



# No Offside?!

## Rationale For No Offside For U9/10's

# Children

- Participate in sports for four main reasons
  - Action
  - Involvement
  - Excitement
  - Friendships
- Priorities for young players should be:
  - Technique
  - Psychological
  - Tactics
  - Fitness

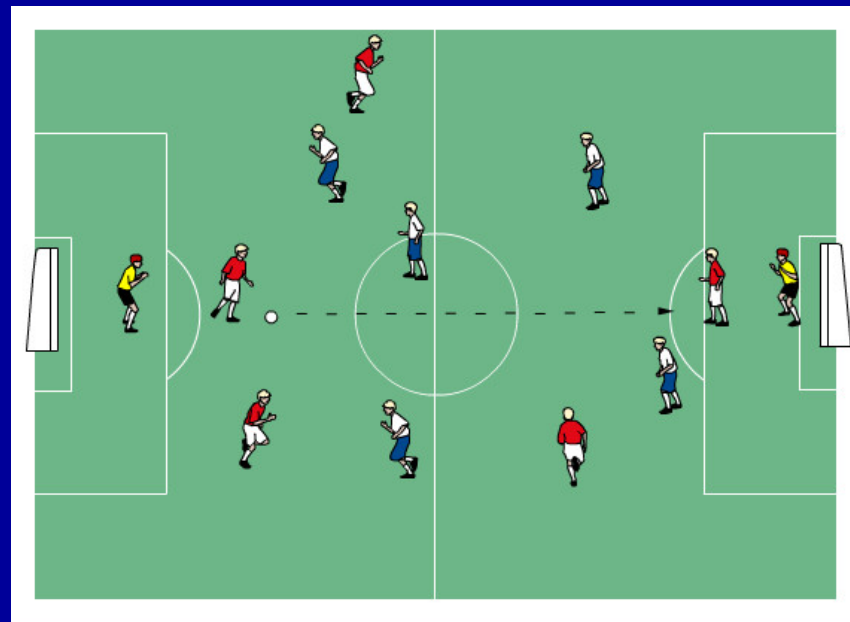
# Receiving

- Because players can stretch the field, they will learn how to receive balls with their back to goal.
- Many players can receive the ball sideways on or facing up, but playing with their back to goal is a challenge for young players.
- Trains target players to either turn and receive or lay balls back.



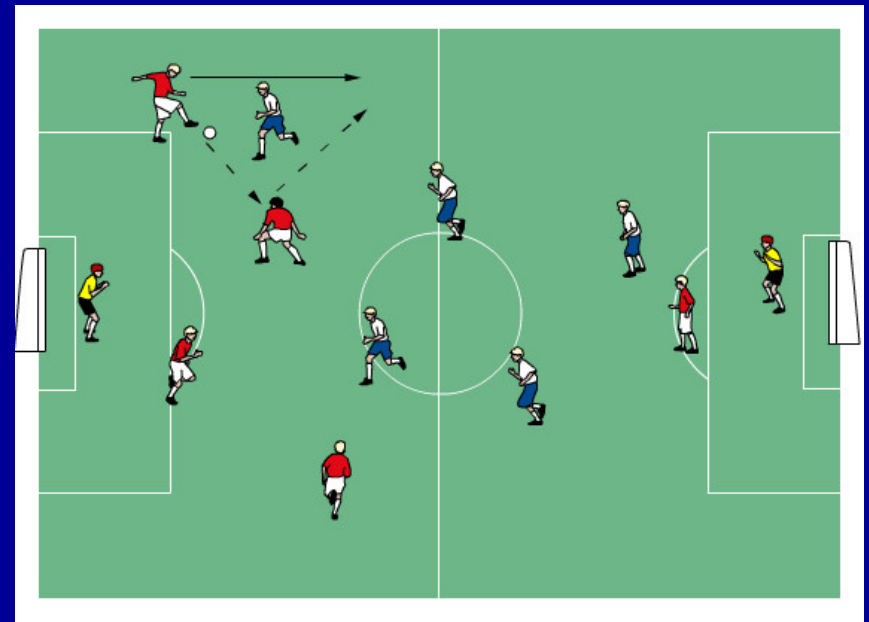
# Passing (Planting a seed)

- Players will also look for the most forward option available if the field is allowed to be stretched.
- The forward pass is still the most productive pass in the game.
- Players first thought when they have a ball should be can I play it forward? If not, then get it to someone who can or keep it myself.



# Combination Play

- Since the field is allowed to be stretched with no offside, it opens up the middle of the field.
- This allows players to combine with a teammate to move the ball up the field in a more attractive way.



