

Youth soccer players reasons' for participation

Boys

1. To have fun
2. For the excitement of competition
3. To improve my skills
4. To get exercise
5. For the challenge of competition
6. To stay in shape
7. To do something I am good at
8. To play as part of a team
9. To win
10. To learn new skills

Girls

1. To stay in shape
2. To have fun
3. For the excitement of competition
4. To get exercise
5. To do something I am good at
6. To get a higher level of competition
7. To play as part of a team
8. To improve my skills
9. For the team spirit
10. To meet new friends



Youth soccer players' reasons to come back to the sport

Boys

1. Practices were more fun
2. Coaches understood players better
3. I could play more
4. The coach understood the sport better
5. The coach was a better teacher
6. Games and practices were scheduled at different time
7. The coach didn't yell so much
8. There was less emphasis on winning
9. There were more leagues so other players were closer to my ability
10. The sport did not take so much time

Girls

1. Practices were more fun
2. Practices or games did not conflict with my social life
3. Practices or games did not conflict with studies
4. Coaches understood players better
5. I could play more
6. The coach was a better teacher
7. The coach understood the sport better
8. Games and practices were scheduled at different times
9. The sport did not take so much time
10. There was less emphasis on winning

Youth soccer players reasons' for dropping out

Boys

1. I was no longer interested
2. It was no longer fun
3. I was tired of playing and practicing
4. The sport conflicted with other sports I wanted to play
5. Practices and games were boring
6. My coach was a poor teacher
7. I wanted to participate in other non-sport activities
8. Coach only played his/her favorites
9. I did not like the coach
10. Too much emphasis was placed on winning

Girls

1. I was no longer interested
2. It was no longer fun
3. I wanted to participate in other non-school activities
4. The sport conflicted with other sports I wanted to play
5. I was tired of playing and practicing
6. The sport required too much time
7. Practices and games were boring
8. My coach was a poor teacher
9. There was too much pressure
10. I never felt like I belonged with the team

Good Sportsmanship!



Source:

"Reasons for participating in and dropping out of American Youth Soccer"
Seefeldt, Ewing, Walk, Hylka, Trevor
(presented to USSF 4/98)



In terms of player development, active participation is directly related to fun and enjoyment, and to everything surrounding quality of play and retention.

“What Can I do to make this the best experience possible?”

Parents and Fans

- Understand the rules
- Understand why the players are involved
- Be aware of your sideline demeanor
- Only have positive interactions with other adults, players, referees, coaches and fans
- Be a good role model
- Offer positive reinforcement both in action and word
- Remember you can set the tone for how a player feels about their involvement. Try, “Did you have fun, did you learn something?” rather than, “Did you win, did you score?”

Coaches

- Prepare through coach education and licensing
- Understand medical and health concerns
- Understand “Risk Management” concerns
- Set goals with your players
- Decide what you want to have the players come away with from each game and training
- Be sensitive to your sideline demeanor
- Only have a positive interaction with other adults, players, referees, coaches and fans
- Be a good role model
- Offer positive reinforcement both in action and word
- Be sure to review an activity with the players positively, win or lose

Players

- Be sure to be fit and healthy
- Make sure you are properly equipped-shoes, shin-guards and an inflated ball
- Set goals for yourself and your team
- Understand your role both on the field and on the bench
- Respect all the adults who help you, coaches, referees, parents and fans
- Respect your opponents
- Always try to review how your training or game went for you and the team



The key to a successful youth soccer team, one that learns, competes and has fun, is the positive contributions of all of the participants. This brochure has been designed to encourage the player, the coach and the parent/fan to maximize their enjoyment by working together.



To help everyone get more out of the sport everyone involved is encouraged to consider the part they play before competition, during competition and after competition. Our goal for youth soccer is that it is foremost safe and fun and if it can also be competitive and educational then we have achieved a great deal.

MYSA...We are all in youth soccer together.



US Youth Soccer is “The game for all kids!” We want to make sure that MYSA soccer is also the “Game for all coaches, parents and fans”.

Minnesota Youth Soccer Association

11577 Encore Circle
Minnetonka, MN 55343
www.mnyouthsoccer.org
952-933-2384
800-366-6972
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