

Characteristics of U-12 Players

Physical/Gross Motor Development:

- **Still a little uncoordinated**
- **Soccer skills are being refined.**

Social and Emotional Development:

- **Boys are not sure if they are young men or bigger boys.**
- **Girls are not sure if they are young women or bigger girls.**
- **They both start becoming attracted to the opposite sex.**
- **They have a strong need for recognition from fellow players.**
- **They are starting to develop trust in themselves.**

Cognitive/Thought Development:

- **Some players drop out to pursue other interests.**
- **They find it difficult to control their emotions when under pressure or in adverse conditions.**
- **They have less regard for adult values.**

General:

- **Mental and physical skills are becoming more balanced.**
- **Children at this age are still self critical, so referees must be positive in their approach.**