



Practical Sessions

Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club Academy Technical Programme

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager



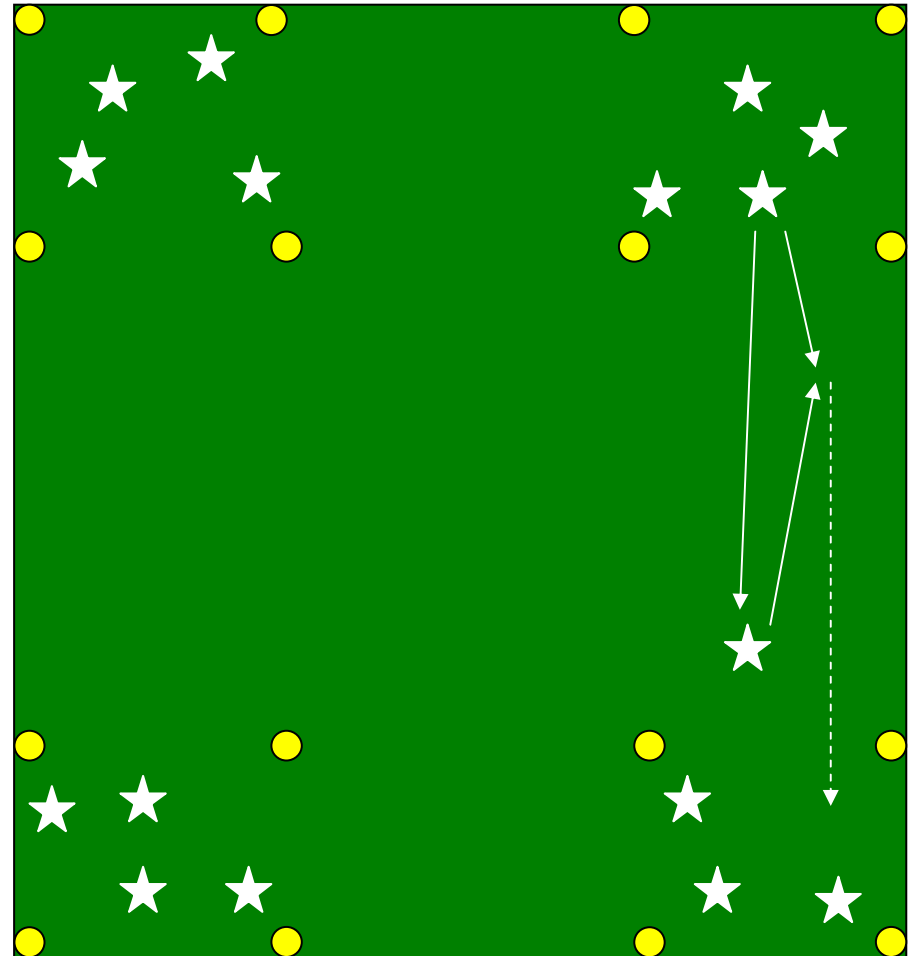
Warm ups

Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club Academy Technical Programme

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Directional warm up (WU01)

