

YRSL PLAYER DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

U8 & U9 (2002 & 2001)

Frequently Asked Questions.....and answers!

Question: What rules are being changed?

Answer: The following changes are being made;

- A. There will be no scores recorded or standings maintained.
- B. There will be additional breaks during the games.
- C. No games will be cancelled if a team arrives to a game without enough players.

Q: Why are these changes being made?

- A. In an effort to allow our young players to play and learn in as stress free an environment as possible, the scores and standings have been removed. By removing them their importance to players, coaches and parents is reduced. We perform better when stress is minimized or removed.
- B. The additional breaks in the game will allow the coaches to give more instruction to players, rotate player positions and tend to questions therefore enhancing the learning environment for each player. There will be more chance to talk to players without shouting during the game and distracting players.
- C. In the past if a team did not have enough players to field a team the game was cancelled and the children went home without playing their game, this was obviously very disappointing for them, they did not get to play. Now a team with a shortage of players can now borrow players from the opposition to allow a game to continue, therefore not disappointing the players. A far better outcome for the players.

Q: Why are we removing the scores and standings? We need these to judge the players and teams.

- A. We need to allow our young players to make mistakes, making mistakes is an important element in learning. By making mistakes the players are challenging themselves to learn new skills and techniques, this is how players develop. At the moment we have many players who are afraid to be creative and try new things on the field for fear of making a mistake and then being chastised for it by coaches and parents if that mistake could cost them the game. What is more important; the child learning and having fun, or the result of a game?

- B. There is no development benefit in judging or ranking players or teams at this young stage in their education. Players play for the love of playing the game. Our role is to instill in them a love of the game, making it fun, interesting and challenging so they want to come back for more.

Q. The players enjoy the competition, by removing the scores and standings they will not enjoy it as much.

- A. The players will compete with or without recorded scores and standings. Just as children play in the streets and playgrounds, they come back each day to play, win, lose or tie if they enjoy the game. Children will compete if they are having fun. Scores and standings are adult measures of success. A child measures by how much fun they had.

Q: When are these rule changes taking place?

- A. The new rules will take effect for the outdoor season summer 2010.

Q: Whose idea was it to make these changes?

- A: Following the Long Term Player Development Model, Wellness to World Cup, from the Canadian Soccer Association the YRSA Technical Director recommended the changes. The changes were approved by the League Committee and the YRSA Board of Directors after consultation and discussion with all York Region youth clubs. For more information on Long Term Player development please click;
http://www.canadasoccer.com/wellness/2009_W2WC_Brochure_ENG.pdf

Q: How will the u8 and u9 team coaches be made aware of these changes?

- A: The new rules will be distributed to all clubs and be made available on the YRSA website. They will also be discussed at the Pre Season coaches meetings being held in May.

Q: Have the clubs agreed with these changes?

- A: The clubs have agreed with the changes.