

# Playing Time Policy

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## Reason for Policy

Game play is an important element of player development. Playing the game of soccer is the primary point of training. Competition gives focus to training, sharpens skills, and allows a player to test themselves against others. Team competition also provides an opportunity to build team unity, and for parents to visibly support their children in a shared activity.

## Playing Time

All regular players on a team are expected to play, and the coach is required to allow them to play, for **a minimum of one-third of the available minutes in a game**. This requirement also applies to alternate players in the event that they are active for a game. How the playing time is divided between halves, and how often players are substituted, is up to the coach.

## Exceptions

The playing time requirement is waived in cases of unexcused player absence, injury or other medical condition that limits play, or if player is disallowed from starting/completing a game by rule. Playing time can also be reduced below the minimum at the discretion of the coach for the following reasons:

- Discipline (failure to listen to and obey the coach during practice or game, disruptive behavior).
- Attendance (player has a pattern of being late to, leaving early from, or skipping practices and/or games).

On the basis of any of these items the coach may reduce player game time to below the minimum for a single game following the transgression. Coaches are encouraged to avoid such penalties except in exceptional circumstances.

## Conflict Resolution

In the event that a parent/player feels that this policy has been violated, they are encouraged to first discuss the situation with the coach. If a resolution to the situation cannot be achieved in this fashion, the parent/player may request assistance from the Club. In such cases the parent/player is asked to document the issue in writing and provide the documentation to the Club via the Club Administrator or a Director of Coaching. The Club will review the case, take whatever actions are deemed necessary, and provide feedback to the parent/player as quickly as possible.