



# HANDBOOK FOR COACHES, PLAYERS & PARENTS

## 2024 SEASON



## A WORD FROM THE WMSA EXECUTIVE

Dear Parents and Coaches,

Welcome to our 2024 season for Walden Minor Soccer. This handbook provides you with useful information regarding policies, soccer rules and so on for returning and new parents, players and coaches. We especially encourage coaches to read this handbook. Further information can be found on our webpage: [www.waldenminorsoccer.ca](http://www.waldenminorsoccer.ca).

Last year approximately 530 young people played on 41 teams. It takes a tremendous amount of work to run a league of this magnitude. **All the work is undertaken by volunteers.** We would encourage all families to assist in some way in helping to make the league run successfully for 2024. WMSA is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest soccer association in the City of Greater Sudbury due to strong support and commitment from our community.

Our Executive supports local businesses, and we hope you will too. Please take time to thank our sponsors who help WMSA keep the cost of recreational soccer low. All are community-minded businesses who support the children in this area and love the game of soccer.

In an effort to become more environmentally friendly, WMSA has created a website to pass information to our parents, coaches, referees and sponsors. Please regularly check our website for updates. Based on the success of last year, parents are encouraged to sign up for email updates in the event of a weather cancellation. We encourage you to visit [www.waldenminorsoccer.ca](http://www.waldenminorsoccer.ca) often.

As always, we encourage fair play in a friendly sporting environment where learning the sport and enjoying the company of friends as well as finding new friends is paramount. We do not subscribe to creating an intensely competitive environment but instead want to see all participants back the following year and having fun as well as getting plenty of exercise. We trust that all parents, players and coaches alike will help support our ideals. Most of all, we hope everybody has fun.

***2024 WMSA Executive***



## SPONSORS

Walden Minor Soccer would like to thank all our 2024 sponsors for helping us keep costs down and supporting youth soccer in Walden. Please generously support our sponsors! Here is a listing of 2024 sponsors:

- Roger & Nancy's YIG
- Power North
- Lions Club
- A10 Fabrication
- Stanley Roofing
- Sudbury Credit Union
- Montana's
- Tim Horton's
- Kelsey's
- Roberts Electrical
- Roofing Done Right
- Lavigne Athletic Therapy
- Northern Metal Works
- Lively Chiropractic



## SPECIAL NOTES FOR PARENTS

Please note these guidelines are for your child's safety and enjoyment:

1. **All children must have shin guards and cleats or running shoes to play.** This is compulsory. For older age groups (Under 10 and up) cleats are recommended. Shin guards are to be worn under the socks (not over the socks).
2. Bring water and snacks to the game, especially on hot days because kids can get quite exhausted. Organization of snacks is up to the discretion of the individual coaches.
3. Hats and jewelry are not to be worn during play. Chewing gum during play is also not permitted. This is for your child's safety, the safety of others, and league insurance purposes.
4. Don't forget your sunscreen and bug repellent.
5. Please remember our referees are also young and learning the game. Mistakes will be made – but their decision is the one that counts and must be respected. Your encouragement will only help them develop.
6. This is also a learning experience for many coaches who offer their time to organize your child's team and may be involved for the first time. They are looking for your help not criticism.
7. Sometimes games get cancelled due to weather, air quality, and field conditions. Games usually go ahead during most rain showers, unless damage to the field is likely. Sign up for the weather update on our website at [www.waldenminorsoccer.ca](http://www.waldenminorsoccer.ca) to get an email notification prior to game time. You can find out at the same time as your coach if the game is cancelled.
8. Hard casts are not permitted on the field. Hard casts are considered to pose a danger to both the wearer and to other players. The practice of padding a hard cast does not reduce the element of danger. Players wearing a soft, lightweight cast will be permitted to play if the cast does not present a danger to either the individual or any other player. (CSA Policy)



## WMSA Weather Policy 2024

**Notice:** At any time, a parent/guardian can withdraw their child from play if they feel the weather, temperature, humidity, air quality, or field conditions are not safe. Always use your own caution over WMSA policy.

