

FVC PLAYING TIME GUIDELINES

A continual source of frustration for players and spectators alike (in any sport) is the issue of playing time. Although it is the goal of this club to get everyone as much playing time as possible (especially at the younger ages), the reality is that equal playing time is NOT a guarantee. The philosophy on playing time is stated below:

During games, the coaches have the exclusive right to determine the lineup that they wish to use. An “equal play philosophy” does not apply in any situation at any time. It is each player’s responsibility to perform at a level that is consistent in keeping with the goals of the team. If the player does not, for whatever reason, fulfill their obligations on the court, it is the right of the coach to substitute them out so that the team may have a better chance of achieving its goals. Players are expected to perform certain roles on the bench as well, which greatly contributes to the success of the team.

All players earn their playing time in practice. It is the player’s task to work hard enough, learn enough, and execute skills consistently to get time on the court during games. Some players will play 100% of the time, some will get specialized assignments, while others must work to be the best alternate starter that they can be. Regardless of the role that evolves over the season, all players/parents/etc are expected to remain positive and committed to the goal of having the TEAM do as well as possible by the end of the season.

Some other situations that may keep a player on the bench include failure to follow team guidelines, missing practices, poor attitude and sub-standard performance. Based on position, a player may play back row only or front row only. It is important for players and parents to understand that the goal of the team is to compete successfully in matches and go to the highest level possible. If it is the player’s belief that they are not being treated fairly, they should discuss this with the coach individually. Playing time issues will not be discussed until 24 hours after the last match of a weekend tournament. In the majority of cases, the player should be asking the coach “What can I work on in my game to earn more playing time”. Playing time is not up for discussion with other team members, parents or spectators. The coaching staff evaluates team members at each practice as well and often sees things that spectators and parents do not.

Players should remember that playing time is earned. The players, by working hard in practice to improve their skill execution and consistency, will determine how much playing time they will get. Our competitive philosophy will be different from other teams (past, present and future) as there is a greater emphasis on meeting team goals and developing players with the whole team in mind.