

MAKING OUR GREAT GAME EVEN BETTER

The changes your children may be experiencing on the field (and that you are noticing as a parent) are aimed at making the soccer experience our Clubs deliver even better than ever for all youngsters involved in the game at every age.



WHY SOCCER IS CHANGING

- We want to make soccer so much fun that we keep players in the game for the rest of their lives.
- If we teach the fundamentals to children between the ages of 5–12 they will have the technical skills to help them fall in love with the game.
- We are helping to develop healthy, active children – the benefits extend beyond soccer and include creating a healthier nation.

GOALS OF GRASSROOTS SOCCER

- To ensure this first experience is fun and enjoyable and revolves around child-friendly soccer.
- To provide an opportunity for players to use their imaginations and learn through trial and error.
- To offer Age and Stage appropriate development activities with improved playing formats such as 5 v 5, 7 v 7 and 9 v 9, with ball and field size appropriate to physical stage development.
- To educate Coaches so they will make the soccer experience a challenging and nurturing one for all young players.

PLAYER BENEFITS

- We want to give every player the best opportunity to play soccer and remain active for life. This is the most important part of the player pathway. This is where we give children their first experience in soccer.
- Playing small-sided games allows for more touches on the ball and opportunities to make more decisions in practices and games.
- Social/emotional and psychological skills are also nurtured to help develop happy, healthy youngsters.

ROLE OF THE PARENT

- Always remember the game is for the kids—not for adults—and to let them play their game!
- Don't coach from the sidelines and to simply relax and enjoy watching them play.
- Support all players and to be a positive role model.
- Ask questions and become informed about Long Term Player Development (LTPD).



Our grassroots programs at the community Club level have always been and will continue to be the backbone of youth soccer in Ontario. Whether a youngster plays purely for fun and fitness, or aspires to a future in the game, the early ages are truly the “golden age” when it comes to developing soccer skills.

By creating an environment where our young players are mentored by qualified coaches and learn to develop their skills by becoming confident and comfortable on the ball, players will enjoy the youth soccer experience more than ever before—and stay in the game for life.

LTPD CHAMPIONS

If you'd like to know more about why we have initiated a new approach to teaching the game at the early ages, ask your Club to arrange a special session with one of our LTPD Champions. These experienced soccer leaders are well qualified to address any questions you may have.

In the meantime, we invite you to review the content of this brochure, which briefly outlines the rationale for a player-centered approach to coaching and individual athlete development. If you have any questions at all about LTPD and what it means for your child, speak with your child's coach, your local Club representatives or contact us at the OSA at



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