



ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
*The Governing Body of Soccer in Alberta*

# Training Plans

Active Start (U6) Guide



The purpose of Alberta Soccer providing “Periodized Annual Plans” for each stage of development is to:

1. Assist member districts, leagues and clubs in the planning of programming.
2. Educate players, coaches and parents as to the commitment and levels of play required for the various “Stages of Development”.

Alberta Soccer has taken in to account various publications from Canada Soccer (LTPD Documentation/CSA Toolkits), district/programming currently in Alberta, facility considerations, differing abilities and commitment levels of play as well as trends in Canada and elsewhere. As one can imagine it is a difficult task to encapsulate all of this information into a single “one-size fits all” document. To that end, this guide is designed to assist in explaining the different terms and information presented in the training plans but it is incumbent on the organising district/club to model programming that best fits their situation staying consistent with the Periodized Plan at each Stage of Development.

## Calendar

The Active Start Training Plan is designed September through August due to the change over in Age Groups occurring from the outdoor season to the indoor season as well as coinciding with the start of the school year. A traditional January-December calendar year would not be ideal as it would incorporate an Active Start Training Plan that would begin in the middle of the winter program.

## Programming Levels

The Active Start Training Plan has been designed with three levels of participation. These levels are broken down as follows:

- **Level 1 Programming** – Designed for the Active Start player whom wishes to play the game in outdoor only during the early Fall and Spring months. The commitment of the player is to participate in soccer 1-2 times per week.
- **Level 2 Programming** – Designed for the Active Start player whom wishes to play the game in outdoor as well as indoor. The commitment of the player is to participate in soccer twice per week during the outdoor season and once per week over the winter months.
- **Level 3 Programming** – Designed for the Active Start player whom wishes to play the game in outdoor as well as indoor. The commitment of the player is to participate in soccer twice per week.

## Programs

The Active Start Training Plan has three (3) distinct periods of participation:

- **Fall Program** – A six-week program that generally occurs outdoors at the start of September until mid-October.
- **Winter Program** – A sixteen-week indoor program that runs from November until mid-March with a break over the Holiday Period.
- **Spring/Summer Program** – A ten-week outdoor program that runs mid-April until the end of June.

## Weeks of Involvement

The number of weeks per programming level:

- **Level 1 Programming** – 16 weeks
- **Level 2 Programming** – 32 weeks
- **Level 3 Programming** – 32 weeks

## Preferred Training Model Sessions

The Active Start Training Plan is designed for Districts and Clubs to incorporate the “Preferred Training Model” (PTM) in all of their

programming. The PTM is a FIFA and Canada Soccer initiative that encourages a “station” approach to training.

Players move from one skill-building activity to the next at regular intervals. The time spent on each activity varies based on the age of the player (see “Training Template”).

This method is not only more fun for young players - who tend to have short attention spans - but also allows training sessions to be tailored to a program or team’s individual needs, depending on the number of players, the number of parents and coaches present, and the available facilities.

Each training session is built around four activity stations, one focusing on General Movement skills, one on Coordination, one on Soccer Technique and another on Small-Sided Games. Addressing all four of these training “pillars” at each practice session will help develop well-rounded young players with a foundation in physical literacy, solid soccer skills and, ideally, an enduring love of the game.

## Training Template

For players at the Active Start Stage of Development, training sessions should be 45-60 minutes long and incorporate activities that highlight the four pillars of development:

- **25% - General Movement**
- **25% - Coordination**
- **25% - Soccer Technique**
- **25% - Small-sided Games**

## Number of PTM Sessions

The number of Preferred Training Model sessions for each program:

- **Level 1 Programming – 24**
- **Level 2 Programming – 48**
- **Level 3 Programming – 64**

For further information on the Preferred Training Model, Active Start Training Template and Curriculum please visit:

[http://www.canadasoccer.com/files/CanadaSoccerPathway\\_CoachsToolKit\\_ActiveStart\\_20141006.pdf](http://www.canadasoccer.com/files/CanadaSoccerPathway_CoachsToolKit_ActiveStart_20141006.pdf)

## Games

In the Active Start Stage of Development, matches should occur within the Preferred Training Model sessions. All games adhere to LTPD standards and guidelines.

## Jamborees and Festivals

One-off Jamborees or end of season fun festivals are also encouraged to celebrate the sport and motivate the players. All games must adhere to LTPD standards and guidelines. In addition to the Preferred Training Model sessions, it is recommended that teams participate in one to two stand-alone Festivals/Jamborees per season.

## Number of Rest Weeks

The number of rest weeks for each program:

- **Level 1 Programming – 36**
- **Level 2 Programming – 20**
- **Level 3 Programming – 20**

## Multi-Sport Athletes/Seasonal Breaks

Players in the Active Start Stage of Development should be encouraged to participate in other sports and activities. By participating in other sports, children tend to become more well-rounded athletes which will only enhance their physical literacy and benefit them later in their sporting endeavours. During seasonal breaks in particular, it is highly recommended that players engage in other sports.

