



Drills VS. Activities

I want to give you some insight into why we choose to use activities, not drills. A drill has a start and a finish with minimal decisions to be made in between. An activity provides multiple situations to make decisions. The activities that you see will seem hectic at first. We choose to use US Soccer best practices with our Salvo Community Recreation Programs. Our goal is to provide a training environment where the players are able to make decisions based on the situation that they are in, not react to what spectators are telling them to do.

Example - Dribbling Drill vs. Dribbling Activity

Dribbling drill - We could layout several cones in a row. Have the kids stand in line and 1 by 1 they would dribble around each cone and then make their way back to the line to wait to do it again. This drill would not allow for many decisions. It will look organized. A result of using cones instead of other players will result in players dribbling with their heads down and give them limited opportunities to react. This also leads to down time and minimal touches on the ball.

Dribbling Activity - Ball Tag - An activity like Ball Tag allows players to react to situations and develop within the game of soccer. The players will be pushed to evade pressure, attack with the ball and stay engaged throughout the game. It is inclusive of all players throughout the activity. If players dribble with their head down they will lose their ball, allowing them the opportunity to adjust for the next time. We can also adjust the size of the grid, number of defenders and other factors to meet the needs of the players while challenging them.

When we plan our activities, we ask ourselves the following questions:

1. Is it safe?
2. Is it fun?
3. Is it organized?
4. Is it developmentally appropriate?
5. Does it allow players to make decisions?
6. Is it inclusive or exclusive?
7. Does it have implications of the game of soccer?

If you plan to adjust the session that is provided to you, please ask yourself the same questions. I know that it may feel like we are not working on the FUNDamentals but I assure you that the kids are learning the game at their appropriate development pace.