



United States Youth Soccer Association

Practice Plan

Activity	Coaching Points
<p>1st Activity (warm-up) <i>Hares and Hunters</i></p> <p>Players are in a marked playing area. One to three hunters have a ball and are hunters. The other players are hares. The hunters throw the ball at the hares (must hit hares below the waist). When a hare is hit by a ball, he picks it up and becomes a hunter.</p> <p>Progressions: The hares each have a ball and the hunters have to throw their ball and hit the hare's ball. Or, make it so the hunters have to kick the hare's ball.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The hares must constantly be looking all around for hunters who may try to throw a ball at them ▪ By making the hunters throw their ball at the hares ball the technique of shielding is introduced for the hares
<p>2nd Activity <i>Shadow Running</i></p> <p>Everyone has a pair again. This time, one person moves around in an area while the other tries to shadow them, doing everything they do. The person can stop to stretch, change direction, pretty much whatever they want. Play for 20 seconds at a time.</p> <p>Progressions: Add a ball for each player.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stretching can be added to this game
<p>3rd Activity <i>Siamese Soccer</i></p> <p>Create a playing space of approximately 20 x 20 yards. All the players need to pair up and link elbows. One pair does not link up and they share a ball between the two of them. The pair that is not linked up has to dribble and pass to try to strike the paired players below the waist with their ball. When a pair is hit they break up and go get a ball for the two of them and join the other players who are passing and dribbling.</p> <p>Progressions: Specify how players must play the ball.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can the pairs that are linked communicate so they don't pull each other apart? ▪ Can one person with a ball shoot at a pair and have their partner right behind the pair just in case they miss? ▪ Can one partner pass the ball to their partner who is standing right next to a pair ▪ Allow the players two touches if necessary
<p>4th Activity <i>Running Bases</i></p> <p>Mark a fairly large playing area. Divide the team into taggers and dribblers. There should be more dribblers than taggers. Players try to dribble their ball without being tagged. If they get tagged they exchange places with the tagger. Have taggers carry a vest to distinguish them. When they tag someone they drop the vest and the new tagger must pick up the vest before they can start tagging. Set up four bases in each of the corners of the area. One player can be safe from being tagged when they are in a base. When a new dribbler goes into a base the person previously in the base must leave.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make or take away based depending upon how the teams are doing ▪ Add balls to make the game more challenging
<p>5th Activity (the game) <i>Protect the Cones in Pairs</i></p> <p>Play should take place in 20 x 20 yard areas. Eight players play in one area. The eight players need to break into pairs. Each pair sets up two or three tall cones on one of the lines making the area. That pair must defend those cones. Each player must have a ball. On the coach's signal the pairs either attack other people's cones by knocking them over or they defend their own (or one can do either). When a team has all of it's cones knocked down it can no longer attack.</p> <p>Progressions: Only one ball per pair and the defending team can kick any opponent's ball. Make goals on each of the sidelines and play two 2v2 games on the same field, one E to W and one N to S.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assign one person from each team to be the captain and decide who is going to attack and who is going to defend ▪ This game requires quite a bit of decision making