

U6

Development of Individual Skills

COACH: Must be enthusiastic. Must be able to give encouragement. Must be understanding and fair. Must be able to give equal playing time and rotate positions. Cannot be concerned with wins and losses. Must secure safe environment. Should play with players.

TECHNIQUE: Every player should have a ball. No elimination games. Establish fundamental motor skills like running, jumping and rolling. Focus heavily on kicking the ball, stopping the ball, dribbling the ball and stealing the ball. No heading what-so-ever. Encourage individual success.

TACTICS: No tactics taught. The player only understands themselves and the ball and cannot think in an abstract or tactical manner. Get players to move in the correct direction to score or defend. In the game, everybody moves up and down the field as a unit. Do not leave defenders standing at the top of the penalty box.

PHYSICAL: Poor eye, hand and eye, and foot coordination at this age. Balance is increasing. Must be given frequent but short rest periods. They will give the activity 100% effort until fatigued. Not much physical difference between boys and girls. Do not have players run laps.

MENTAL: Poor judgment in regards to safety. The focus is on themselves as an individual. Must be fun. Need positive reinforcement and praise. Prone to exaggerate. Need plenty of room to move.

U8

Individual Skill Development

COACH:

Passionate about children. Enhancement of U6 soccer knowledge. Know basic rules of corner kick, goal kick, indirect kick, kick-off, drop ball and minor fouls. Encourage sportsmanship. Should play with players. Coach must be enthusiastic and sensitive. Wins and losses do not matter. Nurturing manner.

TECHNIQUE:

Enhancement of dribbling skills using all foot surfaces. How to receive and control the ball. Starting to learn how to pass. Don't encourage players to just kick the ball down field. Start to encourage controlling it and trying to keep possession. Learn to shoot. Every player must have their own ball. 75% of practice should be on technique. Left and right foot with every activity. All activities are to be done with a ball.

TACTICS:

Players begin to understand themselves and a friend. Rotate players in different positions. Width and spreading out on the field. Move up and down the field as a unit. Penetrate defenses with quick passes. Understand restarts. Still heavy emphasis on individual technique rather than group tactics. Lots of 1v1, 2v1 and 2v2 towards goal. Plenty of repetitions.

PHYSICAL:

Improved eye, hand and eye, and foot coordination is improving but not completely mature. Can be self centered. Skeletal system is growing. Need full rest periods and plenty of water. No separate running should be done. All activities with a ball.

MENTAL:

Need constant reinforcement. Focus is on them and their friend. They are beginning to develop time and space relationships. Easily bruised ego. Make it fun. They have a great need for approval and have a fear of failure.

U10

Development of Skill and Small Group Tactics

COACH:

Coach must be enthusiastic and passionate. Must have the ability to demonstrate. Must be keen and sensitive as well as enjoy children. The coach must seek soccer education. Must respect the game and all who are involved with it. Focus on development rather than the result. Know more soccer rules.

TECHNIQUE:

Continued development on individual technique. Ball juggling. All players must have a ball. Control and receiving as well as passing skills should be heavily emphasized. Continued work on shooting. Activities must include lots of repetitions. Teach Goalkeeping skills. 75% of practice should be on technique. Encourage mastery of the ball. Left and right foot with everything.

TACTICS:

Build on small group activities like 2v1, 2v2, 2v3, 3v3-both offensively and defensively. Teach some positional responsibilities but don't spend a lot of time on it. Continue to rotate players in positions. Learn depth and cover as well as width. Teach throw-ins. Encourage flair and risk taking.

PHYSICAL:

Introduce stretching and cool downs. They need full rest periods and plenty of water breaks. Players are becoming stronger and faster. Prone to over heating and heat related injury. Players gaining better control over their bodies.

MENTAL:

Recognizes basic concepts of time and space but not always certain why. Their focus is on "me" and the "team." Still in need of positive reinforcement. Want to belong to a group. Enjoy friends. Adults outside of the family are accepted. They will blame others. They are more sensitive and serious about playing. Feelings get hurt easily.

U12 Development of Individual Skills and Individual and Group Tactics

Hero worship, identification with high level players and teams and a hunger and passion for imaginative skills are important at this age. Demonstration is very important and players learn best by doing. It is very important to establish discipline and instill an attitude necessary to compete and succeed.

COACH: Must be enthusiastic; Possess soccer awareness; A sensitive teacher; Ability to demonstrate; Knowledge of the key factors of basic skills; Give encouragement; Seek soccer education.

TECHNIQUE: Important to establish a good strong base. Increase technical speed. Develop under pressure of time, space and opponent. The technical training must far outweigh anything else in this age group.

1st Touch All surfaces and on the move.

Passing All surfaces and on the move. Proper timing, weight, accuracy and disguise.

Dribbling **Encourage risk taking.** They must be allowed to run at players and take them on. We want players who can make things happen.

Shooting Proper striking technique-service from all angles, 1st touch, preparation to strike and attitude to score

TACTICS: Play a variety of positions. Promote attacking soccer

Individual 1V1

Attacking Take players on. Encourage the creative risk taker. Shielding.

