

Thunder Soccer Club

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U-15 thru U-18 Expectations

We, at Thunder Soccer Club, want to provide the best possible opportunity for our senior players to perform at the next level... at the highest level they can. However, we cannot achieve our goals alone... in addition to talented, committed players, we also need parental support. **For our part, we have appointed coaches at these age groups that have either played or coached at the highest levels - most of them at the collegiate or professional level, some at the national level.** This means they are not only aware of the required skills that the players must possess, but they also know many of the college coaches and/ or have connections with many of the college programs. While this does not guarantee college admittance or scholarships, it surely does help!

Here is our position is on the development of our senior youth age groups:

- No matter what the age, fun should always be the first priority. Everyone must help to create an environment where the players want to be there.
- Players will learn that while it is good to be talented, talent alone is not enough if they are not prepared to put in the necessary hard work. Proper commitment separates a champion from a pretender...
- Players between the ages of 15-18 must work extremely hard and be very ambitious if they are to get to the next level. It is expected that they must do a lot of work with and without the ball, and be mentally strong and committed to improvement.
- Players will be trained on reinforcing and showing their strong points... and improving and hiding their weaknesses.
- Teams at these ages will be entering the strongest possible leagues and tournaments so as to showcase players to college coaches.
- If appropriate, teams will also enter adult leagues and regional leagues such as Region 1 and MAPS.
- Players will also be invited to train and play with adult teams to help further their development.
- Players will be guided on the college process and helped with their assessment of what college will be a good match for their playing abilities.
- Attendance at two practices per week is mandatory. Players on the top team should expect to commit from November thru June. This would include winter tournaments, winter indoor soccer, a spring season, and summer training. Each team has their own expectations, which should be read very carefully!
- Winning, and developing a winning mentality is very important!