

## **GNA PARENTS' MANUAL FOR 6V6 AGE GROUPS**

**I. Goals for U8/9/10s.** GNA wants to develop players who have a passion for the ball, the game and for the club. As such, we want players to:

- Enjoy playing the game of soccer.
- Desire to play on their own, watch soccer on the television, attend live soccer games and develop a soccer lifestyle.
- Develop the five core ball skills: dribbling, passing, shooting, heading and receiving/turning.
- Learn good sportsmanship and represent themselves, fellow players, coaches/parents, the club and communities in a positive manner.
- Develop creative play and creative thinking, to try things in games and don't be afraid to make mistakes.
- Develop self confidence, self esteem, communication and interpersonal skills so they can compete against others and respond to various competitive environments.
- Experience success, regardless of ability.

**II. Philosophy on Winning.** For our U8/9/10 teams, we believe that winning means:

- Giving your best on the training field and the game field;
- Having fun learning in a challenging environment and seeing the signs of development and maturity;
- Playing soccer in a creative and skillful manner; and
- Competing every inch of the way through each training session and each game.

Winning every game is not our primary objective and will NOT be how we measure our success. However, there are times when winning a particular game may be beneficial for a particular age group/team or the club in general. The club coaching staff will determine which games, if any, will take on this importance and may, at their sole discretion, field what they determine to be the most effective team in certain games (league playoffs, certain tournament games, etc.) where a positive result could help push the entire age group/team or the club to another level of play. Every effort will be made to balance the good of the individual player versus the good of the entire age group/team and the club in general.

**III. Playing Positions.** Throughout the U8/9/10 experience, players will play every position on the field and learn to attack and defend. In order to maximize individual and team development, GNA believes that players should understand offensive and defensive considerations in all areas of the field and put their technique and decision making to test in each position.

**IV. Equal Playing Time.** GNA works on the notion of doing our best to provide each player with at least 50% playing time. The U8/9/10 age is a developmental program and players earn extra playing time based on ability, effort in training and performance in games.