

Characteristics of U8 Players

- Short attention span
- Individual play to partner play
- Always in motion
- Very sensitive (dislikes personal criticism in front of peers)
- Beginning to develop physical coordination
- Still into running, jumping, climbing, and rolling
- More into the real game through imitation of big guys
- Still lack sense of pace

Characteristics of U10 Players

- Lengthened attention span
- Pace factor more developed (think ahead)
- More self-responsibility
- Start to recognize tactical components of the game but not sure why
- Positive reinforcement needed
- May initiate play on their own
- Become more serious about their play
- Greater diversity in playing ability and physical maturity
- Group play begins to emerge

Characteristics of U12 Player

- Age of Tactical Awareness
- Beginning of puberty
- Overuse injuries, burnout and high attrition rate associated with high-intensity children's programs
- Begin to develop and sustain complex coordinated skill sequences
- Increased ability to acquire and apply knowledge
- Can think in abstract terms
- The game of soccer must present the ability to think creatively and solve problems while moving