



Coaching Topics U7 / U8

Introduce the topic, demonstrate (or have one of your players demonstrate) the proper technique, and then let your players demonstrate individually the technique to you and make corrections when needed. Use Guided Discovery whenever possible. A coach benefits his team far more effectively by raising good questions that players find solutions to verse providing all the answers.

1. Passing – Choose game activities that limit lines and have players pass the ball using the inside of the foot technique. Have players switch feet so they use both left and right. You can lengthen or tighten space as needed based on accuracy.
2. Receiving (or Trapping) the Ball – Choose game activities that limit lines and emphasize the players technique who is receiving the ball. Players should use the inside of the foot and attempt to “absorb” the ball as it hits their foot with their first touch and then set up their next touch. Use both feet.
3. Shooting – The easiest way to remember this technique is “toe down” and “hit with the laces”. The opposite foot (than the one you are kicking with) is the plant foot and determines where the ball will go. Players should focus on where (accuracy) and how they kick it, not how hard. The power will come as they get older and stronger. Use both feet. NO Toe Pokes!
4. Dribbling – Players should practice dribbling with the inside and outside of both feet. Encourage little kicks, small touches and control of the ball. Use fun games with competition to practice the technique where players have a ball at their feet at all times when working on dribbling.

Tactics

Tactics make up an important part of U7 and U8 soccer. Tactics are decisions made by players. Kids can easily get bogged down with lots of concepts, so keep it simple. Coach these 3 things:

1. Kick the ball wide (towards the sideline) when on defense
2. Kick the ball across the front of the goal (center) when attacking
3. When your teammate has the ball, don't run at them, instead go to an area where your teammate can kick the ball to you.