

Fall 2020



GOAL:

PLAYER ACTIONS

KEY QUALITIES

MOMENT

Deny Scoring Chances

Pressure the ball, Steal the ball

Read & understand the game, Take initiative

Defending

DURATION

60 minutes

PLAYERS

8-12

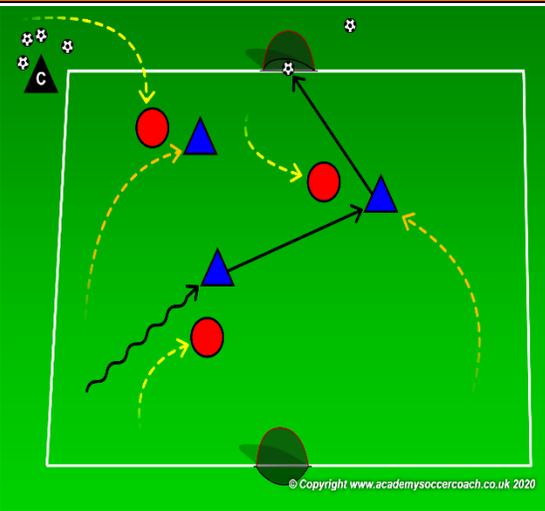
U8

4v4

SKILL ACQUISITION: Pressure: Angle, speed, distance of approach, footwork – **Types of Tackles:** Poke, Block, intercept

1st PLAY PHASE (Intentional Free Play)

DURATION: 18 min. - INTERVALS: 3 - ACTIVITY: 5 min. - REST: 1 min.



OBJECTIVE: To deny the opponent's ability to create scoring chances or score goals.

PLAYER ACTIONS: Protect the goal, Steal the ball

ORGANIZATION: On your 25W x 35L game field, set up two (13W x 20L) fields with a 4-yard space between. Place a small goal on each end line. When practice is scheduled to start & as soon as 2 players arrive, start playing a game. The game starts 1v1. As players arrive, the game becomes 2v1 then 2v2 up to 3v3. Once 1 field is at 3v3, start a second game on the field next to it.

KEY WORDS: step to the ball, get the ball

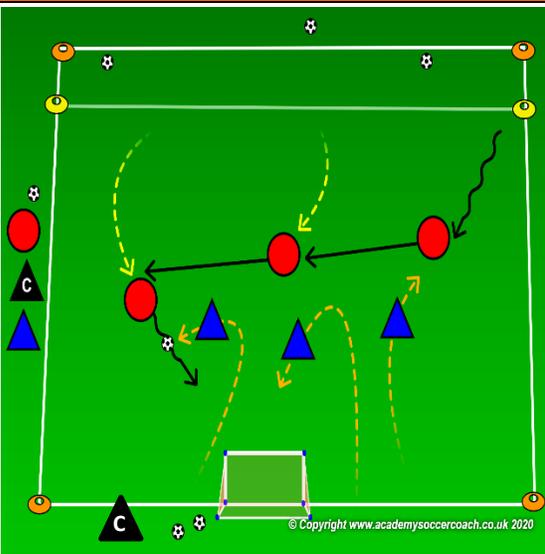
GUIDED QUESTIONS: If you are the closest defender to the ball, what should you do? When should you try to steal the ball from the opponent?

ANSWERS: Step closer to ball and pressure it. Do not let the player with the ball go straight to goal. If the opponent kicks the ball too far in front of themselves, step closer and try to tackle the ball away.

NOTES: Remember to focus on the team without the ball. At the first break, ask questions which generate thoughts about when to pressure the ball & when to tackle the ball. Second break, elicit answers from the same questions to determine the level of understanding from the players.

CORE ACTIVITY: 3v3 Defend Your Goal

DURATION: 18 min - INTERVALS: 3 - ACTIVITY: 4 min. - REST: 2 min.



OBJECTIVE: To deny the opponent's ability to create scoring chances or score goals.

PLAYER ACTIONS: Protect the goal, Steal the ball

ORGANIZATION: On your 25W x 35L game field with a goal on one end line & a 3 yard end zone on the other, play a 3v3 game. The focus team defends the goal & scores by stopping the ball in the opponent's end zone. The focus team can enter the end zone with a pass to a teammate or dribbling in. The opposing team scores in the goal. **RULES:** the team defending the end zone cannot wait in the end zone but can step in to defend a player trying to score. Play local laws/rules of the game other than scoring.

