



Playing Time Policy – Hawks S.C.

Philosophy

Hawks S.C. believes that playing time during games is a critical factor in the development of individual players. Games provide playing conditions that can be simulated, but not reproduced, in a training environment. Lack of playing time during games inevitably limits a player's ability to improve technically and tactically.

At the same time, Hawks S.C. does not believe that players on its competitive teams should receive equal amounts of playing time during games without regard to certain factors, including the following:

- Commitment to attend (and arrive on time for) practices and games
- Effort, attitude, and behavior during practices and games
- Fitness level
- Ability to work/play well with teammates

In addition, Hawks S.C. believes that technical and tactical abilities should be considered as factors for players U-13 and older.

Guidelines

Based on the above, Hawks S.C. has adopted the following policy regarding playing time for its competitive program:

1. Players on teams U-12 and younger should play in at least 1/3 to 1/2 of each of the team's games (e.g., at least 20-30 minutes in a 60-minute game), including tournament games and organized scrimmages. Coaches may reduce playing time at their discretion for individual players due to any of the following:
 - a. Poor attendance and/or punctuality at practices and/or games
 - b. Poor effort, attitude, and/or behavior during practices and/or games
 - c. Poor fitness level, including injuries
 - d. Inability to work/play well with teammates
2. The amount of playing time that players on teams U-13 and older receive is generally subject to the discretion of the player's coach. However, all players should expect to get some playing time during the course of a game. Hawks S.C. expects its coaches to consider what is best for individual players *and* what is best for the team as a whole in determining how much playing time individual players receive. Coaches may reduce playing time at their discretion for individual players due to any of the following:
 - a. Poor attendance and/or punctuality at practices and/or games
 - b. Poor effort, attitude, and/or behavior during practices and/or games
 - c. Poor fitness level, including injuries
 - d. Inability to work/play well with teammates
 - e. Lack of technical and/or tactical abilities
3. Hawks S.C. expects its coaches to communicate decisions to limit/reduce playing time to the players who are affected by those decisions. Coaches should communicate the factors in their decisions, as well as any steps that the player(s) can take to receive more playing time in the future.
4. Players with questions or concerns about playing time may approach their coach directly in a manner prescribed by the coach.
5. Parents with questions or concerns about playing time should refer to the procedures that are outlined in the Hawks S.C. Communication Guide for contacting coaches.