



# Ontario Soccer Player Development Model: The Station Concept



The activities provided illustrate how stations can being used during Grassroots practices.

All sessions take a holistic approach to developing our youth. Each game and activity will focus on 4 main areas of the child's development; these include social/emotional, physical, psychological and technical.

Total practice time 45 minutes as per the Recreational and Development Matrix.

Play. Inspire. Unite.







# Ontario Soccer Player Development Model How it works



### Introduction

During the practice players will spend an allotted time at each station having fun, developing specific skills and qualities before moving onto the next station. By using station work we create an environment where players are continually motivated and challenged.

### Organization

If working with a larger group, organize players into groups of 6. Each station has a coach who leads that specific station for the session.

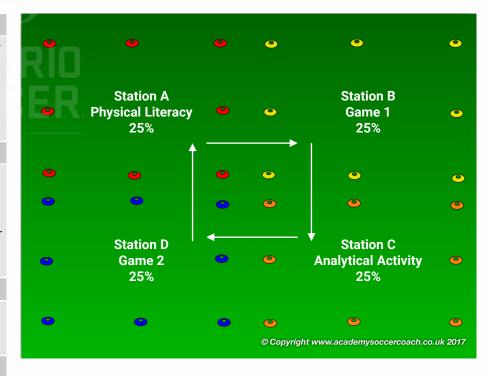
If working with a smaller group, simply move together through all 4 stations until all are complete.

### Procedure

Players rotate every 9 minutes. Provide a 2 minute break in between each station for water and to allow movement to the next station.

### **Emphasis**

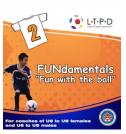
In these examples one station focuses on Physical Literacy, two stations on movements with the ball or small sided games and the 4th station is focused around technique with decision making.



Timing	Area
Total Time: 45 mins 4 x 9 minute Stations	20 x 20 m (x4)

Technical / Tactical	U6	U7	U8	Physical	U6	U7	U8
Dribbling	1	1	1	Agility	2	2	1
Running with the ball	1	1	1	Balance	3	2	1
Shooting	1	1	1	Coordination	3	2	1
Ball Control	3	1	1	Stamina	4	4	3
Passing	3	3	3	Strength	3	3	3
Receiving	3	1	1	Speed	2	1	1
Heading	4	4	4	Suppleness	3	3	3
Shielding	4	4	3	Acceleration	3	2	2
Crossing	4	4	3	Reaction	3	2	2
Finishing	4	4	3	Basic Motor Skills	1	1	1
1v1 Defending	4	4	3	Perception	1	1	1
1v1 Attacking	3	3	2	Awareness	1	1	1
				Other Sports	1	1	1
Socio-Emotional	U6	U7	U8	Psychological	U6	U7	U8
Socio-Emotional Listening	U6 2	<b>U7</b>	U8 1	Psychological Motivation	U6 1	U7 1	U8 1
Listening	2	2	1	Motivation	1	1	1
Listening Co-operation	2	2	1	Motivation Self Confidence	1	1	1
Listening Co-operation Communication	2 3 1	2 3 1	1 1 1	Motivation Self Confidence Competitveness	1 1 4	1 1 3	1 1 2
Listening Co-operation Communication Sharing	2 3 1 3	2 3 1 2	1 1 1	Motivation Self Confidence Competitveness Concentration	1 1 4 3	1 1 3 3	1 1 2 3
Listening Co-operation Communication Sharing Problem-solving	2 3 1 3 3	2 3 1 2 2	1 1 1 1 2	Motivation Self Confidence Competitveness Concentration Commitment Self Control  Determination	1 1 4 3 4 3	1 1 3 3 3	1 1 2 3 2
Listening Co-operation Communication Sharing Problem-solving Decision-making	2 3 1 3 3 3	2 3 1 2 2	1 1 1 1 2 1	Motivation Self Confidence Competitveness Concentration Commitment Self Control  Determination Priority K	1 1 4 3 4 3	1 1 3 3 3 3	1 1 2 3 2 2
Listening Co-operation Communication Sharing Problem-solving Decision-making Empathy	2 3 1 3 3 3	2 3 1 2 2 2	1 1 1 1 2	Motivation Self Confidence Competitveness Concentration Commitment Self Control  Determination	1 1 4 3 4 3	1 1 3 3 3 3	1 1 2 3 2





