



7601 Martin Grove Road
Vaughan, Ontario
L4L 9E4

Tel: 905-264-9390
Fax: 905-264-9445
E-mail: theosa@soccer.on.ca

To: Parents and Caregivers of Soccer Players in Ontario, OSA Clubs and OSA District Administrators

From: Alex Chiet – OSA Chief Technical Officer

Date: Thursday 25th August 2011

Re: Parents Long Term Player Development Message

If your son or daughter is involved in youth soccer in Ontario, you may by now have heard the term “Long-Term Player Development” (LTPD).

What is LTPD?

In short, LTPD is very simple. It is a thoroughly researched, tested, proven, and overwhelmingly well-received approach to working with young athletes in soccer-rich countries around the world.

Whether a youngster is in soccer to simply stay active and fit or aspires to play at very competitive levels, LTPD is geared to developing youngsters in an environment that is stimulating, enriching—and fun.

The basic premise is this: at the younger ages (4 through 12) we will focus, incrementally, on **physical literacy**, touches on the ball, skill development and eventually, training to “compete”. The objective is to help every player develop to his or her true potential, at whatever level they want to play. We can achieve this through improved coaching methods along with superior training and development programs that we will start to introduce in 2012.

Changes will be phased-in throughout the province next year and as well as 2013 and beyond, to ensure Districts, Clubs, coaches and players will be able to make as seamless an adjustment as possible to this new approach to player development.

What will you notice, as parents?

- At the earliest ages, you will see a real emphasis on movement, coordination and athleticism. This will lead into skill development, ball work and the many skills required to play - and fully enjoy - the great sport of soccer.



7601 Martin Grove Road
Vaughan, Ontario
L4L 9E4

Tel: 905-264-9390
Fax: 905-264-9445
E-mail: theosa@soccer.on.ca

Skills Development

- Too, you will notice an emphasis on training, more practice time and individual skills development and much less on games and “winning” and “losing”. We realize this will require a bit of a shift in attitude for many of us, but we have studied what soccer-countries are doing, and this approach has clearly worked. We need to move in this direction.

Competition and education

- Will your sons and daughters stop playing games and stop competing? Not at all. But again, the emphasis will be different going forward. We are working on re-shaping the structure of our leagues to maintain competition and create a healthier model for all.
- This is very much about education—better education, training and preparation for our youth coaches, who in turn will provide an improved environment for players at every age and stage of development.
- Recreational players will enjoy the game much more than before. Importantly, they will also learn more and because they are learning and enjoying their experience, will want to stay active in the sport. Elite players will benefit, because the new player pathway we are developing will ensure that, wherever your son or daughter plays in the province, they will have the opportunity to be seen, identified and recommended for more intensive training at a regional and ultimately “provincial” level of play.

Developing Ontario Soccer Players

- We could not be more excited. The OSA has brought together a Technical Advisory Council (TAC), a passionate group of Ontario-based soccer leaders who are working diligently to take the Canadian Soccer Association’s LTPD model and adapt it so we can have a “made in Ontario” solution to making soccer better for everyone across the province.

Please stay tuned, as we will be communicating with you on a more regular basis as we work through the phased-in implementation of LTPD in 2012 and beyond.

Kind Regards

Alex Chiet
OSA Chief Technical Officer