



## **Coaches' Philosophy**

### **Select Soccer v. Recreational Soccer**

Sports are supposed to be fun for kids. It is an outlet for them to express themselves and relieve any stress or tension they might be feeling. Recreational soccer is a great outlet for kids to have fun. It is where they learn the fun games like Space Invaders, Cow Pie, Mother May I, Red Light Green Light and Fire in the Jungle.

Select soccer is a couple of steps up from recreational soccer. It is a big change for parents and players coming from recreational programs. As coaches we are still going to make the select soccer experience fun for the girls and we will throw in some of our favorite games, but select soccer is a program that focuses on developing the skill level of the players. We are still going to have fun, but fun to the extent that the girls learn how to play the game and combine together to play as a team. At this level fun starts to be defined as something else for the girls. They see that playing together as one unit and being successful as a team is fun. It is fun for the girls when things start to click and everyone is working hard and trying to achieve the same goals.

Singing up for select soccer is a huge commitment for both the parents and the players. By signing up the players are saying they want to improve to the next level and they want to compete at the next level. Select soccer is a big financial commitment, and as coaches we are held to expectations to teach and develop the girls, not only as soccer players, but also as people. We try to instill in them leadership, teamwork, commitment, how to strive for excellence, and how to accomplish goals as a unit, as a team. We teach them all of these character building qualities by taking them to the next level in their development as a soccer player.

Soccer is one of the toughest sports out there to play. Most sports rely on one player or a handful of players to be successful, but soccer is one of the few sports where each and every player on the field, and on the bench, are needed to be successful. It is amazing to see a team of 18 players mold together to play as one unit and support each other on and off the field. It is fun and exciting to see them succeed as a team and strive for excellence on their own accord. That is when soccer is fun and beautiful to watch. It is beautiful to see all the players put aside their differences and desires and see them start to move as one unit on the field.

Any select sport becomes more than just a sport at this level. Select soccer is a way of life. At this level the parents and girls need to decide if they want to live, eat, breath and drink soccer because it is not fair to the other players and coaches if your are not fully committed from the beginning. However, at this age group we understand that the girls are still trying to experience everything from school plays, violin lessons, to cross country. But please be aware that the commitment level for both teams is going to start to be higher as the girls get older.

Please see the rules and guidelines for the coaches' expectations of the girls and parents. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding these expectations. We are looking forward to another fun and exciting season.