



## Goalkeeper Philosophy

The GK player is a unique position in that is the last line of defense and the first line of offense for a team. At TESC we take great pride in teaching everyone this position at an early age so they are well rounded and are able to adapt by seeing the entire field. The following information will help give parents a quick overview of our club philosophy of this position and the importance of it as a soccer player. We will encourage players who play this position throughout the game to communicate to their teammates, distribute the ball with their feet (pass) and hands (roll or throw) and be an option for a pass back for support to keep possession.

**U8 – U10 Teams** – All players will be sharing this role throughout the season. During team practices players will learn to distribute the ball by using their feet and hands. Punting will not be encouraged at these age groups. The main reason for this is that it discourages the defenders from getting the ball from the GK and the chances of keeping possession is very small. Defensively the most important function at these age groups is catching the ball and being aggressive towards the ball and opponent.

**U11 – U12 Teams** – 3-4 players on a team will share this responsibility throughout the year. They will continue to get plenty of playing time on the field at different positions. We will continue to encourage the distribution with their feet and hands to a defender. Punting will be the last option and will be encouraged to be directed at a teammate to keep possession. Players from U11 and above will have the opportunity of attending separate GK practices throughout the year. They will be introduced to basic diving techniques, catching high balls and distribution.

**U13 – U14 Teams** – 2-3 players on a team will share this responsibility throughout the year. GK's at this age group will start to develop a better understanding for this position. Distribution of the ball will be with their hands and feet and punting will be considered their last option. At these age groups as players start to mature it is common to see players to start specializing in this position. Players will get a better understanding in positioning within their GK box, organization and command of their goal.