



2026 GTYSC SUMMER HOUSE LEAGUE MINI KICKERS (U5) - PROGRAM PACKAGE -

Summer House League • Co-ed • Development First Program!



AT A GLANCE

- ★ **AGE GROUP:**
U5 (2021),
(Co-ed, boys and girls)
- ★ **INFORMAL GAMES**
- ★ **NIGHTS:**
Wednesday (6:00pm-7:00pm)
- ★ **DATES:**
May 27 – August 19th
- ★ **EARLY BIRD PRICING:**
Tiered pricing available
until April 14 on PowerUp



★ **REGISTER NOW!**



2026 GTYSC Summer House League - Mini Kickers (U5) - Program Package

Summer House League • Co-ed • Development First Program!

1. Program Overview

Mini Kickers is GTYSC's introductory outdoor soccer experience for young players who are just getting started. The focus is confidence, movement, fun, and simple ball familiarity - not standings, pressure, or early specialization. Sessions are led by Revolution Soccer coaches with support from club-approved volunteers.

2. At-a-Glance Details

Program	Mini Kickers Summer House League
Age Group	U5 (2021) (Co-ed, boys and girls)
Format	Informal Games
Game Day	Wednesdays (6:00pm-7:00pm)
Training Day	Same Day
Season Length	12 weeks
Dates	May 27 - August 19
Blackout Dates	July 1, August 3
Make-Up Sessions	Added at the end of the season if possible (the final day stays the same)
Location	TBC
Playing Surface	Grass
Uniform (included)	Jersey, Shorts, Socks, and Size 3 Ball
Equipment (not included)	Soccer Cleats and Shin Pads
Registration	Early Bird Tiered Pricing available until April 14 on PowerUp
Schedules	Internal via PowerUp
Coaches	Parent Volunteers Needed with the support of Revolution Soccer
NEW for 2026	Volunteer Coach Training Day for all new coaches

3. Who Is This Program For?

This Mini Kickers program is the perfect first soccer experience for young players who are ready to learn, play, and have fun in a safe and supportive environment. Whether your child is picking up a soccer ball for the very first time, returning for another season, or simply looking to build confidence in a group setting, this program is built to meet them where they are.

Mini Kickers is ideal for:

- children new to soccer
- young players developing basic movement and coordination skills
- returning players still within the eligible age range
- children who may benefit from a patient, encouraging, and positive introduction to sport

We understand that every child develops differently. Some children will jump right in, while others may need time to settle and feel comfortable. Our coaching team is committed to creating a fun, welcoming atmosphere where every player can enjoy the game, grow in confidence, and develop at their own pace.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to let us know in advance about any additional support needs so we can help create the best possible experience for your child.

4. What a Typical Session Looks Like

Time block	What happens	Purpose
5:50-6:00pm	Arrival, check-in, ball out, settle in	Helps young players transition onto the field
6:00-6:10pm	Welcome game, movement warm-up, listening cues	Gets everyone engaged quickly with minimal standing
6:10-6:30pm	Short activity blocks with frequent changes	Dribbling, balance, stopping, turning, passing, shooting
6:30-6:55pm	Small-sided coach-led games	Lets players try skills in simple game situations
6:55-7:00pm	Wrap-up, high-fives, quick parent reminders	Ends the night clearly and positively

Each Mini Kickers session includes **30 minutes of fun training activities** and **30 minutes of game play**, giving players a positive and active introduction to soccer in a way that suits their age and stage of development.

A key part of the session is the support of **professional Revolution Soccer coaches**. Grimsby Soccer Club sees this as the beginning of a child's development journey, not just supervised play, which is why the club has chosen to invest in professional coaching support at this age. This helps ensure sessions are fun, age-appropriate, well-organized, and focused on building confidence with the ball.

- Games will usually be **3v3 or 4v4**, depending on numbers and space.
- Groups are typically **small and flexible**, rather than fixed formal teams all season.
- Players should spend **very little time standing still**. If an activity is not moving, it is too long for this age.
- If a child needs a few minutes to watch first, that is completely normal. Coaches will encourage, not force.
- If a child needs support, a parent may step in briefly to help them settle before rejoining.

