



HALIFAX DUNBRACK SOCCER CLUB

Operations Policies and Procedures

Title	Playing Time Policy	Number	
Date of Issue		Section	6.0 Technical

PREAMBLE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to coaches and to the Technical Staff of HDSC on recommended playing time for youth level players from age groups U10-U18. This direction will assist in determining the optimum playing time per player at their respective level of play. This track for players will be in a manner that is fair, transparent, effective, and that ensures the continuing development of each player.

POLICY

U10 - U12

Dunbrack is focused on player development first. In particular, in the crucial years up to and including the U12 age group, focus must be primarily on development rather than winning in accordance with the Canadian Soccer Association Long Term Player Development Model. To this end, it is the club policy to adhere to providing fair playing time for all players, regardless of ability.

At the same time, discretion should be used at the T2A and T2B (U12) level, where optimal playing time may be adjusted according to common sense principles such as, injuries, extended layoffs, lack of commitment to training and elimination circumstances such as in tournament elimination rounds and provincial play downs.

U14 – U18

Tier 1 (T1)

For **summer** season play, play-downs and tournament play, the player's optimal playing time will be determined by the level of commitment to training, attendance, fitness and performance at the coach's and technical director's discretion. Furthermore, the coach has the responsibility to allow players the opportunity to develop. The onus is on the coach to ensure a fair allotment of time over the course of the season.

While the **winter** soccer season is an important component of player development, a "win at all costs" mentality is not. The development of players is most important. Focusing on skill development will give players the best chance to be successful in the game over a sustained period of time. To that end, the onus is to ensure the spirit of fair playing time is maintained over the course of the winter season.



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The HDSC T1 policy is that all players must be committed to skill development and the challenges of playing in a highly competitive environment. Our goal is to provide each T1 player with the opportunity to play at a level that meets his or her developmental needs. In order to create this environment and build a culture of skill development, we expect all players to make themselves available and be committed to their respective teams at the recommended training intervals in accordance with the Canadian Soccer Association's long term player development model.

Tier 2A and/or Developmental (T2A and T1D)

Tier 2A is a competitive level of soccer in Nova Scotia. Subsequently, the HDSC T2A/D policy will follow the T1 policy closely. This group is regarded as the core of the Tier I team for the following season and as such, expectations of commitment levels are near the T1 level. For the **summer** season playing time will be more equitable than T1, providing a more balanced approach and opportunity for development befitting the level. As in the case for T1, the focus on the **winter** session will be more developmental and more equitable playing time is expected.

Tier 2B/C (T2B and T2C)

The general philosophy for this level of soccer is equal playing time for all. Although winning is a common goal for sports, it is not stressed at this level. Skills development, fun, team camaraderie and building a life long love of the game are the primary objectives.

HISTORICAL DATES

Revised March 18, 2013