

NLSA PROVINCIAL TEAM PLAYING POLICY

In order to live up to its commitment to provide the best coaching and playing opportunities for our players to learn and to provide scouting opportunities by National Team and College Coaches, the Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association has adopted a playing policy that will affirm this commitment.

The Atlantic Championships is the first step in this commitment to provide opportunities for NLSA players to play outside competition and be seen by National Team and College Coaches. This competition does two things. First, it gives our coaches an opportunity to see their players play against other provinces and second, it gives them the opportunity to finalize their teams for the Nationals. The NLSA expects all its coaches in this competition to give every player a fair opportunity to display their talents under the pressure of competition. While this does not mean equal time, it does mean giving every player reasonable time to display their skills in most, if not all playing situations.

Winning the Atlantic Championships is nice but not a priority of this Association. Although winning is desirable, learning the strengths and weaknesses of our players is a greater priority.

The CSA National Championships is the second major competition for our players. This competition does two things for our Provincial Program. First, it allows our players to showcase their abilities on a national scene in front of all the National Age Group Coaches and second, it gives our teams the opportunity to move up the national rankings ladder.

In order for National Coaches to see all players, the CSA has established minimum playing times for all players. The NLSA fully endorses this policy and has instructed its coaches to abide by the policy. Again, this does not mean equal time. Because the first game is critical to rankings, coaches may decide to play its best players for a longer period of time in this game.

This experience is a critical element for success and for our player to learn. It is imperative that we all abide by this philosophy.