

Papakura City Football Club

Invites 5 and 6 year old Children to register for.....

Small Sided Games Parent Information Guide

How Small Sided Games Look

Games are played with either four players (5th and 6th Grade) or five players (7th and 8th Grade) per side, without goal keepers. The games are played to small goals on small sized pitches. Games will involve two periods of either 15 or 20 minutes, where the players will be active throughout the whole of the game.

There will be lots of activity, as the players are getting lots of touches on the ball. There will be lots of shooting, and plenty of goals, as every player wants to score!

Due to the age of the players, they will still tend to congregate around the ball. This is only natural for them, and by playing with less players on each team they will still receive a large number of touches on the ball. At fifth and sixth Grade especially you should not expect to see them playing with any sort of shape!

There are a number of countries that now endorse or use Small Sided Games as part of their Player Development Programs. Some of these countries include:

Argentina
Australia
Brazil
England
France
Germany
Holland
Ireland
Scotland
USA



What are Small Sided Games?

They are football games which are played on smaller pitches with fewer number of players. They allow players to have more contact with the ball, are less complicated, and are suited to the age and abilities of the players.

Reasons for Using Small Sided Games

The use of Small Sided Games for juniors carries a range of benefits that are listed below. By allowing more touches on the ball, players become more comfortable with a ball at their feet, make more decisions, and are more active, increasing their enjoyment.



Benefits of Small Sided Games

A large body of research has been conducted into the use of Small Sided Games for player development, which has highlighted the following benefits:

More touches by all players

More shots on goal

Repeated decision making

Ball in play more often

Game is easier to understand

Freedom—no positions in early stages

Focus of the games:

The emphasis of Small Sided Games is on participation and enjoyment. At this age the focus should not be on winning, and so we do not keep scores or update league tables. This emphasis on enjoyment will mean that the kids football experience is much more positive, and they are much less likely to drop out of football.

Role of the Parents:

Coaches, game leaders and parents play the most important role in ensuring that the right environment is created for Small Sided Games. On the side line you can help create this environment by

supporting and encouraging your child, remaining positive at all times and never criticising any of the children. Keep the focus on the players enjoyment as opposed to winning, and allow the players to learn through the game rather than shouting instructions

Why no Goalkeepers?

At younger ages keepers can be uninvolved for large parts of the game. The goalkeeper is a specialized position and players should not be specializing in a position until they are in their teens. All goalkeepers need good outfield skills, which are developed prior to becoming a goalkeeper. Also, shooting and scoring are some of the most fun and exciting parts of the game for the kids, and we want to encourage them to have as much success with this as possible.

Role of game leader and referee

Usually the coach will take on the role of the game leader / referee. At this age the role involves organizing the players, and ensuring that the ball is put back into play to keep the game active for as long as possible. Beyond this offering support and encouragement are the main

roles — the “referee” shouldn’t be needing to actually referee at all at this age!

