

East Diablo Youth Soccer League Recreational (Division 4)

Philosophy

“To provide each player the opportunity to play soccer in a supportive and rewarding environment that emphasizes fun, enjoyment and skill learning, through equal participation, regardless of ability.”

Retention Policy

To fulfill our philosophy the club has chosen to allow only two players to be “retained” on any one team. Those players are the children of the Head Coach and Assistant Coach only. East Diablo policy is to not assign by coach or player preference to ensure a fair distribution of players and skills across teams.

The manner on placing the remaining players on teams is by the following:

1. School attending
2. Neighborhood of residence
3. Previous years evaluation (if available). Note - This is new to EDYSL

Rationale for Retention Policy

The generic problems seen in recreational programs across the state, and the country, are repeatedly the same. The most common problems observed are:

1. Too much emphasis on results, especially at the U-10 and U-12 level.
2. Players, good enough for the competitive level, kept at the recreational level by coaches who want to win.
3. Drafting of teams at the recreational level is a problem at some clubs, with some coaches manipulating the system to stack teams.

Drafting Teams

The basic guidelines for forming recreational teams are that there are no tryouts and no one is cut, and that teams will be **evenly balanced**. Forming new teams every season serves a number of useful purposes.

- It discourages coaches from recruiting the stronger players and manipulating the system as they seek to build a ‘super’ team.
- It prevents coaches from becoming overly possessive of their players. This will make it easier for the better players to try out for the competitive teams without feeling guilty or pressured otherwise by their recreational coach.
- It avoids the staleness and boredom associated with doing the same drills under the same coach for too long. After about a year, most parent coaches lose their impact, as players start to tune them out.
- It eliminates the build up of rivalries between teams and the ‘Us versus Them’ mentality, which can sometimes breed animosity between players and parents of opposite teams.

When players acquire new teammates every season, everyone becomes a friend and the atmosphere at games is much more relaxed. Some parents and coaches will argue that their child is happier playing with players he/she is familiar with. But kids make friends easily so this shouldn’t really be an issue. Additionally, this is life-lesson in preparation for the children’s future. Examples include new bosses, co-workers and teachers all of which will take place in your child’s future.