



# RIVER CITY ATHLETICS

<b>Title: Playing Time Expectations</b>	
<b>Standard Operating Procedure / Club Policy</b>	<b>Date Distributed:</b>
Initial Effective Date: 2025-26 Season	Date Last Revised: 10/23/2025
Author: Wayne Harvey	
Presented To Board of Directors Date: 10/5/2025	Board Vote: Unanimous
Supersedes:	Dated:

**SCOPE** For all teams within River City Athletics from U9-to-U19 both in league and tournament play

**PURPOSE** To set the parameters and expectations for playing time at all levels of the club

**POLICY** At River City Athletics, our mission is to develop young athletes through competitive soccer while emphasizing sportsmanship, skill growth, and team commitment. While winning is important, our primary focus is on the long-term development of each player. The following playing time policy is designed to ensure fairness, consistency, and transparency across all age levels.

**PROCEDURE –**

General Philosophy

We strive to balance competition with development. Coaches will make lineup decisions based on training attendance, effort, attitude, tactical understanding, and game-day performance. However, every player will have opportunities to contribute meaningfully in games.

Playing Time Guidelines by Age Group

U9 – through – U11 – which are non-results based in the Maine State Premier League with no league final scheduled to conclude the season

\*Playing Time Expectation\*

All players will play at least 50% of each match, regardless of game type (league, tournament, playoffs).

\*Purpose\*

Emphasize equal development, exposure to game situations, and enjoyment.

U12 – through – U19 – which are results based in the Maine State Premier League with a potential for league semifinals and/or finals in each age group

\*Playing Time Expectation\*

- During the Maine State Premier League regular season matches - Every player in good standing (meeting training and behavioral expectations) will play at least one-third (33%) of the total minutes.
- During the Maine State Premier League State Playoffs – Players in good standing can expect at least 25% of total match minutes
- During Tournament pool play, Players can expect one third of the total match minutes

- During Tournament Semifinals and/or Finals, Players can expect at least 25% of total match minutes, though this may vary based on team strategy and game context
- During Regional or National Events, Players can expect at least 25% of total match minutes, though this may vary based on team strategy and game context

Age Group	Standard Game Length	League Game Expectations (33%)	State Playoffs / Tournament Finals Expectations (25%)
U12	60 Minutes	Minimum 20 Minutes	Minimum 15 Minutes
U13 & U14	70 Minutes	Minimum 23 Minutes	Minimum 17.5 Minutes
U15 & U16	80 Minutes	Minimum 27 Minutes	Minimum 20 Minutes
U17, U18, & U19	90 Minutes	Minimum 30 Minutes	Minimum 22.5 Minutes

**\*Considerations\*:**

- Injury, disciplinary issues, or missed practices may impact individual playing time
  - For players who do not have a driver’s license (typically U16 and younger) attendance or tardiness to a practice should not be considered in evaluating player standing or related minutes in a match

**Additional Notes**

- Coaches are encouraged to communicate proactively with players and parents about playing time decisions.
- Playing time is not guaranteed to be equal but will be **\*\*equitable\*\*** and in line with developmental goals.
- The policy may be adapted for exceptional circumstances but will remain rooted in our club’s commitment to player growth.

**Supplemental Tournaments**

- There are opportunities for River City to send teams to additional tournaments including but not limited to: The Scorpions SC Invitational in Massachusetts; Select March Cup in Massachusetts & New Hampshire; Nordic Cup in Vermont; Alliance Cup in Vermont; The Broussard Cup in Quebec, Canada; IFA Pre-Thanksgiving Invitational in Massachusetts; NEFC Thanksgiving Showcase in Massachusetts; Vale SC College Showcase in Connecticut;
- These supplemental tournaments are not part of the designed River City programming and
  1. Are paid for out of pocket by families attending
  2. The rosters are created by selecting players to compete in these events
    - a. Rosters will typically include fewer players than the MSPL season
  3. Are not subject to playing time guidelines
    - a. However, due to the nature of the roster creation the expectation is all players chosen will participate and play significant minutes per contest

**REFERENCES**

**ATTACHMENTS**

NA

**This document was approved by the committee(s) noted below on the date(s) as noted:**