

Fredericton District Soccer Association

Competitive Programs Policy 01 – Overview

- 1.1 Program philosophy. The FDSA's competitive programs exist to develop all team members as soccer players and as individuals by providing them with a positive experience on a team which strives to reach its full playing potential in a competitive environment. The competitive programs provide opportunities for players to participate in a higher level of competition and require a greater level of both individuals and team skill and commitment than normally found in recreational soccer.
- 1.2 Definition of a competitive team. A competitive team is a team of players selected through an open and transparent tryout process who train and compete under the direction of a qualified coaching staff selected by the FDSA. Teams are run and managed according to the FDSA Competitive Policy suite, in accordance with Canada Soccer and Soccer New Brunswick regulations.
- 1.3 Competitive team goals. Each FDSA competitive team should strive towards the following goals.
 - 1.3.1 To teach or reinforce values such as sportsmanship, teamwork, hard work, accountability
 - 1.3.2 To inspire individuals to continue to play soccer
 - 1.3.3 To continue to develop individuals who demonstrate confidence in themselves on and off the field
 - 1.3.4 To improve the technical, tactical, physical, and psychological skills of individuals
 - 1.3.5 To improve team performance throughout the season, peaking at the end with an aim to be as competitive as possible
 - 1.3.6 To earn the respect of opponents
 - 1.3.7 To earn the respect of officials and tournament hosts
 - 1.3.8 To develop an excellent team sport/esprit de corps
 - 1.3.9 To develop positive relationships between coaches and players, and coaches and parents
- 1.4 Programs. The FDSA offers the following three levels of competitive teams in age groups from U13 to U18 for both boys and girls:
 - 1.4.1 Premiership. Premiership (AAA) is the highest level of organized competitive youth soccer. Premiership teams normally have more practices and play in the New Brunswick Soccer League which requires more travel throughout the province. Teams are offered at the U14, U15, and U17 age groups, and each team shall carry a roster of a maximum of 18 players. Premiership teams compete to represent the province at the national level in U15 and U17, which may involve additional travel.
 - 1.4.2 Division 1. Division 1 (AA) is the second level of competitive youth soccer. Division 1 teams play within the South West Soccer League (SWSL) which involves travel throughout the southwestern area of New Brunswick. Teams are offered at the U15 and U18 age groups, and each team shall carry a roster of a maximum of 18 players at U15 and 20 players at U18. Division 1 teams may compete for provincial championships but do not compete at the national level.
 - 1.4.3 U13 Foundations. The U13 Foundations program is an introduction to competitive soccer for youth aged 12 and 13. There will be multiple boys' teams and girls' teams within this program, selected through a draft format, and each team shall carry a roster of a maximum of 16

players. Players work on skill development and play games in the South West Soccer League. U13 Foundations teams may compete for provincial championships but do not compete at a national level.

- 1.5 Playing time. Competitive team coaches will attempt to provide all selected players with the playing time they require to advance the goals of the program (player development, team development, etc.). It is understood that this is a competitive team program, and that equal playing time is not always appropriate and that some players will get more playing time than others. Due to the nature of this competitive experience, fair but not necessarily equal playing time is expected throughout the regular season. In competitive soccer a coach may decide that it is necessary to “shorten the bench” and play the stronger players more at critical times during any game.
- 1.6 Provincial and National competition. All competitive teams may be eligible to compete for the New Brunswick Provincial Championships for their age group depending on their record during the regular season. Provincials are hosted by different clubs each year near the end of August and will involve travel to the host city. Only Premiership teams (U15 and U17) who win their respective provincial championship earn the privilege of representing NB at the Nationals. The Nationals are held once a year in October and are hosted by one of the competing provinces anywhere in Canada. Travel to the Nationals is at the expense of the team and may be offset by fundraising. This is a significant expense to players and parents and must be considered before commitment to a premiership program. Subsidies from the FDSA National Travel Fund are provided. (See Policy 008 for distribution of funds).
- 1.7 Fields and equipment.
 - 1.7.1 Field booking. FDSA is responsible to book and allocate field use for all teams, including tryouts, practice session, exhibition games, and home league games. In addition to all regular programming, the FDSA will cover the costs of fields for up to two exhibition games per team per season. All competitive teams must ensure that FDSA booked facilities and fields are for the sole use of FDSA programs and members.
 - 1.7.2 Soccer equipment. FDSA is responsible for equipment and will sign out an equipment bag to each team at the start of the season, including balls, cones, first aid kit, pinnies, and a ball pump. It is the team’s responsibility to account for all loaned equipment and make up any losses.
 - 1.7.3 Uniforms. Each competitive player will receive a uniform kit (home jersey, away jersey, one pair of shorts, one pair of socks). Each team manager will collect individual deposits for each player upon receipt of kit in the amount of \$75 (postdated cheque made out for September 1 or e-transfer to be held in the team’s account). Once jerseys and shorts (socks to be retained by player) are returned to the FDSA following the season, managers may return/destroy cheques and/or return e-transfers.
 - 1.7.4 FDSA branded apparel. Branded apparel must be purchased through the FDSA Store. All new merchandise may only have the FDSA logo and/or club sponsor logo printed/embroidered on it, subject to approval by the FDSA. The FDSA logo should not be printed/embroidered on any clothing outside of that available through the FDSA Store.