



# Anthony Wayne United Soccer Club

P.O. Box 151

Waterville, OH 43566

[info@awsoccer.org](mailto:info@awsoccer.org)

## October Newsletter

Every now and again I am asked the same type of question. Why do you (AW United) not form A teams? Why do you not put all the best players on the same team? There are many reasons that we choose not to form A teams at young ages. Our club maintains that until at least the U-12 level, teams should not be ability based. This is also in compliance with USSF recommendations.

First, we as a club seek to develop soccer players. Players need to master essential individual skills in order to master team concepts. What good is a player who can read the game and get in the right places if their first touch gives the ball away! AW United seeks to help every player master dribbling, shooting, passing, and receiving. Too many players move along in the system without achieving success in these critical areas.

Soccer is a late developing sport. It takes years of playing to begin to master the basic skills and techniques needed to be successful. Often, at the youngest ages, the best players are the most athletic kids. The bigger, faster, stronger players tend to dominate youth soccer. This leaves the smaller, slower players at a disadvantage. By keeping teams player focused, we seek to help players who may struggle until they catch up developmentally. The best players at age nine are often not the best players at age fourteen.

Players learn by training with and competing against players of all skill level. We seek to have our players compete against players they are better than, equal to, and struggle against. Players in other countries grow up competing in games with players of all ages. This provides the opportunity from them to learn from older players. Our club scene is currently overly age focused, restricting players from competing against players of their ability level who are a different age.

---

I can be reached for any questions or comments you have at the following email:  
[bbillings20@yahoo.com](mailto:bbillings20@yahoo.com). Thanks.

Brian T. Billings  
AW United, Director of Player Development