

Coaches Letter

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Shawn Griffin and I am the Director of Coaching for the Victor Soccer Club. I am also the current head soccer coach at Hobart College. My position within the club as Director of Coaching encompasses many various areas. However, my primary responsibility is to act as a professional resource to all of our coaches in all areas surrounding the sport of soccer.

As you may very well know, within our club, we have created roster positions for Developmental Players, players who are almost there but not quite ready for the challenges associated travel soccer. Developmental Players are allowed to train with the team, play in tournaments when roster spaces are available but are not allowed to participate in the regular season games sanctioned by RDYSL. As a coach myself, I am a strong proponent of Developmental Players and I believe this position provides a fantastic opportunity for players to grow and develop, especially in the practice environment where skills, tactics, and physical development are learned.

After saying that though.....there is one massive CHALLENGE that all Developmental Players face. **GAME EXPERIENCE**, getting the opportunity to apply the skills and lessons they've learned in training and truly applying these skills to an actual game of soccer. Without question, practices provide a much better opportunity to develop skills than games do, quite simply there are more opportunities for players to touch a ball in practice than in a game. However, games provide opportunities that practices simply cannot duplicate. Almost every soccer game is played at a more competitive, faster pace than most practices, forcing players to have to make decisions and apply their technical skills at a very fast pace. For some Developmental Players, this is exactly why they are in the position they are in, they are unable to perform the skills and make game decisions as fast and accurately as some of their peers.

There is an old proverb soccer coaches throw around all the time, "the game is the greatest teacher" which is truly the reason I decided to write this email to you. I would strongly encourage you to consider signing your son or daughter up for additional "game experience" through the **Victor Recreation Soccer Program** which is directly affiliated with the **Victor Soccer Club**. If your child is a Developmental Player and needs that game experience to get better.....then there is no better opportunity than this, right here in our community with boys and girls of all ages. Regardless if you are a travel player, developmental player or just like to play the sport of soccer. Our **Recreation Soccer Program** is available to everyone and I would encourage you to visit our club website at www.victorsoccerclub.org to find out more information and details about this great program. If you have specific

questions about the Recreation soccer Program, you could contact Bob Smith (robert.smith.06@gmail.com), our Rec Soccer Director who would be able to help you with any questions you might have. I hope you will consider my message, it could be just what your son or daughter needs to take that next step!

Sincerely,

Shawn Griffin
Victor Soccer Club
Director of Coaching