



## **Durango Youth Soccer Association U11 Player Standards**

### **Characteristics of the U11 Player**

- Lengthened attention span
- Team oriented
- Some are becoming serious about their play
- Psychologically becoming more firm and confident
- Boys and girls beginning to develop separately
- Continued positive reinforcement needed
- Greater diversity in playing ability, physical maturity (more, mature have stronger motor skills)
- Starting to think ahead more
- Starting to recognize fundamental tactical concepts such as changing direction of ball, when and when not to pass the ball and when to attack or defend
- Gross and small motor skills becoming much more refined
- Still in motion, but not as busy...Will hold still long enough for a short explanation

### **Focus of U11 Year**

- 1) FUN & Competition
- 2) Build general comfort with the ball (basic touches such as foundations, toe taps, rollies, pulls, start/stop)
- 3) Build **equal comfort in both left and right side** for dribbling, turns (pull backs, chop, cut, drag behind), introductory moves (rummenigge, scissors, inside/outside rolls, stepover), control (foot, thigh, chest, head), and passing (inside, outside, chips, crosses)
- 4) Focus on 1v1, 2v1, 2v2 situations—everyone shares role of defending and attacking
- 5) Creativity within the game—"find the game"
- 6) Increase of partner skills (passing, receiving, shooting).
- 7) Begin small group concepts including attacking and defending.
- 8) Process and performance versus outcome of competition.
- 9) Adding a more in depth understanding of small group skills and concepts of attacking and defending (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> defender, support play, attacking principles of heads up, committing, support, use of triangles).
- 10) Begin combining individual skills while introducing beginning tactics and set pieces (team focus)

## U11 PLAYER STANDARDS

### **(ALL U9/U10 STANDARDS INCLUDED)**

#### **TECHNICAL:**

- Players should demonstrate accuracy and speed in individual and collective soccer techniques
- Players should be able to apply technique during game situations at game speed

#### **Dribbling/Footwork—**

- Player should have the ability to use all parts of the foot (inside, outside, sole)
- Player should be able to change speed and direction (creativity)
- Player should be able to stop with the ball under control-either foot
- Player should be able to perform 4 basic turns (inside/outside cut, drag back, stop turn)
- Player should be able to perform figure 8's under control using both feet
- Player should be able to dribble out of trouble
- Player should be able to use basic moves to dribble past an opponent
- Player should be able to incorporate shielding to protect the ball
- Player should be able to use basic sole moves during play (drag, across, behind, v's, rolls),
- Players should have proficiency in shield and escape dribbling, 1v1 attacking dribbles, and moves/fakes

#### **Running with the Ball—**

- Player should be able to push the ball away from the body under control with head up and accelerate OR decelerate-either foot

#### **Passing—**

- Player should have ankle locked when contacting ball, look up when passing, and have plantar foot pointing in the direction of intended target.
- Players should be proficient in push pass
- Player should be able to pass with the inside and outside of both feet
- Players proficient in push pass and weak foot push pass and laces/distance passing.

#### **Control/Receiving—**

- Player should have a "soft" first touch
- Players should have body in line of ball, control the ball away from pressure, and be able to use different body surfaces to receive and control ball.
- Players should know multiple ways on how to receive to self, receive to new space, receive to turn, and perform spin turns.
- Players should be able to receive with disguise (out of back, letting ball roll)
- Players should be able to perform basic volleying skills and technique

-Players should be able to juggle with both thighs and feet

### **Shooting—**

-Players should be able to shoot with both feet

-Players should be able to properly shoot with both the inside of the foot and laces

-Players should have laces contact with locked ankle and follow through (Hop, Load, Lock, See BOB (Body Over Ball), Swing, Step).

-Players should have awareness of goal (near/far post) and awareness of goalkeeper (looking up)—Shooting for accuracy

- Players should be implementing power with side foot shooting and strong and weak foot shooting.

### **Heading—**

-Player should have proper attacking contact (player contacts ball, NOT ball contacting player—“breaking through glass”), eyes open, hairline contact.

-Players should be able to perform standing and jumping headers.

-Players should have introductory skill and technique for heading to pass and heading to score

### **Goal Keeping—**

-Players should demonstrate proper hands and body positioning

-Players should be able to initiate basic ball distribution (throwing, rolling, punting)

-Players should be able to have basic diving skills from the ready position

-Players should be able to collect the ball from the attacking players feet

-Players should be able to relate body position around the goal

### **Set Piece Organization—**

-Players should be able to throw ball in with proper technique.

-Player should be able to defend throw-ins and keep possession off throw-ins.

-Players should be able to demonstrate defending and attacking during kick off play and corner kicks.

