



Long Term Player Development Program

Changes to our youngest divisions (ages 4 - 6) are based on the Long Term Player Development (LTPD) model developed by the Ontario Soccer Association (OSA) based on guidelines mandated by the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) and Sports Canada. As members of these governing bodies, the Lake Simcoe Soccer Club has thoroughly investigated the philosophies behind the guidelines and has adopted them enthusiastically.

The Long Term Player Development program is designed to emphasize play, fun, togetherness, and imagination in the pursuit of building athletes, promoting a means to ensure life-long health and wellness through this much-loved sport.

Changes to the Lake Simcoe Soccer Club program will be evident in improvements to many of the areas that membership has previously commented on in program/coaching surveys:

1. Consistent coaching. Each stage of LTPD will have separate training sessions for coaches. For 2012, LSSC will deploy the Active Start training. This is a 3.5 hour session that will be delivered by Head Coach, Paul Smith, who is certified to run the course. To encourage support of the new LTPD program, LSSC wants to train as many people as are interested – both coaches and parents.
2. Fairer competitions. Training sessions for the First Kicks 1, 2, and 3 programs will end in 1 v 1, 2 v 2, or 3 v 3 competitions respectively. This is meant to encourage smaller competitions between similarly skilled players so that all players will be challenged within their own scope of skill. Additionally, players are meant to move forward through the programs based on achieved skill, rather than chronological age, so that more players will have fun, playing at their own level.
3. Fair playing time. Because the sessions will break into small groups, you will see a more even distribution of playing time for all players involved. These break-out sessions will also eliminate the perception of “team stacking” that can sometimes be associated with larger groups of unevenly skilled players.

The Long Term Player Development Program is a program that will shortly be adopted by all Ontario sports associations, and is not exclusive to soccer, nor to the Lake Simcoe Soccer Club. If you would like to read a more detailed description of the program, you may visit the following site: <http://www.ontariosoccer.net/Coach/LongTermPlayerDevelopment.aspx>