- Sessions are designed to allow for **gentle re-entry**, because at this age, confidence and enjoyment matter most.

Grimsby Soccer Club sees this stage as more than just supervised play — it is the **starting point of a child's development journey in the game**. That is why the club has chosen to invest in professional coaching support through Revolution Soccer, rather than relying only on volunteer-led delivery at this age. By doing so, the club is helping ensure that players receive an engaging, age-appropriate, and development-focused introduction to soccer from coaches who understand how to work with young children and create a positive first experience.

5. Parent Involvement

Parent and guardian involvement plays an important role in creating a positive experience for young players at this age. At this stage, children often feel more confident and settled when a familiar adult is nearby, and strong parent support helps sessions run smoothly for everyone.

Parents and guardians should expect to play a role throughout the session. At different points, coaches may invite parents onto the field to help with simple games, partner activities, encouragement, or helping players settle into the environment. This support helps create a more positive, engaging, and confidence-building experience for young players.

Parent / Guardian Expectations

- A **parent, guardian, or responsible caregiver must remain on-site for the full session**.
- Although coaches will lead and organize the session, **parents will regularly be encouraged to step in and take part** in certain activities and games.
- Parents should be ready to support their child with comfort, encouragement, bathroom breaks, or a quick reset if needed.
- One parent may stay while another leaves, provided **one responsible adult remains available at all times**.
- Grandparents or another caregiver may bring the child, as long as they can remain on-site and support if required.
- Siblings may attend as spectators, but should **stay off the field and out of session activities** unless registered in their own program.
- If a child is shy, upset, or unsure, parents may help with a **gradual introduction** by joining them for part of the session and building confidence over time.

6. Coaching & Safety

Volunteer coaches are an important part of the Mini Kickers experience. While the program is supported by professional coaching staff through Revolution Soccer, consistent team volunteers help create a more welcoming, organized, and positive environment for players each week.

At this age, familiar faces matter. Having a set volunteer coaches attached to each team helps young players feel more comfortable, settle into the session more quickly, and build confidence over the course of the season.

Why volunteer coaches matter

Volunteer coaches help support the overall player experience by:

- welcoming players at the start of each session
- helping children settle into their group
- encouraging participation in a positive and supportive way

- assisting with simple activities and transitions between games
- helping maintain a fun, safe, and organized environment
- providing consistency and familiar faces for players and families each week
- Volunteer coaches are not expected to run the full session alone. Their role is to support the session, work alongside Revolution Soccer staff, and help ensure that every player has a great experience.

How many volunteer coaches are needed

Each team should aim to have 1–2 set volunteer coaches across the season. Having consistent volunteers each week helps build routine, stability, and a stronger connection within the group.

Who can volunteer

Parents, guardians, or other committed family members are encouraged to get involved. You do not need to be a soccer expert to help. The most important qualities are:

- reliability
- enthusiasm
- patience
- a positive attitude with young children

New for 2026: Volunteer Coaches Training Day – May 9

Grimsby Soccer Club will be hosting a Volunteer Coaches Support Day on **May 9** to help prepare coaches ahead of the season. Led by the **Technical Director**, this session is designed to give volunteer coaches added guidance, confidence, and practical support so they feel better equipped to help deliver the best possible experience for players and families throughout the summer.

An email will be sent out with timings for the day!

How to volunteer

Parents and guardians who would like to help as a volunteer coach can register their interest through the **Get Involved** tab on their **PowerUp** profile. This is the best way for the club to identify interested volunteers and communicate next steps.

Safety and supervision

All volunteer coaches are part of a wider session team and are there to support the delivery of the program in a safe and positive way. Volunteer coaches work alongside club and Revolution Soccer staff and are expected to follow all club guidance relating to player welfare, behaviour, and session safety.

A great way to get involved

Volunteering is a great way to support your child’s experience, contribute to the club, and play a part in creating a positive first introduction to soccer for all players. For many families, it is also a great way to build connections within the team and become more involved in the club community.

Interested in helping as a volunteer coach? Please register your interest through the Get Involved tab on your PowerUp profile.