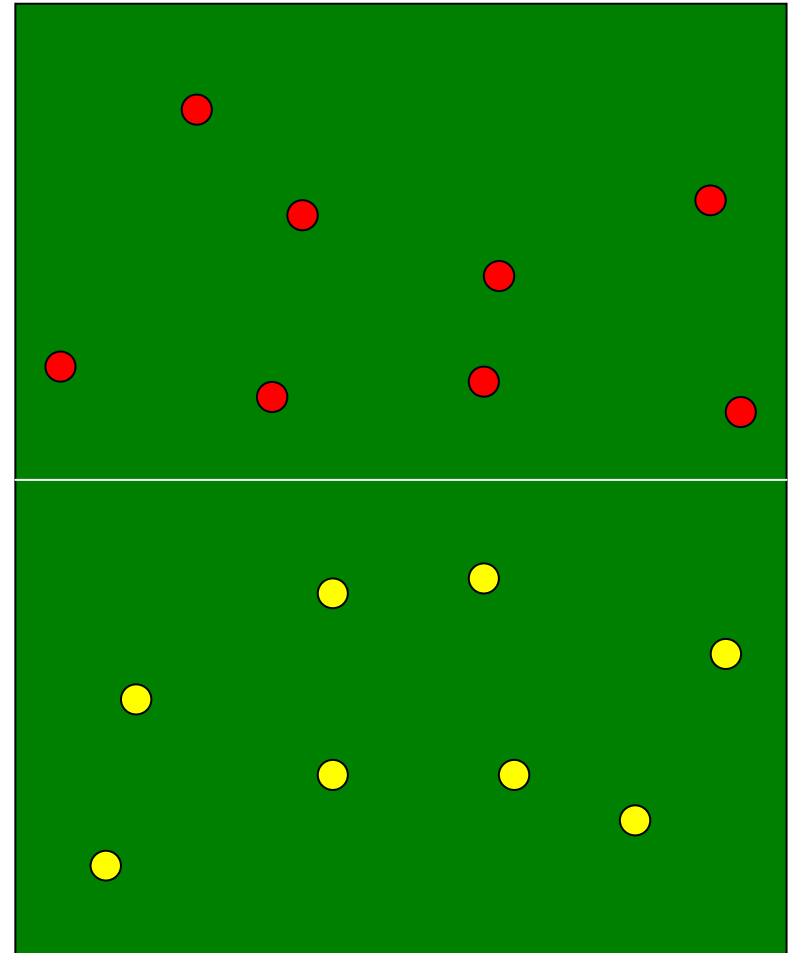
- **Organisation**
- Size of playing area will vary depending on age of players etc.
- 4 players are organised within each 15x15 grid. Players pass & move in area.
- On the coach's command players leave their ball & change groups individually or together clockwise & perform the following movements;
- Calf swings or straight leg jogging
- Hamstring volleys (hip flexors)
- Thigh volleys or heels to buttocks
- Groin abductors / adductors
- Lunges
- Intensity should be gradual leading into higher intensity bounding movements (including lateral) to prepare for extended warm up to develop speed, strength, power.
- Such movements can also be performed in the area in the centre of the squares.
- **Progressions on the coach's command;**
- 1 Player passes clockwise & follows
- 1 player's pass is met by a supporting player from the new group, 1-2 & player 1 passes into the new area (As shown)
- O1 to O2 who lets the ball run to a supporting player (Yorke/Cole combo)
- Players must come off to receive at angles
- O1 to O2, O2 back to O1, O1 slides ball down side of a waiting O2
- O1 plays a 1-2 with O2 & transfers via a longer diagonal pass to the third group
- Pass to the next group must be a certain type, eg, chip, lob, drive etc
- Pass must be controlled in a certain way, eg chest etc
- Pass & join the group diagonally opposite yours.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU02)