-Players should show defensive organization of wall and free kicks, running attacking plays from free kicks, and offensive and defensive balance on goal kicks

### **TACTICAL:**

-Introduction to simple 1v1 decisions and thinking for themselves

### **Defending—**

-Players should be able to have the proper defensive stance

-Player should be able to pressure close enough to touch ball, battle for ball, stay in play, no fouls

-Players should be able to use the 3 P'S (pressure, position, patience) while defending, be able to close down a player then break them down.

- Player should maintain position between opponent and goal
- Players begin using “Pressure, Cover, Balance”
- Players should have basic skill and understanding of chase, transition, cover, and intercept.
- Players should be able to apply small group tactics (2,3,4), use defensive rows, zonal defending, and provide shot blocking techniques
- Players can begin using “poke” and “block” tackles when appropriate

### **Attacking—**

- Application of basic attacking principles:
- Players should demonstrate mobility on the attack with support/balance.
- Players should begin using attacking runs while implementing various speeds based on pressure.
- Players should be able to track play and intended movement of ball.
- Players should demonstrate an “open body” facing the field.
- Players should be able to use short AND long wall passes (“give and go” or 1-2) to develop attack
- Players should be able to maintain team shape and roles on restarts,
- Players should begin playing game to maintain possession and focus on transition
- Players should begin using basic combination plays and build up as well as applying techniques of the counter attack-i.e. overlapping and takeovers.

### **Goalkeeping—**

- Players should call for the ball when receiving
- Players should communicate with teammates during the game

### **PHYSICAL:**

- Players should show continued growth of balance and agility, acceleration and sprinting, reaction, back pedaling, turning, jumping, lateral movement.
- Players should be able to demonstrate coordinated movements at speed
- Players should be able to demonstrate introductory techniques of physical confrontation against opponent (shoulders, bumping, use of arms)
- Players should be able to perform speed and agility movements with and without the ball

### **MENTAL:**

- Players should have the enjoyment of playing soccer/FUN.
- Players should be able to respect coaches and teammates.
- Players should be able to positively interact with teammates during training sessions and matches and feel confident within the team unit
- Players should feel confident and comfortable with the ball while having a positive self-esteem
- Players should be able to cooperate with teammates during collective tasks.
- Players should be showing mental and physical efforts during training and competition, commitment



**“CORE 16” AVERAGE 25<sup>th</sup>% STANDARDS  
U11 Year**

	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>
<b>FOOT SPEED</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>QUICK TOUCH</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>JUGGLING-strong foot</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>JUGGLING-weak foot</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>JUGGLING-head</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MASTER DRIBBLING-strong foot</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>MASTER DRIBBLING-weak foot</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SHARP TURNS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ATTACK DRIBBLING</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CONTROL PASSING-strong foot</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CONTROL PASSING-weak foot</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PERFECT PASSING-strong foot</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PERFECT PASSING-weak foot</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL CONTROL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>POWER SPRINT</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>PURE STRIKE</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>



**“CORE 16” AVERAGE 50<sup>th</sup>% STANDARDS  
U11 Year**

	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>
<b>FOOT SPEED</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>QUICK TOUCH</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>JUGGLING-strong foot</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>JUGGLING-weak foot</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>JUGGLING-head</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MASTER DRIBBLING-strong foot</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>MASTER DRIBBLING-weak foot</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>SHARP TURNS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>ATTACK DRIBBLING</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CONTROL PASSING-strong foot</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CONTROL PASSING-weak foot</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PERFECT PASSING-strong foot</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>PERFECT PASSING-weak foot</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TOTAL CONTROL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>POWER SPRINT</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>PURE STRIKE</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>



**“CORE 16” AVERAGE 75<sup>th</sup>% STANDARDS  
U11 Year**

	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>
<b>FOOT SPEED</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>QUICK TOUCH</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>JUGGLING-strong foot</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>JUGGLING-weak foot</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>JUGGLING-head</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MASTER DRIBBLING-strong foot</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>MASTER DRIBBLING-weak foot</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>SHARP TURNS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ATTACK DRIBBLING</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>CONTROL PASSING-strong foot</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>CONTROL PASSING-weak foot</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>PERFECT PASSING-strong foot</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PERFECT PASSING-weak foot</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>TOTAL CONTROL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>POWER SPRINT</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>PURE STRIKE</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>



**“CORE 16” AVERAGE 95<sup>th</sup>% STANDARDS  
U11 Year**

	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>
<b>FOOT SPEED</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>QUICK TOUCH</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>JUGGLING-strong foot</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>JUGGLING-weak foot</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>JUGGLING-head</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MASTER DRIBBLING-strong foot</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>MASTER DRIBBLING-weak foot</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>SHARP TURNS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>ATTACK DRIBBLING</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CONTROL PASSING-strong foot</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>CONTROL PASSING-weak foot</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PERFECT PASSING-strong foot</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>PERFECT PASSING-weak foot</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>TOTAL CONTROL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>POWER SPRINT</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>PURE STRIKE</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>