- **Local Lightning Strikes**
  - Lighting strike forecasts can change at a moment's notice.
  - Game cancellations due to local lightning strikes are made on field by the Referee, in consultation with team Coaches.
  - U3/U4 game cancellations due to local lightning strikes are made on field by the Coaches.
  - *Reminder:* at any time, a parent/guardian can withdraw their child from play if they feel the weather is threatening.
  
- **Heat & Humidity (Feels Like)**
  - 34°C or above; inclusive of wet-bulb globe temperature (humidex)
  - 6:00 PM Games
    - 6:00 PM Forecast conditions for Sudbury, issued at 4:00 PM
    - If the temperature/humidex forecast will be 34°C or higher, 6:00 PM games will be cancelled.
  - 7:15 PM Games
    - 7:00 PM Forecast conditions for Sudbury, issued at 5:00 PM
    - If the temperature/humidex forecast will be 34°C or higher, 7:15 PM games will be cancelled.
  
- **Air Quality Health Index (AQHI)**
  - AQHI Forecast Maximums 7 or above, strenuous activities outdoors not advised.
  - 6:00 PM Games
    - 6:00 PM [Forecast conditions for Sudbury](#), issued at 4:00 PM
    - If AQHI forecast is 7 or higher, 6:00 PM games will be cancelled
  - 7:15 PM Games
    - 7:00 PM [Forecast conditions for Sudbury](#), issued at 5:00 PM
    - AQHI forecast is 7 or higher, 7:15 PM games will be cancelled
  
- **Field Conditions - City of Greater Sudbury (CGS)**
  - The City of Greater Sudbury will advise WMSA when there may be damage caused to the fields due to wet conditions, or when the fields are not safe for play.
  - All games scheduled that night will be announced as cancelled.



## Walden Minor Soccer Association (WMSA) – Soccer Handbook

Bookmark the Walden Minor Soccer website for weather updates, or sign up to receive email updates on weather cancellations at:

[www.waldenminorsoccer.ca](http://www.waldenminorsoccer.ca)

### KEY DATES FOR THE 2024 SEASON:

Coach meeting:	Tuesday, May 14 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:00Pm. Kinsmen Sports Complex
Season start:	Wednesday May 22 <sup>nd</sup> (U3, U6, U10, U15) Thursday, May 23 <sup>rd</sup> (U4, U8, U12)
Soccer once per week:	Monday July 3 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday July 28 <sup>th</sup> (Wednesdays only – U6, U10, U15) (Thursdays only – U4, U8, U12)
Soccer twice per week:	Monday July 29 <sup>th</sup> (resumes)
Year-end Banquet:	Wed July 31 <sup>st</sup> – U3, U6, U10, U15 Thurs Aug 1 <sup>st</sup> – U4, U8, U12
Annual General Meeting:	Season Wrap Up- September



## FIELDS

### ***Naughton Community Centre:***

Located on the south side of Regional Road 55 in Naughton between Mary and Kathleen Streets.





## Walden Minor Soccer Association (WMSA) – Soccer Handbook

### ***Kinsmen Sports Complex***

Hillcrest Drive, Mikkola Subdivision, off Hwy 55

A field: Closest to the baseball diamond

B field: Central field

C field: South end, left at the stop sign on Hillcrest (C for “Clubhouse”)







