GOAL: Improve passing for possession to go forward & score goals

Key Qualities: Understand the game, make decisions

Age Group: 8-U

Team Tactical Principles: Spread out, support the attack, create passing options

**PLAY - SMALL SIDED GAMES**

**Objectives:** Play the game. Possess or keep the ball to go forward past opponents to score goals.

**Organization:** Use 15W x 20L fields w/ a goal at each end. When players arrive to training play 2-3 small sided games up to 4v4.

**Time:** Each game is 2.5 mins w/ 30 sec rest. Play 4 games. Duration is 12 min.

**Rules:** Games begin w/ a kick off. Out of bounds, play the ball on the field with a pass. Allow for free play.

**Key Words:** Keep the ball (possess), find space, make an opening, get to an opening, go help score goals

**Guided Questions:** What can you ask players as they arrive to practice?

**Answers:** Ask players how they are doing, if they are excited to play soccer today.

**PLAY - LET THEM PLAY**

**Objective:** Each team is trying to score more goals than their opponents.

**Organization:** Make a 25W x 35L field with a small goal at each end. Play 4v4.

**Time:** Game is 30 min. Two halves of 12 min each with 3 min of rest.

**Rules:** All modified 4v4 rules apply.

**Key Words:** Find or make an opening, move to space (spread out, support), keep the ball (possess), go score

**Guided Questions:** How do you know if players know when to pass? What will tell you that players are understanding the game or figuring it out for themselves?

**Answers:** A player learns when to pass to an open teammate when they are confronted by a defender they can't dribble around. Players understand the rules at game time, and they begin to continuously display individual and small group problem solving techniques.