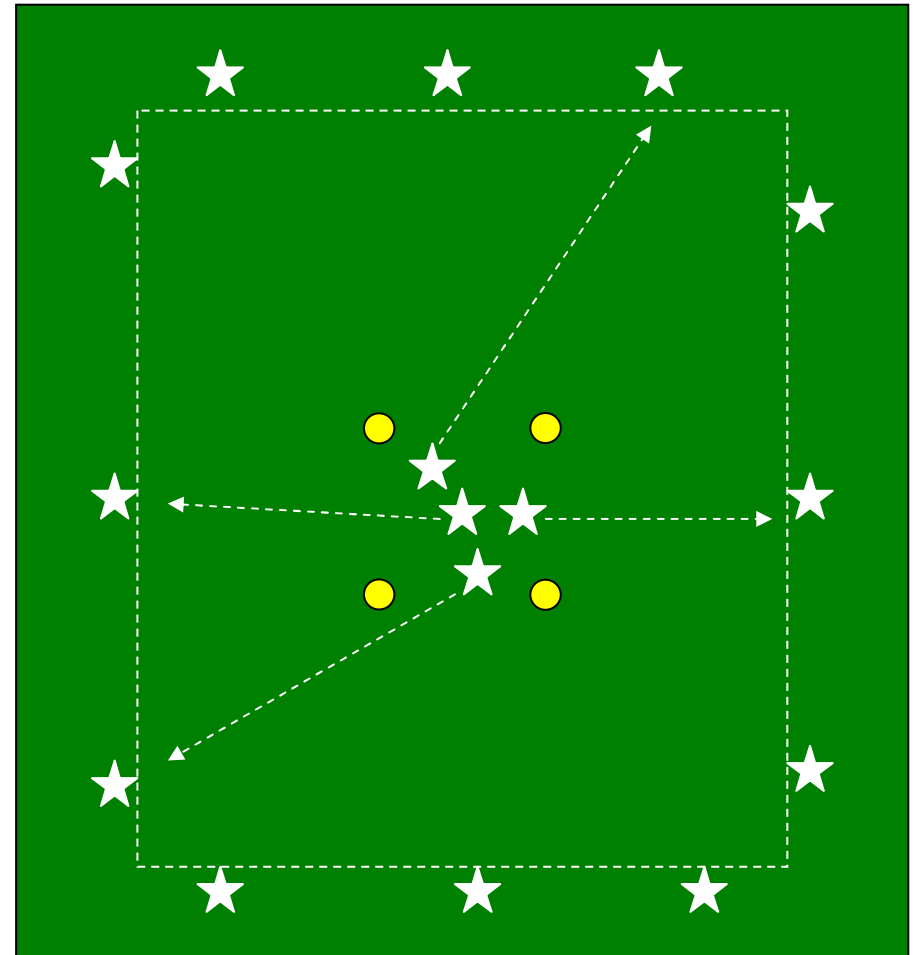
- **Organisation**
 - Split the players into two groups within a 15 x 15 yard area
 - To begin players choose their own route by moving through out the area.
 - Players perform a variety of movements that can include;
 - Calf swings or straight leg jogging
 - Hamstring volleys (hip flexors)
 - Thigh volleys or heels to buttocks
 - Groin abductors / adductors
 - Lunges
 - Intensity should be gradual leading into higher intensity bounding movements (including lateral) to prepare for extended warm up to develop speed, strength, power.
-
- **Progressions:**
 - Incorporate balls by asking players to pass and move to begin with.
 - Other activities can include;
 - Once players have passed the ball they must run one side of the area;
 - Pass in a certain order (Number players)
 - Call a number and following a pass the player leaves and moves to a different area (Diagonal/Across);
 - 3 balls in play - pass across area on coaches command then switch areas;
 - Keep ball up and pass – run 2 sides;
 - Pass by hand and pass – run 3 sides;
 - Players can pass to players running down the sides.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU03)

- **Organisation**
- Players begin by passing & moving in a 30 x 40 area. 1 Ball to 4 players ratio / 2 balls in hand 2 on floor etc.
- To progress 4 players placed in a central square, pass to players on outside and swap places. Players on entering the square must make sure they pass and leave via a different side of the square.
- Players should perform the following movements before, during and after the passing movements;
- Calf swings or straight leg jogging
- Hamstring volleys (hip flexors)
- Thigh volleys or heels to buttocks
- Groin abductors / adductors
- Lunges
- Intensity should be gradual leading into higher intensity bounding movements (including lateral) to prepare for extended warm up to develop speed, strength, power.
- Such movements can also be performed in the area in the centre of the squares.
- **Progressions;**
- Perform various movements when taking the ball into the square; ie, toe taps, moving backwards dragging ball, rolling ball on the side, Keep ups etc
- When keeping the ball up on reaching the square, pass via high ball for next player to control.
- Place the players in pairs, one ball per group on the outside. Players on the inside travel to every player with a ball. Players with balls hold them out for players to high kick with feet / Jump to head / side volleys with thighs etc.