### GUIDELINES FOR COACHES

- The equipment provided to you is the property of Walden Minor Soccer Association. Please look after it and return it at the end of the season.
- The coach of each team is responsible for the safety and well-being of the players on his/her team and must ensure that all activities the team or individual players are involved in must adhere to WMSA policies for insurance purposes.
- Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or for losing. Remember that sometimes a raised voice can be mistaken for yelling instead of cheering.
- Coaches must give all players equal field time at all games, including during play-offs.
- The home team is responsible for the game ball. Please contact your Convenor if you need a new ball for this purpose.
- For Mini Soccer the coach has the right to enter the field of play during the game without the referee's permission if he or she feels that the condition of a player needs to be addressed.
- For Full Field soccer the coach has to obtain the permission of the referee to enter the field of play game if he or she feels that the condition of a player needs to be addressed.
  - At this time the referee will stop the play to allow the coach to attend to an injured player.
  - Only the players and referees are allowed on the field during play.
- In the case of a penalty kick, a player on the field at the time of the infraction must take the penalty kick.
- Game scores: It is your responsibility as coaches to phone the Convenor for your age group with the game results.
- Please encourage your team to shake hands in a sportsmanlike manner with the other team when the game finishes.
- We would like to stress that bullying (verbal or physical) will not be tolerated at our soccer events.
- If bullying is recognized by the referee or coach, then a game expulsion may be handed out.
- A repeat offense may result in suspension from our league.



## **BEFORE THE FIRST GAME**

These pointers will help you create an enjoyable atmosphere in your games. Please stress these points to your players:

- No touching the ball with your hands
- Demonstrate how the proper throw-in technique then practice them (kick-ins for U6 and U8)
- No pushing or rough play and stress fair play at all times
- Shake hands with the other team at the end of the game

Try to get as many parents as possible on your team involved as Assistant Coaches or volunteers (treat scheduler, game sheet coordinator).

With the permission of your parents, consider issuing a list of names and phone numbers of all players on your team.

Remind parents of their role as a positive role model for players (i.e., no smoking on the fields or yelling at referees and children). As Coach, you will be the mediator of your parents, spectators, team fans and team supporters.

## **MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

Please note any special medical conditions of players on your team. This may include food allergies such as nuts or citrus. Please discuss these conditions with the child's parents to determine what type of team awareness is best.

## **FIRST AID & EMERGENCY PLAN**

- Parents should ensure that the coach is aware of any special medical condition and what actions may be required. In some cases, the parent may have to be at every game. (Please note that WMSA is a recreational league and coaches are not responsible for children at the field. It is the parent's responsibility to supervise children at all times.)
- If puffers are used, please discuss with the Coach appropriate use, to avoid overuse by players. Food allergies should be communicated in private with the Coach so that other parents are aware of appropriate food to bring.
- Coaches and parents should know what actions would be taken in the event of a serious accident or injury.
- If a player cannot move a joint, do not move it for them. Let them move on their own. If in doubt, keep in a stationary position and call an ambulance.



## EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE REGISTERED

Coaches have been provided with a list of all those on their team who have been registered and paid. No one else is allowed to play. Because a player's registration must be entered into the Ontario Soccer Association database, new players cannot be allowed on the field until the coach has been formally advised by the Convenor.

Anyone who helps on the field must complete the *Registration Form for Coaches & Assistants Coaches* and be formally registered in the OSA database. Coaches should be encouraged to have one or two of the parents complete the registration form if there is a chance they may be asked to fill in as coach for even one game this season. Please contact your Convenor for more copies of the form or download it at [www.waldenminorsoccer.ca](http://www.waldenminorsoccer.ca).

## HARASSMENT POLICY

Walden Minor Soccer Association will not tolerate harassment of any kind. We support the *OSA Harassment Policy*, and encourage all coaches to review it. Our goal is to act in ways that strive to protect the health and well-being of all players, coaches, and officials.

All coaches, assistant coaches and other officials shall follow these guidelines:

- Shall never be alone with a player
- Shall be a role model – no drugs, alcohol, smoking or abusive language at practices/games
- Shall demonstrate, set and maintain standards for players (e.g. respect, self-discipline, fair play)
- Shall ensure a supportive and positive atmosphere for players, where all contributions and skill levels are respected and all players are given equal field time
- Shall be aware of the rules of the game and comply with these rules
- Shall respect the officials and ensure players do the same
- Shall adhere to all OSA and WMSA policies, values and principles



### PHOTOGRAPHS

The registration fee paid by each player entitles them to a team photo and an individual photo. Your coach will be contacted by the photographer to arrange a time for your team's photo. We ask that parents try to ensure that players are there on time. If a parent wishes to have additional photos, they can make arrangements with the photographer directly.

