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"The U5/U6 Program Handout"

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1. The RYSL U5/6 program takes off from where the Rug Rat program finishes. This is the next level of development for the players who progress through the Age Divisions of the RYSL.
2. The coaches of the U5/6 Program will work on expanding the philosophy of what the players learned in the Rug Rat Program:
 - A. To work with the players on learning to 'Love' the Game of Soccer;
 - B. To make sure the players are having 'FUN' every time they come to the Soccer Pitch;
 - C. To continue to teach the 'Basics' of the Game of Soccer.
3. The coaches continue with the philosophy of 'Player Development' over 'winning matches'. They should continue to work on the (8) Basics of the Game of Soccer that was started in the Rug Rat Program:
 - A. How to kick the ball.
 - B. How to receive the ball.
 - C. How to dribble the ball.
 - D. How to do a kick-off.
 - E. How to do a goal-kick.
 - F. How to do a corner-kick.
 - G. How to score the ball.
 - H. How to throw-in the ball.
4. The emphasis in this Age Group is to help the players develop confidence in being able to 'score the ball'. Offense is stressed. Positioning and defense should not be stressed at this age but can begin to be taught if the players are not taught "rigid" positioning where they stand on the Goal Box Line or the area in front of the Goal Box. We do not want to 'regiment' the players by putting them in a 'box' with other people's expectations. We want them to learn to play 'Free, Easy' & 'Creative'.
5. The ideal situation would be for unguarded goals (no Goal Keepers). That would help the players to gain more confidence in being able to put the ball in the back of the net without having to beat a Goal Keeper.
6. The U5/6 coach can be on the field with the players, not to "take-over" the match but to help position the players. An assistant coach or parent can be to the side of or behind the Goal to work with the GK.
7. The RYSL will NOT schedule double headers in these two Age Groups if the Age Groups have an even number of teams. If the Age Groups have an uneven number of teams, then double headers must be scheduled. The teams will play each Saturday they are scheduled.
8. The players will receive a special gift during the Saturday closest to Halloween.
9. The players will receive a special RYSL trophy at the end of each Season along with the other benefits of being registered in the RYSL.
10. It is very important for the parents to understand that this Age Group is really for 'FUN'! Please don't yell or holler at the players or the referee's. Let the players 'Learn' from the Game. The Game is the best 'teacher'. If the players are trying to listen to their parents and please them, then they won't be able to play 'free' and be 'creative'. They will also have to try and balance their attention between their coach and their parents and we all know you can't chase 'two rabbits at the same time'.
11. Please understand that just like the Rug Rat Program, this is 'NOT' a win vs lose program. It's a program of continuing to teach & develop our young players. They have a lifetime of being competitive and trying to win matches. Let them enjoy the Game and 'learn' from the Game. Let's see how far they can go in the Greatest Game on Earth.

See you on the soccer pitch...