KEY WORDS: step to the ball, get the ball

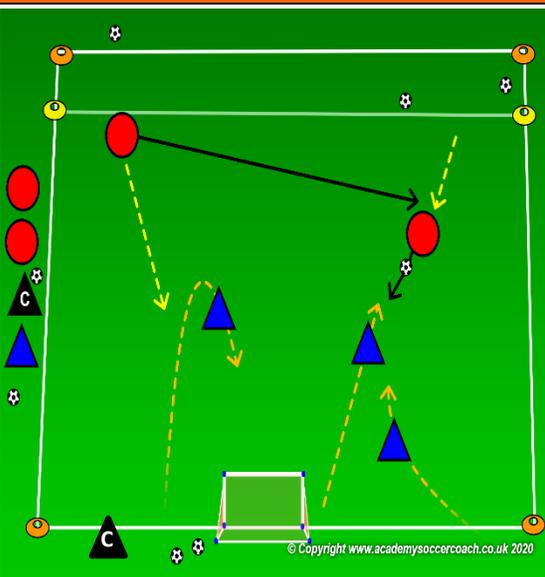
GUIDED QUESTIONS: If you are the closest defender to the ball, what should you do? When should you try to steal the ball from the opponent? How can you approach the player with the ball so you can get closer to the ball & protect your goal at the same time?

ANSWERS: Step closer to ball and pressure it. Do not let the player with the ball go straight to goal. If the opponent kicks the ball too far in front of themselves, step closer and try to tackle the ball away. Bend your run so you block the goal on your way to the ball.

NOTES: This is a defending session so the coaching should be directed to the team without the ball & the decisions they need to make in order to pressure the ball & steal the ball while protecting their own goal.

LESS CHALLENGING ACTIVITY: 2v3 Defend Your Goal

DURATION: 18 min - INTERVALS: 3 - ACTIVITY: 4 min. - REST: 2 min.



OBJECTIVE: To deny the opponent's ability to create scoring chances or score goals.

PLAYER ACTIONS: Protect the goal, Steal the ball

ORGANIZATION: On your 13W x 25L game field with a goal on one end line & a 3 yard end zone on the other, play a 2v3 game. The focus team defends the goal with 3 players & scores by stopping the ball in the opponent's end zone. The focus team can enter the end zone with a pass to a teammate or dribbling in. The opposing team players with 2 players & scores in the goal. **RULES:** the team defending the end zone cannot wait in the end zone but can step in to defend a player trying to score. Play local laws/rules of the game other than scoring.

KEY WORDS: step to the ball, get the ball

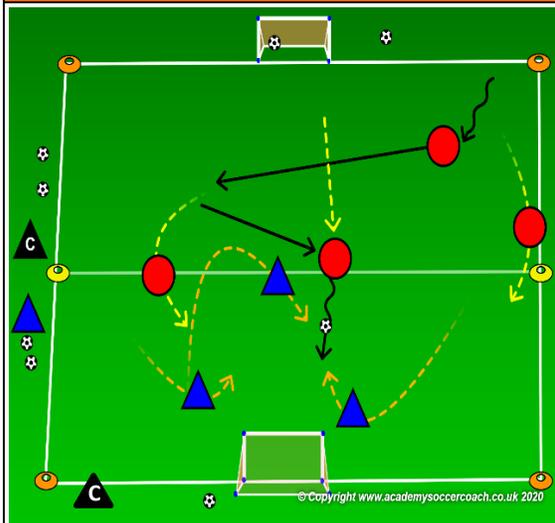
GUIDED QUESTIONS: If you are the closest defender to the ball, what should you do? When should you try to steal the ball from the opponent? How can you approach the player with the ball so you can get closer to the ball & protect your goal at the same time?

ANSWERS: Step closer to ball and pressure it. Do not let the player with the ball go straight to goal. If the opponent kicks the ball too far in front of themselves, step closer and try to tackle the ball away. Bend your run so you block the goal on your way to the ball.

