

# Player Development Initiatives



A resource for parents, coaches and referees supporting the growth and improvement of grassroots soccer

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# Current Landscape

The coaching and playing environment needs to be improved for 6-12 year olds

Too much emphasis placed on the result of the game

The priority should be to develop skills and abilities

There is a need to educate and empower parents and coaches

- For example, the U.S. Soccer F License is specifically designed for volunteer coaches working with players 8 and younger



# Structural Change

We can't keep doing the same thing and expect to get different results

Long-term development of players is the top priority

- Kids under the age of 12 don't win World Cups so we should not treat them like adults or professional players

Players need to be put in the best possible environment to succeed

There are no shortcuts

- Success requires a long-term approach and commitment



# Starting Point

First set of changes designed to grow and improve the game

## Birth Year Registration

- Registering players according to a January 1 to December 31 timeframe

## Small-Sided Games

- Development philosophy and playing standards for players 12 and younger

