



## Goals of The Lightning Bagil Indoor League

ISC will NOT keep standings in our Lightning Bagil 8U-12U leagues. There are a number of reasons for this, but most simply, we know from many years of youth coaching experience that players will still play and compete without standings and scores posted. The ISC approach to coaching has a long term player development focus. At times, parents struggle with this concept. However, we have an 18 year tradition of developing high level players through our player development focus. Below is a summary of why we believe a player development focus for 9U-12U players is enhanced when the focus of our coaching is on process oriented goals and not outcome based goals:

- Players need to play without fear of making mistakes at the youngest ages. When scores and league standings are always on a player's mind, players don't play or exhibit as much risk taking or creativity.
- A long term player development focus must provide kids with opportunities to play in different parts of the field. When coaches and players are worried about whether the team is first or second in the standings, players are less open to trying new roles, and coaches are less willing to assign kids to different roles within the team.
- Team and player assessment is often outcome based, and judged on wins and losses. When scores and standings become less of the focus, players will actually receive feedback geared toward their own developmental needs.
- New players to the ISC will benefit greatly from an approach that focuses on skill and tactical development, rather than scores and standings only. When new players join ISC, they can feel slightly left behind. Consequently, we want kids to develop and feel like they have a chance to contribute if they work hard, do extra practices, etc. We don't want them feeling like they are costing the team critical points in the standings simply because they joined club soccer a little later than others.

The approach outlined above is NOT a "feel good, everyone is a winner," approach. This approach is age appropriate in our opinion for younger players. There is a time and place for scores and standings and for results to matter above the rest of the criteria that we use to evaluate players and teams. We strongly believe players will stay in the game longer and be more capable and versatile players with the approach outlined above. We hope as parents that you can trust our judgment on this issue.