

U3 Toddler Soccer Rules

Toddler soccer within the Kitchener Soccer Club is played 4 v 4 without the use of a goal keeper. This format is used for young players in the toddler & micro program to promote multiple touches on the ball, and an enhanced sense of accomplishment and success. Toddler soccer is very non-competitive and; thus, there are no formal playing rules. The total time allocated per session is 30 minutes. Roughly 15 minutes is devoted to warm-up/skill introduction; 10 minutes of straight game play ensues, followed by 5 minutes at the end for a snack.

The following are general guidelines used for game play:

Nets:

The Club has provided all coaches with two orange pylons that will be placed on each end line, nine feet apart, to serve as the nets during game play.

Balls:

KSC has provided every player with 1 size 3 ball. It is the responsibility of each player to bring their soccer ball to all games. The coach will choose one ball to be used as the game ball.

Players and parents, please ensure the ball is properly pumped up during the season. It is advised every player have his/her name printed on the ball so it is not lost. KSC will replace any faulty ball.

Warm-Up/Skill Introduction:

The practice session, referred to here as a warm-up or skill introduction, will focus on fun, and will be used as an opportunity to expose children to the sport of soccer and provide kids with an introduction to basic skills of the game. Coaches are encouraged to demonstrate the fundamentals, such as dribbling, passing and receiving (bearing in mind the age and physical capabilities of the players).

Playing the Game:

The first rule within the toddler program is to have fun! Children do not need complicated rules and elaborate instructions can be discouraging. The principal behind the toddler program is to have participants enjoy playing, strive to improve, and want to continue.

1. The Field: Field dimensions are 30 yards long x 20 yards wide. Each net is 9 feet wide and will be marked with orange pylons. **Every toddler & micro field will be lettered A to F** – check the schedule to see the field on which your child is playing every week.
2. The Team: Teams have a maximum of eight (8) players. There are four (4) players on the field at a time. There are NO goalies in the Toddler Division.
3. Substitutions: Players will be substituted in and out as needed if there are sufficient substitutes. Substitutions should be done regularly (every 2-3 minutes), so players are not sitting out for too long.
4. Offsides: There are no offsides in toddler soccer.
5. Playing Time: There will be a 15 minute warm-up/skill session followed by a 10 minute game. Within each game, all players are to be played equally. There is no half-time structured into the short game and; thus, coaches are encouraged to postpone snack until the end of the session.
6. Coaching: Two coaches from each team will be allowed on the field with the players during the scrimmage. Parent's are asked to refrain from entering the field of play. Coaches and parents may not interfere in the play in any way.
7. Objective: As this is a development-oriented format, the scrimmage is simply there to expose children to game-play. Coaches should encourage touches on the ball and try to develop a mild understanding of field awareness. Having fun and providing positive feedback when a skill has been attempted will be the ultimate goal.