



Skills Center U9 4 vs 4 Rules

Covid-19 Restrictions:

All Parents, players, coaches and spectators must adhere to the rules around safe play set out by the Alberta Soccer Association and Facilities. Please see EMSA website for more information.

The Ball:

U-9 Size 4 (Roster size 10-12)

The Time:

20 minute games.

Number of games: 2-4 games

Location: Indoor Boarded Soccer Centers Edmonton

The Field:

Half of the indoor field

Players Benches:

Both teams will share the same bench and dressing room. We recommend all players wear their gear to the facility.

Player Jerseys:

Players wear similar jerseys or pinnies. Numbers do not matter.

Player Changes:

Player changes should be every 3-5 minutes (goalies can be changed at this time)

Number of Players on the Field:

Each team will have 4 players Including 1 goal keeper on the field at any one time.

Ball in and out of Play:

- At the Indoor Centre: If the ball hits the netting or boards then the ball will be placed where it last hit. It will be placed on the ground and kicked into play by the team that did not put the ball out of play. All opposing players must be at least 5 yards away.
- If the ball exits the touchlines (goal keepers ends) then it will be a goal kick. Regardless of who touched it last.
- The goalie or defender must kick the ball outside the crease and the opposing players must be on their half until the kick is made.

Scoring: Goals can be scored from anywhere on the field including the crease.

Goal Crease:

- The goalie is only allowed to use his/her hands inside the crease. If the goalie uses their hands outside of the crease then an In-Direct kick will take place where the infraction occurred.
- All goal kicks will be kicked from within the goal crease

Free Kicks:

For the Skills Centre all kicks will be Indirect. Indirect kicks means that the ball must be passed or touched by another player before a goal can be scored.

Hand-ball:

All intentional handballs will result in the referee awarding an in-direct free kick to the non-offending team. Players must be 5 yards away. Except for infractions within the goal crease at which time the ball will be placed at the top of the crease for an In-Direct free kick. Players can make a "wall" on the goal line.

Aggressive behavior:

Including - pushing, kicking, punching, hitting will result in an In-Direct free kick to the non-offending team, as well as the player sitting for a minimum of 1 full shift (coach's responsibility).

Rotation of Players:

Coaches are encouraged to rotate the players on their team so that every player has an opportunity at each position.

The Coaches:

- One coach from each team can be on the field to help with the flow of the game. Each coach can take one side.
- Coaches or parent from each team will be on the bench to direct the players on to the field.
- On a single gender team there must be a coach the same gender as the players (bench mom or dad).

Half Time:

Due to the creases in the indoor game not being of equal size (on some fields) teams will switch sides after 10 minutes, to give each team an opportunity to have a larger crease.

Retreat Line:

Indoor Center Retreat Line

The Retreat Line will come into effect in three situations during the game:

- A Goal Kick
- A Free Kick to the defending team within its own goal area
- The Goalie has the ball in their hands

At these three restarts, the opposing team is required to move beyond the Retreat Line. The player taking the kick can then pass the ball to one of his/her team-mates without the pressure of an opposing player nearby. When the ball has left the goal area, the play will resume as normal and the "opposing" team can move inside the Retreat Line.

The Retreat Line in Mini Soccer will be the Halfway Line.

If a member of the opposing team comes inside the Retreat Line before the ball has left the goal area and interferes with play, the Coach will stop play and the restart will be retaken.

During the Indoor Soccer Game play on half of the indoor field. The Retreat line is at Half of the field. There are no Clear Markings at this time so please do your best to have your players at half or use disc cones.



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.

Mini soccer requires 4 players on the field at a time – 4 players including 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. 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 can be on the field assisting their team and the referee. The other coach should be on the player bench looking after player changes within the game.

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. We encourage all players come to the field dressed to play. Dressing rooms should not be used.

Do we keep stats?

No. We will unofficially keep tra

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

The Edmonton Minor Soccer Association provides a year-end Mini-Fest normally however, this year it depends on the COVID situation. It is normally held in February. Participation medals will be awarded to all players along with a few goodies. Please contact Martina Menaguale (martinam@emsamain.com) for more information.