Winning vs. Development Objectives

Good sport should never be sacrificed for winning at all costs. The following are guidelines aimed at making player development a priority. (Horst Wein, University Lecturer and coach from Germany)

Winning At All Costs	Player Development
If the more physically advanced players can guarantee a win, their behaviour and practice attendance are seen as less important than their performance.	Everyone is held to the same standard and given equal opportunity. Effort and behaviour on and off the field of play are key selection factors.
Underdeveloped, younger and less skilled players are forgotten.	Everyone has the right to play, regardless of physique and ability.
The focus on tactics is overemphasized.	Players can gain tactical experience in games.
Players must obey the coach's orders because winning is the only thing that matters.	A participatory environment is encouraged. The focus is less about winning, and more about improving performance.
Winning only happens when players are taught to be dishonest, create traps and deceive opponents and referees.	Win or lose, players are taught the values of sportsmanship, honesty and respect for rules.
Players do as the coach's game plan says, without any room for improvisation.	Improvisation, creativity and imagination from the players is encouraged by the coach.
Players specialize in their roles prematurely.	Coaches give the players the opportunity to experience different positions.
Some players aren't provided with opportunities to play.	Everyone plays, regardless of ability.
Physical skill is overemphasized because these factors get results most quickly.	Players gain coordination and the ability to play under different conditions when they are exposed to various competitions each season.
Younger players are prematurely exposed to competition that is not age-appropriate.	Younger players are exposed to age-appropriate competition (i.e. 3 vs. 3 for 6 yr. olds), which makes for a more efficient learning environment.
In the interest of winning, training relies primarily on traditional methods of teaching.	In the interest of understanding the game and making fewer mistakes, training emphasizes the discovery of skills and capacities in simplified games.
Everything connected to the sport is valued over the individual. Dubious behaviour is frequently accepted.	Priority is given to personal development through sport. Sport is regarded as "training for life".