U8 The FUNdamental Phase



MISSION	"To teach players to reach a level beyond their own expectations by developing soccer intelligence & technical competencies"
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CREDO	Person>Player>Team>Club>Family>Community
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Dedication-Commitment-Excellence



COACHING PROFILE

Be enthusiastic, animated, FUN, and supportive!

- Use varied activities and avoid lines and players being stationary.
- Provide every player a ball and plan 1v1 competitions
- Facilitate and guide using key words and guided questions and coach/player demonstrations:
 - Encourage the players on & off the ball to move the ball forward by working together
 - Encourage the players to ask questions and help players think of solutions
 - Encourage creativity and autonomous decision-making without fearing consequences
 - Encourage reflection and learning from mistakes (awareness of choice & consequence)
- Build self-esteem and self-confidence to recognize strengths and areas of improvement
- Promote fair play at all times



DEVELOPMENT CYCLE

AUGUST '24

Pre season Camps, clinics, team training (2) & Pre Season Tournaments

SEPTEMBER '24

Team training (2), optional skills/GK clinic, Pre Season Tournaments & League Play OCTOBER '24 Team training (2), optional skills/GK clinic, League play & Extra Tournament (optional) NOVEMBER '24 Team training (2), optional skills/GK clinic, & League play

DECEMBER '24 Off Season JANUARY '25 Indoor training (1), Development league games & optional extra indoor league

FEBRUARY '25

Indoor training (1), Development league games & optional extra indoor league MARCH '25

Indoor training (1), Development league games & optional extra indoor league

APRIL '25 Team training (2), optional skills/GK clinic, Pre Season Tournaments & League Play

MAY '25 Team training (2), optional skills/GK clinic, In Season Tournaments, league play & Tryouts

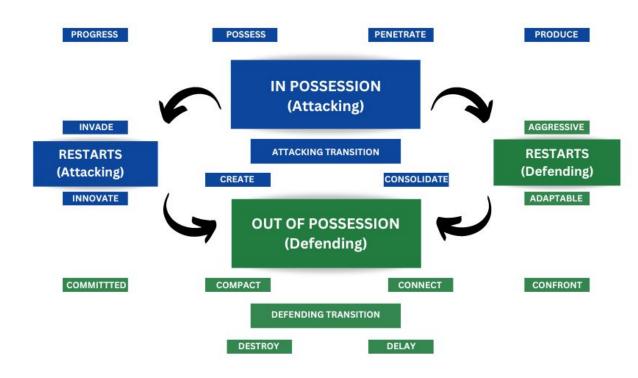
JUNE '25 Team training (2), optional skills/GK clinic & League play

JULY '25 Technical Camps & Clinics, USA Cup

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GAME MODEL

Be enthusiastic, animated, FUN, and supportive!





U8 / THE FUNDAMENTAL PHASE

ATTACKING: BALL MASTERY, SPATIAL AWARENESS, DRIBBLING, PASSING, RECEIVING & FINISHING

MAIN PRINCIPLES	SUB PRINCIPLES	DEFINITION
BUILD TEAM SHAPE Maximize the space using all players	 Ability to stretch field vertically and horizontally to create distance between opposition players Understand positionally where players can move to find space to receive the ball 	 Players should be: Spatially aware of the best areas of the field they can move into to create passing lanes Able to see one or two teammates to make sure they stay connected (or move away) from to create a balanced team shape
POSSESSION Individual and with a small group	 Players should: Enjoy having the ball at their feet. Want to stay in possession for as long as needed. Have the confidence to share possession of the ball with a teammate when needed 	 Players should: Be comfortable receiving and using multiple surfaces of both feet to main control of the ball Show an ability to evade a defender by turning, twisting, using skills moves Understand how to shield/protect the ball from a defender (Turning away from pressure vs into the defender)
PLAYING OUT OF THE BACK Relationship between GK & Defensive unit	 Players should: Understand when to play around, over or through opposing teams to break lines Understand which pass is riskier and why? I.e Central Midfielder vs full back or striker 	 Players should: Understand their options when receiving the ball from the GK. (options may differ if playing with a back 2 vs 3) Understand the correct time to release the ball to a teammate Be able to dribble or play short or medium passes to advance the ball
FINISHING IN THE ATTACKING THIRD Creation of & finishing of goal scoring chances	 Emphasis on the importance of a positive attacking attitude toward goal scoring Players should have have the confidence to strike the ball from inside or outside the box 	 Players should be: Confident to run at defender in 1v1 situations Understand the build out line as the offside line and take various positions off this Comfortable to shoot/finish with various surfaces both feet

