

## **PLAYING TIME POLICY (COMPETITIVE)**

For all ages and levels of play teams must hold pre-season meetings with parents and Coach(es) to make sure everyone knows the expectations of the Coach(es) and how he/she will handle playing time (following the policy outlined below for each age/level of play).

**NOTE:** It is not the intent of this policy to have a player sitting on the bench for the vast majority of their games or to have parents sitting on the sidelines with stopwatches. Every Coach should do their very best to get players playing time.

### **U9 & 10**

The Monticello Soccer Club, as a constituent club of the MYSA and the USYSA follows the USYSA policy that “each player will play no less than one half of each game”. This policy recognizes the importance of playing time in maintaining enjoyment and interest in the sport for young players. Playing time is NOT to be used as a disciplinary measure unless the player is being penalized for a behavior that results in a suspension from play (ie. red card). At this age level players should not be “pigeonholed” into positions by Coaches; instead players should be encouraged to try all the different positions on the field. Development of the players is the main goal at these ages, not team success. Players at this age develop their skills equally between practices and games.

### **For U11 and older players and teams**

Please note that in order for your child to have the playing time policies apply to them, your child must:

- Arrive to practice and games promptly at the time directed by the Trainer(s)/Coach(es)
- Be committed to the team (which means that they attend practices and games as a high priority)
- Have paid their fees to the club and team
- Attend practice regularly,
- Behave respectfully at all teammates, coaches, opposing players and officials at practices and games, and not disrupt the practice.

Failure to do so may result in reduction in playing time determined by the team Coach.

### **U11 & 12 level of play**

The Monticello Soccer Club requires as close to equal playing time as possible at the C3 level realizing that playing time cannot be perfectly equal. Coaches will do their very best to make sure all players are getting a fair share of playing time in each game with playing time being as close to equal as possible by season's end. Tournament championship games and playoffs are exempt from this policy as the goals in these games are to win. Although winning is more emphasized at U11 and 12, development of the players is still the number one goal at the C3 level. Game experience is still a large portion of that development.

For C2 and higher (elevated) levels of play, playing time is not guaranteed to be equal. Game situations will dictate playing time for players on the elevated teams; Coaches will use their best judgment in getting all players playing time in each game as game situations unfold. Coaches should, at a minimum, attempt to get every player on the team at least 1/3 of the minutes available to play over the course of the season. Tournament championship games and playoffs are exempt from this policy as the goals in these games are to win. While development of the players is very important and is still the main goal, more of an emphasis is now placed on team success and winning with elevated teams. Development of players is mainly done in team practices and any extra training camps and/or sessions a player chooses to complete.

### **U13 and older**

The Club recognizes that the older age teams want to be successful and reach the highest level of play possible. At these older ages, playing time is not guaranteed to be equal. Game situations will dictate playing time for players on these teams; Coaches will use their best judgment in getting all players playing time in each game as game situations unfold. For C3 level teams at these older aged teams Coaches should, at a minimum, attempt to get every player on the team at least 1/3 of the minutes available to play over the course of the season. Development of players is mainly done in team practices and any extra training camps and/or sessions that a player chooses to complete. Games are opportunities for players to showcase their development.

### **Fall Competitive Seasons:**

For Fall seasons it is the expectations of the Board that as close to equal playing time will be given for all players at all levels and ages as long for U11 and older teams the rules described above for the policy to apply to them is met.

*If there are any concerns with the playing time policy not being followed please refer to the Club's Dispute Resolution Policy.*