



FORT SASKATCHEWAN SOCCER

TITLE: PLAYING TIME

POLICY #: 2030

February 27, 2020	Last updated: March 25, 2020	Approved: April 1, 2020
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Version no.	Effective Date	Significant Changes
1.0	April 2, 2020	

1.0 Purpose

To outline the standards used by coaches for general management of player playing time over the course of the season.

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to all coaches and players registered in Fort Saskatchewan Soccer.

3.0 Terms

There are no terms to define in this policy.

4.0 Policy

Fort Saskatchewan Soccer believes that playing time during games is a critical factor in players' development. Lack of playing time during games inevitably limits a player's ability to improve technically and tactically. Below are the standards used by coaches for general management of playing time over the course of the season:

- **U3 to U9:** Equal playing time
- **U11 and U13:** Approximately equal (e.g. 40% – 60%)
- **U15 and Up:** Minimum 30% - 40% target, but subject to the coach's discretion based on technical and tactical abilities of the players.
- **Tier 3 Premier (all ages):** There are no minimum playing time targets for individual games; playing time is subject to the coach's discretion based on technical and tactical abilities of the players.

Coaches may reduce playing time at their discretion for individual players due to any of the following:

- Poor attendance and/or punctuality at practices and/or games
- Poor effort, attitude, and/or behavior during practices and/or games
- Poor fitness level, including injuries
- Inability to work/play well with teammates



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Fort Saskatchewan Soccer expects its coaches to consider what is best for individual players *and* what is best for the team as a whole in determining how much playing time individual players receive. Fort Saskatchewan Soccer expects its coaches to communicate decisions to limit/reduce playing time to the players who are affected by those decisions. Coaches should communicate the factors in their decisions, as well as any steps that the player(s) can take to receive more playing time in the future. Players with questions or concerns about playing time may approach their coach directly in a manner prescribed by the coach.

Parents with questions or concerns about playing time should first communicate directly with the coach (**but not until a 24-hour cooling down time following a game in which a concern over playing time is considered an issue**). In the event that parents and coach are unable to resolve the issue, the chain of command to be used to resolve the problem is as outlined in the complaint process:

<http://www.fortsasksoccer.ca/content/complaints>.