



Northwestern Soccer

Playing Time Policy

<http://www.nyaatigers.org/soccer>

The Northwestern soccer program has established the following guidelines for playing time to be used in the programs specified in each section of the policy. It is the position of the Northwestern Soccer program to strictly follow the playing time specifications stated in the current NYAA by-laws.

Tiger Academy Programs

At the Tiger Academy levels all players will receive equal playing time and be rotated in all positions (including goal).

Recreational Program

The Northwestern Soccer Recreational program participates in the Northern Valley League. This recreational league maintains an equal playing time rule. Northwestern Soccer believes strongly, however, that coaches must have the ability to enforce some rules regarding practice attendance, attitude, and behavior. Coaches will be allowed to implement specific team policies that are targeted at rewarding exceptional effort with additional playing time. If policies are put in place (at the coaches discretion) to limit playing time, playing time should not be reduced to less than 50% for each match. If team roster size prevents 50% playing time, issues will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Travel Soccer

Each player must play in each contest and be afforded at least 25% of that seasons playing time. Please note the difference between the Recreational Programs per game rule and the travel programs per season rule.

Northwestern Soccer believes strongly that coaches must have the ability to enforce some rules regarding practice attendance and participation. Enjoying the game of soccer requires regular attendance at training sessions, active, focused and ongoing participation in skills-building drills (individual and group) and the camaraderie that emerges from being an active and motivated member of a team. To participate irregularly by choice or over-scheduling of other activities deprives the individual player of the developmental opportunities and harms the whole team's ability to enjoy the game.

In addition, Northwestern Soccer believes that technical and tactical abilities should be considered as a factor for a players playing time in its competitive program. The amount of playing time that players on a travel team receive as well as what position a player plays is subject to the discretion of the player's coach. All players should expect to get some playing time during the course of a game however the amount of time received is strictly at the coaches' discretion. Northwestern Soccer expects its coaches to consider what is best for individual players **and** what is best for the team as a whole in determining how much playing time individual players receive.

Coaches may reduce playing time at their discretion for individual players due to any of the following:

- a. Poor attendance and/or punctuality at practices and/or games
- b. Poor effort, attitude, and/or behavior during practices and/or games

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- c. Poor fitness level, including injuries
- d. Inability to work/play well with teammates
- e. Lack of technical and/or tactical abilities

Northwestern Soccer expects its coaches to communicate decisions to limit/reduce playing time to the players who are affected by those decisions. Coaches should communicate the factors in their decisions, as well as any steps that the player(s) can take to receive more playing time in the future.

Players with questions or concerns about playing time may approach their coach directly in a manner prescribed by the coach.

Parents with questions or concerns about playing time should refer to the procedures that are outlined in the Northwestern Soccer Communication Guide.