### DISCIPLINE PROTOCOLS

**U3 to U10:** These age groups will not be using formal soccer discipline practices. Any kids who are rough and bully must be spoken to by the coach and removed from the field if they don't understand what cannot be tolerated. Referees will stop the game for this opportunity to consult with the player.

**U12 and up:** These age groups will use formal soccer discipline practices. Referees will issue a yellow card (caution) for inappropriate actions (bullying, dangerous play, repeated handballs by the same player, etc.). Repeated offences by the same player could result in a red card being issued (sending off). The sent off player cannot be replaced, and the team will play shorthanded for the rest of the game. Any red or yellow cards (U12 and above) will be subject to a discipline hearing, which may include additional games lost depending on the offence (i.e., fighting).

The WMSA will not tolerate abuse of referees by coaches or team parents.

Please note coaches and assistant coaches (all age groups) are also subject to disciplinary action should the referee feel that such actions are warranted.

### INSURANCE COVERAGE

Our insurance policy covers only those events related to regular soccer activities. Anything planned with your team before or after the game, practices or games that are not sanctioned are not covered by our insurance policy. Also, parents cannot take part in scrimmage games.

In the event of a serious injury to a player (sprain, broken limb, other notable bodily injury) you will need to fill in the Injury Report forms. Your Convenor must also be notified that same night.



## COACH SCREENING

WMSA requires coaches in all the divisions to have police checks every 3 years.

## COACH TRAINING

1. Review of [WMSA Coach's Resources](#)
2. [Coaching & Assistant Coaching Registration Form](#)
3. Police Vulnerable Sector Check
4. Ontario Soccer Coach Training

### **1. Review of [WMSA Coach's Resources](#)**

Without your help, WMSA could not be the successful league that we are. Thank you for committing your time and energy to helping kids have fun and learn soccer in Walden.

WMSA Coaches are to review and be familiar with the WMSA Coach's Resources (<https://waldenminorsoccer.ca/coaches>).

### **2. Coaching & Assistant Coaching Registration Form**

Coaches are **required** to complete the [WMSA Coaching & Assistant Coaching Registration Form](#). For the purposes of insurance for the Coach and the League, Walden Minor Soccer Association is required to provide a registry of all coaches and coaching assistants, including the required following information, to the Ontario Soccer Association.

Coaches are not permitted to instruct players or take the field until these steps are completed for League Insurance purposes.

### **3. Police Vulnerable Sector Check**

All WMSA Coaches are required to have a valid Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC), **issued within the last 3 years**. Coaches can check their Greater Sudbury Police record check issue dates, or complete the Police Vulnerable Sector Check (PVSC) online:

<https://www.gsps.ca/en/request-for-information/police-record-checks.aspx>

Note the following:

- Level 3: Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) - Volunteer (\$27), Expedited Volunteer (\$63)
- WMSA will reimburse all Coaches via e-transfer payments to the Coach's email address



## Walden Minor Soccer Association (WMSA) – Soccer Handbook

- When the completed and verified Vulnerable Sector Check is received, send it to your League Convenor, and update the [WMSA Coaching & Assistant Coaching Registration Form](#).

Coaches are not permitted to supervise, interact with players until these steps are completed.

### **4. Ontario Soccer Coach Training**

In harmony with the Club licensing update with respect to Safe Sport, Canada Soccer also introduced the “Modified” Safe Sport Roster, which identifies changes to coach education requirements.

The requirement ensures coaches receive the minimum standard of training and education, thereby ensuring all players have a safe environment in which to participate, regardless of age, stage or level.

**All WMSA Coaches are required to complete the following two (2) training:**

- **Respect in Sport - For Activity Leaders**
- **Canada Soccer Grassroots Coach Education – Coaching Soccer in Canada Module**

### ***Respect in Sport - For Activity Leaders***

Ontario Soccer has partnered with the Respect Group to provide online education for coaches, referees and parents to help create a safe, healthy, and positive environment for children and youth involved in soccer. The Respect in Sport Program assists coaches, referees, trainers and managers with identifying and dealing with abuse, neglect, harassment and bullying in sport.

