



## **U11 and beyond Expectations**

We, at NSSC, want our players to enjoy a positive sports experience, and we strive to create the best environment to cultivate lifelong soccer players. Soccer not only offers young children a great opportunity to compete, but also the chance to learn great life lessons. We cannot set upon this journey alone and appreciate your support. For our part, we have appointed coaches that have played or are licensed or in the process of becoming licensed in the sport of soccer. These coaches and advisors know how to best develop the players and skills. This is our position on the development of these young athletes...

- **FUN** No matter what the age, fun should be the first priority. Everyone must work hard to create an environment where the players WANT to be there
- **BE A SPORT** Coaches and adults have to set an example. Show respect for the opponent, the referee, the coach, and your child's teammates.
- **CHEERING** Parents are encouraged to cheer for all of the players but must respect the difference between cheering and coaching. Aside from possibly contradicting the coach, the player can easily be confused and distracted about whom to listen to.
- **TRAINING** Training will revolve around technique, skill with speed, making quick, sound, tactical decisions, and education of game situations. Players are expected to practice at home and have ambitious goals for themselves and their team. It is expected that they be committed to improvement.
- **TALENT** Players will learn that while it is good to be talented, talent alone is not enough if they are not prepared to put in the necessary practice.
- **SEASONS** Accepting a position on a travel team is a Fall and Spring commitment. A typical Fall season will have practices starting early August with games starting in mid-August and running through the end of October. A typical Spring season will have practices starting in mid-March with games starting in early April and running through early June. There may also be optional indoor training opportunities and indoor soccer league games during the winter.
- **ATTENDANCE** When you accept a position on a travel team, there must be proper commitment. Attendance at 2 practices per week, games, and tournaments is expected. Multiple sports is great as there is a lot to be gained and learned from competing in other sports... but soccer has to be given at least equal commitment as the other in season sport. This can be worked out with the coach before the season begins. . NSSC enthusiastically supports multi- sport athletes. Please keep in mind play time may be tied to attendance
- **PLAYING TIME AND FIELD POSITIONS** There is an expectation at this age of minimum 25-30% playing time in a league game. Tournament playing time is not guaranteed. If you want to find

out specifics please to address this with the coach before season begins. Coaches decide what player will play in what position.

- **TOURNAMENTS** are on weekends with games on both Saturday and Sunday. There are some tournaments in the local Quad City area (including Muscatine) and teams may also travel to tournaments that require overnight lodging and associated travel expenses.
- **TOURNAMENT TEAMS** We encourage and support tournament teams that are made up of kids from different teams but similar age levels. These teams will be formed based on commitment and availability.
- **FEES:** Uniform: ~\$100 for shorts and (2) jerseys  
League/Club: \$150 for the fall season & \$150 for the spring season  
Tournaments: \$35-\$55 per player per tournament. The number of tournaments will vary per team but each team is expected to play at least 1 tournament per season. Travel Expenses for teams traveling to out of town tournaments (hotels, meals, fuel, etc)
- **RESULTS** Winning, and developing a winning mentality is becoming very important.