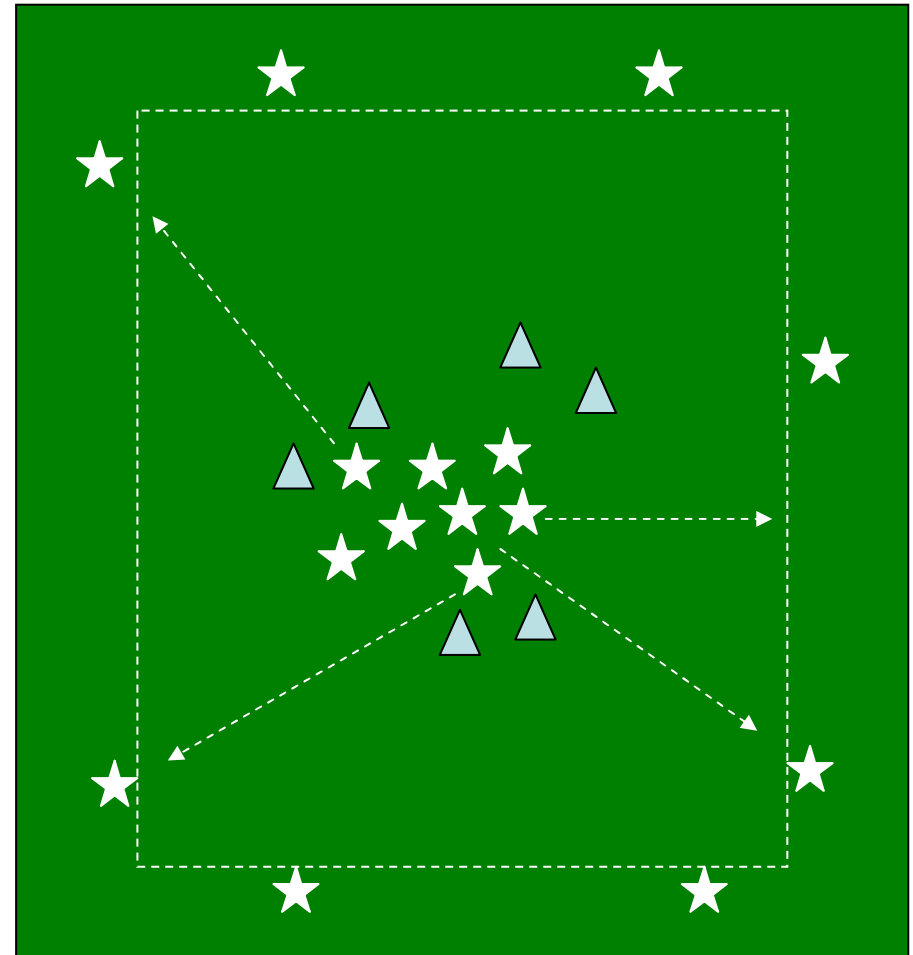
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU04)

- **Organisation**
- Players are organised within a 20 x 20 area, half of the group are positioned on the outside of the square with half of the group in a central position.
- Players on the outside of the pitch have a ball each, with players in the central area travelling through a gate before performing a series of techniques to include;
- Volley, ½ volley, thigh volley, chest head, double header, etc
- Players must always return through a gate before leaving through a different gate to perform another technique

- **Progressions;**
- Players must move through two gates before performing a technique;
- Players defend a gate by blocking players for a maximum of three seconds (Strength);
- Players perform Power related activities at each partner (Squat & header etc);
- Keep the practice moving by swapping roles on the move.

