



## **Welcome to Wallaceburg Minor Soccer!**

Our mission is to foster a lifelong love for soccer in a fun, inclusive, and developmentally focused environment for children and adults of all ages and skill levels. We offer comprehensive recreational programs designed for players from U5 to U17, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to participate and enjoy the sport. We also offer recreational leagues for adults, providing opportunities for continued enjoyment of the game. We are thrilled to announce the launch of a renewed competitive pathway for youth, beginning with U11 boys in 2025 and expanding to other age groups in 2026 and beyond.

### **Youth Recreational Programs (U5-U17): Soccer for Everyone**

Our youth recreational programs prioritize creating a positive and enjoyable soccer experience for all participants. We emphasize skill development, teamwork, and good sportsmanship within a supportive and encouraging atmosphere. Age-appropriate modifications are implemented for rules and field sizes to ensure a safe and engaging experience for every age group. Our dedicated coaches and volunteers are committed to fostering player development and creating a fun environment where kids can thrive. Building confidence on the ball is a key focus, achieved through dribbling exercises that emphasize close control and agility, individual ball mastery drills, and small-sided games that maximize touches. Passing skills are developed through the introduction of basic techniques like the push pass and inside of foot pass, progressing to drills that emphasize accuracy and timing, and finally incorporating passing into game-like scenarios. Defensive principles are introduced early, focusing on positioning, tackling, and team communication, with small-sided games designed to enhance defensive awareness. Attacking skills are also honed through drills focusing on shooting, crossing, and finishing, while teaching basic attacking principles like movement off the ball and creating scoring chances. Throughout all age groups, the emphasis remains on participation and inclusion, positive reinforcement, and building friendships and a sense of community, balancing skill development with fun games and activities.

### **Skills Night (U8-U15): Preparing for the Future**

Wallaceburg Minor Soccer is dedicated to providing extra development opportunities for our players. We hold a weekly skills night led by some of the most experienced coaches in our program. Boys and girls from U8 to U15 are welcome to participate in these specialized sessions. While not yet part of a formal competitive league, these groups receive focused training designed to prepare them for future competitive opportunities. Skills night participants will also have the chance to participate in festivals, based on coach, player, and parent availability, providing valuable game experience and exposure.



## **Adult Recreational Leagues (Men's & Women's): Continuing the Love of the Game**

Wallaceburg Minor Soccer also offers recreational leagues for adults, providing a fantastic opportunity for men and women to continue playing the game they love. These leagues focus on fun, fitness, and camaraderie, offering a great way to stay active and connect with fellow soccer enthusiasts. Whether you're a seasoned player or just looking to get back into the sport, our adult leagues provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all skill levels. Games are typically played with a focus on sportsmanship and enjoyment, making it a perfect way to unwind and enjoy some friendly competition.

## **Competitive Pathway (Starting with U11 Boys in 2025): Taking Soccer to the Next Level**

We are excited to introduce a renewed competitive soccer program designed for players who demonstrate a strong passion for the sport and a desire to compete at a higher level. This pathway begins with U11 boys in 2025, marking a significant step forward in our commitment to player development. Our vision includes expanding this program to other age groups in 2026 and beyond, potentially including opportunities for girls' competitive teams in the future. Players interested in joining a competitive team will participate in a tryout process. The competitive program involves increased training frequency and intensity, with a greater focus on tactical development and game strategy. These teams will participate in higher-level leagues and tournaments, providing players with challenging competition and valuable experience. While the competitive pathway emphasizes performance, we remain committed to the principles of sportsmanship and character development.

## **Building a Love for the Game:**

At Wallaceburg Minor Soccer, our ultimate goal is to instill a lifelong love for the beautiful game in every child and adult. We strive to create a supportive and inclusive environment where players feel valued and encouraged. We believe that fostering teamwork and camaraderie is essential to a positive soccer experience. By emphasizing fun, skill development, and sportsmanship, we aim to develop well-rounded individuals through their participation in our programs.

## **Conclusion:**

Wallaceburg Minor Soccer is dedicated to providing a positive and enriching experience for all players, regardless of age or skill level. We offer a range of programs, from recreational to competitive and including specialized skills development, designed to meet the needs of every child and adult. We invite you to join our soccer family and experience the joy of the game with us!