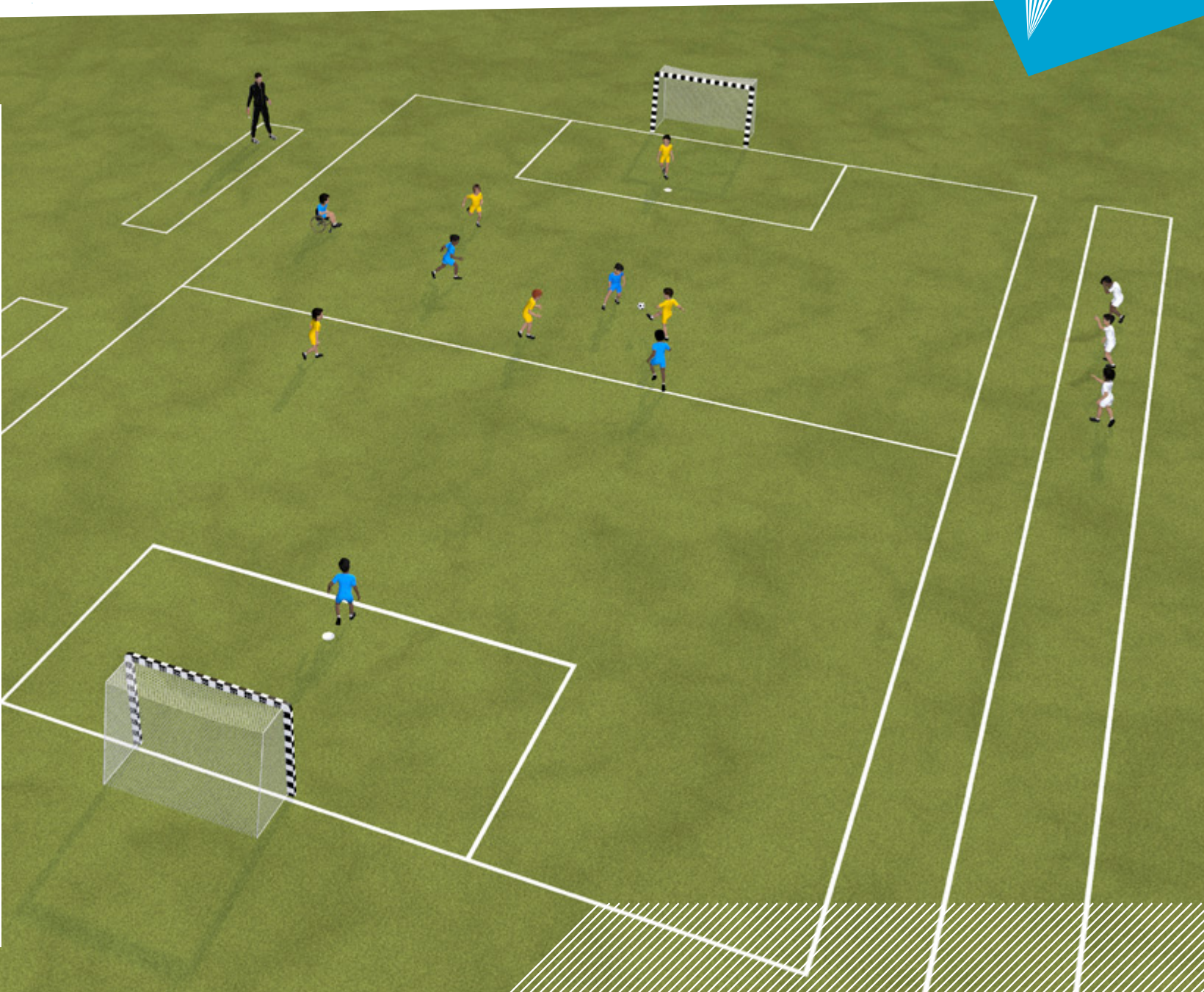




# FOOTBALL – MINI SOCCER



### Quick introduction

Mini-Soccer offers an introduction to the game of football at a size and scale that meets the needs of the young people playing – with smaller goals and pitches and less players per team.

### Getting started

- Select teams and set up the playing area inline with the guidance provided in the table
- Use flat markers to highlight the goal area to help the goalkeepers if no lines are in place.
- Move the portable goals to the right place
- Maybe look at using a 3G pitch or commercial provider as a venue
- Put up the Respect barrier for the parents/ spectators to stand behind (if applicable)
- Mark out a small technical area for the coaches and subs near the halfway line to stand within.
- Each school will determine its own playing time within the maximum time permitted, however the maximum duration will be:
  - Year 2 and Year 3 - 2 x 20 minutes
  - Year 4 and Year 5 - 2 x 25 minutes
  - Year 6 - 2 x 30 minutes
- It is permitted during friendly matches that the periods of play can be split into equal quarters. The half time interval must not exceed five minutes.

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### Hints and tips

- Keep it simple.
- Be positive at all times.
- Focus on the most important aspects.
- Give clear instructions to your players.
- Always finish with a positive.
- Don't forget they are just children, not professional footballers.

### Leadership and volunteering opportunities

- Give players the opportunity to be coaches and managers for their team.
- Give tasks to substitutes while they are waiting to play, such as observing what the team is doing well.
- Involve players in health and safety pitch checks.

### Officiating

- Allow young referees the chance to officiate in these games, with support from a more experienced adult.

### Think inclusively (STEP)

#### Space

- Reduce the size of the playing area for young people who have mobility impairments or enable them to play in a smaller zone within the space.

### Task

- Modify the rules where needed to ensure all children can play the game; for example, play with no tackling, only interceptions; or include safe 'tackle-free' zones where some players have time to control and pass the ball.

