

Excellence in Coaching

NSCAA National Diplomas awarded to four ECU coaches

Contributed by Fred Teutenberg, 2010-11 U10B Coach

You see us working on the soccer fields weekly, amidst a sea of colored cones and bibs. We are employing our craft, teaching the game most of us played and all of us love. If you have wondered about “Coach” and what his/her qualifications are, you are not alone. This is a great question, but one some parents are uncomfortable asking. Read on to learn more.

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) is the “world’s largest single sport coaches’ organization” dedicated to educating and training soccer coaches. The NSCAA offers courses and diplomas/licenses for the beginning recreational coach on up to the professional coach working at the highest national and international levels. The progression of a coach thru the various recreational, state, regional, advanced regional, and ultimately national and premier diplomas typically takes many years of training and experience. Special diplomas for working with Goalkeepers and Youth, and many other special topics are also available from the NSCAA.

I am just back from Tallahassee, along with three other ECU coaches. We each benefited from nearly a week of non-stop training under the tutelage of four excellent NSCAA National Course Directors who flew in from around the nation to share their vast knowledge and experience. Each of us has now earned our National diploma. For some it is their first national license. In my case, I am proudly adding this major accomplishment to my National Youth and National Goalkeeper diplomas. My years of NSCAA training have taken me all over the country from California to Texas to Maryland to Florida. For each coach the path leading to the National Diploma is unique. I encourage you to ask your coach about their training and experience – I think you will be most impressed.

Our ECU Director of Coaching (DOC) Phil Rose was instrumental in bringing this NSCAA National Diploma course to Tallahassee. Phil is the NSCAA State Technical Coordinator for West Florida. Our club and our DOC are committed to coaching excellence and it shows by the quality of our coaching staff and the on-going coaching education.

Impressively, every ECU team coach holds one or more NSCAA national coaching licenses, or an equivalent USSF license. Few soccer clubs have a staff with such credentials. Unless you are a soccer coach you may not fully appreciate how unique and special our club truly is. Perhaps next time you see “Coach” at work you will have a new found appreciation for his or her efforts.