### Station A - Physical Literacy **Snakes and Laddars**



### Organization

The coach places ladders and hurdles and soccer balls in a grid 20m x 20m.

#### Procedure

On a visual cue (the coach can use a colored cone), players can begin to go through the ladders completing a series of movements that the coach demonstrates. Quick feet through the ladders, onefooted hops, etc. On either side of the ladder there is a ball for the coach to incorporate - the player can touch the ball with their feet or hands when arriving to that point along their ladder work. Then players complete a hurdle hop either one foot or two, facing forward or to the side.

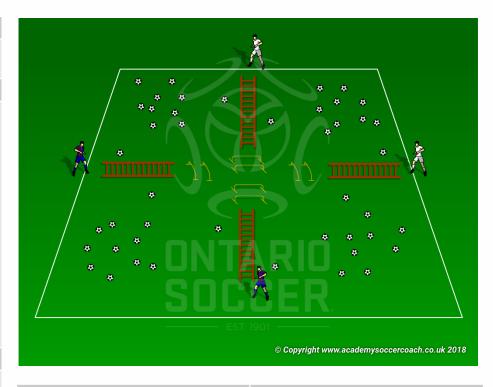
Players can collect the loose ball on any of the four corners and juggle the ball (hands to feet, just with their feet, thigh feet

### **Emphasis**

Reaction, Awareness, FUN

### Progression

A coach can throw the ball from the side of the laddar for a volley or catch.



Timing	Area
9 Minutes	20m x 20m

### Objective

Players are able to move will agility, balance, coordination and speed without and with the ball

#### **Outcomes**

**All players** - will be able to change speed using one foot

**Most players -** will be able to change speed using both feet

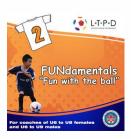
Some players - will be able to change speed using both feet and beat an opponent

Technical / Tactical	Psychological
Dribbling Ball mastery Running with the Ball	Fun Safety Confidence Creativity
Socio – Emotional	Physical
Problem-solving Decision-making Celebrating	Balance Coordination Strength Reaction Perception Awareness



When training outdoors, be mindful of the wind and sun when setting up the activities and the direction the players would be facing. Something to also keep in mind during briefing and debriefing the players.





### Station B - Small Sided Game Four Goal Finishing Game



### Organization

Four goals are placed on each side of a grid (20m x 20m or adjusted for players and age).

#### Procedure

The coach serves the ball to the centre of the grid, one player from each side races out to the center to win the ball first, the player who gets to the ball first can dribble to finish and score on any goal, the player second to the ball puts immediate pressure to win the ball back allowing him / her to go and score on any of the four goals. Before scoring the player must weave through the gate placed in front of the goal. The coaches pass to the center activates the next group.

### **Emphasis**

Decision Making Awareness Problem-Solving FUN

### Progression

Players must dribble to a specific goal. Or a goal not their own.



Timing	Area
9 Minutes	18 m x 30 m (3 mini-fields of 18m x 10m)

### Objective

Players are able to move quickly to the ball and with the ball to change speed and be agile with the ball.

#### **Outcomes**

**All players** - will be able to change speed using one foot

**Most players -** will be able to change speed using both feet

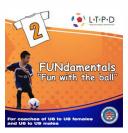
**Some players -** will be able to change speed using both feet and beat an opponent

Technical / Tactical	Psychological
Dribbling Ball mastery Running with the ball	Fun Safety Confidence Creativity
Socio - Emotional	Physical
Co-operation Communication Sharing Problem-solving Decision-making	Basic Motor Skills Perception Awareness Agility Balance Coordination

Top Tip

Be conscious of when a player is going through or has gone through a growth spurt – they may seem to lose of their coordination during this time and need your support and encouragement to maintain a positive mindset.





