

Byte Size Coaching U10 Curriculum

Crazy Warm Up

Session 11 Warm-up

Objective:

- To start practice is a lively, fun way.
- To get the children laughing.



Organization:

- Mark out an area 15 yards by 15 yards - depending on the numbers.
- With a group of say 12, have 5 or 6 of the players with a ball.
- Start with a game of soccer tag - the players with the ball can only untag themselves by hitting the leg or foot (i.e., below the knee with the ball), but the ball must be kicked.
- Then the game is changed. Just four players have a ball and the ball is picked up. The rule is now that to tag someone the player with the ball must hit another without a ball below the knee. This time the player without the ball can protect his/her lower legs with the hands and arms.
- Finally, a more conventional game of tag, where the player who is "It!" can tag any player within the square -- except for those holding a ball.
- The idea is for those with a ball to follow "It!" around and throw the ball to a friend who is about to be tagged.
- Should a player just hang on to the ball and do nothing then that player becomes "It!" (at the direction and discretion of the coach).
- Similarly, if a player runs out of the area in an attempt not to be tagged that player becomes "It!"

Teaching:

- Encourage the players to be alert and alive and looking all around so as not to be caught out.
- Encourage the players with the balls to "hunt in pairs" to either tag someone or later to help the player who might be tagged and is looking for a helpful soccer ball.

Target:

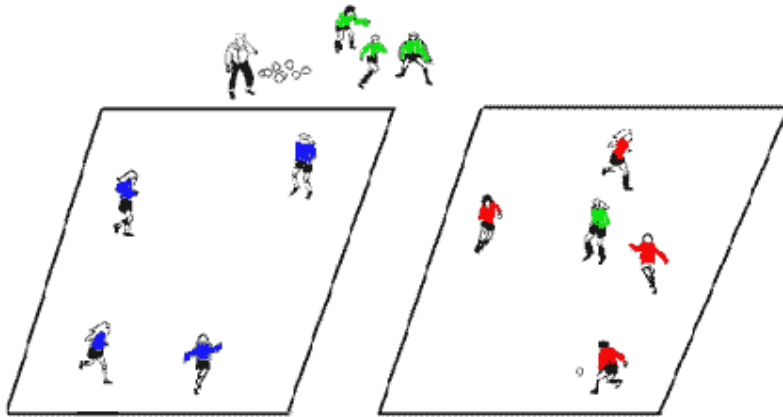
- Not to get tagged; or to untag oneself as quickly as possible.

4 v 1 Tennis

Session 11 Skills Game

Objective:

- To encourage players from an early age to appreciate the benefits of passing the ball to a teammate and...
- To bring in penetrating forward passes.



Organization:

- Mark two grids 10 x 10 yards depending on numbers, 3-yards apart.
- Use 3 teams of 3 (adjust organization if numbers are greater).
- Use pinnies to distinguish the three groups.
- Two groups of 3 go into the squares. One of the third group also goes into one of the squares.
- Coach plays a ball into the defended square. The 3 players try to keep the ball away from the one defender.
- After three passes they are allowed to pass the ball to the other square.
- Only when one player in the other square has touched the ball is a defender off the field allowed to enter that square.
- The previous defender comes out of the square to take a rest. Defending chores are divided in this way.
- When a mistake is made and possession lost, the offending team then change to become the defenders and the former defenders take their place in the square (Coach to act as referee. Be warned!).
- The defending chores are shared on an equal time basis.

Teaching:

- Coach must assess whether the playing area is too big or too small and make adjustments if necessary.
- Encourage the attackers to be looking for the opportunity of making the pass across the square. Must keep their heads up.
- The two players "off-the-ball" have to move and work hard to open up a good passing angle for the player with the ball.
- The player with the ball may have to screen the ball away from the defender while awaiting a better supporting angle from a teammate.
- All attackers need to communicate - particularly the two players "off-the-ball" ("Hold it!" "Wait!" "I'm here!") - as they become the "eyes" of the player with the ball.