The online course costs \$30, is divided into six modules, and can be completed at the user's own pace.

<https://ontariosoccer.respectgroupinc.com/>

Register account with:

- Association
  - Sudbury Regional Soccer Association
    - Walden Minor S.C.

Walden Minor Soccer Association does not provide pre-registration codes for the course.

Once the course is completed, send it to your League Convenor, and update the [WMSA Coaching & Assistant Coaching Registration Form](#). WMSA will provide e-transfer reimbursement, once proof of certification is submitted to your League Convenor.



## Walden Minor Soccer Association (WMSA) – Soccer Handbook

Further directions for the *Respect in Sport - For Activity Leaders* follow in the next sections.

### **Canada Soccer Grassroots Coach Education – Coaching Soccer in Canada Module**

The Coaching Soccer in Canada Module is available only as the introduction module to any of the Grassroots Coach Education Program (GCE) workshops. These workshops are accessible here:

<https://canada-soccer.myshopify.com/collections/grassroots-coaching-education-program>

- Active Start (for coaching players aged U4-U5)
- FUNdamentals (for coaching players aged U6-U9)
- Learn to Train (for coaching players aged U9-U12)
- Soccer for Life (for coaching players aged U13+)

Note that:

- WMSA Coaches can select any of the four (4) GCE modules above, and are not required to select the applicable coaching age range
- access to the Coaching Soccer in Canada Module, is from selecting **any** of the 4 GCE workshops.
- WMSA coaches / assistant Coaches only need to complete the **Coaching Soccer in Canada Module**: which is only the first third of any of the 4 GCE workshop.

Coaches are welcome to complete the other modules and participate in on-field training **at their own cost**. Greater Sudbury S.C. is hosting practical components of courses the Lionel Lalonde Centre in Greater Sudbury (Azilda). Interested coaches can sign up at: [Coach Centre](#), with payment to [info@gssc.ca](mailto:info@gssc.ca).

Once the mandatory Coaching Soccer in Canada Module (the first part) is completed, send it to your League Convenor, and update the [WMSA Coaching & Assistant Coaching Registration Form](#). WMSA will provide e-transfer reimbursement, once proof of certification is submitted to your League Convenor.

**Further directions for the Canada Soccer Grassroots Coach Education – Coaching Soccer in Canada Module follow in the next sections.**



### **The Basics!**

Soccer teams move a ball along a field by dribbling, passing, heading, and kicking. The object is to score goals. A goal counts as one point and is scored when the soccer ball completely crosses the opposing goal line between the posts and under the crossbar. The team scoring the greater number of goals in the allotted time wins the game.

### ***What's Needed?***

A soccer ball - usually 28 inches in circumference (leagues for younger players may use smaller soccer balls) - soccer cleats, shin guards, a soccer jersey, shorts, socks, and gloves (for the goalkeeper).

### ***How Long Is A Game?***

A soccer game is divided into two halves. Depending on league rules, a half may range from twenty to forty-five minutes, with a ten-minute break in between. The game begins with a “kickoff” at the center circle with each team positioned on its own side of the field. Teams switch sides at halftime. If a game ends in a tie, the contest is declared a draw. Length of games in WMSA are listed on page 17.

### ***Get A Kick Out Of This!***

Center Kickoff - Starts play at the beginning of both halves and after every goal. It is a kick taken from the center circle in which a player from the kicking team strikes the ball forward to his or her own teammate.

Corner Kick - Takes place when the defensive team has kicked the ball “out-of-bounds” over its own end line. The corner kick is taken by a player on the attacking team from the “corner arc” nearest to where the ball left the field.

Goal Kick - A kick taken by a defensive player (often the goalie) after the offensive team has kicked the ball out-of-bounds over the end line. The goal kick is taken from within the goal area and must clear the penalty area before another defensive player is allowed to touch it.