NOTES: If needed, 2 fields can be set up; same size as the first play stage. Simply add the end zone to one end. This game can be 3v2 or 2v2. Adjust the numbers based on the session goal & attendance.

MORE CHALLENGING: 3v4 Defend Your Goal

DURATION: 18 min - INTERVALS: 3 - ACTIVITY: 5 min. - REST: 1 min.



OBJECTIVE: To deny the opponent's ability to create scoring chances or score goals.

PLAYER ACTIONS: Protect the goal, Steal the ball

ORGANIZATION: On your 25W x 35L game field with a goal on each end line, play a 3v4 game. The focus team defends their goal with 3 players & scores in the opponent's goal. The opposing team players with 4 players & scores in their opponent's goal. **RULES:** Play local laws/rules of the game other than scoring.

KEY WORDS: step to the ball, get the ball

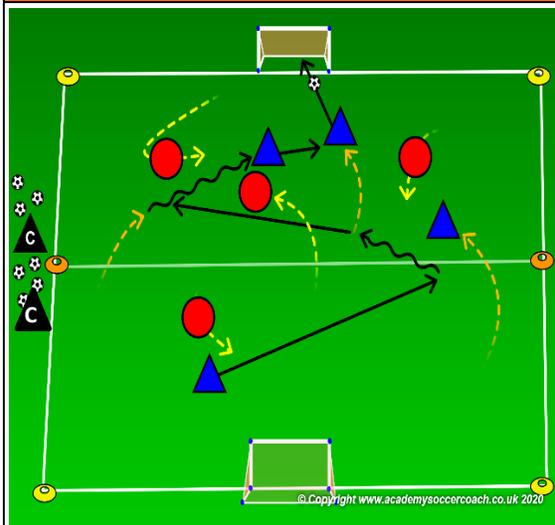
GUIDED QUESTIONS: If you are the closest defender to the ball, what should you do? When should you try to steal the ball from the opponent? How can you approach the player with the ball so you can get closer to the ball & protect your goal at the same time?

ANSWERS: Step closer to ball and pressure it. Do not let the player with the ball go straight to goal. If the opponent kicks the ball too far in front of themselves, step closer and try to tackle the ball away. Bend your run so you block the goal on your way to the ball.

NOTES: The team without the ball is the team to focus on. How can the cooperate to pressure the ball & steal the ball while protecting their ball.

2nd. PLAY PHASE: The Game – 4v4

DURATION: 20 min - INTERVALS: 2 - ACTIVITY: 10 min. - REST: 2 min.



OBJECTIVE: To deny the opponent's ability to create scoring chances or score goals.

PLAYER ACTIONS: Protect the goal, Steal the ball

ORGANIZATION: In a 25Wx35L field & a small goal on each end line, play a 4v4 game with no goal keepers. Play for 22 minutes – 2 x 9-minute halves with a 2-minute half-time. Local rules apply. If the ball leaves the field, the coach can play another ball onto the field and the play continues.

KEY WORDS: step to the ball, get the ball

GUIDED QUESTIONS: If you are the closest defender to the ball, what should you do? When should you try to steal the ball from the opponent? How can you approach the player with the ball so you can get closer to the ball & protect your goal at the same time?

ANSWERS: Step closer to ball and pressure it. Do not let the player with the ball go straight to goal. If the opponent kicks the ball too far in front of themselves, step closer and try to tackle the ball away. Bend your run so you block the goal on your way to the ball.

NOTES: Depending on your local rules, coaches may introduce throw-ins, corner kicks & goal kicks if rules enforce. Remember to create a build out line for goal kicks and focus on the techniques needed to complete the task in the moment of the players on the field. The game must be played so try not to dwell on the restarts.

FIVE ELEMENTS of TRAINING EXERCISE

TRAINING SESSION SELF-REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **Organized:** Is the exercise organized in the right way?
2. **Game like:** Is the exercise game like?
3. **Repetitions:** Are there repetitions when looking at the overall goal of the session?
4. **Challenging:** Are the players being challenged? (Is there the right balance between being successful and unsuccessful?)
5. **Coaching:** Is there the proper coaching based on the age/level of the players?

1. **How did you achieve your goals in the training session?**
2. **What did you do well?**
3. **What could you do better?**