7. Equipment & Uniform

Item	Notes:
Footwear	Soccer Cleats are Recommended. Trainers are also acceptable. No open toe shoes.
Shin guards	Mandatory and worn under socks for all sessions and game play.
Socks	Club socks are included in the kit. Players may wear them once distributed; if the kit is not yet handed out, any soccer socks are fine.

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Uniform handout	Distributed at the first session by the team coach.
Sizing and numbers	First come first serve, please work directly with your coach.
Ball	One size 3 ball is included. Label the ball and all apparel with the player's name & number – please bring to all sessions/games.
Opting out of included kit	No - the package is bundled and the fee is not reduced if a family already owns a ball or similar item.

8. Fees, Payment, & Registration

The Mini Kickers program uses a tiered registration pricing model, with the cost increasing as the season gets closer. This is designed to reward families who register early, while also helping the club plan appropriately for field space, staffing, equipment, and uniforms ahead of the summer season.

Registration Fees:

- \$250 – Early Bird #1 registration until March 29th
- \$275 – Early Bird #2 registration until April 14th
- \$300 – Regular registration

The only reason the fee changes is the registration window. Families who register earlier receive the best price, while later registration reflects the added challenges of finalizing numbers, staffing, and program planning closer to the season start date.

What is included in the Registration Fee:

- participation in the 12-week summer program
- player insurance and enrollment into Ontario Soccer
- support from professional Revolution Soccer coaches
- a team uniform package
- a size 3 soccer ball
- a structured, age-appropriate introduction to soccer in a fun and supportive environment
- dedicated full-time administrative support

Payment Methods:

Families may register through **PowerUp** using the available payment options.

Log-in/create a profile here: <https://grimsbysoccer.powerupsports.com>

- Credit card payments are subject to a 3% processing surcharge
- E-transfer payments do not carry this surcharge
- All Receipts are available through PowerUp once registration has been completed

E-transfer Notes:

Please e-transfer: payments@grimsbysoccer.com

If paying by e-transfer, families should ensure the player's name and program name are included clearly in the payment memo or notes field. This helps the club match payments accurately and avoid delays.

If an e-transfer is not matched immediately, the club will manually review payments using the participant name and program listed. Families who are unsure whether payment has been received are encouraged to contact the club admin team for confirmation.

When registration is considered complete:

A registration spot should only be considered fully confirmed once:

- the player's registration details have been submitted, and
- payment has been received and matched to that registration

Submitting registration details without payment does not guarantee a place in the program unless the club has specifically confirmed otherwise.

Registration timelines:

Families are encouraged to register as early as possible to:

- secure the lowest available price
- help the club plan coaches and group sizes
- support timely ordering of uniforms and equipment
- reduce the risk of missing out if the program reaches capacity

Important Registration Notes:

- Registration is processed through PowerUp
- Program spaces may be limited based on field capacity, staffing, and player-to-coach ratios
- Once the program reaches capacity, additional players may be placed on a waitlist
- A preseason email with final program details should be sent closer to the start of the season

Financial Support:

Families seeking support with registration costs are encouraged to explore external funding programs, including:

- Internal Payment plans: Payment plan requests may be considered where available and approved by the club.
- [Canadian Tire Jumpstart](#) – offers individual child grants to help eligible families cover sport and recreation costs.
- [KidSport Ontario](#) – provides grants to help eligible children and youth in Ontario participate in organized sport

Families are encouraged to review eligibility requirements, funding availability, and application deadlines directly through each program's website and apply as early as possible.

Need help with registration?

Families with questions about registration, payment, or account setup should contact the club's administration team for support: admin@grimsbysoccer.com

9. Refund & Cancellation Policy

The club's refund and cancellation policy is intended to provide clarity for families while supporting the planning and delivery of the program.

1. **Prior to the registration closing date**, families may withdraw from the program and receive a **full refund less a \$25 administrative fee**.