## Offside and Other No-No's!

Rules regulate player conduct and how the ball may be played. When a player commits a foul, a penalty is called. Depending on the severity, degree of intent, and location of the foul, the referee will award either a “free kick” or a penalty kick to the opposing team. A player commits a foul if he or she kicks, hits, pushes, holds, charges, or trips an opponent, or touches the ball with his or her hands - whether intentional or not.

**Offside** - Called against the offense when one of its players moves without the ball behind the last line of defense, with only the goalie separating the player from the goal. When a teammate passes the ball forward to this player or shoots on goal, the violation occurs and results in an “indirect” free kick for the defense.

**Hand Ball** - No player, other than the goalie, may touch a ball in play with his or her hands or arms. This violation awards the opposing team a “direct” free kick.

**Holding and Tripping** - If a player deliberately holds or uses any part of his or her body to trip an opposing player, a direct kick is awarded to the fouled player.

**High Kick** - A violation on a player who swings his or her foot close to and above the waist of an opposing player. This foul generally results in a direct kick.

**Free Kick (Indirect or Direct)** - Awarded as the result of a foul. Depending on the degree and severity of the foul, and at the discretion of the referee, a direct or indirect kick is taken by the non-offending team. Generally, a free kick is taken from the spot where the foul occurred, and no opposing player may be within ten yards of the ball before it is kicked.

**Indirect Kick** - A free kick awarded for less serious rule infractions such as an offside. A goal may not be scored off an indirect kick until the ball touches at least one other player from either team.

**Direct Kick** - Awarded on more serious or deliberate infractions such as tripping and holding. It is a free kick aimed directly at the goal. The player taking the kick may score a goal without the ball first touching any other player.

**Penalty Kick** - A kick awarded to the attacking team when a defending player commits a major foul or a hand ball within his or her own 18-yard penalty area. The resulting shot is taken from the penalty mark; only the kicker and goalie may be in the penalty area during this kick. The goalie may not move off the goal line until the ball has been touched by the kicker.

**Yellow Card** - A caution warning issued by the referee to any player



## Walden Minor Soccer Association (WMSA) – Soccer Handbook

who commits a severe foul or plays in an unsportsmanlike manner.

**Red Card** - If a player has already received a yellow card or commits an overly aggressive foul, the referee will issue a red card, removing that player for the duration of the game. The player receiving a red card may not be replaced, and his or her team must play with one less player for the remainder of the game.

For more information, visit our website at [www.waldenminorsoccer.ca](http://www.waldenminorsoccer.ca) and visit Soccer Simplified.

## COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

The following rules will apply to the composition of teams and requests for children to play together:

1. Children of coaches and assistant coaches will play on their parent's team.
2. Siblings in the same division can play together.
3. Children of individuals who own businesses sponsoring a team will be permitted to play on the team sponsored by the parent's business.
4. Convenors will endeavor to accommodate requests for children of parents employed by a business or organization sponsoring a team to play on their employer's team.
5. While Convenors will endeavor to accommodate requests by children to play together, there is no guarantee that requests will be addressed. In putting together teams, Convenors' first priority will be to have teams balanced in terms of gender, age, experience, etc.

## Games

A ten (10) minute grace is allowed before a game is forfeited by a team for not showing up.

When a game is forfeited by one team, the score shall be recorded as a 1-nil loss for the forfeiting team; when a game is forfeited by both teams, the score shall be recorded as a loss for each team.

Three points will be awarded for a win, one point for a tie and no points for a loss. The final standings will be decided on head-to-head record between the tied teams (number of wins) then on goals conceded for all games during the regular season.



## Walden Minor Soccer Association (WMSA) – Soccer Handbook

The following lengths of game are recommended:

Under 3:	Development only, no games
Under 4:	Development only, scrimmage games
Under 6:	30 minutes practice/30 minutes game
Under 8 & 10:	2 x 25-minute halves
Under 12:	2 x 30-minute halves
Under 15:	2 x 35-minute halves

The normal complement of players to be fielded is:

Under 4:	8 players (3 vs 3 scrimmages only)
Under 6:	7 players (6 + 1 goalkeeper)
Under 8:	7 players (6 + 1 goalkeeper)
Under 10:	7 players (6 + 1 goalkeeper)
Full fields:	11 players (10+1 goalkeeper)

A team must field a minimum numbers of players, or the game is forfeited:

Under 4:	Development only, no games
Under 6:	6 players (5 + 1 goalkeeper)
Under 8:	6 players (5 + 1 goalkeeper)
Under 10:	6 players (5 + 1 goalkeeper)
Full fields:	7 players (6 + 1 goalkeeper)

For all divisions, there will be 4 or 5 designated practice nights (instead of games) scheduled throughout the season.