## Weekly Soccer Activities

The number of Preferred Training Model Sessions per week for each program:

- **Level 1 Programming** – 1-2x per week
- **Level 2 Programming** – 1-2x per week
- **Level 3 Programming** – 2x per week

We hope this guide has assisted you in understanding the Training Plan that is recommended for the Active Start Stage of Development. If you have any questions on this plan, please do not hesitate to contact:

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**ALBERTA SOCCER PERIODIZED TRAINING PLAN  
FOR PLAYERS IN THE ACTIVE START  
STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT**

MONTHS				SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER				NOVEMBER					
WEEKS (MON-SUN)				Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	
Level 3 Programming				Fall Program						Fall Break			Winter Program				
Level 2 Programming				Fall Program									Winter Program				
Level 1 Programming				Fall Program						Winter Break							
Level 3 - Preferred Training Model/Practices per week				2	2	2	2	2	2				2	2	2	2	
Level 2 - Preferred Training Model per week				2	2	2	2	2	2				1	1	1	1	
Level 1 - Preferred Training Model per week				1	2	1	2	1	2								
MONTHS				DECEMBER				JANUARY				FEBRUARY					
WEEKS (MON-SUN)				Week 14	Week 15	Week 16	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24	Week 25	Week 26	
Level 3 Programming				Winter Program		Christmas Break			Winter Program								
Level 2 Programming				Winter Program					Winter Program								
Level 1 Programming				Winter Break													
Level 3 - Preferred Training Model/Practices per week				2	2				2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Level 2 - Preferred Training Model per week				1	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Level 1 - Preferred Training Model per week																	
TECHNICAL GUIDELINES																	
	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1														
WEEKS OF INVOLVEMENT	32	32	16	TRAINING TEMPLATE - General Movement 25%; Coordination 25%; Soccer Tech. 25%, Small-sided Games 25%													
PTM SESSIONS	64	48	24	TRAINING - PREFERRED TRAINING MODEL & CURRICULUM CONTENT AS PER CSA TOOLKITS 40-60 Minute Sessions													
MAX MATCHES	n/a	n/a	n/a	MATCHES - ADHERES TO LTPD STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, PLAYED WITHIN PREFERRED TRAINING MODEL													
# REST WEEKS	20	20	36	SEASONAL BREAKS - ADDITIONAL SPORTS/ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL LITERACY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL PLAYER													
WEEKLY SOCCER ACTIVITY	2	1 to 2	1 to 2	ACTIVITY - PLAYER/FAMILY COMMITMENT													



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MONTHS						MARCH					APRIL				MAY			
WEEKS (MON-SUN)						Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31	Week 32	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37	Week 38	Week 39
Level 3 Programming						Winter Program		Spring Break					Spring/Summer Program					
Level 2 Programming						Winter Program							Spring/Summer Program					
Level 1 Programming						Winter Break							Spring/Summer Program					
Level 3 - Preferred Training Model per week						2	2						2	2	2	2	2	2
Level 2 - Preferred Training Model per week						1	1						2	2	2	2	2	2
Level 1 - Preferred Training Model per week													1	2	1	2	1	2
MONTHS						JUNE				JULY				AUGUST				
WEEKS (MON-SUN)						Week 40	Week 41	Week 42	Week 43	Week 44	Week 45	Week 46	Week 47	Week 48	Week 49	Week 50	Week 51	Week 52
Level 3 Programming						Spring/Summer Program				Summer Break								
Level 2 Programming						Spring/Summer Program												
Level 1 Programming						Spring/Summer Program												
Level 3 - Preferred Training Model per week						2	2	2	2									
Level 2 - Preferred Training Model per week						2	2	2	2									
Level 1 - Preferred Training Model per week						1	2	1	2									
TECHNICAL GUIDELINES																		
	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1															
WEEKS OF INVOLVEMENT	32	32	16	TRAINING TEMPLATE - General Movement 25%; Coordination 25%; Soccer Tech. 25%, Small-sided Games 25%														
PTM SESSIONS	64	48	24	TRAINING - PREFERRED TRAINING MODEL & CURRICULUM CONTENT AS PER CSA TOOLKITS 40-60 Minute Sessions														
MAX MATCHES	n/a	n/a	n/a	MATCHES - ADHERES TO LTPD STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, PLAYED WITHIN PREFERRED TRAINING MODEL														
# REST WEEKS	20	20	36	SEASONAL BREAKS - ADDITIONAL SPORTS/ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL LITERACY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL PLAYER														
WEEKLY SOCCER ACTIVITY	2	1 to 2	1 to 2	ACTIVITY - PLAYER/FAMILY COMMITMENT														





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