

Luciane Wentz: Oregon Youth Soccer Association
Girl's Competitive Coach of the Year



United PDX Soccer Club

Luciane, a coach for United PDX Soccer Club, encourages team camaraderie both on and off the field. In June, during the COVID-19 pandemic as people were urged to spend time outside, Lu organized a soccer golf day, surprised a player with her teammates by organizing a socially distanced birthday party in a driveway, and planned a team outing to a “haunted” corn maze. She always encourages hard work while emphasizing having fun in unique ways, like with her annual Halloween costume practices and by wearing a lucky blue IKEA bucket hat for games.

As a coach, Lu empowers the girls on her team and encourages them to make good choices on and off the pitch. She is very knowledgeable and understands how to communicate and teach the girls in a way they understand and can implement while playing. As her players advance and improve, she adjusts her practices so her teams continue to be pushed to develop to their maximum potential.

Recommendations from Parents and Players:

“One of the things that warms my heart as a parent is that she continues to foster a love of the game in our children in a time when many programs are only after wins. Coach Lu balances this strive for excellence on the field with the tempering that what the girls are ultimately going to remember is the fun times that they had as teammates. She connects with the girls in a way I just haven’t seen before. As the girls have grown and entered into this season of High School, she has continued to help them focus on the strategic aspects of the game. Analyzing positions and tactics in practice and with film.”

— Team Parent

“Lu has made soccer practice my favorite part of the week. She knows when to bring us up but also when to put us in place. She never brings you down and will always be there for you. Lu has taught my teammates and I that soccer isn’t just about winning and that we just have to play our game the way we know how to even if that means losing.”

— Player

“She is very good at explaining drills and we rarely have to ask her in the middle of a drill how to do it! She knows how to talk to her players when they make mistakes without yelling and after she talks to them, they don’t usually make that mistake again!”

— Player