



NEA Soccer Club

Club Philosophy and Strategy

Introduction

NEA Soccer Club is being founded to teach and grow full-sided, Futsal and 3v3 soccer for kids in the Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas region. This document is to define the structure, rules, and philosophies the club will adhere to.

NEA Soccer Club Philosophy & Guiding Principles

Mission:

We are here to provide a soccer education to players that are determined to take soccer more seriously than the average recreational family. We will help families set short and long-term goals. We will provide them with good and timely information. We will coach their players on how to provide sufficient effort to reach their goals.

Guiding Principles:

1. Coaches do not win. Coaches do not take medals from tournaments. Players win. Coaches educate and develop players at every level.
2. Emphasizing having serious fun (the kind of fun that comes with realizing growth through effort, education, and training).
3. Every player plays. If the whole team is not developed enough to win, then they don't win. Coaches will treat each player fairly, as this builds team camaraderie and a sense of fair play. Exceptions can be made for player conduct and missing practice.
4. Training will be had at a 2-1 ratio minimum to games. 4-1 is best, but not always possible.
5. The club will be built on a foundation of humility and forgiveness. Players are to be forgiving to their teammates, parents to their coaches, and vice versa.

6. Winning games is no measure of progress. Moving to higher brackets, improved ability to hold the ball under pressure, and playing with courage to build from the back are better markers of progress.
7. Personal accountability is to be held in highest regard. This means no blaming referees and no shielding oneself from criticism. Humility and curiosity are our foundation.

Coaching Principles:

There are only a few staple drills, so what needs to be understood are the principles. Drills alone are not good. Understanding what is needed to help the players in front of you improve involves the use of working principles and games (not drills) that are used in conjunction with the principles of education and play.

1. Efficiency of drills (working on multiple skills at once).
2. Transference of skills effect (working on harder skills first, not later). Working on harder skills first, and learning one of them, makes the easier skills much quicker to acquire. Ex: Bouncing the ball to learn striking. It's a much harder skill to learn and improves all other forms of striking much more quickly.
3. Having multiple goals for each game (helps players who are starting to have higher success rates when making good decisions and encourages higher level thinking). It teaches players to interpret space differently.
4. Chaos Theory - You want to run multiple groups at the same time. The players will chance running into each other and will gain better field vision by adding indirect pressure and more repetitions this way. Practices need to be a little chaotic for best results since the game is chaotic. Players need to learn to navigate different levels of chaos instead of having coaches organize it out of training entirely.
5. Building attention and responsibility - Design drills so that players start based on when the player in front of them reaches a certain point. This ensures that young players start to pay attention to what their teammates are doing. Coaches should not need to say "GO" every time. Players need to learn to take responsibility for their actions in training so they can take responsibility in the game.
6. Failure to understand is a sign of a good practice. If the players understand right away, you are practicing something they already know, and their education is not advancing (in most cases). Coaches need to be okay with practice being ugly. It means you have identified something the players aren't ready for. Be careful with this principle.

As coaches we should create practice plans based on evaluation of soccer problems. Good coaches can identify problems and create practice plans and games/drills to address them based on the principles.

Club Strategy

- Create parent committees to help with some of the peripheral aspects of the club like social media & website maintenance, marketing, and uniform selection, etc.
- Have parent volunteers record game stats, take photos, ensure spectator areas are left clean and players have taken all personal items and left bench areas clean.
- Create structure for developing players at all levels through better coaching (train coaches), identifying basic skills to be learned at each level, and more off-season opportunities, i.e. academies, one-on-one training, Futsal, 3v3 tournaments, clinics, etc.
- Solidify plans for scheduling future facilities...indoor and outdoor...and build support from the soccer community.
- Assist coaches with individual team and age group strategies.
- Recruit and train referees and make them part of our soccer family. Encourage players and parents to show respect and appreciation for referees while recognizing that players, coaches, and referees will all make mistakes.