



## **Keys to Success**

Working with young athletes requires persistence, patience and an environment that encourages maximum effort with the goal of mastering the game and having fun. Here are some keys to building a successful program.

1. Remember that helping players learn how to win is more important than winning.
2. Players develop best in a 'positive / demanding' environment that both challenges and supports them to be their best.
3. Development is a collaborative partnership between parents and coaches focused on what matters most – meeting the unique needs of each player.
4. The building blocks of success are skills, tactics, attitude and creativity. These elements are built through clarity, confidence and consistency.
5. How far and to what level players advance is based on talent, desire, environment and circumstances. The only thing we have control over is the environment.
6. Trial and error is an important part of the developmental process. Players who are afraid to make mistakes won't grow.
7. Great teams are built on structure - and support of this structure by players, parents and coaches.
8. Communication and understanding are critical to gaining support for our efforts.