### Team Tactical Principles

**Age Group**: 8-U  
**Focus**: Steal the ball, Protect the goal, Prevent Scoring

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<th><strong>Objectives</strong></th>
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<td>Players will play the game. Players w/out the ball work to get the ball back from the other team and go score goals.</td>
<td>Create 2-3 fields that are 15W x 20L w/a goal at each end. As players get to the field start to play 2v2, 3v3, up to 4v4 games.</td>
<td>4 games of 2 mins, 30 sec rest, activity duration is 10 min.</td>
<td>Start w/a kick off. Out of bounds, pass or dribble ball in. Allow players to have free play.</td>
<td>Get the ball, go help (to get the ball), close the opening</td>
<td>How can you tell players are participating? When should players try to get the ball back?</td>
<td>They are playing the game with very few distractions. Right after losing it.</td>
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### PLAY - SMALL SIDED GAMES

**Key Words**: Get the ball, go help (to get the ball), close the opening  
**Guided Questions**: How can you tell players are participating? When should players try to get the ball back?  
**Answers**: They are playing the game with very few distractions. Right after losing it.

**Objectives**: Players will play the game. They must defend, take the ball from the opponents, and try to score.  
**Organization**: Make a 15W x 20L field w/a small cone goal on each endline & a midfield line. Players in 2 equal teams next to each goal. Play 2v2. Score by dribbling through the opponents goal.  
**Rules**: Coach has the balls. 2 players from each team step onto the field. Coach plays a ball onto the field to one of the teams. Play to score. Bonus pts for scoring a goal immediately after stealing the ball from the other team. Extra bonus if done in the attacking half of the field. Play until out of bounds, a goal, or 1 minute has passed.  
**Key Words**: Go to (the player with) the ball, Pressure, take the ball (tackle it), go help (your teammate) to get the ball, stay close (to teammates) to close the opening or attacking space, defend the goal  
**Guided Questions**: What can you do if the defenders are just kicking the ball away from the attackers? How can you instruct the player closest to the ball to pressure & win the ball back?  
**Answers**: Ask them, "If you just kick the ball away instead of stealing it, who gets the ball back?" Answer should be, "the other team". Show them how to go pressure the player w/the ball, (block or poke) tackle the ball to get it, so now they can go and score.

### PLAY - LET THEM PLAY

**Key Words**: Pressure the ball, take or win the ball back, go help (get the ball), close the opening space to protect the goal (to prevent scoring)  
**Guided Questions**: What shows you players understood the training session? How can you tell if players enjoy playing the game?  
**Answers**: Players are trying to win the ball back from opponents right after losing it. They want to keep playing the game, they want to get on the field and play.