U8 / THE FUNDAMENTAL PHASE

DEFENDING: COMMITTED, COMPACT, CONNECT & CONFRONT

		DEFINITION
MAIN PRINCIPLES	SUB PRINCIPLES	DEFINITION
BUILD DEFENSIVE SHAPE Position to create compact team shape and reduce space	Make team compactPosition to create a high front line	 The players move inside and close together, taking positions within a short distance from each other to attempt to reduce space centrally. We make it more difficult for the opponent to play forward towards the goal, create chances and score goals.
APPLY PRESSURE ON THE BALL Create conditions to win the ball or prevent forward play	 Initiate Pressure On The Opponent With The Ball Engage to regain the ball Provide Cover: nearest players eliminate passing options 	 The opponent with the ball is under constant pressure to prevent forward play. The opponent on the ball will have less time and space to make a decision and execute the next play (force a mistake). The player attempts to win the ball back, trying not to get eliminated by dribble, touch or pass. The closest teammates of the player initiating pressure, or engaging the player with the ball, prevent options (free teammates) for the opponent on the ball.
RECOVER WHEN PRESSURE IS BROKEN Re-create conditions to win the ball and regain compactness	 Immediately (re-) apply pressure on the ball Look to intercept the pass 	 The opponent with the ball is under constant pressure to prevent forward play. An eliminated player puts pressure from behind on the opponent with the ball. The players in the defensive block are always attentive to stop the ball from reaching its intended destination (opponent teammate).
DENY THE FINISH Prevent opponent from scoring and creating opportunities	 Get narrow and close the Center Deny the cross Challenge to protect the goal attempt 	 The defending players between the ball and the goal get closer as quickly as possible to reduce the space centrally.\ One or two wide defending players prevent the opponent from crossing the ball. The player engages when opponent is in a goalscoring position and commits when that opponent has a chance or attempt on goal. This allows the goal attempt to be blocked.

RECOMMENDED FORMATIONS (5v5)

OPTION 1 (1-1-2-1)



GOALKEEPER
 CENTRAL DEFENDER
 RIGHT MIDFIELDER
 LEFT MIDFIELDER
 CENTER FORWARD







RECOMMENDED FORMATIONS (7v7)

OPTION 1 (1-2-3-1)



1. GOALKEEPER
 4. RIGHT SIDE CENTER BACK
 5. LEFT SIDE CENTER BACK
 7. RIGHT MIDFIELDER
 8. CENTRAL MIDFIELDER
 9. CENTER FORWARD
 11. LEFT MIDFIELDER



OPTION 2 (1-3-2-1)

1. GOALKEEPER
 2. RIGHT BACK
 3. LEFT BACK
 5. CENTER BACK
 6. HOLDING CENTRAL MIDFIELDER
 8. CENTRAL MIDFIELDER
 9. CENTER FORWARD



U8 / THE FUNDAMENTAL PHASE PHASE (based on 7v7)

WEEKLY RESTARTS

Scenario

Kick off (In-Possession)

Ball initially played back into a Central midfielder and then moving the ball into a wide area. If playing wide, which players are the best option and how do players move after the ball has been played.

Attacking Goal kicks (In-Possession)

Focusing on the positioning of the GK with the ball, the outside defenders in relation to the ball and the build out line, and how to get the ball into the MF third. (around vs through)

Throw-In

Correct technique to throw the ball into play. When to play to a teammates feet vs throwing into space? Tactical ideas on throwing down the line, into midfield or back to defender

Attacking Corners

How best to get the ball into the opposition's penalty area quickly and player positions inside the box to attack the delivery. (Should include a short corner routine of coaches choice & discuss how many players should be kept in defense to manage any counter attack from the opposition).

