

WHY YOUR PLAYERS PARTICIPATE IN SOCCER

Ten most frequently listed reasons for participating in soccer, for boys and girls.

Boys

1. To have fun.
2. For the excitement of competition.
3. To improve my skills
4. To get exercise
5. For the challenge of competition
6. To stay in shape
7. To do something that I'm good at
8. To play as part of a team
9. To win
10. To learn new skills

Girls

1. To stay in shape.
2. To have fun
3. For the excitement of competition
4. To get exercise
5. To do something that I'm good at
6. To go to a higher level of competition
7. To play as part of a team
8. To improve my skills
9. For team spirit
10. To meet new friends

Reasons for dropping out of soccer (school and non-school) ranked according to mean importance.

Boys

1. I was no longer interested
2. It was no longer fun
3. I was tired of playing and practicing
4. This sport conflicts with other sports I wanted to play
5. Practices and games were boring
6. My coach was a poor teacher
7. I wanted to participate in other non-sport activities
8. Coach only player his/her favorites
9. I did not like the coach
10. Too much emphasis was placed on winning

Girls

1. I was no longer interested
2. It was no longer fun
3. I wanted to participate in other non-school activities
4. This sport conflicts with other sports I
5. I was tired of playing and practicing
6. This sport required too much time
7. Practices and games were boring
8. My coach was a poor teacher
9. There was too much pressure
10. I never felt like I belonged with the team

Children's perceptions of the changes that would induce them to play soccer again, ranked according to mean importance.

Boys

1. Practices were more fun
2. Coaches understood players better
3. I could play more
4. The coach understood the sport better
5. Coach was a better teacher
6. Games and practices were scheduled at different times
7. The coach didn't yell as much
8. There was less emphasis on winning
9. There were more leagues so other players were closer to my ability
10. The sport did not take so much time

Girls

1. Practices were more fun
2. Practices or games did not conflict with social life
3. Practices or games did not conflict with studies
4. Coaches understood players better
5. I could play more
6. The coach was a better teacher
7. The coach understood the sport better
8. Games and practices were scheduled at different times
9. The sport did not take so much time
10. There was less emphasis on winning

Simply put, keep the practices fun, take advantage of the coach training opportunities, and de-emphasize winning. Praise the effort!