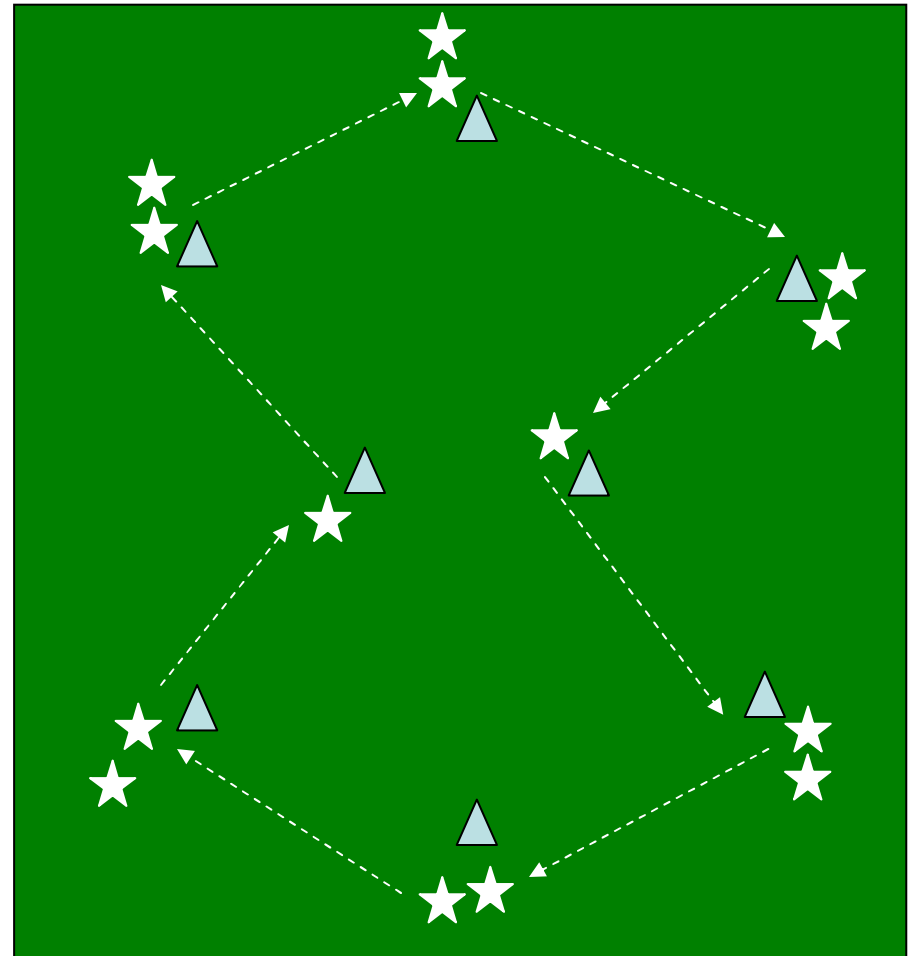
- **Physical;**
- High intensity type warm up preparing players for a physically demanding session



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU05)

- **Organisation**
- Players organised at a series of mannequins with balls starting at either end of the practice.
- The ball is transferred clockwise around the area.
- Size of area 30 yds x 20 yds.
- Players move from station to station.
- **Progressions;**
- Players begin by dribbling with the ball from mannequin to mannequin;
- Pass and follow;
- Players do a 1-2 with the person they pass to;
- Players play a 1-2 with the next ball being passed to the next station;
- Go in the opposite direction;
- Players decide when to take it themselves and when to play a 1-2;
- The first touch of the receiving player must take them around the mannequin either in front or behind;
- One touch only.
- **Physical**
- Moderate intensity warm up that should be used for aerobic based sessions

