

Coach Travis Little **9U Girls - Fury**

Travis was born and raised in Georgetown, Ohio. His love affair with soccer started at 8 years old and throughout that time his love for the game has evolved. He played varsity all four year of high school and continued to play indoor and outdoor soccer all thru college and after college. In 2012 he caught the coaching bug when his daughter started playing recreational soccer for Erlanger. He helped coach her U6 team its first season but wanted more for his daughter so he became an assistant coach in the Legends organization in 2013. After coaching two Academy teams over five seasons with Legends, he left in the spring of 2016 to form Fusion FC.

Over the last three years Travis has tried to adjust his approach to coaching by focusing on improving a player's individual skills and footwork. To help expand his coaching knowledge Coach Travis earned his USSF 'E' coaching license in the fall of 2016. Coach Travis has four principles that guide his coaching approach:

Make it Fun. First and foremost a good soccer coach will find a way to make it fun. If kids aren't having fun they will stop playing the game. A good coach will also know the difference between having fun and goofing off and be able to adjust his practice accordingly.

Work Hard. Growing up I wasn't always the most skilled player on the field, but I made sure every game I worked the hardest. I will take a team of kids who have passion for the game, work hard and aren't very skilled over a team of kids who might be more skilled but lack the passion to play. One of my favorite quotes is by Derek Jeter, "there may be people who have more talent than you, but there's no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do - and I believe that." This is something I tell my kids every week at practice.

Be Patient. Learning to be patient is something a coach must learn and find ways to remind themselves and the parents that learning a new skill can take time and many repetitions and a lot of failures. It is always important to keep a positive attitude and maintain a body language that shows your players that you will work with them for as long as it takes to learn a new skill.

Keep it simple. My primary focus is always on skill development with very little time spent on understanding the game. This understanding will come from playing in games and tournaments. When training younger kids, it is important to teach the kids how to control the ball first then put them in situations that require them to think for themselves.

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