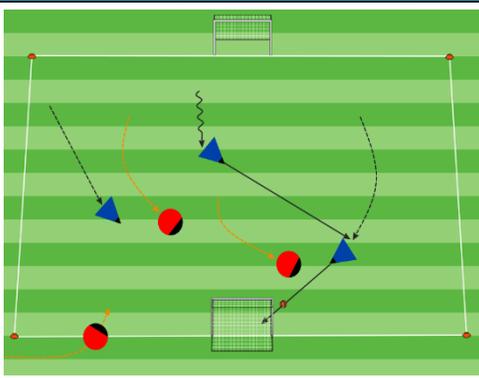




GOAL:	Prevent build up in the middle 1/3 of the field		AGE GROUP
PLAYER ACTIONS	Pressure, steal the ball, protect your goal		8U
KEY QUALITIES	Take initiative, read & understand the game		
MOMENT	Defending	DURATION	60 Minutes

1st PLAY PHASE (intentional Free Play) **18 Min.-Play multiple 3-4 minute games**



Objective: to deny the opponent's ability to create scoring chances or scoring goals.

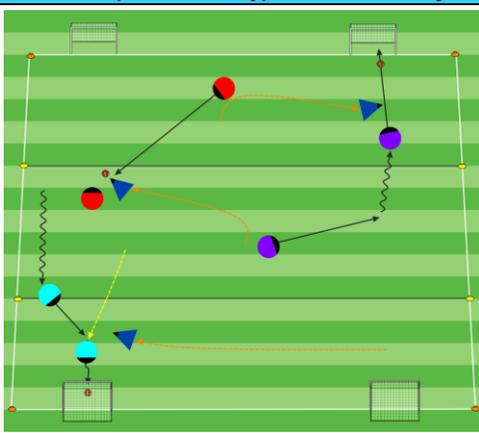
Organization: On your (25Wx35L) game field, set up two 17Wx25L fields with a small goal at each end. When practice is scheduled to start & as soon as 2 players arrive, start playing a game. The game will start as 1v1. As players arrive, the game becomes 2v1 then 2v2 up to 3v3. Once one field is at 3v3, start a second game on the field next to it.

Key Words: force the attacker away from the goal, get it, win the ball

Guided Questions: Why is it important for the defender to step closer to the ball? If the defender in front of you needs help, how can you help without getting too close?

Answers: By getting closer to the ball, you may be able to block passes or shots. Move over to that side of the field to see if you can intercept any passes kicked too hard.

PRACTICE (Core Activity): 2v1+1+1 – Defend Each Zone **18 Minutes-9 intervals-1 min. play-1 min. rest**



Organization: In a 20Wx30L yard grid divided into 3rds & 2 goals on each end line. Coach will select 1 player to defend each 3rd of the field. Each defender must remain in their zone (3rd). The rest of the players will have a partner and a soccer ball to share. The attackers try to dribble, pass and shoot to beat the defender and score in either goal at 1 end. Once they have scored, they get their ball and try to score in the other end. If they miss the goal or a defender in any 3rd steals their ball, they must start scoring over again. The defenders can count how many soccer balls they can steal in 1 minute. **Rules:** defenders cannot leave their zone. Attackers lose their points even if a defender only touches their soccer ball.

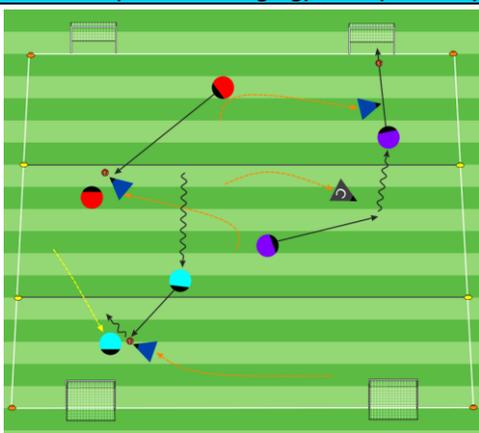
Key Words: force the attacker away from the goal, get it, win the ball

Guided Questions: Why is it important for the defender to step closer to the ball? If the defender in front of you needs help, how can you help without getting too close?

Answers: By getting closer to the ball, you may be able to block passes or shots. Move over to that side of the field to see if you can intercept any passes kicked too hard.

Notes: Coaches can use cones for goals if goals are not available.