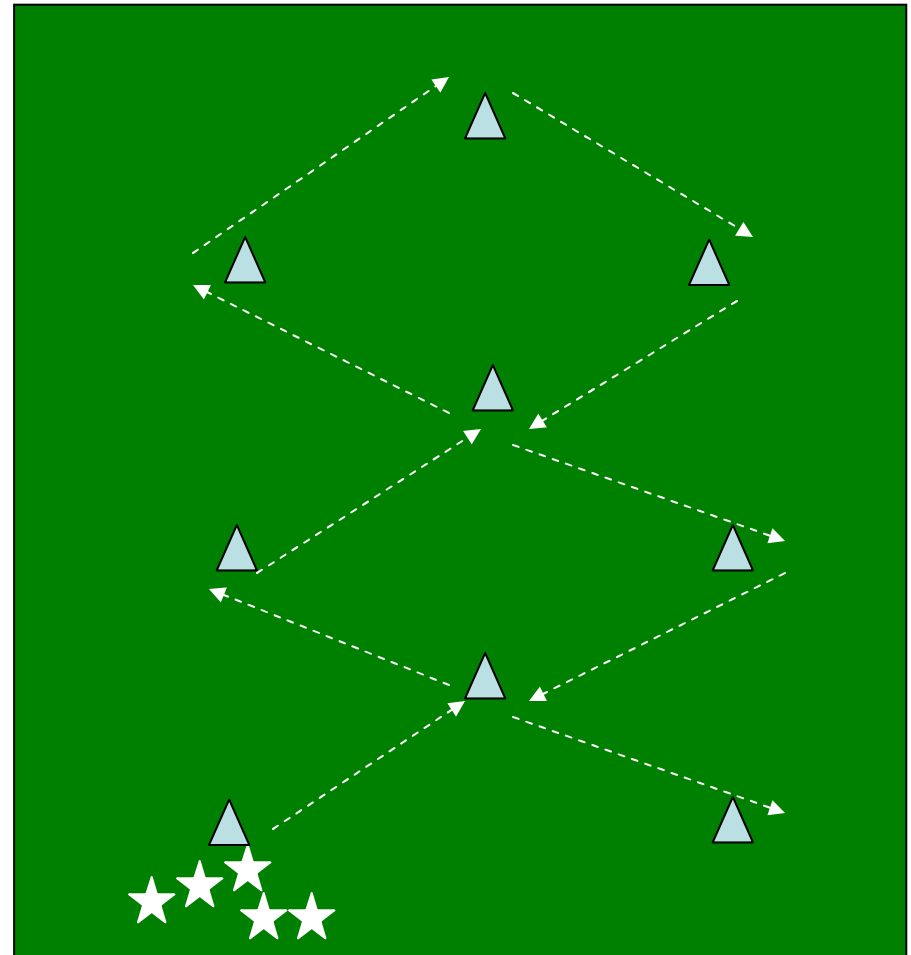


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU06)

- **Organisation**
- Players are organised at one end of the practice area.
- Players take it in turns to work through the course performing dribbling and turns with the ball using both feet.
- Players work clockwise with particular emphasis placed on coordinating movements with both feet.

- **Progressions;**
- Cut the ball with the outside of the left foot at the 1st cone, right foot at the next cone;
- Drag the ball with the sole of the foot with the right foot at the first cone, left foot at the next cone;
- Dribble around the cone and accelerate to the next cone / repeat with other foot;
- Dribble to cone turn back on next cone & cut ball with left foot back and then across to next cone, repeat at next cone with right foot;
- Dribble to cone and pass ball to one side of the cone move to receive ball on other side;
- Dribble to first cone, disguise to pass or shoot and cut ball with right foot across front of cone, repeat with other foot ;
- Go in opposite direction;