### Station C - Analytical Activity



### Organization

A central grid is placed in the center (5mx5m) and four different coloured gates around the perimeter.

#### Procedure

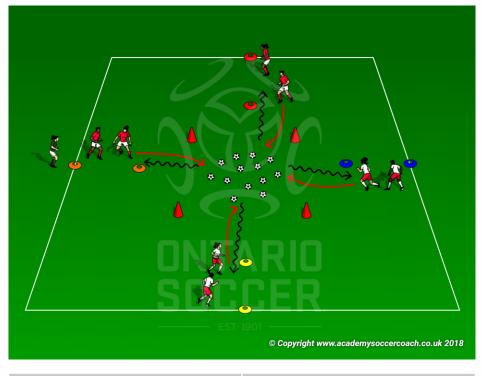
Players begin at a coloured gate without a ball. On the coaches cue – vary between visual/auditory (go!, clap, jump, etc.) – ALL players weave through the gate and proceed to get a ball and dribble around the "track". If players approach the gate at the same time then the first one to the gate can proceed through and the second must turn back the opposite direction. At each gate players should switch the foot they are dribbling with.

### **Emphasis**

Decision Making, Awareness, Problem-Solving Movements FUN

### Progression

Different exercise at each gate (color coded) Vary amount of "laps" per ball mastery skill



Timing	Area
9 Minutes	20m x 20m

### Objective

Players are able to change speed with the ball

#### Outcomes

**All players -** will be able to change speed using one foot

**Most players -** will be able to change speed using both feet

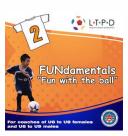
**Some players -** will be able to change speed using both feet and beat an opponent

Technical / Tactical	Psychological
Dribbling	Fun
Ball mastery	Safety
Running with the ball	Confidence
Shooting	Creativity
Socio - Emotional	Physical
Problem-solving Decision-making	Balance Coordination Strength Reaction Perception Awareness



Simply changing the starting point of the ball and/or player can impact the intensity of a session. It can even change the focal topic or theme. Think about how and when is best to manipulate such variables but more importantly – why!





## Station D - Small Sided Game 4v4 with Retreat Line



### Organization

Two teams of 4v4 (with Goalkeepers) are placed in a 25m x 18m field with goals at each end.

#### Procedure

Players play 4v4 for three minutes. All normal rules of the game are applied. After 3 minutes, players rotate.

### **Emphasis**

Fun, creativity and celebrating!

### Progression

N/A



Timing	Area
9 Minutes	25 m x 18 m

### Objective

Players are able to change speed with the ball

#### Outcomes

**All players -** will be able to change speed using one foot

**Most players -** will be able to change speed using both feet

**Some players -** will be able to change speed using both feet and beat an opponent

Technical / Tactical	Psychological
Dribbling Ball mastery Running with the ball Shooting	Fun Safety Confidence Creativity
Socio - Emotional	Physical
Co-operation Communication Sharing Problem-solving Decision-making	Basic Motor Skills Perception Awareness Agility Balance Coordination

## **Ontario Soccer Resources**



### Coaches' Guides

- Game Organisation Guide
- Field Organisation Guide
- Festival Guide
- 8 Ways to Develop the Grassroots Game
- How does the Inclusive Programming Model work at your Soccer Club?
- Incorporating Physical Literacy in our Practices

### **Grassroots Curriculum**

- FUNdamentals U6-U8/9 (Brochure)
- FUNdamentals Start Workbook and Practice Plan
- FUNdamentals U6-U8/9 (Curriculum)
- All other online Grassroots Practices