PRACTICE (Less Challenging): 2v1 (or more) – Defend Each Zone **18 Minutes-9 intervals-1 min. play-1 min. rest**



Organization: In a 20Wx30L yard grid divided into 3rds & 2 goals on each end line. Coach will select 1 player to defend each 3rd of the field. One or more of the zones can have a 2nd defender. The rest of the players will have a partner and a soccer ball to share. The attackers try to dribble, pass and shoot to beat the defender and score in either goal at 1 end. Once they have scored, they get their ball and try to score in the other end. If they miss the goal or a defender in any 3rd steals their ball, they must start scoring over again. The defenders can count how many soccer balls they can steal in 1 minute. **Rules:** defenders cannot leave their zone. Attackers lose their points even if a defender only touches their soccer ball.

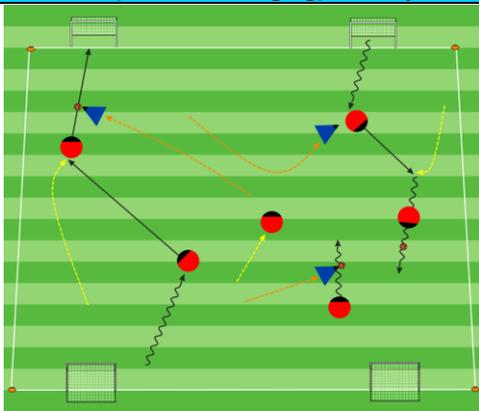
Key Words: force the attacker away from the goal, get it, win the ball

Guided Questions: Why is it important for the defender to step closer to the ball? If the defender in front of you needs help, how can you help without getting too close?

Answers: By getting closer to the ball, you may be able to block passes or shots. Move over to that side of the field to see if you can intercept any passes kicked too hard.

Notes: Coaches can use cones for goals if goals are not available.

PRACTICE (More Challenging): Multiple Teams of 2v3 Defenders to Goal **18 Minutes-9 intervals-1 min. play-1 min. rest**



Organization: In a 20Wx30L yard grid & 2 goals on each end line. Coach will select 3 player to defend. The rest of the players will have a partner and a soccer ball to share. The attackers try to dribble, pass and shoot to beat the defender and score in either goal at 1 end. Once they have scored, they get their ball and try to score in the other end. If they miss the goal or a defender in steals their ball, they must start scoring over again. The defenders can count how many soccer balls they can steal in 1 minute. **Rules:** Attackers lose their points even if a defender only touches their soccer ball.

Key Words: force the attacker away from the goal, get it, win the ball

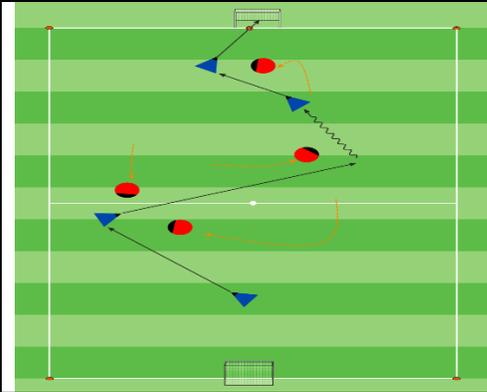
Guided Questions: Why is it important for the defender to step closer to the ball? If the defender in front of you needs help, how can you help without getting too close?

Answers: By getting closer to the ball, you may be able to block passes or shots. Move over to that side of the field to see if you can intercept any passes kicked too hard.

Notes: Coaches can use cones for goals if goals are not available.

2nd. PLAY PHASE: The Game – 4v4 (no Goal Keepers):

24 Minutes-2 intervals-10 min. play-2 min. rest



Objective: to deny the opponent's ability to create scoring chances or scoring goals.

Organization: In a 25Wx35L field and a small goal on each end line, play a 4v4. Play for 24 minutes – 2 intervals of 11 minutes with a 2 minute rest between intervals. Local rules apply. If the ball leaves the field, the coach should roll another ball onto the field and play continues. No goal keepers allowed.

Key Words: force the attacker away from the goal, get it, win the ball

Guided Questions: Why is it important for the defender to step closer to the ball? If the defender in front of you needs help, how can you help without getting too close?

Answers: By getting closer to the ball, you may be able to block passes or shots. Move over to that side of the field to see if you can intercept any passes kicked too hard.

Five Elements of a Training Activity

1. **Organized:** Is the activity organized in the right way?

2. **Game-like:** Is the activity game-like?

3. **Repetition:** Is there repetition, when looking at the overall goal of the training session?

4. **Challenging:** Are the players being challenged? (is the right balance between being successful and unsuccessful?)

5. **Coaching:** Is there coaching based on the age and level of the players?

Training Session Self-Reflection Questions

1. How did you do in achieving the goal of the training session?

2. What did you do well?

3. What could you do better?