

## TIPS for Defending Corners

There are many different philosophies for defending corners. Some coaches do strictly man to man, some zonal. Some coaches want players at both posts, some just one, and some none at all.

Here is what I have found to be the most simple and basic for younger players to understand...

- 1) I place a player on the FRONT post only! Their role is to stop any low driven ball that the keeper would struggle with.
- 2) I have THREE players play zone defense and line up at the top of the 6 yard area. Their role is to clear out the ball if it enters their zone. These players should be comfortable heading the ball with good clearance.
- 3) I put ONE player short, about 10 yards from the ball to defend for any short corners. If they send two to the corner, my front zonal defender would slide out to help create a 2 v 2. You do not want to be outnumbered on the flank.
- 4) The other FIVE players play man to man. They should body up on attackers all the way through the attackers run. Avoid fouling them, but maintain contact with them so they do not have an easy opportunity to get a clear header or shot off.

