

Playing Time: Recreational vs. Competitive



At the recreational and development level, coaches should be sure that every player plays an equal amount of time in games.

The focus is on learning and development, and every player, regardless of inherent skill, should be given equal opportunities to learn and develop in ways that only game situations provide.

Also, equal playing time ensures full Emotional Tanks for all – an essential consideration that should be a big focus in recreational and developmental leagues. Full Emotional Tanks in these leagues will foster progression up the ladder.

At this level, the scoreboard is decidedly secondary.

At the competitive and elite levels, to suppose that all players will play an equal amount of time is unrealistic. Positive Coaching at these levels does not necessitate equal playing time.

What is essential is that all players play at some point (e.g., Blowout games in which your team is way ahead or way behind).

At these levels, the focus on the scoreboard naturally increases; however, this must not obscure the larger goal of the development of character.

Everyone can, and should be given the opportunity, to make a contribution; this keeps Emotional Tanks full!