## Walden Minor Soccer Association (WMSA) – Soccer Handbook

1. When a team has fewer than the normal complement and more than the minimum but less than the opposing team, the coaches may agree that the team with fewer players can sit out 1 or more spares with each team playing equal numbers. When the coaches cannot agree, the team with fewer players shall play all players present. The team with a full complement can choose to play a full complement even when the other team is short. The team with the shorter complement can choose to forfeit the game and play a scrimmage, using players of the opposite team to equalize their number of players.
2. It is the responsibility of the home team coach to prepare the score sheet, have the visiting team fill it in and give it to the referee for the starting time of the game.
3. It is the responsibility of the winning coach (or designate) to phone in the score of a game to the Division Convenor within 24 hours where possible. If the score has not been reported within 7 days of the game being played, then BOTH teams will receive zero points for the game in question.
4. In the event of a tied game, BOTH coaches (or designates) must phone the score of a game to the Division Convenor within 24 hours where possible. If the score has not been reported within 7 days of the game being played, then BOTH teams will receive zero points for the game in question.
5. It is the responsibility of the referee to deliver the score sheet to the Referee-In-Chief or Treasurer to ensure payment for the game.
6. If the game is to be cancelled for any reason, the Coach must call the Division Convenor as early as possible.
7. If the referee, at his or her sole discretion, cancels a game due to threatening weather prior to completion of the 1st half, the game will be recorded as a tie.
8. If the referee, at his or her sole discretion, cancels a game due to threatening weather during the 2nd half or overtime, the game shall be deemed complete and the score at the time the game is called shall be the final score.
9. If a play-off game in progress is cancelled due to threatening weather, or is cancelled due to weather, an attempt will be made to reschedule the game. If the game cannot be rescheduled, a tie will be awarded for both teams.
10. Unlimited substitutions may be made at the discretion of the referee at any time there is an out-of-bounds or stoppage in play except when a corner kick has been awarded.
11. When there is 3 minutes or less left in either half the referee has the right to refuse a substitution if, in his or her opinion, the request is an effort to waste time.



## PLAYOFF FORMAT

### *Round Robin format*

Where possible, the format employed for playoffs prior to finals day will be of the round robin format and the following guidelines will apply:

1. Teams are to be divided into one or more groups as deemed necessary by the Convenor;
2. Each team is to play the other teams in the same group at least once;
3. Three points will be awarded for a win, one point for a tie, zero points for a loss;
4. A team that defaults will be considered to have lost and receive zero points;
5. There will be no overtime played during round robin format;
6. If a game cancelled by weather cannot be rescheduled, the game will be considered a tie with one point awarded to each team.
7. Final standings will be determined as follows:
  - Total points
  - Goals difference (goals for less goals against)
  - Goals for
  - Head-to-head result
  - Toss of a coin between coaches performed by Division

### **Games Requiring a Winner**

If a playoff game requiring one team to win (semi-final, final, consolation final) is tied at the end of regulation time, then “sudden death” becomes effective, and the following rules will be observed:

1. A 5-minute rest period shall be held.
2. Substitutions will be allowed throughout the overtime period.
3. Teams are to play with a full complement of players.
4. Overtime will be settled by a sudden death goal (golden goal) or on penalty kicks if there is no decision in the overtime period.
5. Teams are to change ends at the end of regulation time and at the end of each half of the overtime period.
6. The following time periods will be played:
  - For mini field games two x 5-minute halves
  - For full field games two x 10-minute halves
7. If there is no deciding result at the end of the overtime period, then the game will be decided on penalty kicks.
8. Each coach is to select five players (which may include the goalkeeper) to take penalty kicks. Penalty kicks are to take place at the same end of the field.
9. All non-participating players are to remain in the centre circle area of the field.



