

LKY Soccer Playing Time Policies and Expectations

LKY exists to provide competitive, Christian athletic opportunities for homeschool students. As a competitive league, we do not offer a recreational program that guarantees playing time or provides equal game opportunities for all athletes. There is no guaranteed playing time in games. However, every child will have equal attention and opportunity in practices to develop, be coached, learn and grow in soccer fundamentals.

Specifically for our soccer program, we want to reiterate that there is no guaranteed playing time in games. However, we also want to let you know what are general expectations for playing time are that typically characterize our season at each level of play.

Elementary School (1st-4th) — For the elementary teams, in general each player will enter the game at least once each half. However, the amount of time in which the athlete is in the game may not be even or equal to other athlete's time on the field. *Note: We may have a few players that play all or a majority of game (goalies or other positions) while rest of team rotates through other positions.*

Middle School (5th-8th) — For the 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade teams, in general each player will play at least once in a game for most of the games, but not necessarily in every game. There will be some games that one or more athletes may not get in to the game at all. There will be games where not everyone gets in for playing time depending on the opposing team's skill and/or the score. There is no guarantee of playing time for any tournament games for any athlete, even if they previously experienced playing time throughout the regular season games.

High School (9th-12th) — For the high school teams, there is no guarantee of playing time at any game or tournament. There could be athletes on our varsity teams who never are entered into a game throughout the entire season. All of this playing time is earned in practices and subject to coach discretion. Athletes should not expect automatic playing time as a result of having a spot on the roster.

As a reminder, LKY participates intentionally in the world of Interscholastic sports and not recreational leagues. *Note: If you want recommendations for recreation leagues with equal playing time, let us know and we can help you get connected!* Coaches look at effort, hustle, attitude, skill, practice, scheme and structure of offense/defense/program, positions needed on each team, opponents strength and weaknesses, emotional and mental state of players etc. to decide who they play and when they play.

If your middle school or high school athlete has a question about playing time, players may ask their coach at the beginning or end of a practice if they can talk about their role. Players are encouraged to approach their coach and ask, "How can I improve on my skills so I can be a more effective player for our team and earn more playing time?" or "What areas do I need to most improve in attitude or skill to earn more game time?" Players should never talk to a coach about playing time on game days, whether before, after, or during a game. Coaches will seek to affirm and appreciate players and players should seek to work hard, be confident, and be content.

Lastly, help us teach our athletes to celebrate various roles on the team! We cannot have a team of all goalies or strikers! To develop great teams, the best goalies should be in the goal. The best offensive players should seek to score. This isn't selfish or being a ball hog but rather good management of resources we have as a team. Skills like ball control, defense, conditioning, speed...all the same. Help us as we help teach athletes to encourage one another and to appreciate varying skills at each position and person!