

## *NSC Coaching Philosophy*

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Needham Soccer Club strives to create an environment that will encourage our kids to have fun, while developing their technical and tactical understanding of the game. We fully understand the responsibility of using the game to help educate and develop our kids on characteristics and principles that will help prepare them for life beyond sports. Our coaches will create an atmosphere where our kids will learn to honor the game through respecting themselves, their teammates, coaches and officials. We will support our coaches to create a safe, competitive environment that challenges our kids to take risks, fail, persevere, improve, experience success, and do it all with dignity and humility.

NSC Coaches will be responsible and fair with playing time for everyone that makes the commitment to the team and whose parents or guardians prioritize team practices and events. Understanding what it truly means to put our kids first, means understanding that it is not all about winning. While we will always encourage our teams to strive to win, our coaches will ALWAYS put what is best for the individual player and the team FAR ahead of the result on the scoreboard. A responsible coach understands that it is unfair and unacceptable to allow any one player to feel they are “above” the rest of the team and deserve preferential treatment because of their ability. Playing time will be based upon a number of factors, including but not limited to, the players commitment and investment to the team, respect towards others, body language, work rate and their willingness to listen to coaching points. \*\*See Player Development Initiatives to find out how our playing time rules differ for each level of development\*\*

NSC will encourage and support our coaches in creating a competitive environment, aimed to help our children to begin to see challenges as exciting learning opportunities. Our coaches will be responsible in communicating with their players to help them understand that the goal of every practice and game is to feel that you have been given the opportunity to improve. No matter how small, NSC coaches are encouraged to celebrate our player’s development process by celebrating those who take a chance and make a mistake, who work hard at something that doesn’t come easy, who show grit, resiliency and seek out new challenges.

Our coaches will be responsible with the competitive development of our teams to create games and activities that encourage them to both cooperate and compete with one another. We understand that they will likely know and want to keep score, however we will be sure to remain focused on the actual product of play and fun created by the challenge in front of them. We believed it to be more beneficial for our kids to play in close games as this gives them the opportunity to experience “pressure” and gives us the chance to use that as a learning opportunity. We will always do our best to keep scores close so that everyone feels encouraged and engaged in what we are doing.

At Needham Soccer Club, we aim to create an environment that is inclusive and invites every member of every team to explore and enhance their abilities. It is extremely important to us that every player in Needham feels they are an important member of our teams, club and community. By creating these environments our coaches will celebrate the process of learning by rewarding players, not for their “natural” talent or skill, but for their efforts, willingness to make a mistake and commitment to the learning and development process. We fully understand our position as role models for the players and will set the example for them to follow in everything that we do. It is a responsibility that we will never take lightly and will never take for granted.

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