Plainedge Soccer Club Developmental Program Guidelines. Version 9/2011

OBJECTIVE:

The PSC developmental program is designed to provide additional training and experience for ANY player, age 5 - 9 who would like to improve and advance his/her soccer skills.

The program is an excellent venue which will better prepare those wishing to try out for the travel program and continue to grow with the game of soccer as they reach the U-10 level and beyond. The program will run from August through June and will be in addition to the regular intramural season.

Beyond teaching and polishing fundamental skills, techniques, and tactics of soccer, this program gives the players a chance to compete in leagues and tournaments against similar teams from other clubs. The program is open to any player who is willing to make the commitment to attend a majority of the practices. To avoid conflicts with intramural practice, a separate developmental practice night will be established for this program and no intramural team will be allowed to practice.

OVERVIEW:

The board will appoint Developmental Program Director for a term of two years.

The developmental Director will be responsible for coordinating developmental activities for the boys and girls programs (U6- U9). The Director is responsible for soliciting coordinators for each age bracket prior to start of the season. He/She will coordinate a mailing to every age eligible player in the club the membership in July, approximately two weeks after the close of the annual club registration announcing the development program opportunity and soliciting candidate players to enroll. The Developmental Director is responsible for scheduling all Training Programs, coordinating funding from club, keeping records, continued recruiting of players and making information available to the PSC Board. Developmental Coordinators should track and supply a listing of all age eligible and Developmental Participating Players at the conclusion of the Fall, Winter and Spring Season for evaluation. Again, this program is to be offered to all PSC members on an ongoing basis.

Weekly training dates will be set for players to attend and all attendees will then be considered members of this program. Any player will be allowed to join the program at anytime during the course of the season as well. The Developmental Program will aim to be self-supporting; however, in order to ensure its success and keep it affordable for all our members, it will require funding support from PSC which will be responsibility of the Developmental Director to obtain approval from PSC board.

Parents will be responsible for all costs incurred other than those covered by the club. Such expenses may include but is not limited to, uniform costs (same for all players in an age group), tournament entry fees & indoor-league play and in some instances professional training. Because of changing costs from year to year, a letter with the estimated cost for the entire year will be handed out at registration so that each family may be fully aware of the financial cost of this program thus allowing them to budget accordingly.

Each age group may enter as many tournaments as it wishes as long as the parents are willing to support it. It is the recommendation of PSC that each team enters at least two (2) tournaments in both the Fall and Spring seasons. Additionally, tournaments or indoor league play (U8/U9 only) throughout the winter is encouraged.

The Developmental Director will be responsible for coordinating with the Travel Commissioner to assign indoor-gym practice time throughout the winter season for teams entering Tournaments. Travel teams practice requirements will take precedence after December 1st of each year. Children wishing to practice, but not participate in tournaments or league play will be allowed to do so at the discretion of the age group coordinator.

The Director must approve all Tournament choices as some are unsanctioned. The Director / Club will have suggestions on highly ranked tournaments run by the clubs that support the PSC's sponsored tournaments.

Rosters must be submitted to the Director prior to any tournament or league play for his/her approval.
Players should be rotated on an ongoing basis.

Tournament evaluations shall be submitted to the commissioner after each tournament and will be used to determine if PSC will recommend that particular tournament in the future to it's developmental teams.

All PSC Developmental Coaches must wear their Plainedge Soccer Club Coach's shirts when coaching and representing the club at various tournaments.

In instances where there are enough players to have more than one team enter a tournament, multiple teams will be entered based on coaches' availability**.**

All developmental players from each age group and gender must train/practice together. Segregating into A & B teams at practice (or even on different nights) will not be permitted nor will it be tolerated. **Practicing together will help promote unity and a one-team atmosphere**. Any disagreements or grievances with this procedure shall follow the guidelines in the grievance section of the rules.
Players can train with next older age group only on approval by the Developmental Director.

Exception - Only after teams for tournaments are selected can those teams train/practice as a team. Once the tournament is over this team dissolves and players return to the group pool. All team practices must be advised to the coordinator and developmental director. This is the only time players will be segregated.

COORDINATOR & COACH SELECTION PROCESS:

Each age - gender group shall have one age group Coordinator who will oversee the entire group.

The age group Coordinator must be an intramural coach within the particular age/gender group for which they are applying. The individual must be in good standing with the club and must have coached for at least one full year. If more than one coach wishes to be the coordinator, each will submit a letter listing their qualifications and club involvement to the Developmental Director and he/she will make the final decision.

The age group Coordinator will recruit and or recommend additional coaches to assist in his/her age group. The Developmental Director must approve all coaches. These coaches have two major responsibilities. First, to assist the coordinator in practice/training and second to manage part of the developmental group when they break into teams for a particular tournament or league. Having any coaches consistently helping only a small squad of the developmental team will not be allowed. After a coach has been approved and selected he/she will be asked to obtain, at their earliest convenience, "C" level LIJSL coaching certificate. As with all members who obtain LIJSL coaching certification, upon successful course completion the coach will have their license fee reimbursed by the club.

The group coordinator is not a "Head coach" and cannot get any preference above the group coaches for selection of players or any other part of the program in order to keep the program
Group coordinator must provide the Director with list of coaches within their group and advise any additions or deletions.

