## **Objective**

- Have fun, learn skills, and keep children coming back. (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- The more fun coaches have playing and interacting with kids, the more they'll want to learn and stay involved. (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Many coaches are new: enthusiasm is the primary prerequisite. (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Encourage children gradually; give them space to build confidence over the season.
  (annapolissoccerclub.com)

## Coaching Philosophy & Format (U4–U7 / Clinic Level)

- No goalkeepers in U4–U7 games. (<u>annapolissoccerclub.com</u>)
- Coaches from **both** teams are on the field to facilitate play. (<u>annapolissoccerclub.com</u>)
- The club doesn't keep scores or standings the focus is exposure and learning, not competition. (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Over time, games may evolve to 4 vs 4, depending on roster sizes.
  (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Emphasis on maximizing ball touches per child; minimize drills with long lines.
  (annapolissoccerclub.com)

## Safety & Supervision

- All children **must** wear shin guards. (<u>annapolissoccerclub.com</u>)
- This is **not** a drop-off program a parent or responsible adult must attend.
  (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- If a parent must leave, they must hand off supervision to another responsible adult (not the coach). (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- All coaches and assistants must undergo a background check.
  (annapolissoccerclub.com)

#### **Rosters & Late Entries**

- Rosters are finalized just before the season begins, following age-group meetings. (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Coaches should email (and call if needed) players immediately after the coaches meeting. (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Late entries may be accepted if approved by ASC. Do not add players without permission. (annapolissoccerclub.com)

## **Equipment**

- Each U4–U7 child receives a ball and a team T-shirt (distributed at first session).
  (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Label balls with names, but only after the child shows up (to avoid mismatches / no-shows). (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Teams get Pugg pop-up goals, cones, and practice pinnies. (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Pinnies should contrast with shirt color. (<u>annapolissoccerclub.com</u>)
- All equipment must be returned at season end. Be careful with fragile parts (e.g. plastic spikes). (annapolissoccerclub.com)

# **Coaching & Development Support**

- ASC will sponsor coaches to take formal coaching courses and provide local training. (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Age-group meetings (mid-March or August) distribute equipment and review goals.
  (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Encourage parental involvement to expand coaching support, each team gets two coaches' T-shirts. (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Rosters listed online should **not** be considered final until after coaches' meetings. (annapolissoccerclub.com)

### **Contact & Additional Info**

- For questions: admin@annapolissoccerclub.com (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- Annapolis Soccer Club's Clinic program covers U4 through U7 age groups.
  (annapolissoccerclub.com)
- The coaching and clinic info is maintained in ASC's "Coaches Corner" resources.
  (annapolissoccerclub.com)