



**PLAYER  
DEVELOPMENT  
PHILOSOPHY**

### **Develop the Player**

Individual player development is what makes the VLSC the most successful club on the Peninsula. Our professional staff is dedicated to maximizing your players full potential, within the game, at the players own pace. Our individualized approach to develop the whole person, not just the player, is what we pride ourselves on and why over 300 of our players have moved on to play collegiately at the highest levels and this past year alone over 85 individuals were recognized for their high school accomplishments on the field.

To understand how each player is evaluated please see the VLSC **STEPS** to player and talent identification.

### **Develop the Club**

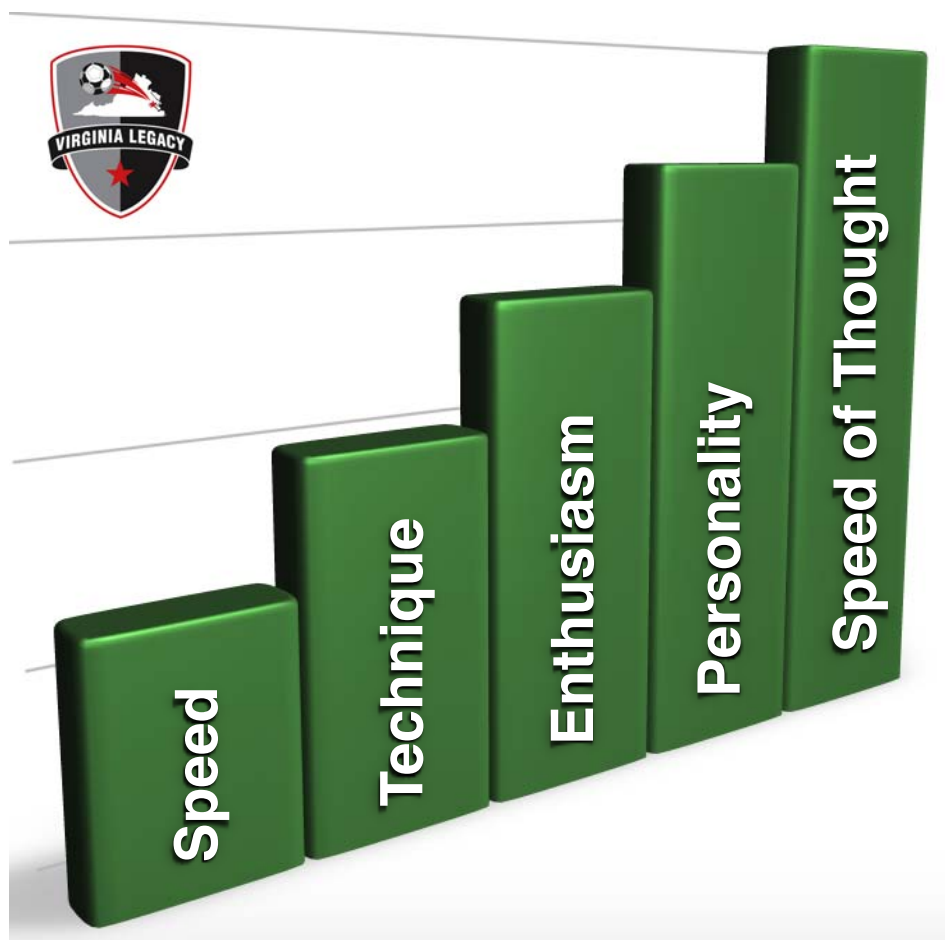
We pride ourselves on creating a club culture where every player, no matter the level, are given the same opportunities to succeed if they choose to. It is important that our players are exposed to an array of information which is why they are exposed to all of the VLSC Technical Staff throughout all the developmental STEPS while in the club. You will also see many of our VLSC teams, and players, training with other teams in their own age group, as well as older groups. This helps to establish a club atmosphere, and not have players, and teams feel as if they are disconnected from the club and Technical Staff.

### **Develop the Team**

This third philosophy is a by product of successful implementation of the previous two. As the players become better, through individual growth, by way of the developmental avenues provided by the club it is inevitable that the team becomes better as well. In order to have a successful team you must have successful players. There are players that take ownership in their own development, and bring that enthusiasm to the training environment. We understand that team results vary by age, players and gender, but we do not use results as a gauge of success in the younger age bands. As teams and players get older and develop through theses processes we are confident that results will come in the older ages.