2. **After the registration closing date of May 15, but before the first scheduled session**, families may withdraw and receive a **50% refund less the \$25 administrative fee**.
3. **After the second scheduled session, no refunds will be issued**, except where supported by **medical documentation** or **where an exceptional circumstance** has been reviewed and approved by the club.
4. **No refund, credit, or replacement session will be provided for individual absences or missed sessions**.
5. Where sessions are cancelled due to weather or circumstances outside the club's control, the club may attempt to arrange a make-up session. **Any make-up session remains at the discretion of the club and is subject to field access, staffing, and scheduling availability**.

10. Recommended Weather & Communication Policy

The safety of players, families, coaches, and staff is the club's priority at all times. This policy is informed by Ontario Soccer's player safety guidance and applies to all outdoor Mini Kickers sessions.

- Outdoor sessions may proceed in **light rain** where the field remains safe and playable.
- Sessions may be **delayed, suspended, or cancelled** at the sole discretion of the club due to **lightning, thunder, unsafe field conditions, severe weather, extreme heat, poor air quality, or other conditions that may affect participant safety**. Ontario Soccer guidance states that if thunder is heard, participants should move to safe shelter immediately and should not return until **30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning**.
- The **Town of Grimsby may also notify the club of field closures or cancellations**, and where this occurs, the club will communicate those cancellations to all affected players and program families as soon as possible.
- Where possible, the club will aim to communicate cancellations or major updates by **4:30pm on program day**. However, weather can change quickly, and in some cases a decision may need to be made **on-site** in the interest of safety.
- The club will communicate weather-related updates through its **primary communication channels**, including **email and/or PowerUp announcements**. Families should ensure their contact details are up to date and monitor these channels on questionable weather days.
- In periods of **extreme heat**, the club may modify activities, add extra water breaks, shorten session time, or cancel programming where necessary. Ontario Soccer notes that young children are among the groups at greater risk during heat events
- If a session is cancelled due to weather or field closure, the club may attempt to arrange a **make-up session** where possible; however, make-up sessions are **not guaranteed** and remain subject to field access, staffing availability, and program scheduling.
- If a session is stopped after a significant portion has already been completed, the club may consider the session delivered.

11. Teams, Groups, & Friend Requests

At this age, our primary goal is to create a **fun, positive, and enjoyable playing experience** for every child. Thoughtful team grouping, including consideration of friend requests where possible, helps young players feel comfortable, confident, and excited to take part each week. Teams at this age group will also be identified by **colors**, helping keep the environment simple, fun, and easy for players and families to follow.

- Players will be placed into teams of approximately **8–10 players**, depending on overall program registration.

- Team sizes will be structured to support **balanced rosters** and **fair game opportunities** across the season.
- Rosters will be considered carefully during the team-building process.
- Where possible, the club will aim to balance teams based on factors such as **age** and **gender**.
- Teams in this age group will be named by **colour** rather than formal team names.
- Families may submit **friend requests** through the **roster note section in PowerUp** during registration.
- Friend requests will be reviewed by the **convenor and administration team** when teams are split and finalized.
- The club will do its best to accommodate requests where possible; however, **friend requests cannot be guaranteed**.
- Final team placement will always be subject to overall registration numbers and the club's ability to create balanced teams.

12. Inclusion & Additional Support

We welcome children of all backgrounds, experiences, and abilities into the program.

- Our goal is to create a **positive, supportive, and enjoyable environment** where every child can take part and have a great first experience in soccer.
- If your child has any additional support needs, parents or guardians are encouraged to share this with the club **before the season begins** so coaches and staff can be prepared to support them as effectively as possible.
- Sharing this information in advance helps us provide coaches with the best possible understanding of your child's needs and allows us to plan appropriately for the group environment.
- Where appropriate, a **parent, guardian, or support aide** may attend with the child to help them participate successfully, subject to club approval and standard safeguarding expectations.
- Children who are not yet fully toilet trained may still take part, provided a parent or guardian remains on-site and is responsible for managing those needs directly.
- If your child has **asthma, allergies, an EpiPen, hearing aids, glasses, or any other important medical or support needs**, this should be noted during registration and also communicated to staff at the start of the season.
- To help keep all players safe, **parents or guardians remain responsible for administering medication or providing direct personal care**, unless otherwise outlined by club policy.
- The more information families can share in advance, the better prepared we can be to help each child feel comfortable, supported, and ready to enjoy the program.