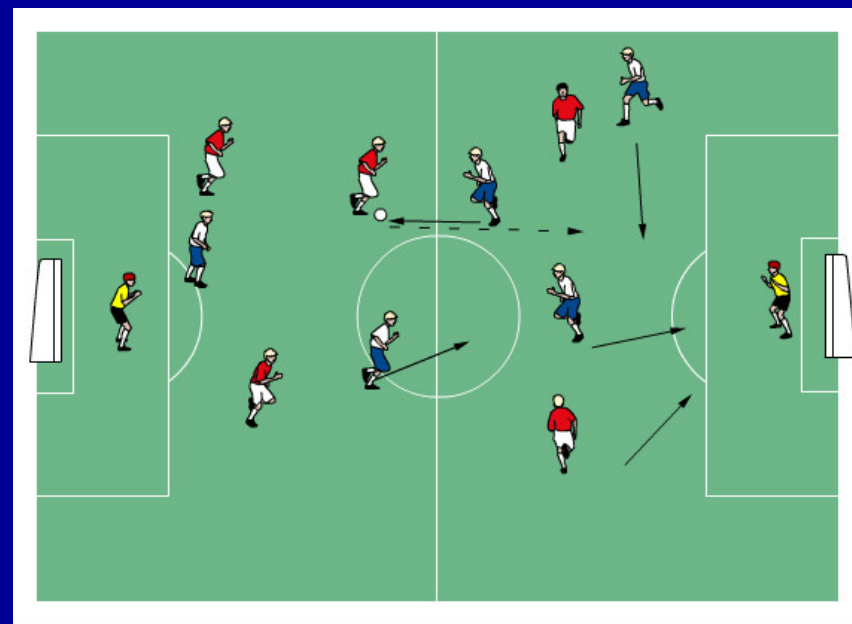
# Defending (Transition)

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Principle of defending is to apply pressure on the ball. To not allow the ball to penetrate via dribble, pass, or shot.
- With no offside defending players must get pressure on the ball.
- Because the field is smaller it is important that the transition from attacking to defending is much quicker.



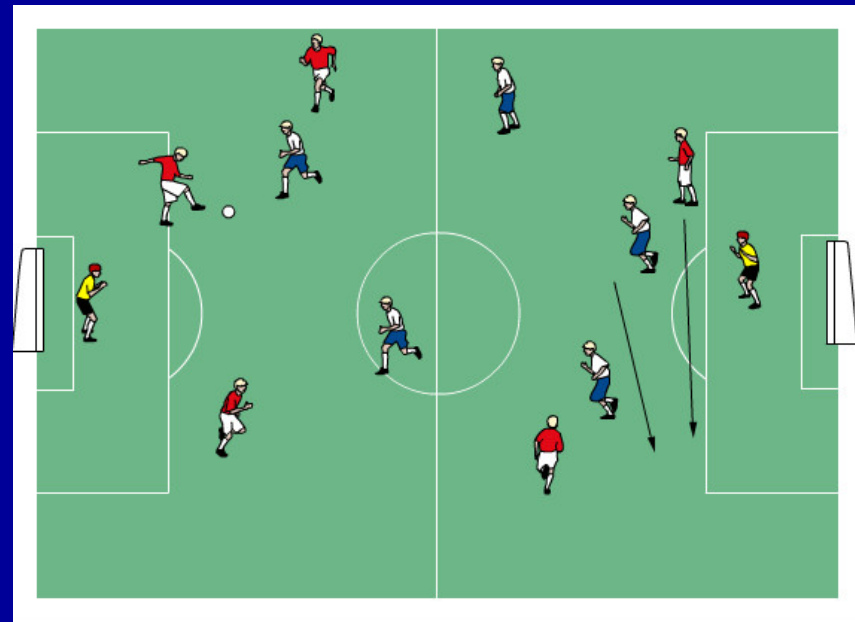
# Defending (Marking Up)

- With no offside, players have to transition quickly from attack to defense.
- With no offside, players need to learn how to mark up quickly “goal side-ball side”.



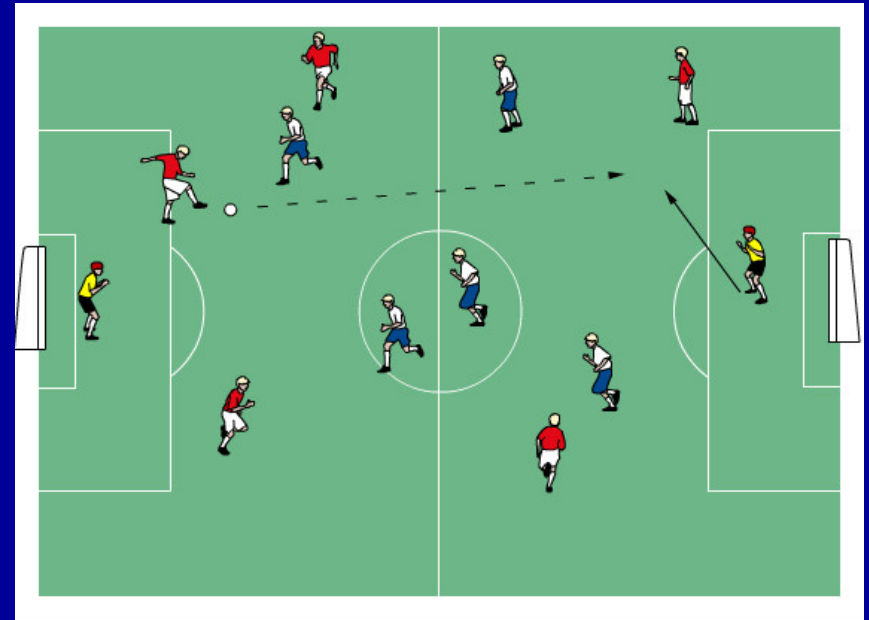
# Defending (Head on a swivel)

- Since there is no offside, players defending must be aware of where the attacking players are.
- Defenders that are not putting pressure on the ball should be turning their heads constantly so they can track players.



