



# Westminster Warriors Soccer Club

## Policy 001 – Equal Playing Time

Westminster Warriors has a strong focus on player development rather than a “win-at-all-cost” approach to the game. In keeping with this philosophy **we strongly advocate equal playing time for all junior players.**

For Small-Sided Games from Under 6 to Under 8 we urge coaches and managers to ensure that all players receive equal playing time **for each and every game.** Note however that there may be exceptions such as when a child is injured or does not want to play for whatever reason.

For players in teams in the Under 9 and older age groups, equal playing time is very important, however, not necessarily for each and every game.

In some games, due to the superiority of the opposition, one or two players may struggle to compete which could lead to a loss of confidence or, worse still, a risk of injury. This may cause the coach to give greater playing time to some players for these games with the time being made-up for the others against weaker opposition. The net result over the entire season should be equal playing time for all players in the team.

There are other exceptions to the equal playing time rule as follows:

- Some players may be given extra playing time because they are prepared to play positions the rest of the team are not interested in (e.g. goalie and full back)
- Coaches may give less playing time to players who miss training without a valid reason or do not make a concerted effort while training
- Players are not available for one or more games throughout the season.

It is very important that at the very start of the season, coaches make the players and parents aware of how the equal playing time rule will be managed throughout the season in their team as it is often the greatest source of frustration and disappointment for players and parents alike.