

# Scope and Sequence Coming to U Prep Soccer

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University Prep Middle and Upper School soccer programs are healthy to say the least! Participation is high at all levels of the program, and the success of the Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer teams has been high in the last few seasons. The 2013-2014 school year saw the girls win their second consecutive state championship, and the boys earn the second place trophy in their state championship tournament. This competitive success as well as the numbers of players and coaches involved in University Prep's soccer program prompted Assistant Director of Athletics AJ Brooks and myself to sit down together and begin to generate a scope and sequence that can span our whole six-through-twelve soccer program. The areas we focused on include coaching and player goals and expectations, practice sessions, skills, and terminology.

AJ and I began the process with my written responses to his questions about scope and sequence in our current program and to his questions about what I'd like to see in place in that program. We began our discussions by seeking to determine what type of soccer player, knowledge base, system, and coach we want to have at the highest levels. We then worked backwards in subsequent meetings through the entire program. We looked for where we would insert different skill sets, techniques, principles of play, systems of play, vocabulary words, and evaluation techniques that would allow us to correctly place and develop players and coaches through our soccer program from Division 3 in the Middle School to the varsity team in the Upper School.

We hope that by creating a scope and sequence for our schoolwide soccer program we can increase our ability to develop the quality of our players and our coaches. Though many of our players come to us with excellent skill sets and knowledge sets given to them by their club systems and coaches, we hope to create a consistent and quality soccer environment at University Prep. The end goal is to allow all players to improve their game and enjoy their teammates at all levels of soccer.

The plan is to begin implementing some of the outcome of our work this coming fall. Ultimately, the Athletic Department hopes to implement a six-through-twelve scope and sequence program for all of the nine sports offered by University Prep.