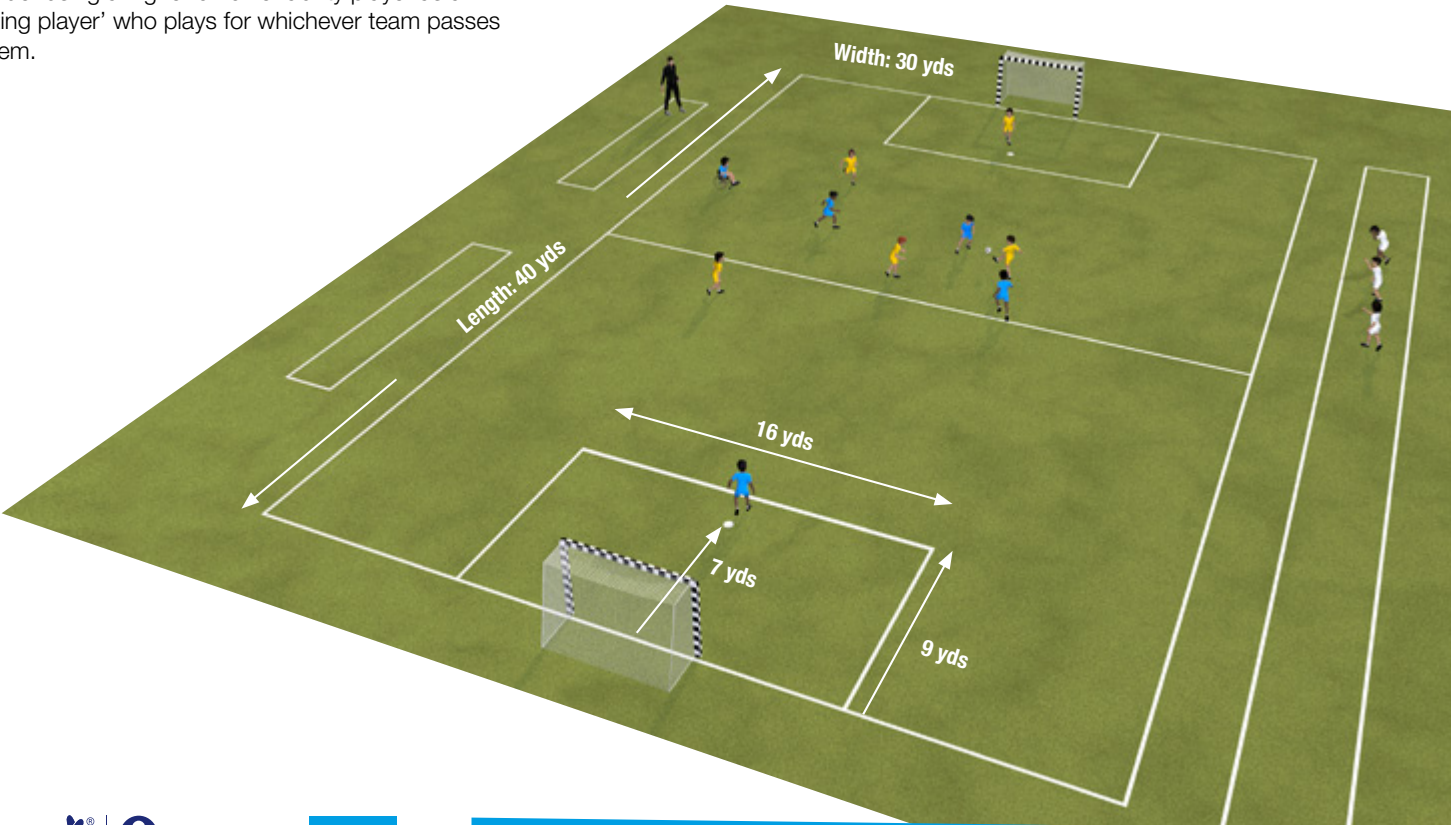
### Equipment

- Change the equipment to meet specific needs; for example, use a colour-contrast ball or sound ball to help with visual tracking.

### People

- Adjust team numbers to balance the game, or consider using a higher or lower ability player as a 'floating player' who plays for whichever team passes to them.

| Age          | Format (maximum format but can play smaller numbers) | Ball Size | Pitch Size (Yards) | Maximum Goal Size (feet) |
|--------------|--|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Year 3       | 5v5  | 3         | 30 x 20 to 40 x 30 | 12 x 6                   |
| Year 4       | 7v7  | 3         | 50 x 30 to 60 x 40 | 12 x 6                   |
| Year 5 and 6 | 7v7  | 4         | 50 x 30 to 60 x 40 | 12 x 6                   |





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## Quick rules

- Rules of Association Football apply apart from the following variations:
  - no offside
  - rolling substitutes during a stoppage of play. All players should receive equal playing time where possible
  - goal kicks can be taken from anywhere within the penalty area
  - all free-kicks are DIRECT
  - all opposing players must be AT LEAST 5 yards from the ball at the taking of free-kicks, corner kicks and kick-offs.

## Equipment required

- Suitable playing area – either marked out with line markings or cone/flat markers
- Appropriate size football
- Bibs
- Goals

## Health and safety

- Ensure that goalposts are safely weighted down
- Players must wear shin pads and footwear appropriate to the surface
- All jewellery should be removed
- Check surface

## FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

### Think tactics

- What is your team objective? What objectives/challenges can be set for individual team members?
- Set tasks for the substitutes e.g. observe the team's success of achieving their targets, record statistics on an iPad or whiteboard, suggest improvements. Substitutes could also play 1 v 1s etc. off the pitch.
- After the game, look back to the targets you set the players and link these into what actually happened during the game.



### Spirit of the Games: Excellence through Competition



We will play the game in the right way and respect our opponents and the referee.