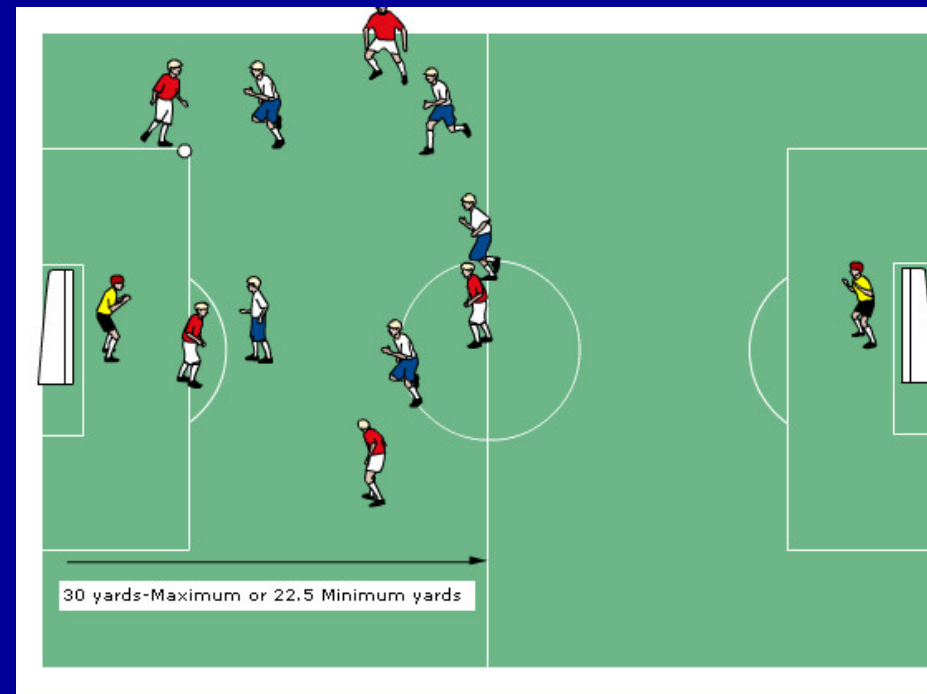
# Goalkeeper (Active)

- The Goalkeeper is now the sixth player.
- Goalkeepers role is almost being a “keeper-sweeper” by cutting out long passes to forwards.
- In the modern game, the goalkeeper plays now more off their line than ever before.



# Traditional Offside Line

- There could be offside with U9/10's.
- With a traditional offside line be too “tight” for these young players. 30 yards maximum or 22.5 yards minimum
- It also takes away from coaches teaching “offside trap” at these ages
- It alleviates young referees who often are in the middle the pressure of calling this rule.



# So for those of you that....

- Encourage or tell your players to cherry pick to “WIN”
- Permanently plant a player in front of the opposition’s goal to “WIN”
- Think that soccer is a coaches game and not a players game
- These next few slides are for you.

# Does it really matter?

**“As a kid you need to touch the ball as much as you can. You should always be with the ball. You should have a feeling that wherever the ball is, you can do anything with it. No matter where it is, where it is on your body, how it’s spinning, how it’s coming at you, the speed it’s coming at you, anything. You can learn the tactical side of the game later.””**

**continued on next slide.....**



Landon Donovan U.S. Men's National Team

Soccer America , July 2002

# Does it really matter?

**“It’s amazing to me that people put so much emphasis on trying to be tactical and worry about winning when it doesn’t matter when you’re 12 years old. We’re going to have big, strong, fast players. We’re Americans, we’re athletes. But if we never learn at an early age to be good on the ball, then it’s just useless.”**



Landon Donovan U.S. Men's National Team

Soccer America , July 2002



# Does it really matter?

(From "The Youth Soccer Coach" poem by Mike Berticelli)

Your goal's to develop a youngster with skill,  
Not a team that must win, or some fancy new drill!

You see players are not judged by their wins and their  
losses,  
Instead they are judged by their shots, heads, or crosses!

Scholarships are given to players with great names,  
Not to those who played on youth teams who never lost  
games.

Continued on next slide.....

# Does it really matter?

(From “The Youth Soccer Coach” poem by Mike Berticelli)

A pro player gets paid ‘cause his skills are real fine,  
Not because his team never lost when he was nine.

It’s time to bring soccer to new heights in this nation,  
The future’s in players, not a coaching citation!

Let’s start to say “dribble” and stop yelling “Pass!”  
You’ll then see players go to the head of the class.  
I hope you’re concerned, but not really offended,  
It’s the need for more skill that I have defended.

You’re giving your all, from the good of your heart,  
Why not make sure the kids get the right start?

# Remember World Peace Doesn't Depend On The Outcome!



So, let's give the game back to the players and let them decide the outcome!