



Team Expectations – Playing Characteristics

Below Is A List Of Some Of The Playing Characteristics That The Coaching Staff Will Expect Varsity Players To Exhibit:

- ! If a player is given open space, the player is expected to dribble into that space until the player receives defensive pressure. Coaches do not want players that are not under pressure giving away possession.
- ! Attacking players are expected to want to “Go To The Goal.” Players showing a desire and a “nose for the goal” will receive a positive evaluation.
- ! Coaches are looking for 1 v 1 players. Players should show a willingness to take players on 1 v 1, especially in the offensive 1/3 of the field.
- ! An important part of a player’s evaluation is what the player does “off the ball.” Players are expected to put themselves in a position to support the ball at all times.
- ! EVERYONE defends. EVERYONE, this includes strikers and midfielders. Defending is a responsibility, not a position.
- ! Defensive players “off the ball” are expected to “SEE MAN AND SEE BALL” at all times and when the ball is in the offensive 1/3 of the field, SUPPORT THE PLAY, by such things as “SEALING.”
- ! Attacking players “off the ball” are expected to CREATE SPACE by making appropriate runs when the ball is in the offensive 1/3 of the field, and are expected to be in the proper position to RESTART THE OFFENSIVE, when the ball is in the defensive 1/3 of the field.
- ! Players are expected to exhibit good communications skills. Talking is not communicating.....communicating is providing your teammate with USEFUL information in a way that your teammate will be able to EASILY RECEIVE THE INFORMATION AND USE IT ON THE FIELD.
- ! Goalkeepers are expected to DOMINATE THE BOX.
- ! All players are expected to maintain good balance, especially when defending. DO NOT LUNGE.
- ! Players are expected to exhibit a good understanding of the three areas of the field (offensive 1/3, mid 1/3 and defensive 1/3) and how risk taking varies in each area.