

2011 KEEPER CLINICS

Who should attend?

U9/U10

At U9/U10, every player is a goalkeeper. Every player should be playing some goalkeeper in practices and in games.

This doesn't mean every U9/U10 player should be attending goalkeeper clinics. But if your child is enjoying their time playing goalkeeper, and is showing an interest in improving, send them to the clinics.

U11/U12

At U11/U12 we do not yet have dedicated goalkeepers. Anyone who is playing in the goal should also be practicing and playing in the field as well. To make this work, each team should have three (3) or more players that take turns in the goal.

At this age, the goal is much bigger than U9/U10, there are more players on the field, and the field is bigger. The ability of the keeper to position themselves properly, field balls near the goal and distribute to teammates is much more important at this age.

Any player who is taking a turn in goal should be attending the goalkeeper clinics.

U13+

By U13 we start seeing "dedicated" keepers. Of course if your child is a dedicated keeper, they need to be attending clinics.

Even if your team has a dedicated keeper that is in the goal for the whole game, every game, there is always the risk of injury, family conflicts, or anything else that may prevent them from playing. Every team should have a competent backup capable of playing in goal.

Even if this player spends their whole time in the midfield, they need to be ready to step in. This means they need to keep their goalkeeper skills developed and ready. Even if you are "just the backup", you should be attending the goalkeeper clinics.

Hopefully this answers any questions you may have, but if you are still wondering if your child should attend goalkeeper clinics, contact Jonathan Tudor (Director of Coaching) or Joe Szorcsik (Goalkeeper Coach) for advice.

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