



**Long Term Player Development**  
A Curriculum Approach

*Presented by*  
**Tony DiCicco & David Newbery**

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**Purpose: Why are we here?**  
*Five main reasons for the presentation:*

1. Challenge you to think critically about your club?
  - Strengths & weaknesses
2. Offer a practical definition of Player Development
3. Share our experience in implementing a curriculum
4. Provide take away solutions
5. Inspire action
  - Commit to review clubs performance on and off the field



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**Why we need to get it right!**



**Soccer – entry point to sport?**

- Town soccer first organized sport experience
- Less resources available in schools & towns.

**Soccer Session – Life Lesson**

- Soccer can teach leadership, sportsmanship & problem solving
- Participation can build confidence, self esteem & commitment

**Disparity in player opportunity**

- Vastly different experiences depending on your coach and group of players

**Long term player adherence to soccer & participation growth at all levels**

- Improve the experience and the learning opportunities for recreation, travel and elite

**Migration of good coaches to elite soccer**

- Experienced coaches may not be available to young players

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**What our research reveals**

**8 reasons for the state of player development today!**

1. Poor appreciation & understanding of Player Dev
2. Little/no emphasis on Coach Dev
3. No strategy or long term vision
4. Loss of focus – team vs individual
5. Wrong people making decisions
  - What role is for the DOC?
6. “Good is the enemy of great” – Jim Collins
7. Conflict not collaboration (local & regional & national)
8. Those who can are not doing enough!
  - Vision and direction
  - Bureaucracy/Politics



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**Assessing practical player development?**



1. Is there a true Curriculum & Player Pathway?
2. Vertical or horizontal integration
3. Ability based & child centered
4. Are the stages of development understood?
5. Are players & coaches assessed continuously?
6. Learning environment - holistic approach
7. Approach to coaching education & mentoring
8. Equal opportunity or just equal access?

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**SoccerPlus Big Picture of Curriculum**

1 What is the purpose of the curriculum?	Aims				
	Outcomes				
	Focus				
2 How is the curriculum structured?	Content				
	Methodology				
	Supporting knowledge				
	Learning Environment				
3 Are the aims being achieved?	Evaluation				

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**Typical Town PD model**

100%	Boys & Girls Mixed Ability				
95%		Boys & Girls Mixed Ability			
80%			Boys & Girls Mixed Ability		
60%				Boys & Girls Mixed Ability or Rec/Travel	
50%					Boys & Girls Rec or Travel
Grade	K	1	2	3	4

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**Typical Town PD model**

100%					
95%					
80%	U6	U7		U9	U10
60%					
50%					
Grade	K	1	2	3	4

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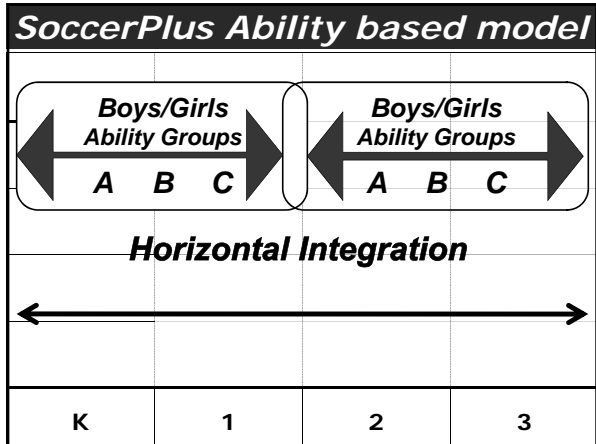
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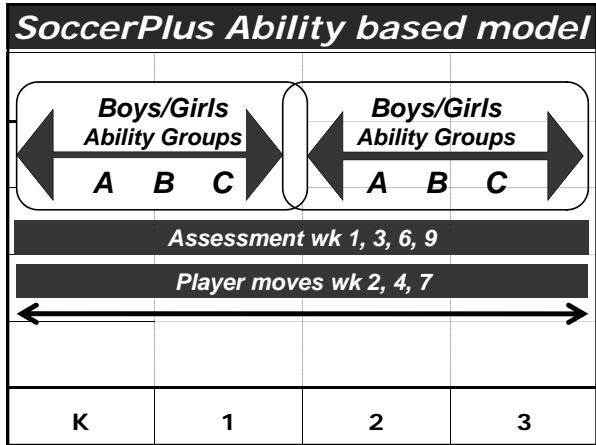
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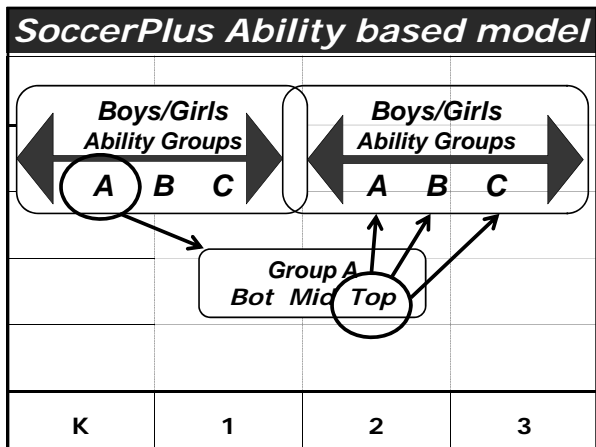
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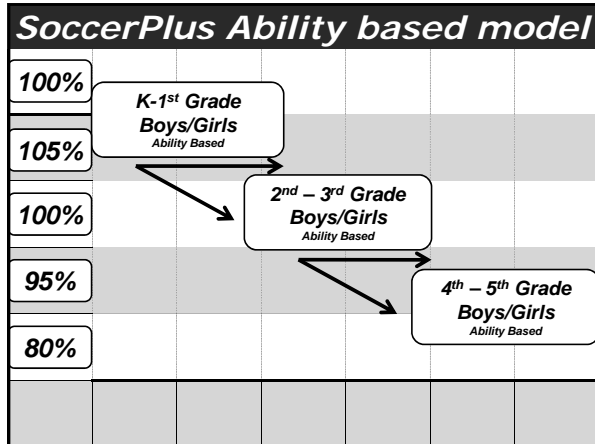
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**10 No Cost Solutions**

