

STAFFORD AREA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

We welcomed all new coaches.

We introduced and thanked our league representatives.

We congratulated all coaches who have obtained higher coaching certificates.

We thanked all the hard working volunteers during the St. Patrick's Day Tournament.

Travel Policy Update.

We need to address the following areas so as a Club we are ensuring we do our best to develop all the players in the program.

- **1. Player development is more important than wins, ties and losses from U9 to U13 age group.**
- 2. We must work to get all players passing and controlling a ball comfortably in game situations.
- 3. All players need to have an understanding of defending in one on one situation.
- Repetition of small group defending and attacking (1v1, 2v2, 3v3,) activities are critical for future development.
- 4. All U9 to U13 players should be getting an equal amount of playing time during games.
- 5. The attitude of all players is important.
- 6. Give positive feed back to players.
- 7. All players should learn how to play the game correctly, respect the people around them, do their best at all times, be able to be a good squad member and have a good attitude.
- 8. We must remember we are dealing with kids that want to play soccer not professional soccer players.
- **9. Most importantly we must get the fun back into the game.**

Game Observations.

Warm ups? Look at getting away from a line of players shooting at goal.

Points from my game reports are being introduced by you the coach who will help player development.

Work on getting players passing and moving in small sided games. Get them playing simple and the way they are facing.

Look to get players playing from the back if not under pressure.

You do not have to play forward all the time; you can play sideways and backwards.

Look to get the players man to man marking in the U9 to U12 age groups.

It is better to have two playing up top rather than one.

Push players higher up the field to mark so they can try and win the ball back earlier and further away from their own goal.

Players must watch the ball when it goes out of bounds.

Get players taking short free kicks and corners?

Any coaching points from the touchline need to be positive.

If you take players of and show them on your tactics board what you want they will understand easier.

Talk to individuals rather than the whole team. When talking to the whole team at half time, half of them are not listening.

In the U9 to U12 age group no player should be playing the whole game, unless it is the G/K. Substituting every 5 minutes or players only getting a few minutes of playing time needs to be addressed so players get an opportunity to develop their skills and fitness.

Every team should have someone on the touchline that is first aid trained?

Practice Observations.

I am seeing better things from all the coaching practices.

We still have players practicing without shin guards. .

Do not coach with your hands in your pockets. Wear gloves.

Juggling will help develop ball skills. Get the players practicing?

Practices need to be organized so players are moving and so **they** have to make decisions. More small-sided games need to be introduced.

Too much time is being spent on set plays.

Working in small areas at speed does not necessarily improve possession play.

Because players lack pace it does not mean they cannot play. Also if players are fast it does not mean they are a good player.

Do not ignore your weaker players. If you have small-sided games use them as neutrals so they are more involved.

As a coach you must identify where a player is comfortable playing in your team.

We have the opportunity to use kickbacks but we are looking at where to store them.

Goalkeeper Training.

The Classic Division has invited us to join their G/K session on Wednesday at CCC at 6.30pm. Any coaches would be welcome to help with serving soccer balls.

Officials.

We as coaches need to work more with the referees.

Referees need to start somewhere. Most learn from a book.

We must ensure our players are not arguing with referees.

The attitude of parents has changed over the years. We must ensure parents do not get involved with officials.

Tryouts.

We need to look ahead to the tryouts. In a lot of the age groups we need to be looking at squads of 9/10 players and three teams.

We will only be able to do this by the coaches working together to ensure the blue and white system works.

The Classic Director and I are looking to run a 6 aside competition in May for the U9 to U12 age groups.

Our aim eventually is to do away with the big Club tryout for the U9 to U12 age groups.

Rest Periods.

We are looking at introducing periods during the year where players, parents and coaches have a break from the game.

Every parent can let their kids take part in what they wish however I think it is important that we as a club recommend that all players have a break.

June, December and January are recommended months for players to have a break.

Fitness and speed training is definitely not recommended at the end of the season.

U16 and U17 Player getting involved in Coaching.

We would like to see our older and better players having the opportunity to get an insight into coaching.

If any are interested we would welcome them to get involved with our U8 Academy and U5/U6 programs.

Articles Expressing views on the game.

Read the articles that I am sending you, as there are points in there that you as a coach need to think about.

Contracts for coaches.

As a Club we need to ensure that all coaches are working to our policies, and that they are also accountable.

We are discussing the possibility of introducing contracts and payment for all coaches in our Division.

Coaches Seminar.

We will have our next seminar on the second Monday in May.

During the fall season we will have a seminar on the second Monday of each Month.

Tom Armstrong.

Travel Technical Director.