREE camp T-shirt, soccer ball, soccer poster and an individual skills performance evaluation. In addition, any child who signs up online at least 45 days prior to camp will receive a genuine British Soccer replica Jersey valued at \$39. For further information please visit www.challengersports.com.

British Soccer Camps provide players of all ages and abilities with the rare opportunity to receive high-level soccer coaching from a team of international experts. Each day includes individual foot skills, technical drills, tactical practices, small-sided games, coached scrimmages, and a daily tournament. Equally important, the Challenger coaching staff provides your child with lessons in respect, responsibility, integrity, sportsmanship and leadership. Camp programs include a free ball and shirt and a free British Soccer jersey for on line registrations 45 days prior to camp!

Soccer Camps at Stephen F. Austin University Soccer Academy with NYSA

SFA Head Soccer Coach Tony Amato, along with his staff and collegiate players, are offering weekly training sessions throughout the spring soccer season. The six-week curriculum focuses on technical skill development (dribbling, shooting, juggling, passing and receiving), while encouraging learning in a fun, high-energy environment.

Mondays 6-7PM, Hoya Soccer Complex, Feb 21-April 4th(no session March 14th)

\$70

www.soccercampsfa.com/soccer-academy.cfm