## Walden Minor Soccer Association (WMSA) – Soccer Handbook

10. Each team will alternate penalty kicks until all five players have taken their kicks or until it becomes clear that it is not necessary to take all five.
11. If the score is still tied each coach will nominate one extra player for alternating sudden death kicks until one team scores and the other misses. The players selected cannot be repeated until all available players have taken kicks.

### PLAYING IN OLDER AGE GROUPS

If a coach in a higher age group seeks to fill his/her team's complement with children playing in a lower age group, the following must apply:

- This option can only be used for OCCASIONAL games to fill vacancies etc.
- The opportunity to play up must be afforded to all children who have shown an interest in wanting to do so.
- A player registered in one age group can play a maximum of three games in an older age group.
- Players who are registered in a team in an age group up from their eligible age cannot play back down in the younger age group even if they are eligible to do so.
- The Division Convenor must be informed before this happens and the Convenor will decide on who is available to play up.

Players in the Under 6, Under 8 and Under 10 age groups play on mini fields, where some of the rules are different than in soccer that is played on full fields. Please note the following differences:

1. There are no offsides in mini soccer.
2. There are no throw-ins in U6 or U8. When the ball goes out of bounds along the sides, the ball shall be kicked in from the point where it left the field of play by a member of the team opposing that of the player who last touched it.
3. No pass back infractions to the goalkeeper will be called.
4. In U6 and U8, all kicks will be indirect, which means the ball must be touched by a player other than the kicker before going in the net.
5. There will be no penalty kicks in U6 and U8.
6. No handballs will be called in U6 unless there is a deliberate attempt to stop a clear scoring opportunity.
7. In U6 and U8, in the event of long periods of play with no stoppage opportunity to make substitutions, the referee may stop play in midfield when there is no clear advantage to one team or the other to allow a substitution and resume play with a dropped ball from the same location.



## Walden Minor Soccer Association (WMSA) – Soccer Handbook

In 2011, WMSA introduced a U4 Development division, and in 2024 WMSA introduced a U3 Development division.

Soccer contributes to the well-being of children by engaging them in the sport while teaching them the basic movements. At this introductory level, the objective is to get moving and to keep active.

**Physical** – Provide the environment for learning proper fundamental movement skills such as running, jumping, twisting, kicking, throwing and catching.

**Technical** – The player and the ball – dribbling, kicking and shooting.

**Tactical** – None.

**Mental** – Fun, fascination, and passion for play.

1. No games will be played in U3/U4 (no referees). 3 vs 3 scrimmages are permitted.
2. Maximum of 8 children per team.
3. Only children who are 4 years old in the year are eligible for this division.
4. Children who are 4 years of age will not be permitted to play up one division.
5. As a development league, children will work on gross motor skills and play games to encourage a future love of soccer.
6. All children are encouraged to bring a ball to games, to ensure that there is enough equipment for everyone.
7. Coaches will focus on games which may not seem directly related to soccer. A coaching manual will be provided with lesson plans to assist our coaches in being successful with this age group.
8. Development will be at the Kinsmen Sports Club on the A Field/
9. For more information and examples of drills to be used in the U4 Development league, please visit: [Active Start Website](#)



## **LATE REGISTRATIONS**

There will be a \$20.00 late registration fee charged for registrations received after April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## ***REFUNDS***

If a refund is requested before the season starts, a full refund (minus an administrative fee) will be granted.

If a player withdraws before June 15<sup>th</sup>, a refund of 50% will be granted, provided the full uniform is returned.

No refunds will be granted after June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Any player who registers with WMSA and tries out for a competitive team will receive a full refund if they make their competitive team and choose not to play in the WMSA.

**The administration fee for 2024 will be \$25.00.**

Note that the administration fee will also be charged on all NSF cheques.