

**Donald Kennedy**  
ASA Tigresse 2007 (Girls)

**Introduction:** After a 26+ year flying career in the Navy, I recently returned to the area to work at the U.S. Naval Academy. Although I played soccer through high school and some as an adult, I re-connected with the game when my three youngest kids started playing while we lived in London, UK and then in Omaha, Nebraska. While in Nebraska, I began coaching youth soccer, coaching 3 travel teams across 4 seasons. I quickly learned that I really enjoyed working with young players, especially with early skill development and fundamentals of the game. I hold a USSF National E License and have completed the Coerver Youth Coaching Course.

**Philosophy:** My coaching philosophy is fairly simple and straightforward: Put the players first; focus on player skill and character development; and keep the game fun to practice and play.

Although we will strive to put a competitive product on the field, we will judge our success by how we grow and develop our players — their skills, teamwork, and decision-making, and by giving them the space to be creative. (A favorite education quote from Albert Einstein: “I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.”).

To “provide these conditions”, we will run up-tempo, fun, and competitive soccer sessions that focus on basic skill development and the various attacking and defending principles of play. I believe that a Coach should always be a positive voice on the practice field and the sideline. A challenge to always try to “catch a player being brilliant” remains some of the best coaching advice I have received.

**Coaching Experience (5 years):**

- 2017-2018 Assistant Coach, ASA Tigresse 2007 (Girls)
- 2015-2017 Coach, Papillion Soccer Club (NE) 2009 (Boys)
- 2015-2017 Assistant Coach, Papillion Soccer Club (NE) Outlaws 2005 (Boys)
- 2014-2015 Coach, Papillion Soccer Club (NE) Strikers 2005 (Boys)

**Licenses/Coaching Education:**

- USSF National E License
- Coerver Youth Coaching Diploma
- FIFA Referee