



## DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT CHECKLIST

Deciding whether to stay or move to another club can cause a lot of anxiety for youth soccer parents and players. To help you assess your current environment and restore clarity to your decision-making process, we’ve put together this 12-question “**Development Environment Checklist.**” Players can use the checklist as a self-assessment tool, and parents can use it to help guide their children.

1. Development Signals			
	Yes	No	Sometimes
1. My child is improving technically over time.			
2. My child is encouraged to solve problems independently.			
3. Mistakes are treated as learning moments.			
4. Training sessions are structured and intentional.			
2. Emotional Health Signals			
	Yes	No	Sometimes
5. My child enjoys going to training.			
6. Confidence is growing, not shrinking.			
7. Feedback is constructive, not fear-based.			
8. The environment feels supportive and respectful.			
3. Pathway Alignment Signals			
	Yes	No	Sometimes
9. The club’s stated philosophy matches what happens in practice.			
10. Long-term development plans are transparent and clearly communicated.			
11. If college or elite goals exist, there is realistic guidance.			
12. Playing time decisions are explained clearly.			

### How to Use This Checklist:

- If most answers are “**Yes**”, stability may be serving your child well.
- If many answers are “**Sometimes**”, have a conversation before making a move.
- If several answers are “**No**”, it may be time to evaluate whether a different environment would better support development.

**Important Note:** this checklist isn’t about judging clubs. It’s about helping parents and youth players restore clarity to their decision-making process.

For more youth soccer resources, visit the “**5-Star Resource Center**” on our website.