

Grasshopper Soccer® “Big Soccer for Little People™”

First, we must acknowledge that we are not talking about professional soccer. This is about children and their first experiences with organized sport. Micro Soccer™ was developed by Mr. Tony Waiters. His record at youth and professional levels is impressive; however, it is in the less visible areas of the game where Tony has made immense strides for this and future generations.

Tony is one of an elite group of international coaches who conducted the FIFA World Youth Football Academy around the globe. The Academy looked at the different considerations for youth coaches at age levels from U-6 through U-18. His coaching credentials are beyond reproach including; NASL Coach of the Year, Coach of the NASL Soccer Bowl champion Vancouver Whitecaps, Canadian national team coach of the 1986 World Cup squad, Canadian Olympic soccer coach for the 1984 Olympics, coach of the European Championship winning England youth team, and a member of FIFA's Panel of Instructors. Tony is also the author of over 15 soccer education books.

Grasshopper Soccer is proud to say that Tony is fully behind our program and acts as an advisor in all of our activities. To have someone of such experience and credibility supporting us gives Grasshopper Soccer an edge that is the envy of many involved in soccer.

Traditionally, soccer programs for the beginning player have been viewed from an adult perspective with the 11-a-side game as the reference point. For too long, the children's game of soccer has been a diluted version of the adult game. Novice players have been regarded as small adults - not young children. When it comes right down to it, kids just want to kick the ball. In 11-a-side, there is ONE ball among 22 players. This produces the 'swarm' that we are all familiar with. Even in 7-a-side soccer the 'swarm' continues. All the players want to kick the ball - and why shouldn't they?

“The game is the great teacher” - Bobby Howe

Micro Soccer™, a 3-a-side game, uses simple game rules. Its practices have been developed to give the coach and the novice player a simple formula that guarantees fun, skills development and a fundamental knowledge of soccer in such a way that a child can understand. The basis of Micro Soccer™ and the reasoning behind 3 V 3 is:

- Accepted educational psychology states that children relate to and cooperate better with one or two friends rather than large groups.
- One ball amongst six guarantees the opportunity for all players to kick, dribble, and score!
- Three makes a triangle - the basic unit of soccer.
- The 3-a-side game has always been played naturally by youngsters around the world. The great players have developed from this type of environment.
- Children do not play naturally in the USA. *Street soccer* is not a part of the North American sports mosaic.
- The fun practices produce skills development just by playing.