Scenario

Opposition Kick Off

How does your team set up as soon as the opposition player makes the first pass? Which players press the ball immediately and what positions do other players and the GK take up to ensure your team moves together while staying compact?

Opposition Goal Kick

How does your team set up to press the opposition on their goal kick? What passes are you attempting to cut off while you press? Where do players position themselves? I.e. Forward players are on the build out line, midfielders in line with the top of the circle; full backs on the half way line, GK on top of the box etc

Defending corners

What is the role of each outfield player and the GK for short and long corner routines? How do players mark and who do they mark? Making sure they attempt to clear the ball high and wide away from the goal.

Penalties

Attacking: How to take a penalty and where do all other players stand? Defending: Where do you players stand when the opposition is taking a penalty and how do they react when the penalty is taken? Goalkeeping: Where does the GK position themselves, what are they looking

FOUR STAGE - SIMPLE>COMPLEX

DIRECTION

COMPETITION

TRANSITION

FELAKE

COUNTY

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Interactive Session Plan" 14 March 2022 Jamie Martin Age group: U10s Ball Mastery/Moves to beat an opponent #2 90mir Set-up: Two teams, two differet coloured gates (2 per side x 3yd) and one central box Blue's use Red gates and Orange use Yellow gates The aim is to get players used to manipulating the ball with various parts of their feet to dribble, find space, evade team mates and opposing players not to lose possession of the ball. Players initially play freely for 1 min. Prog. 1: How many gates can they get through in 1 min. Prog 2. Beat past score. Prog 3 Add teams score. Prog 4. Beat opposing teams score and your last score. Set-up: Two areas 20×15 with 3-4 players per team (4 team) Objective: Def (Orange) pass to Blue (Att). The blue scores by dribbling through one of the two Red gates. If the Orange wins possession, they must counter attack and dribble through the ellow gates. Teams play for 2 min, add ind.scores and change roles. (Teams play a different group for a second game) Duration: 8-10min Coaching points: Att's should use different moves, changes of In this activity, we are now trying to give the players an understanding of where we can use these attacking moves by using the final third imensions on the field Set-up: To progress from above, we now add a 2nd attacker to create a v1 in each area. bliective: the two outside areas have goals off set toward the inside of If the def wins possession, they can score by passing through the single gate. The Att's, must score by dribbling through their gate Teams play for 2 min and rotate roles. After the 4 min game, they then choose to play a new team in a new area. (Teams play in all 3 areas) For our final game (Duration 20 min), teams play with all players within the session In this instance, I have used 10 players to play 5v5. The GK is also a sweeper Keeper, and is encouraged to play as high as possible when in possession. The #5 is then encourage to push into MF and become more of a #8 to help support the #9. a large goal. If one team has to use a full size goal and the opponent uses a goal with cones, or sticks, play two halves and change side so all players can defense and attack the full goal.

Stage ONE activities should start with a one player: one ball ratio and have an emphasis on technical repetition to allow players to spend maximum time in possession of the ball. (Duration: 6-8 min / 2 activities)

Players should be required to make small decisions such as changing direction and / or speed to various stimuli. I.e Passive/limited pressure Defenders, multiple scoring objectives etc

Stage TWO should incorporate competition and full pressure within fast paced small-sided activities using one to three players per team and various scoring objectives. (Duration: 10-15 min per activity / 1-2 activities, with 2-3 progressions)

I.e. One team attempting to score by dribbling or passing through one or two gates or scoring against a GK. (Both teams must have scoring objectives)

(All shooting & finishing sessions MUST include a GK for realistic scoring scenarios)

Stage THREE activities should build on the concepts outlined in stage two by adding additional numbers to both teams, utilizing the lines on the field and using players from at least two lines of play & where the outcome always builds to and away from the main goal. (Duration: 20-25 min)

Example: Topic: Individual Attacking: Moves to beat a Defender.