Defending Proper pressure (in front and from behind), How to jockey and how and when to tackle.

Small group 2V1, 2V2, 3V1, 3V2, 3V3

Attacking Keep possession, support, combination plays

Defending Pressure/cover; marking

Play a lot of small-sided games and coach within the games. Join in

PHYSICAL: Flexibility-stress this aspect because it cuts down on injuries and increases range of motion.

Speed, Strength, Agility

MENTAL: Must be kept fun

Encourage decision-making

Imagination/Creativity/Risk Taking

Discipline/Boots polished/On Time/Set Standards

Encourage them to watch high-level games

U12 Goalkeeper

TECHNIQUE: Set position
 General handling / Basic shot stopping / Catching
 Ground balls
 Bouncing balls
 Mid-range balls
 Head Height balls
 Dealing with Crossed balls
 Flighted
 Driven
 Distribution
 Throws
 Roll
 Sling
 All kicks
 Goal kicks
 Volleyes
 Balls played to feet

TACTICS: Basic communication
 1v1 Principals
 1v1 with the defense
 Beginnings of support for defense

PHYSICAL: Goalkeeping specific stretching and flexibility
 Beginning stages of foot work skills
 Increase speed in short distances (18 yards)

MENTAL: Have fun
 Encourage effort/determination
 Drill home basics for muscle memory
 Watch older goalkeepers in games

U14 Individual Skills and Small Group Tactics

Adult standards and formal rules become the focal point. The demands of skill training as well as training loads should increase thus provoking improvement in mental toughness, concentration and diligence.

Coach: Strong personality; Soccer knowledge; Enthusiastic; Demonstrate

TECHNIQUE: Build on the base. Development of individual skill under pressure

Dribbling Encourage players to take players on 1v1; Moves; Shielding and Spin turns.

Receiving Quality 1st touch. Still highly emphasized. Take balls out of air/turning; all surfaces.

Passing Short, long, bent, crosses, driven, chipped; all surfaces and on the move.

Shooting On the run; on the turn; from all angles; Volleys; 1/2 volleys

Heading To goal; To pass; To clear

Tackling Proper technique and timing; Slide

TACTICS: Increase tactical speed (decision making)

Individual 1V1

Attacking Encourage the creative risk taker; take players on in proper areas of the field

Defending Proper pressure (in front and behind); Channel player; immediate chase

Small Group 2V1, 2V2, 3V2, 3V3, 4V2, 4V3, 4V4

Attacking Keep possession; Support; Combination Play; Width, Depth, Penetration;

Crossing with proper runs; Simple set plays

Defending Pressure-Cover-Balance, Compactness, Delay, Tracking back; Simple set plays

Play a lot of small-sided games and coach within the games. Join in

PHYSICAL: Flexibility, Agility

Speed

Strength

Endurance

MENTAL: The game must remain fun

Imagination/Creativity/Risk Taking

Increase Demands

Establish Training Targets

Maintain Discipline

Encourage them to watch high-level games.

U14 Goalkeeper

TECHNIQUE: Set position

- General handling / Basic shot stopping / Catching
- All heights

Diving

- Collapse
- Step and save
- Power step and save
- Reaction save
- Recovery save

Crosses – catching & punching

- Chipped serve
- Flighted serve
- Driven serve
- unopposed and opposed.

Distribution

Throws

- Roll
- Side arm
- Overarm

All kicks

- Goal kicks
- Volleys & ½ Volleys
- Dealing with the back pass unopposed & opposed –
– control and increase range with both feet.

TACTICS: Communication (for each 1/3)

- 1v1 Principals
- 1v1 with the defense
- Distance / Angles / Availability to support the defense

PHYSICAL: Warm ups and cool downs

- Plyometric exercises
- Goalkeeping specific stretching, flexibility and mobility exercises
- Footwork all directions/planting of feet for change of lateral direction
- Speed – 18 yards max distance (penalty box)
- Check height/weight and vertical jump 4 times per year

MENTAL: Match and training preparation

- Growth and development – diet and nutrition – lifestyle
- Dealing with positive & negative assessments (praise and criticism)
- Dealing with selection and tryouts with positive & negative results.
- Soccer terminology

U16 Development of Skill and Group Tactics

This is a critical time in a player's development. Many stop playing due to other interests, lack of success, shortage of playing opportunities, poor coaching or other interests. Players tend to be mentally tougher and more self confident but with a need for attention, security and further nurturing. There is a need for team spirit, leadership and discipline within the team.

COACH: Charismatic; Experienced; Knowledgeable; Articulate; Disciplinarian;
Managerial Know How; Thoughtful Communicator

TECHNIQUE: Skills should be mastered leading to artistry. Technique should be trained on the move, done at speed and all with opposition. Strike balls cleanly and maturely over distance with accuracy and pace and all under pressure.

