

		U6 – U10 Program Policy
Status: Adopted May 2009		Revised:

Background

The PMSC Executive authorized the Executive Director to conduct a review of both our Boys and Girls U6 – U10 programs and bring back a recommendation on how we should operate these age groups, starting with the 2009/10 Season. The recommendations were presented for discussion and approval by the Executive at their May 12, 2009 meeting.

All age group Coordinators, Directors and Vice Presidents, along with some coaches identified by their Coordinators were asked to respond by email to a list of questions and send their responses to everyone. Once everyone had an opportunity to respond, a meeting was held to review all comments and attempt to come to a consensus.

Responses were requested from the following: Peter Bridge, Bill Trenaman, Michael Madsen, Steve Ashley, Aaron Macdonald, Ed Daniels, Max Kean, Dina McMahon, Jay Lang, Janet Kennedy, Kirsten Schwartz-Anderson, Ester Day, Aline Kornatowsky, Murray Seward, Gary Kern, Greg Schwartz, Shane McMahon. The meeting was attended by Kirsten Schwartz-Anderson, Janet Kennedy, Jay Lang, Gary Kern, Ed Daniels, Steve Ashley, Aaron Macdonald, Michael Madsen and Bob Favelle.

These recommendations will form the foundation of a new approach to both boys and girls U6 – U10 Programs.

Philosophy

The goal of these age groups should be entirely focused on individual player development, ensuring fun and equal participation for all players. To ensure this goal, all players should play at least 50% of the game times, and try all team positions. Our game formats should progress from 3v3 to 7v7 as we move thru the age groups. We also recognize that as developmental readiness is different for all children, we need to ensure that all players are challenged regardless of their level; this includes beginners thru rudimentary and advanced development. Lastly, we need to provide our coaches with the necessary information and resources to ensure the success of the Program.

Team Size and Game Format

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|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| U6 – Play 3v3* | Roster size = 8 players per team |
| U7 – Play 4v4* | Roster size = 8 players per team |
| U8 – Play 4v4 or 5v5 includes a Goalie* | Roster Size = 10 players per team |
| U9 & U10 – Play 7v7 includes a Goalie | Roster Size = 10-12 players per team |

** With the goal to have everyone play at least 50% of the time, Coaches have the flexibility to change the recommended number of players to ensure players don't need to sit out for more than one shift.*

Field and Goal Size

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|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| U6 & U7 – Goal size 4 x 6 (Larger White Plastic goals) | Field size = 20/25 wide x 30/35 length* |
| U8 – Goal size 5 x 10 (new goals) | Field size = 30/35 wide x 50/55 length* |
| U9 & U10 – Goal size (same as last season) | Field size = (same as last season) |

** Final field size to be determined prior to the season, adjusted to meet space and easy conversion from one age group to the next.*

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Game Duration & Field Time Allotment

U6 = 2 equal halves of 20 minutes	Field time allotment = 75 minutes*
U7 & U8 = 2 equal halves of 25 minutes	Field time allotment = 90 minutes*
U9 & U10 = 2 equal halves of 25 minutes	Field time allotment = 90 minutes*

** Allows for a 20-30 minute warm-up, mini practice time and team talk before the next set of games.*

Practice Times

Practice outside of game days for all divisions once a week when possible. We want to put the U6 Program into gyms (two teams per gym time allotment). We propose practice sessions for the U7 Program to be a combination of gym (shared like the U6's) and outside training. The outside training may be a single group session or two to three group times. An outside practice time is recommended for our U8 and higher divisions when possible (the U8's could be grouped together 2-4 teams at a time).

Length of Season

Recommend that we start as early in September as possible (first weekend after Labour Day) and take a scheduled winter break. For the 2009/10 season, start September 12th/13th weekend and end December 5th/6th weekend. Start up again January 16th/17th weekend and end March 13th/14th weekend.

** The age group coordinators will look into running an opening Jamboree weekend and possibly another during the first half of the season, and the wind-up for all divisions will be on March 13th/14th.*

Team Selections

We will follow the Club's approach as noted on registration information (**PMSC 2009/10 FAQ/s**): **“Where possible, teams are formed with children from the same neighbourhood. From U7 to U10 the player’s skill level grow, however, soccer is still *non-competitive* in these age groups and consideration is given to both balanced teams as well as neighbourhood groupings. Please be sure to specify the desired neighbourhood on your registration form.”**

The age group coordinators will determine as much as possible, team make-up based on **requested** neighbourhood groupings as the one and only condition. At the U6 level the Coordinator needs to blend the four year olds equally amongst the teams. It is recommended that the age group coordinators collaborate with their coaches before determining final team selections. Each coach will be given the opportunity to choose 3 players for their teams and random selection by requested neighbourhood to follow. Although keeping teams together from one year to the next is a possibility, it is not recommended. At the end of the season we will ask all coaches to rank their players to assist with team selection for the next season.

Realignment of Players or Teams

It is important for player development that teams are roughly balanced so that games are equal and no one gets discouraged. We are not in favour of moving players once the season has started from one to team to another, but do recommend that the coordinators have ongoing discussions with their coaches to ensure that stronger players are matched against players of equal development when possible. The age coordinator, after discussion with their coaches, can look into a rescheduling of teams for the second half of the season to ensure more balanced play.