

Giovanni and Oscar,

Great course last week! I tried Giovanni's reversed goals out on the field (basketball court) last week. Having only 4 players we played 2v2 but I stationed a father on the end lines out of bounds. Fathers could only receive passes and send the ball back to the attacking players. This was an immediate success. I never told the boys they HAD to pass, they figured it out on their own and whenever they got the ball they took off with it and by midfield they were head's up looking for that parent to pass to. Because it was their fathers there was extra excitement. We had 6 players today and it worked just as well. We will ultimately dispense with the fathers in Giovanni's reverse goal game when the boys become more adept at ball control.

I like activities for young kids that subtly or indirectly encourage development of skills rather than explicitly stating "this is what I want you to do". When they figure something out by themselves, they "own" the experience and I believe that learning is more permanently imprinted. If you have a source for more activities of this type for young players, please send me a link and I will pass it along.

Best regards,

Jim Teeters
Director of Coaching Education
Middletown Youth Soccer