Target:

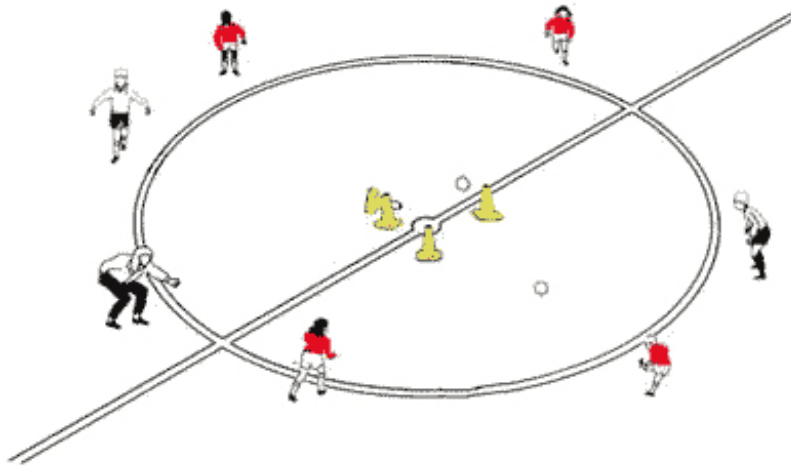
- Have fun, but try not to be the defending team.

Circle Game

Session 11 Skills Developer

Objective:

- A fun center circle practice.
- Developing accurate kicking.



Organization:

- Mark a circle having a center mark (line intersection; a coin; a scratched "X").
- A center circle works well, but may be too big for young players.
- 5-yard radius for 6-year olds; 6-yard for 7-year olds, etc.
- Use marker disks to make a circle.
- From center spot pace out the radius by going North, South, East and West. Then fill in the rest of the circle.
- Each player on one side of the circle has a partner directly opposite.
- If there is an odd number the coach joins in.
- Each pair has one ball between them.
- One player passes the ball towards his or her partner, but tries to knock over a cone in the center circle.
- The partner retrieves the ball and returns the pass through the center circle, again trying to kick over a cone.
- The ball must be passed from outside the circle.
- The game is stopped when all cones are knocked down.

Teaching:

- Encourage the players to use pace as well as accuracy of pass.
- Suggest they continue to kick towards the ball even after they have actually kicked (follow through).
- Encourage them to approach the ball at a slight angle to the direction they are kicking (45 degrees).

Target:

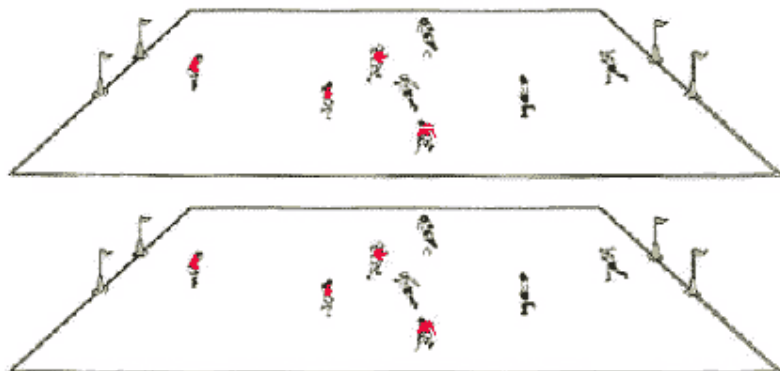
- The coach uses a stopwatch to set the "team" record of knocking all cones down. Later, winners are the pair to first knock over the cones 5 (6, 8,10) times.

Fab Fours Jamboree

Session 11 Game

Objective:

- To create a Jamboree atmosphere.
- Allow the children to enjoy playing without any coaching.



Organization:

- Any number of players above 15 can create a Jamboree atmosphere. Consider joining up with another team who practice at the same time.
- If less than 16 make up three teams of 4 or 5 players. Have a second activity area as one team waits to play.
- With 16 or more put in two fields or more, depending on numbers.
- With more than one field synchronize the play.
 - The time-keeper starts the game for everyone with a whistle.
 - One long blast signals the start of play.
 - A short blast signals the end of each period.
 - After the end of each period the substitutions/rotations take place and the game is recommenced as quickly as possible without a signal from the time-keeper.
 - Restart is with an indirect free kick from the part of the field where the period ended with the kick taken by the team that was in possession.
 - A short blast, followed by a long blast signifies the end of the game.
 - Use 4-period (quarter) games, but make sure to organize the rotations for the next game to ensure equal time on the field and in goal.
 - Play two to three minute periods.
- Try not to have more than 6 players on a team.
- With 5 players, at the end of each period, one of the subs becomes the goalkeeper, the goalkeeper moves out onto the field. One field player comes off. With 4-quarter games, start the next with the player in goal who was not in goal in the first game and so on. Use the same principle with 4 players or 6 players (equal time in goal and on the field).
- Teams work on a Round-Robin format.

Teaching:

- Coaches have to work hard to say...nothing!

Target:

- To enjoy good fun soccer.