*****To be enforced Season 2011/12*****
The Coordinator along with the coaches will be asked to evaluate each child at least four times throughout the year (at the beginning and end of fall and spring seasons) using a specific evaluation format supplied by the club. The evaluation forms will be handed out to the coaches by the developmental director, which must be filled in properly by the coordinator and his/her assistants and then given back to the director. These evaluations are for the division commissioners' use only to understand the progress of the players as they attempt to place them within the Intramural Program.
These evaluation forms should in NO WAY dictate which players go to certain tournaments. This rule will STRICTLY be enforced.
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PLAYER SELECTION PROCESS:

All club members in good standing with the club and playing on an intramural team are able to and encouraged to become part of the developmental program.

1. **AGE RANGE:** shall be consistent with LIJSL age ranges U6 thru U9 (August 1st to July 31st).
2. **GENDER:** Players are required to play for the appropriate gender team. If there is no established correct girl's team at this age bracket, the player may request permission to join the Boys' team (according to LIJSL guidelines). This rule is NOT reciprocal for boys wishing to play on a girl's team. In all cases the Developmental Director will present the request to board and his/her decision shall be final.
3. **PLAYING UP** in Tournaments and Pre-Travel WILL NOT BE PERMITTED. The only exception to this is if after group coordinator has exhausted every effort, and asked every age eligible player in his/her age group. If after all age players have been asked, the next youngest age group coordinator can be requested to ask his/her entire group. Records must be kept by coordinators and Director of when a player "plays up". Players cannot play up a second time in a season unless they are one of the only available players at time of request.
   Exceptions to this rule can be made under special circumstances and if approved by Division coordinator, Developmental Director and Club President.

PLAYING TIME:

All players should play a minimum of 50%/half of all tournament game times. Coaches should strive to play the children as balanced as possible on a game by game basis. As a reminder in intramural games, players should be played EVENLY if physically able.

GRIEVANCES:

All grievances should try to be worked out in private away from the game. If the grievance cannot be resolved, it will then be submitted to the developmental director in writing. He/she will investigate the matter and bring a recommendation to the board for final approval.

Grievances should never be aired within an earshot of the children. **Such practice will not be tolerated.**

Rules and Expectations:

As of Fall 2011 we will introduce
U6 Developmental age group

U6, U 7 U 8 Boys and Girls:

One Division coordinator and multiple Division coaches selected.

Players:
Developmental pool formed pre season. No A or B teams formed. No tryouts.
All players invited to evaluation and all players accepted in program
Summer
players offered Camps during August
Training
Weekly training Fall, Winter & Spring.
Fall and Spring training will be on a set day agreed between coordinator and Developmental Director.
Players are expected to make majority of sessions.
Tournaments -
We will enter as many teams as possible to selected tournaments dependent on player commitment.
both teams and coaches selected by Division Director and approved by Developmental Director. rosters and coaches must be adjusted for each tournament.
Teams will be made evenly or if beneficial to players a team can be selected for a particular division with approval from Developmental Director. The first objective is to make multiple teams evenly.
Players are not guaranteed to play for a particular coach

Winter League
Parents can be polled and if enough commitment enter appropriate number of teams

Commitment
Nothing is made mandatory but players must attend majority of training sessions to take part in the program. we cannot allow players to join program and only play in tournaments, this group must develop together in all areas of program. Exceptions to this rule can be made by Director under special conditions. Any player that does not take part in training sessions due to another conflict should not be penalized.

Cost
PSC will subsidize training program sessions. Parents will pay for tournaments and Winter League.

Uniform
Only for U7 ,U8 and U9 Developmental groups. U6 will use their Intramural uniforms at Tournaments.

U
9
as above except
NDP
PRE TRAVEL LEAGUE

PSC will take part in the NDP pre-travel program, no scores are kept, these are scrimmages in match conditions preparing player for Travel the following season.
Throughout the Fall and Spring season the U9 group coordinator will select teams for
play each week and ensure even play time is given to all players during the season.
Priority is given to those taken part in Developmental Training and should be asked first each week.
The group coordinator will select coaches for each team which should change each week.
This program has zero tolerance for abuse towards referees, player and coaches.

The teams can practice as a team with their coaches/trainer. Developmental Director must be informed and approve location of practice.

WINTER LEAGUE - All players in group polled and appropriate number of teams formed. If more than one team formed. Group coordinator and Developmental director must discuss and agree on roster formation and placement of the teams.(Winter Leagues can be considered for U9 and U8 age groups)

GRIEVANCES

All age groups must follow guidelines and only the clubs executive board can change these guidelines. The Developmental Director can override any guidelines if in his/her opinion the situation benefits the players and does not give anyone a disadvantage.

REMOVAL OF A COACH FROM DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM

The club reserves the right to remove any Developmental coach who does not adhere to all the rules mentioned and any directive from the Developmental Director

Expected Season schedule

Summer Camp - Held at PSC Fields
Weekly Training sessions FALL Sept - Nov WINTER Jan - March SPRING April - June
Keeper Training - FALL Sept - Nov WINTER Jan - March SPRING March - June
Outdoor Tournaments - Labor Day, Columbus Day, Memorial Day & Fathers Day weekend
Indoor Tournaments - PSC Thanksgiving & PSC MLK Weekend. Others optional during Jan-March
Winter League - Weekly games Indoor. December - March (for U8 & U9 ages only)
NDP Pre- Travel League - for U9 groups only