



Youth Outdoor U7-U8 “Mini Paws” Recreational League Rules & Regulations

Revised January 2020

U7-U8 “Mini Paws” Recreational League Rules & Regulations

The Field (36 x 22)

- U7 & U8 soccer games shall be played only on fields designated and assigned by the North Mississauga Soccer Club for the Mini Paws soccer program

Technical Coaches

- The Technical Staff is responsible for supporting and mentoring Volunteer Coaches. Technical Coaches also have the responsibility to run a pre-game soccer activity along with game leading the match. All Technical Coaches will provide feedback, direction and assistance to ensure volunteer coaches are successful in their role.

The Ball

- Size 3 balls will be used at all times

Mandatory Player Equipment

- Shin pads (underneath soccer socks)
- Outdoor soccer cleats
- Club provided jersey, shorts, and soccer socks
- **NO JEWELRY PERMITTED!**

Number of Players

- Each team roster has ten (10) registered players
- NMSC reserves the right to over roster depending on registration numbers
- Games are played with five (5) players per team on the field (4 outfield players and a goalkeeper)
- All players must experience and rotate through all positions

Game Leaders

- Certified Game Leaders (Technical Staff & Volunteer Coaches) will be provided
- The responsibility of a Game Leader is to supervise and encourage the children to play the game correctly and make it a fun learning environment for young players
- If a disagreement occurs regarding issues such as player equipment, coaches, etc. a Game Leader will support FIFA Law 4

Duration of the Game & Playing Time

- Games shall be played with two x 20-minute halves.
- All games will have a half-time break of 5 minutes.
- **Each player must receive equal playing time.**
- No player shall be left on for the entire game (if you are short of players please share with the opposing team)
- Water breaks will be provided at the discretion of the Game Leader

Ball In and Out of Play

- The ball is **in** play:
 - At all other times including when it rebounds into play from a goal post, a cross-bar or Game Leader and remains in the field of play.
- The ball is **out** of play:
 - When the whole of the ball has crossed the goal-line, whether on the ground or in the air.
 - When the play has been stopped by the Game Leader

Method of Scoring

- A goal is scored when the whole ball has crossed over the goal line, between the goal-posts and under the cross-bar and all other Laws of the Game have been followed (eg: no hands, etc.)
- The Game Leader shall be the sole judge as to whether the goal has been scored and his/her decision will be final.
- During the course of play, should any outside agent prevent the ball from passing into the goal or assist the ball into the goal, play shall be stopped. The Game Leader shall restart the game by dropping the ball
- There are no scores or standings as per the Lon-Term Player Development (LTPD) guidelines set by Ontario Soccer

Player Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions are permitted “on the fly” at any time during the game without having to inform the Game Leader
- The only exception to this rule is when a goalkeeper is to be changed. In this case it must be done at a stoppage in play

Pass-ins/Dribble-ins

- If the ball has crossed the touchline, the kicker can pass or dribble the ball back in to play
- The ball must be stationary and placed on or behind the touch line
- The ball is in play when it enters the field of play
- Opposing players must be at least 3 meters away

- The kicker must first touch the ball into the field of play and pass the ball to a team-mate before scoring o If a player scores without the ball being touched a second time, play will restart with a goal kick or corner kick

Penalty Kicks & Offsides

- There shall be no penalty kicks or offsides awarded in the 5v5 game

Retreat Line

- To allow our young players to learn and gain confidence in how to play the ball out from the back and build an attack, as opposed to the goalkeeper/last player kicking it aimlessly up the field, the concept of the retreat line has been introduced to mini soccer.
- What would happen is as follows:
 - When the goalkeeper has the ball at a goal kick or after making a save the opposing team members would “retreat” to the halfway line of the field
 - Once all the opposing players have retreated to the line the goalkeeper can successfully throw or pass the ball to one of his/her teammates. No dropkicks are to be taken
 - Once the teammate has received the ball the opposing players can then start to apply pressure to the player with the ball this gives the player on the ball the time and space required to have a look, receive the ball and choose to dribble or pass to a teammate without being marked or under immediate pressure
- In the 5v5 game the retreat line is the halfway line. As most temporary 5v5 fields will not have a halfway line, corner flags at the side of the field can act as an indicator to the players where the halfway line is. If flags are not available three cones laid in line on each side of the field can indicate the retreat line.
- The Game Leader should ensure the retreat line is visible and in the correct location

Goal Kicks/Dribble In

- A goal kick or dribble in is a method of restarting the play when the ball, having last touched a player of the attacking team, passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air but not between the goal posts and under the crossbar. The ball shall be kicked into play from a point within that half of the penalty area nearest to where the ball crossed the goal line.
- At the taking of a goal kick or dribble in, all opponents shall be behind the retreat line
- If the player taking the goal kick plays or touches the ball a second time before it has been played or touched by another player, the Game Leader will allow them to retake the kick, instructing them not to touch it again before a team mate has touched it.
- If the player taking the goal kick chooses to dribble the ball in, the opposing team may begin their attack from the retreat line as soon as this player begins his/her advance up the field
- A goal may not be scored directly from a goal kick

Corner Kicks

- There will be no corner kicks in the 5v5 game.
- All balls that roll out of bounds over the goal line will be given to the defending team for a goal kick or dribble in.
- The tactic of the defending player to kick the ball out of bounds over their own goal line should be mitigated by the coach

Extreme Heat

- When the weather is extremely hot, the Game Leader will provide a water break in the middle of each game half. This is for the sole purpose of giving **only** those players on the field some water. It is not to be used for coaching or other purposes.