TACTICS: Increase Tactical Speed (decision making)
Group 3V3, 4V4, 5V5, 7V7
Attacking Keep Possession but with a Purpose-e.g. Direction
Combination Play and 3rd Man Runs
Penetration
Mobility/Creativity
Crossing with Pressure and Proper Runs into the Box
Set Plays
Defending Pressure-Cover-Balance
Compactness
Delay
Tracking Back
Communication (how, efficient)
Hunting the Ball and Winning Back Possession
Set Plays

PHYSICAL: Flexibility-Before and After Training/Games
Agility-With and Without the Ball
Speed Work
Endurance-Aerobic and Anaerobic
Strength-Upper and Lower Body
Nutrition-Proper Diet-Pre-Game, Post-Game, Tournaments, etc...
Prevention and Care of Injuries

MENTAL: Increased Concentration, Goalsetting, and Relaxation Techniques
Leadership/Player Responsibilities
Discipline
Respect for the Game/Opponent, Watch High Level Matches

U16 Goalkeeper

TECHNIQUE: Footwork / Set position / General handling techniques
Shot stopping / catch or deflect / recovery saves
All Dives
 Collapse / Step and save / Power step and save
Narrowing the angle
Crosses
 Served from all areas/angles unopposed & opposed
Distribution –
 Throws
 Improved range / power / variation - all techniques
 Kicks
 Goal kicks / Volleys / ½ Volleys
 Dealing with the back pass under pressure –control
 & first touch with both feet, variation of
 pass.

TACTICS: Support - Angles / Distance
Communication – working with the defensive unit - recognizing
pressure on and of the ball
Presence
Making adjustments to stay in line with the ball (footwork)
Organization in defending set plays - free kicks and corner kicks

PHYSICAL: Warm-ups and Cool-downs
Stretching, flexibility, mobility and strengthening exercises
Plyometric exercises
Recovery exercises
Agility exercises – low intensity / low repetitions
Weight training – low weights/high reps
Footwork all directions (all goalkeeping movements)
Speed – 20-yards maximum
Check height/weight and vertical leap 4 times per year
Check body fat

MENTAL: Training and match preparation
Lifestyles/discipline
Living away from home
Dealing with competition
Physical confrontations
Dealing with pressure – internal/external
Dealing with both success and failure

U19 Developmental of Positional and Team Play

Fulfillment of a player's potential depends on his or her own efforts, the support of his/her teammates and the unselfish guidance of his or her coach. He/she must be exposed to a playing and training environment, which extends his/her mental, physical and technical capabilities to the limit. He/she must have a sound understanding of the game's principles and concepts. Players should show emotional stability when confronted with pressure situations. **Demanding and Challenging training sessions and matches are a must!!!**

COACH: Charismatic; Well Informed; Up to Date; Experienced; Articulate;
Disciplinarian-No Doubts about who is in Charge; Managerial Know How

TECHNIQUE: Mastered Skill Leading to Artistry. All at Speed under Match Conditions.
Individual Skill Covered during warm-up

TACTICS: Increase Tactical Speed (Decision making).
Increase Pressure and Competition

Team/Functional- Understanding the Three Lines in the Team and their Collective Responsibilities

Attacking Possession with a Purpose
Combination Play with Tactical Implications
Penetration with Variety, Creativity and Disguise
Counter Attack
Wide/Flank Play
Target Play and Creating Chances
Crossing under Pressure with Proper runs into the Box
Set Plays

Defending Zonal marking & Man marking with Sweeper Behind
Pressing as a Unit in Different 1/3's
Set Plays

PHYSICAL: Flexibility Work Before and After Practices and Games
Agility-With and Without the Ball
Speed
Endurance-Aerobic and Anaerobic
Strength-Upper and Lower Body
Nutrition-Proper Diet-Pre-Game, Post-Game. Tournaments, etc...
Care and Prevention of Injuries
Care of their Own Bodies. e.g. toenails, shower, sleep, footwear

MENTAL: Increased Concentration
Leadership/Increased Player Responsibilities
Discipline
Respect for the Game/Opponents
Self-Confidence/Self Motivation-GoalSetting
Mental Imagery
Fighting Spirit-Will to Win
Encourage to Watch High Level Soccer

U19 Goalkeeper

TECHNICAL: Footwork/set position/general handling
All Dives
 Collapse save / Step and save / Power step and save
Narrowing the angle
Shot stopping / catch or deflect / recovery saves
Advanced reaction saves
Crosses
 Unopposed & Opposed
 Working with the defensive unit
Distribution
 Throws – all techniques
 Kicks – all techniques

TACTICS: Distance of support / Playing off your line
 Recognizing pressure on and off the ball.
Decision-making - last line of defense & first line of attack
Presence.
Organization of the defensive unit for transition
Organization on set plays – corners and free kicks

PHYSICAL: Warm up/cool down
Goalkeeping specific stretching, flexibility and mobility
Footwork exercises
Recovery exercises
Agility exercises
Plyometric exercise
Weight training – low weights high reps
Speed 20 yards maximum
Check height, weight – weekly
Body fat and vertical leap – check monthly

MENTAL: Application / Attitude
Following a coach's game plan
Composure / Temperament / Dealing with the pressure
Concentration
Confidence
Consistency
Courage
Criticism – internal / external
Desire / Determination/ Winning mentality
Personal goal setting — imagery