



MLS CAMPS

THE OFFICIAL CAMP OF MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

10 Week Curriculum Planner **U16** COMPETITIVE



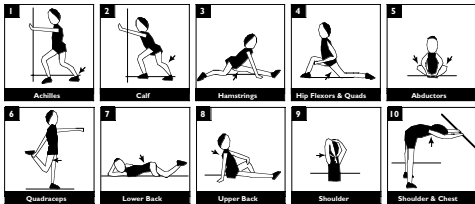
SESSION 1

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STANDARD STRETCHING INTRODUCTION

Warm Up



Purpose

To warm up players' muscles and increase blood flow.

Organization

Have the players pair up and form 2 lines.

Game Objective

Players jog around the area following the coach's commands, then stretch.

Progressions

- Change - change direction, increase speed of turns as players get warmer
- Heel flicks - lean forward and flick heels up to bottom (hamstring stretch)
- Outside of foot flicks - put hands up to sides and touch outside of feet by flicking them up
- Thighs up - put hands out in front, palms down; slap thighs against palms to stretch quads
- Side to side - face in or out and move along by clicking heels together
- Skipping - skipping forwards using arms to help bound; get as high as possible
- Sideways skipping - jog sideways by crossing one foot behind the other
- Leaps - jump up for imaginary header; try alternating bounding leg
- Down for rolls - spring to floor and do a sideways roll, then quickly back up
- Bouncing - jog, then bounce against partner's shoulder, land, continue
- Swap places - swap places with partner as quickly as possible; communicate
- Leap frog - back player leaps over players in front; each does same
- Hopping & bounding - use one foot and both feet together
- Back to front - back pair race against each other to be first to the front

Key Coaching Points

Be consistent; stretch slowly; do not bounce; hold each stretch 10 - 20 seconds and repeat 2 - 4 times on each side of body; move until you feel a moderate sensation; there should be no pain.



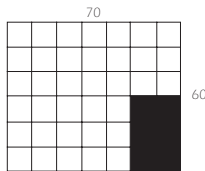
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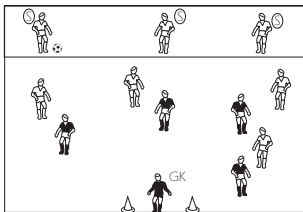
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SESSION 1 - Week 9

2 hour practices, 2 recommended practices per week

San Jose's World Cup Clash

Assumption: 12 players in group


**Purpose**

To develop shooting on the turn in a functional practice.

Organization

Set out a 20 x 30 yard area with a 5 yard channel at the top of the grid. Three servers are placed in the channel, play 4 v 4 and a goalkeeper in the larger area.

Game Objective

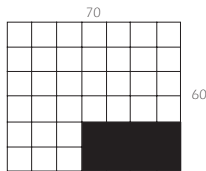
The server  plays the ball to any player in the area. The object of the game is to turn the defender and shoot on goal. If the defender marks tightly, the receiver can either a.) pass to a teammate in the area or b.) pass the ball back for any server to shoot on goal. The servers have only 1 touch, and when they are shooting, they are scoring for whoever passed them the ball. If the ball takes a deflection, then the last person the ball touched is the scorer.

Progressions

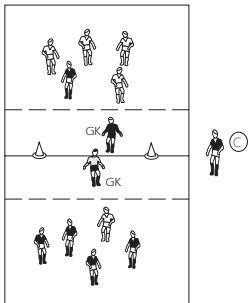
1. Put all players in the area and pair them up. The spare player plays with 2 others.
2. Play knock out (elimination). Any players who are not out of the game become servers.

Key Coaching Points

1. Check toward the ball at an angle so you can see the goal when you turn.
2. Shoot low and early.
3. Shoot past players and use them as a screen.
4. Secondary opportunities.

Columbus Crew's Wrecking Crew

Assumption: 12 players in group

**Purpose**

To develop quick shooting in and around the penalty area.

Organization

Set out an area of 40 x 20 yards with a goal on the 1/2 way line. Make a 5 yard area on each side of the goal and put 2 goalkeepers on either side of the goal line. Play 4 v 1 on each side of the goal line. No players are allowed in the goal area.

Game Objective

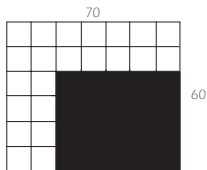
The 4 players combine to get a shot on goal by beating the defender. If the defender wins the ball, he shoots on the same goal. If a goal is scored, the game restarts in the other 1/2 of the field. If the goalkeeper saves the ball, he gives it to the coach who serves another ball into the area. First team to score 10 goals, wins.

Progressions

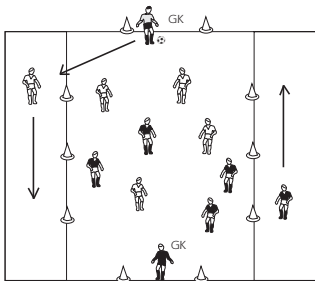
1. Play 3 v 2 on each side of the goal.
2. All throw-ins must result in a 1 touch shot or volley on goal.

Key Coaching Points

1. Shoot through and around player.
2. Keep the ball low.
3. Try to shoot the ball straight back from the other side of the goal.
4. If you cannot shoot, then give a pass that allows a 1st time shot by someone else.



Assumption: 12 players in group



Purpose

To develop width in attack.

Organization

Set out a 40 x 50 yard area with 5 yard channels along each sideline. Station one player in each channel. Play 4 v 4 in the central area with a goalkeeper at each end.

Game Objective

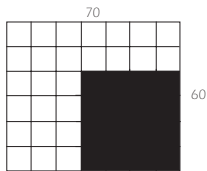
The goal of the game is to get the ball to your team's wide player stationed in the channel. The wide player sprints the distance to the opposing goal line and delivers a cross to the prime scoring area for his teammates who are attacking the goal. Repeat in opposite direction.

Progressions

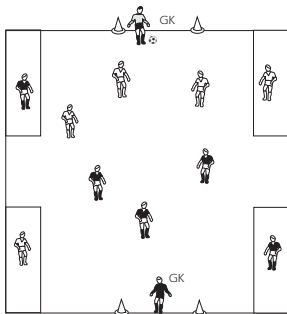
When the wide player gets the ball in the channel, the nearest player from the defending team can enter the channel one disc behind where the ball crossed the line. The defender then pursues the wide player down the channel challenging the cross.

Key Coaching Points

1. Get the ball to the wide player as quickly as possible.
2. Draw the defender beyond the near post, creating space behind him for an attacker penetrating the mid-goal area.
3. Make decoy runs such as the crossover or diagonal run to confuse the defense.



Assumption: 12 players in group



Purpose

To develop width in attack.

Organization

Set out a 40 x 40 yard area with four 5 x 15 yard channels from each corner as shown in the above diagram. Station one player in each channel. Play 3 v 3 in central area.

Game Objective

The goalkeeper GK serves the ball to one of his three teammates in the central area. The goal is to get the ball to either player stationed in a channel. This player delivers a crossed ball into the attacking area. The three players stagger their attacking runs into the near post, mid-goal and far post areas. Finish with a shot or header on goal.

Progressions

When the wide player gets the ball in the channel, the opposing wide player on his side of the field may run into his area to challenge the cross.

Key Coaching Points

1. The near post run should be at approximately a 45 degree angle. It is essential that the near post runner beats his defender to the ball.
2. The far post runner cuts around the decoy of the near post to attack the far post.
3. An attacker must exploit the space in the mid-goal area to challenge the goalkeeper.
4. Can the cross be played early behind the recovering defense?