



## **Canadian Walking Soccer Association**

# **Recreational Rule Modification for Walking Soccer**

CWSA recognizes that the game of walking soccer is played for multiple purposes. Whether you are a new player getting to know the game, someone reconnecting after a long time away, or somewhere in the middle, there should be a place for you. Creating a recreationally focused program can create a strong community atmosphere and unify the wide diversity of players that come together to play as the sport continues to grow. As such, to encourage a more community based or recreational level program, CWSA interviewed a myriad of existing programs across Canada and compiled the modifications that have made their programs more successfully accessible and inviting to everyone.

### **Refereeing Modulations**

Games are completely self-invigated communally or by a single or set of player-leader(s). This is especially powerful if the program is led by a senior leader. The aim is to foster more of a recreational and communal connection, rather than promoting a more competitive environment.

### **Program Formats**

There can either be no standings for leagues, or no leagues altogether – with the option to use a pickup format instead. In the case of a pickup format, teams are formed the day of. Furthermore, scorekeeping or informal scorekeeping is discouraged to keep the game recreational rather than competitive.

### **Player Involvement Rules**

Rules that limit the number of touches a player can make are highly encouraged to facilitate more involvement from a variety of players and allows everyone to get chances to be a significant part of the game. For example, a three-touch rule or some close variant that requires the player to either shoot or pass on or after a set number of touches should be implemented.

### **Player Safety Rules**

With the aim of provisioning a safer, more inclusive, and less intimidating playing environment, “killer” or “rocket” shots are not permitted.

## **Payment Structures**

Mixed payment methods, including drop-in fee payments and multiple session entry passes (half or full season passes) must be supported. This encourages individuals to try the sport and incentivizes long-term commitment to the program through the offering of multi-passes at a discount.

## **Local Modifications**

Incorporate the limitations of the playing area and pitch surroundings. For example, if one side of the pitch has a wall that doesn't facilitate the use of sidelines, use that as a "bounce wall" rather than as an outline.