



★ RECREATIONAL ★ COACHING CURRICULUM

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR PLAYERS

As well as getting an understanding of the player characteristics, we should also look at what we can expect from our players. If we identify some of the age group nuances, we should be able to reduce the amount of surprise when these things occur. Some things to expect include:

Some players may CRY! Prior, during and after practices and games we can, and probably will, have players crying. The reason behind this explosion of emotion can be for a variety of reasons. Don't be afraid to get the parents involved when this happens.

They will need to take POTTY BREAKS! Be prepared for the sudden yell, "I need to go potty"! Having parents around for this is essential.

They will use their HANDS! Due to the players lack of coordination and balance it is easier to stop the ball with their hands rather than their feet. Do not be surprised when players use their hands to stop the ball, change its direction and even score a goal!

They will be DISTRACTED easily! Everything is a distraction for players at these ages. A police siren, rocket ship, airplane and in fact any loud noise will be more important than the game! Do not be afraid to stop and watch:-)

Your will have to tie plenty of SHOELACES! You will have to tie shoelaces for your players. Get used to it!

They are very SPONTANEOUS! Players at these ages are very spontaneous. They will come up with something that is out of the ordinary and funny. Remember, if you can't beat them, join them. Be prepared to laugh and be silly!

They will not stay inside the field BOUNDARIES! They will have no concept of space. You will spend most of our time corralling players and keeping them inside the field. Employ the new ball theory here; have a spare ball in your hands and when the ball goes out of bounds, throw a new one in.

The best description of the game is BEE HIVE SOCCER! The 3 v 3 scrimmage or weekend game will not look like real soccer. Most, if not all, players will be attracted to the ball and will crowd around it. Players on the same team will steal the ball from each other. The players who are not attracted to the game, will not be making great supporting runs - instead they will most probably be picking daisies!