

## PLAYING TIME

It is the policy of the Weston Soccer Club to give substantially equal playing time to all players regardless of skill level. This policy recognizes the developmental mission of the Club, and applies to all players who attend practice regularly and display a positive attitude.

Coaches must give all players the opportunity to play all positions in a game during a season, including goal, to ensure each child can fully appreciate the game of soccer. This also prevents typecasting players too early in their development.

The Club believes that all children deserve the opportunity to develop their skills and to enjoy the game. It is impossible to predict how children will develop. Consequently, it is imperative that we strive to give all children an equal chance to develop, particularly at the younger ages. Generating a win by using disparate playing time allotments in no way compensates for the damage that is caused to a child who is victimized by the system and turns away from soccer as a result.

The goal is to ensure as many children are playing and enjoying the game as possible. Ironically, winning in the short term by utilizing unbalanced substitution patterns is detrimental to winning in the long term. Equitable playing time promotes more player development and results in a much stronger, more balanced team, that is more capable of winning in the future.

### ***Addenda:***

***If a coach has an attitude or commitment problem with a child who is detrimental to the team as a whole, the coach must speak with the parent(s) or guardian in an effort to remedy the problem. If the problem persists, a coach has the discretion to reduce playing time to less than the defined minimum amount. The reduction in playing time should be commensurate with the degree of the problem. Note that lack of skill is not an attitude or commitment problem.***

***Goalies should play no more than one half in goal unless consented to by the player and a parent or guardian. Playing one half in goal is not considered playing half the game. The goalie must receive at least the prorated minimum amount of field time the half they are not in the goal. We encourage coaches to overweight field playing time for goalies when they are not in goal.***

***These are the guidelines for the season as a whole. There may be more variation in a specific game due to uncontrollable circumstances such as an inability to substitute or a coach losing track of time.***