



Play Time Policy

It is the belief of the league that the purpose for recreational youth sports is to have fun and develop a love of the game. One aspect to achieving that goal is to give all participants equal playing time. Kids learn from playing, not watching.

The mission of Treasure Valley Youth Lacrosse League is to provide quality instruction in a fun and competitive environment for youth in our community. In an effort to ensure the growth of each player, as well as a fun, competitive environment consistent with each player's skills, TVYLL has adopted the following policy on playing time:

Divisions:

U9/U11:

Participants will play each position during the course of the season (with exception of Goalie) and rotate or be substituted per league rules. Each player should be given the opportunity to start and finish games during the season. If a player or parent believes there is an issue with playing time, the player or parent should discuss it with the coach first. Discussions with coaches on playing time should be done at an appropriate time before or after practice or during a break at practice, but NOT immediately following the game – PLEASE OBSERVE THE 24 HOUR COMMUNICATION RULE. Coaches ask that players and parents be fair and open minded when approaching this conversation and take a “full season” perspective recognizing that each game's distribution of playing time won't be perfect. Be cognizant that there are other players on the team, each of whom deserves playing time. If you cannot resolve the situation with the coach, contact the TVYLL Office of the President.

U13/U15:

All participants will play in each game, but playing time on a game-by-game basis will be determined by the team's coach, whose goals are to promote fair (as opposed to equal) playing time in amounts consistent with the overall interests of the team and with criteria that include the player's attitude, skill, preparation, lacrosse IQ, and attendance at and participation in practices and games. However, equal playing time is not guaranteed.

- Practice and attitude matter. Players who attend practice, work hard, and follow the Code of Conduct will receive ample playing time. Players who do not attend every practice, do not show up on time, do not try their hardest, and do not show respect for coaches, officials, opponents, and teammates may not get as much playing time.
- Selected B players that are showing promise and putting forth significant effort may play “up” to the A team when needed to fill rosters and specific positions. However, at no time will an A player be allowed to play in the B league.

A coach should never sacrifice a child's playing time for the sake of winning a game. Although TVYLL does not teach coaching to lose, neither does it stress winning as the only goal of the program. The goals are to help kids learn the game, to respect the sport and each other, and to have fun. The TVYLL philosophy enables players to learn in a supportive environment free from

undue pressure in which an honest, educational mistake may “cost” the team a game or championship. This approach also empowers coaches to focus on developing and supporting all the players and not on worrying about winning youth championships.

Overall, we want to provide *all* kids with the opportunity to have fun playing lacrosse, ensure that they feel they are contributing members of their teams, and field teams that can compete within our division. Sometimes this is a difficult balance to maintain, so if you have any concerns, please feel free to contact a member of the Board of Directors.