1. Involve the coaches in developing a club PD Philosophy
2. Create a program encouraging 14-18 yr old player to coach
3. Don't ask will you ... ask which of the following will you - get a bio!
4. Get parents off their seats – a parent & player Pre K program
5. Create a strategic plan
6. Offer unique programming – skills, speed, family festival etc
7. Dedicate time for PD & Coaching
8. Perform a rate of return analysis
9. Coaches perform a player 'check box' assessment
10. Perform a Y-SAT Assessment

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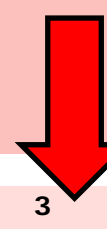
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## Curriculum - The Big Picture

<b>1</b> <b>What is the purpose of the curriculum?</b> 	<b>Aims</b>	Equality of Opportunity	Est. Standards	Continuity & Coherence	Promotes Understanding	Pathway (U5 - U18+)
	<b>Outcomes</b>	Achieve Soccer Standards	Achieve academic, social & health aims	Commitment to learning	Confident learners	Individual & Team Success
	<b>Focus</b>	Skill Development Individual and Team		Knowledge and understanding e.g. Identifying visual cues, tactical awareness	Attitudes and attributes e.g. sportsmanship, respect, confidence	
<b>2</b> <b>How is the curriculum structured?</b> 	<b>Content</b>	Fundamental Movement Skills	Tactical Awareness & Understanding	Physical & mental preparation	Academic & social responsibility	Fundamental Soccer Skills
	<b>Methodology</b>	Practical and theory	Individual and Team Assessment	Guided practice	Self-discovery	Directed & Modeling
	<b>Supporting knowledge</b>	Cognitive Development Mental acumen	Biological Development Growth and Maturation	Emotional Development Confidence, self esteem etc	Nutrition Balanced diet and hydration	Physical fitness Speed, agility, balance & coordination
	<b>Learning Environment</b>	Team practices, positional instruction & optional sessions	Street Soccer' and un-structured practice	Competition e.g. 11 v 11 and small sided games	Tournaments & Festivals	Indoor training and games
<b>3</b> <b>Are the aims being achieved?</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	Skill acquisition Against performance standards	Team selections Tryout process combined with regular seasonal assessments	Talent Identification Planning for exceptional talent	Knowledge and Understanding Decision making & tactical awareness	360° Review Parents, players, coaches and administrators

Created by David Newbery, Director of Player and Coach Development, SoccerPlus



### Player Development Club Self Assessment

Please circle the number that best represents your score for each of the 8 questions (0 = poor & 5 = great)

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Q1. Is your club providing a player development pathway from 4-18 years?

0            1            2            3            4            5

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Q2. Does your club adopt a vertical (0 pts) or horizontal (5pts) approach to player development and administration?

0            1            2            3            4            5

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Q3. How is learning organized for 4-7 year olds – individually (5pts) or by team (0pts)?

0            1            2            3            4            5

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Q4. Do your coaches have a good working appreciation of physical, cognitive and emotional development?

0            1            2            3            4            5

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Q5. Does your club assess players multiple times a year and coaches at least once per year?

0            1            2            3            4            5

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Q6. Does your club approach soccer education as an opportunity to teach life lessons?

NO            1            2            3            4            5

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Q7. Do your coaches have regular (once a week) interaction on and off the field with a coaching mentor?

0            1            2            3            4            5

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Q8. Are players in your club getting equal opportunity (5pts) or is the program best described as offering equal access (0pt)?

0            1            2            3            4            5

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To learn more and offer an opinion on assessing a club's adoption of a player development model, please visit <http://community.soccerinteractive.com/group/soccerplusfcnews> and request to join the group.