



NEW ENGLAND

PLAYING TIME

The ability for a New England Surf Coach to manage their roster effectively and ensure that all players are enjoying their experience, being challenged and getting better is the ultimate definition the role of a youth soccer coach. Not playing a player is perhaps, the most efficient way for a young player to become disillusioned, and to disengage from the sport. Be mindful of the fact that we are coaches of youth players and not professional players, and our role is to be part of a long-term development plan. We need to always remember that the game is for the players and they need to be able to play in order to improve.

There may be some discrepancies to the structure below depending on League play across the country but this is relatively standard practice:

Foundation Phase - 5v5 - Equal playing time

Foundation Phase - 7v7 - Each player gets a minimum of 50% of game

Foundation Phase - 9v9 - Each player gets a minimum of 50% of game

Youth Development Phase (13/14) - 11v11 - Each player gets a minimum of 50% of game. Player quality and commitment more of a factor.

Youth Development Phase (15/16) - 11v11 - Playing time not guaranteed but all players should play. Player quality and commitment a factor.

College/Pro Phase (17-19) - 11v11 - Playing time not guaranteed, but all players should play.

It is vital that a NE Surf coach understands their role in the Long-Term Development plan of a young player in their charge and gets consistency in the process. Coaches need to care about their players and believe in them if they want them to play with confidence and be brave to allow young players the opportunity to fail and pick them back up again.

There can be many external influences that may affect a coach's decision on playing time:

Score, Parents, Players, Self-Image, and League Standings or Tournament Qualification

Keeping each player's development at the center of our decision-making is paramount and will ensure that each player gets the appropriate diet of playing time and will see the appropriate level of care and attention being given by their head coach.