



## Mini Soccer – FAQ's

### **What is Mini Soccer?**

Mini Soccer is a game designed to improve our young players appreciation for the game of soccer. We want them to have fun!! By providing an environment in which they get "more touches on the ball" mini soccer allows these youngsters to do just that while at the same time giving them the opportunity to improve their ball skills within the game of soccer (touching the ball more often is always more fun – right?). Teams at this age play only 1 game per week. Usually no regular practices. Games consist of 2 x 20 minute halves with a 10 minute warm-up prior to the start of the game. There are no refs at this age. Coaches are encouraged to share the job of being the ref. Each coach will be the ref for ½ the game. Unfortunately the maximum time you are allowed to be on the field is always 55 minutes. If for some reason the warm-up goes more than 10 minutes coaches will be required to cut down the time in the game.

Mini soccer requires 5 players on the field at a time – 4 players plus a goalie, however... mini soccer is played on ½ a regulation size field. Player changes on the field are a little different than older age groups. Coaches are asked to bring a timer with them – one of the "field coaches" should volunteer to look after time changes – every 3 minutes the coach should blow the whistle to stop the play (try to do this when the ball is in neutral territory). When the whistle blows players on the field should change with the players on the bench. At this age players are usually asked to take turns in all the different positions – including goalie. In mini-soccer the coaches are expected to "coax" the players on the field – that's right – a coach from each team should be on the field assisting their team. The other coach should be on the player bench looking after player changes within the game. We also recommend one of the parents from the crowd assist you with keeping order on the bench & looking after "boo boo's" – freeing up the bench coach to assign positions for players going on to the field of play.

### **How can they play a game on only ½ the field?**

Edmonton Soccer Facilities will erect a temporary wall through the middle of the regulation field during all mini soccer games – they will also take it down after the final game for the "mini's". This means 2 games go on at a time. Teams are asked to switch sides at ½ time so that both teams have an equal opportunity to use the built in goal on one side of the field and the temporary goal on the other side. Four teams will play a game on any one large field at any given time. Some adjustments are required. For this reason we ask that 2 teams share a bench. Two teams must also share a dressing room as assigned by the facility. Side A refers to the Northern most side of the field and Side B refers to the Southern most side of the field.

### **Do we keep stats?**

No. There is no need to fill out game sheets nor is there a need to record the scores in any games played at this level. This is a fun recreational league only.

### **Are there tournaments for this age group?**

We do offer a wind-up Mini Fest for this age group towards the end of the season (see below).

### **Is there any kind of a wind-up at the end of the season? Are there medals or trophies?**

Yes. The Edmonton Minor Soccer Association provides a year-end Mini-Fest. It will be held in February. Participation medals will be awarded to all players along with a few goodies. Please contact Shannon Droeske ([shannond@emsamain.com](mailto:shannond@emsamain.com)) for more information.