13. Communication & Contacts

Question type	Best contact
Registration, payment, receipts, matching e-transfers	Senior Administrator - admin@grimsbysoccer.com

Clear and consistent communication helps ensure families are well prepared and kept informed throughout the season.

- The club will use communication to keep families informed throughout the season and to share important program information in a timely manner.
- **General club communication** may include items such as monthly newsletters, registration reminders, upcoming program announcements, and other important club updates.
- **Program-specific communication** will include key information relating to Mini Kickers, such as final program confirmation, important dates, coach information, team details, and season schedules.
- Communication will be sent **primarily through PowerUp**, so families should ensure their account details are accurate and kept up to date.
- To stay fully informed and receive all relevant club and program updates, families should make sure that their PowerUp profile has the **appropriate marketing opt-in selected**.
- It is the responsibility of parents or guardians to ensure their contact information, including email address and phone number where required, is current within the system.
- Families should monitor PowerUp regularly, particularly in the lead-up to the season and during the program period, to avoid missing important updates or announcements.

15. What Should Parents Expect Their Child to Gain?

This program is designed to give young players more than just an hour on the field each week. It is the beginning of their development journey in the game, and Grimsby Soccer Club has chosen to invest in that experience through professional coaching support, coach education, quality facilities, and a program structure built around age-appropriate development. Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer both emphasize that grassroots soccer should be fun, age-appropriate, game-based, and designed to create the best possible learning environment for young players. Canada Soccer's Active Start stage also focuses on basic movement skills and positive early experiences in the game.

Parents should expect their child to gain:

- **Confidence with the ball** through lots of touches, simple activities, and repeated success in a positive setting.
- **Improved balance, coordination, movement, and body control** through games and activities designed for this stage of development. Canada Soccer's Active Start stage highlights running, jumping, landing, kicking, throwing, and catching as key early movement skills.
- **Early soccer foundations**, including basic dribbling, stopping the ball, turning, simple passing, and introductory shooting.
- **Comfort being active with other children** in a team and sport environment.
- **Listening skills, turn-taking, following simple instructions, and celebrating effort**, which are all important parts of early sport participation.
- **A fun and positive first impression of soccer**, so they leave each week wanting to come back. Ontario Soccer's grassroots resources repeatedly emphasize making soccer age-appropriate and fun for young players.

What makes this program different is the club's investment in doing these early years properly.

- **Professional coaching support through Revolution Soccer** helps ensure sessions are energetic, engaging, and development-focused.
- **Volunteer coaches are supported, not left on an island**, with club guidance and a Volunteer Coaches Support Day led by the Technical Director.
- **Quality facilities and organized delivery** help create a better overall player and parent experience.
- **A development-first approach** means the focus is on enjoyment, movement, confidence, and learning — not just rolling the ball out and hoping for the best.
- **Strategic alignment with Ontario Soccer and Canada Soccer** means the program is built around the principles of grassroots development: age-appropriate activities, small-sided play, movement, repetition, encouragement, and fun. Ontario Soccer’s Player Development Model and parent guidance emphasize activity-to-game structures and small-sided formats to support learning and touches on the ball.

16. Parent FAQ

What age must my child be?	Players should be 5 years old by the program start date and fall within the listed birth years.
Can my child repeat the program?	Yes, if they still meet the age requirement and the club believes the program remains the best fit.
Does my child need experience?	No. This is designed for first-time and beginner players.
Do I stay for the session?	Yes. One parent or responsible caregiver must remain on-site for the full hour.
Will my child be forced to join in right away?	No. Coaches will invite and support, but young players sometimes need a watch-and-warm-up minute first.
Are games formal?	No. Games are coach-led, small-sided, and built for fun and confidence.
Are friend requests guaranteed?	No, but one reciprocated friend request can usually be accommodated where practical.
What footwear is required?	Soccer Cleats are Recommended. Trainers are also acceptable. No open toe shoes.
How do I know if the session is cancelled?	Through the club's official communication channel - best practice is email plus PowerUp.
What if my child misses a week?	They simply return the following week. Missed individual sessions are not refunded.