Area of the field - wide right / left channels

Players: Choice of wide midfielder (#7/11), central midfielders (#8) and forwards (#9) vs full backs (#2 / 3, central midfielders (#6/8) and central defenders (#5) = 3 v 2 or 3 v 3

The final stage (FOUR) setup should involve players from all THREE lines of play, both teams attacking a large goal and using FIFA game day rules. (Duration: 20-30 min)

Coaches should use this portion of the training session to evaluate how well the players have understood and can implement the key learning objectives identified throughout the session.

(Check for learning at all times using individual and group guided guestions)



Objective: Players must dribble through the central box (must go out a different side that you come in) and then dribble through a colored goal b4 changing direction and coming back into the area and repeating.

direction and speed to unbalance and get passed the Def to score.

bujective, the two bulkate aleas have goals on set toward the instale of the channel. The aim here is for the def to force them away from goal as they would do in a game, but the Att, must attempt to cut back inside to score. (In the middle lane, the goal is central).

Regular laws of the game and restarts apply and both teams play to

SIMPLICITY

THREE STAGE - PLAY>PRACTICE>PLAY

DIRECTION

COMPETITION

TRANSITION

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FELAKE

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Stage ONE activities should start with a deliberate small sided game/s. Players can be divided into 2v2 to 5v5 and also use a variety of scoring objectives such as a full goal (with GK), small target goals, channels/end zones or gates. Players should play for a designated time 3-5 min and then swap opponents. (Duration: Approx 15 min)

Within this format, players should have the freedom just to play, but the coach should also use this time to paint pictures of moments in the games where the specific topic of the session is likely to come out. This will provide the players with a frame of reference for the stage two activities and finally build back into the Stage 3 game phase. (It is recommended that these "pictures' should be created in between games as teams rotate and NOT interrupting the play itself).

Stage TWO should incorporate the topic within a functional setting. I.e. If working on *Individual Attacking: Moves to beat a Defender,* the practice area/s should be set up in the wide channels on BOTH sides of the field. Attacking players should be able to beat their defender both outside and inside, to make the activity realistic to the game. (Defenders should also be to win possession and counter attack down the line or centrally to simulate a #7 or #11 playing against a #2 or #3)

Practices should be built from simple to complex, so I would recommend two phases of your Stage 2. The aim is to build onto the players directly involved at the start. I.e. For the attacking team, the #7 or 11 may also have a striker (#9) and a central midfielder to combine with and the team may end up breaking through the wide channel and then crossing to score in the main goal, combining with the striker for the striker to score centrally.

The full back (#2 or 3) may also have a covering CD (#4 or 5) as well as a Central Midfielder (#8) and a GK.

This allows players to get the best "picture" possible of the topic, in the correct area of the field and with the relevant players who are likely to be involved in the specific scenario. (Duration: 20 min per activity x 2 activities or progression)

The final stage (THREE) setup should involve players from all THREE lines of play, both teams attacking a large goal (with GK) and using FIFA game day rules. (Duration: 30-35 min)

Coaches should use this portion of the training session to evaluate how well the players have understood and can implement the key learning objectives identified throughout the session.

(Check for learning at all times using individual and group guided questions)

FCLC PLAYER PROFILES

Physical

Must Possess:

Tactica





Full Backs #2 & #3

Technical Canable Of Penetrating forward runs – dribbling into Endurance for high intensity running p and down wide area of field A variety of passing techniques to; combine, possess and to cross from the midfield and attacking thirds Acceleration to make recovery runs or o go beyond opponents in an attack Dominating 1 v 1 situations (aerially and on the ground) Psychosocial Essential Mindset Understanding When To support play from behind, or in A willingness to run without reward Never say due; chase lost causes and Mever say due; chase lost causes make impossible recovery runs Attacking intent; drive forward with a purpose Game management; when to go orward and when to stay (situ specific)



Center Midfielders #6 & #8







Physical

Tactical

Must Possess:

Click here to see all profiles in more detail