## Virginia Legacy Soccer Club STEPS to Player Development and Talent Identification



Speed	Technique	Enthusiasm	Personality	Speed of Thought
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players that show the physical ability to deal with the demands of the game.</li> <li>• Players that are able to execute skill, successfully, under that physical demands of the game.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players that show technical proficiency on the ball.</li> <li>• Players that can demonstrate the ability to play with both feet.</li> <li>• Players that can solve problems in the game while in possession of the ball.</li> <li>• Players that are capable of affecting the game with their ability with the ball.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players who love to play the game.</li> <li>• Players who are committed to learn.</li> <li>• Players that stay positive in the face of adversity.</li> <li>• Players with a positive and infectious attitude towards teammates and staff.</li> <li>• Players that take the positive from adverse situations to improve their game.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players who conduct themselves professionally when people aren't looking.</li> <li>• Players that respect the game, teammates, coaching staff, and themselves.</li> <li>• Players that are not afraid to express themselves on the field.</li> <li>• Players that take ownership in their OWN development.</li> <li>• Player that put in the time to make themselves and teammates better.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Players that can process information and make quick decisions.</li> <li>• Players that can adapt to the ever changing environment on the field.</li> <li>• Players that can tactically adapt to the pressures of the game while applying technique.</li> <li>• Players that are able to read the game before it happens.</li> <li>• Players that take charge and become the "coach" on the field.</li> </ul>

## Virginia Legacy **STEPS** of Talent Identification and Development

### What are the VLSC **STEPS**?

Here at the Legacy Player Development is the cornerstone for which we build the structure of the club. Whether you are a premier level player who is just starting the game, or an Elite level player who is competing at the highest level, there is a developmental pathway for everyone. To properly evaluate, and place a player, we have to look at their overall ability and not just their athleticism, as many clubs and coaches do. Its great to have an over powering physical player but what happens when the rest of the players catch up to them physically. Has that players overall development been worked on or have they just been allowed to succeed because they are physically gifted?

Every parent wants their child to be the best and to play at the highest level but parents have to understand, much like academics, players learn/develop at different rates. As a way to assess where players stand in the developmental process, and evaluate their progression we have developed a tool to aide constant monitoring of current and future players in the club. The Virginia Legacy **STEPS** of Talent Identification is an easy way for both players and parents understand what our staff looks for in players, and in what areas a player may be lacking and need additional focus.

- Speed
- Technique
- Enthusiasm
- Personality
- Speed of Thought

These areas encompass the WHOLE player, not just parts, and is the reason why many of our players have great success as they get over. Player Development is a process of which there is no quick fix. By improving a player in all of these areas helps ensure that they are on the right track to becoming the player they want to be.

### When does this take place?

Initially this takes place during our week of player placement. We do not like to call them tryouts, as there is typically a place for everyone to play. We call them placements because that is exactly what we are doing. We are placing players with other players that are on or close to the same developmental path as other. With that said, just because you are placed with a specific team does not mean it is permanent. The player has to understand the **STEPS** in which they have a deficiency and work hard to improve those areas to change the path they are on.

### Where does this take place?

After a player is placed on a team they are constantly evaluated, by not only their team coach, but he technical staff as well. Players can be, and are, evaluated throughout the season. In our assessment, of a player, our coaches take into account the players daily performance in practice as well as their overall performance during matches and continually compare and contrast to past performances to see how a player is maturing. If at any point a player is showing improvements in these **STEPS** we will find a way to challenge the player to continue their personal growth. Players are always encouraged to attend other training sessions of teams that may keep them challenged and motivated.

### **How do we know if a player is getting better?**

Through constant verbal, visual, and audio feedback. It is the duty of the coach to challenge each player individually and to provide guidance in the areas in which the player needs to improve. Each season every VLSC player receives a written player evaluation, or assessment, on where they stand personally in comparison to the **STEPS**.

Players are also encouraged to seek feedback outside of an evaluation. Ask their coach, or any member of the technical staff. We also provide capabilities for players to view games to personally assess where they stand and the areas in which they have success or deficiency.

### **Why do we use the STEPS?**

If you don't have a standard to which to compare then how do you know if you are succeeding? We constantly use these **STEPS** to make sure our players are competing at the right level of play. It helps us, and players, understand where they fall in the developmental process and provides us with information on areas of focus. We want all of our players to have as much success, as they wish to choose, in the game.