

U5/U6 Session 7

Objective: To provide fun, active, age appropriate activities that foster comfort with the ball for each player. It is important, if possible, that all players have a ball in most activities so that they can have “LOTS” of touches as they attempt to dribble (propel) the ball. (*Sessions, including the 3v3 or 4v4 game, should be about 45-60 minutes in duration.*)

1) **Free Dribble**---Everyone dribbling a ball, using insides, outsides, and soles of their feet. Players can dribble with speed (outsides of the feet and toes), try moves of their choice or moves that the coach introduces, or they can change direction. The Coach can manipulate the session by calling out different commands...”stop, go, turn, tap”. Kids can carry the ball towards someone and try a move. *Version 2:* As players get comfortable, the coach can walk around and put pressure on players as they are performing dribbling tasks. This adds fun and interaction. (8 minutes)

2)

3) **Hospital tag**---Same as tag in that each player dribbles a soccer ball and that they try to tag each other with their hands. In this game, each time a player is tagged he/she must place their hand on the spot on their body where they were tagged. Obviously, if tagged a third time, players have no more hands to cover those spots, so they must go to the hospital to see the doctor. The coach acts as the doctor and performs a magical task (pretend) to heal all the injuries of the little soccer players so they can continue playing the game. (6 minutes)

4)

5) **Snake**---In an appropriate space, have all players dribble their soccer balls, except for 2-3 players (the snake). The snake players hold hands or lock arms and work together to tag the other players. The players dribbling the balls try to avoid getting tagged by the snake. If they are tagged, they join hands or lock arms with the snake. The snake grows until all players are part of the snake. The snake must work together and stay connected...they cannot break into little parts. Encourage fun by having the snake hiss. (8 minutes)

6)

7) **Sharks and Minnows**---Set up a grid roughly 10yds x 15yds. Have 3-4 players inside the grid acting as sharks. The sharks do not have a soccer ball. The rest of the players (Minnows) start at one end of the grid and when the coach says “Go”, they attempt to dribble their soccer balls to the other end of the grid. The sharks try to kick their soccer balls out of the grid. If a dribbler’s ball goes out of the grid, that player becomes a shark as well. If the minnows reach the other end of the grid with their soccer ball, they wait for the coach’s command and play again. Play continues until all players turn into sharks. (8 minutes)

8)

9) **Get “Outta” There**---Place two small (2 yard) goals at the end of a field 15 x 10 yards. The coach stands at the halfway line with all of the soccer balls. Half of the players are lined up on his left side and half of the players are lined up on his right side in different colored bibs. When the coach kicks a ball onto the field, the first player in each line runs out and tries to score on their opponent’s goal. If the ball goes in the goal or out of bounds, the coach yells “get outta there” and plays a new ball into the field immediately for the next two players. *Version 2:* Coach can stop yelling “get outta there” and see if the 1st players in each line recognize that they should begin play when a new ball is kicked into the field. *Version 3:* Coach can vary service of ball. Sometimes play it to one player, sometimes toss the ball up in the air. *Version 4:* If the Coach calls out the number “TWO” before he/she kicks a ball on the field, the first 2 players in each line enter the field and play as a team of 2 against each other. (10 minutes)

10)

11) **3v3 or 4v4 Game**---Separate players into two teams and play a game of 3 against 3 or 4 against 4 without goalkeepers. Let the players play and give plenty of positive feedback to them as they compete. **REINFORCE the GOOD STUFF!** (15 minutes)

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