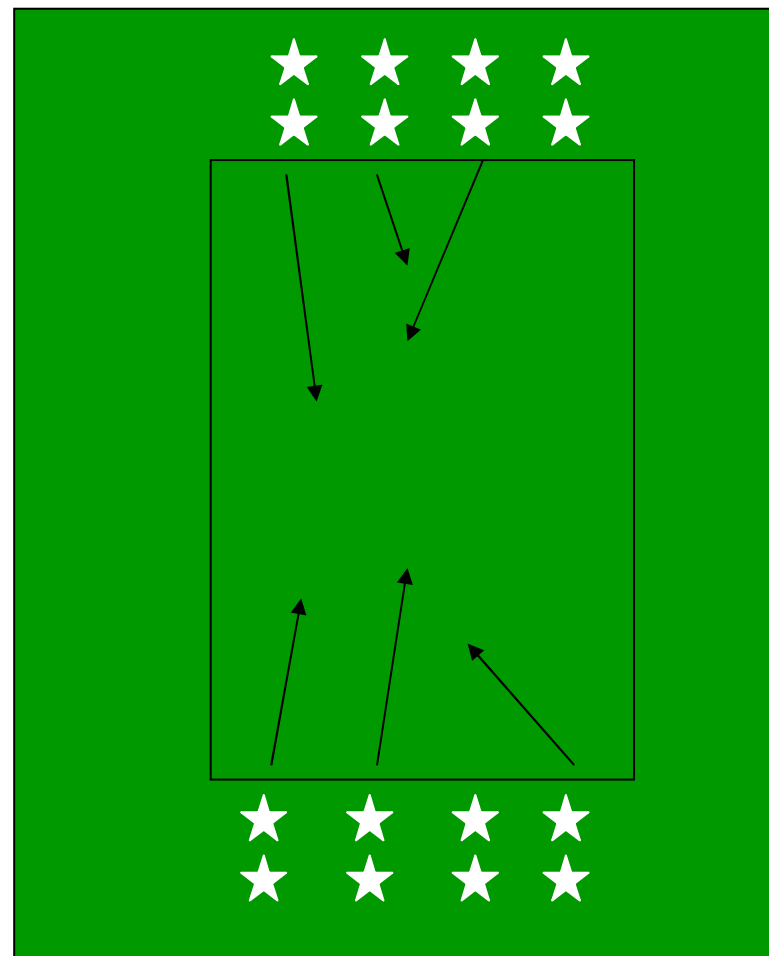


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Football Warm up (WU07)

- **Organisation:**
- Place all players in groups of three and at opposite ends of a 30 x 20 area;
- The player at the front of each group has a ball and performs a number of activities as he travels across the area.

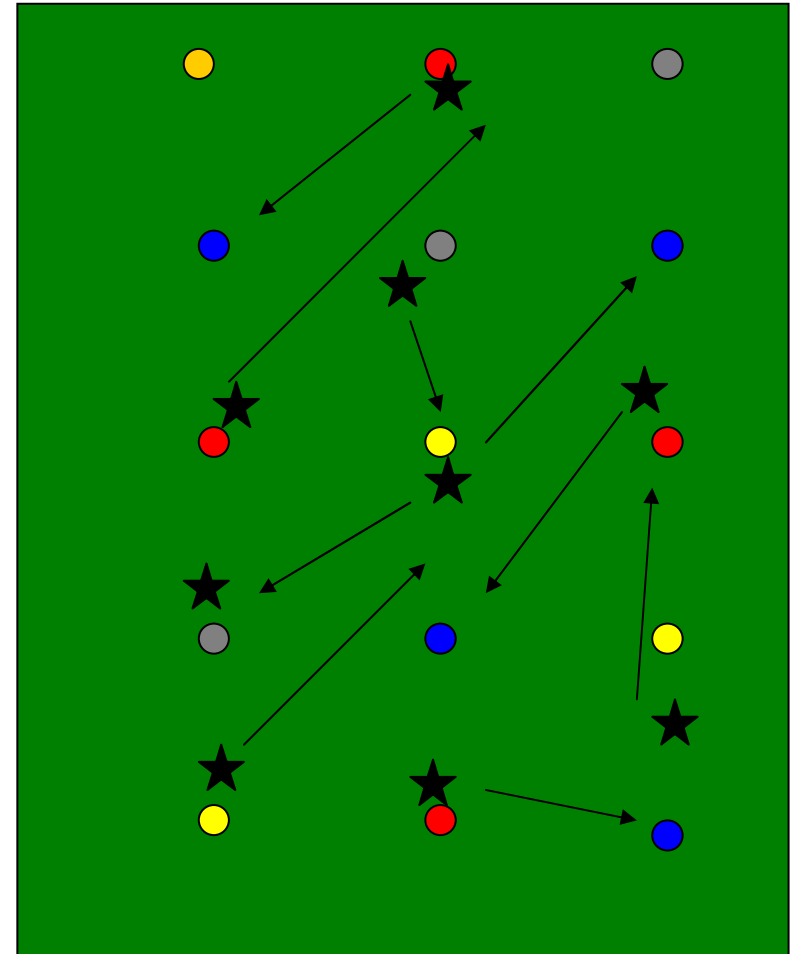
- **Recommendations:**
- Dribble across area with ball;
- Keep ball up to half way and pass across;
- 1 touch / 1 bounce across;
- 1 touch / 1 bounce across and pass to head;
- Fake to pass when dribbling across;
- Don't run straight, run in a slalom;
- Toe taps and pass when ten yards away;
- Keep ball up all the way;
- Add in 5 yard central zone – dribble to zone, leave ball, pick up new ball and continue;
- Bring in end line so players work at a higher tempo;
- Coach stands in middle zone and attempts to block / pressure players.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm Up (WU08)

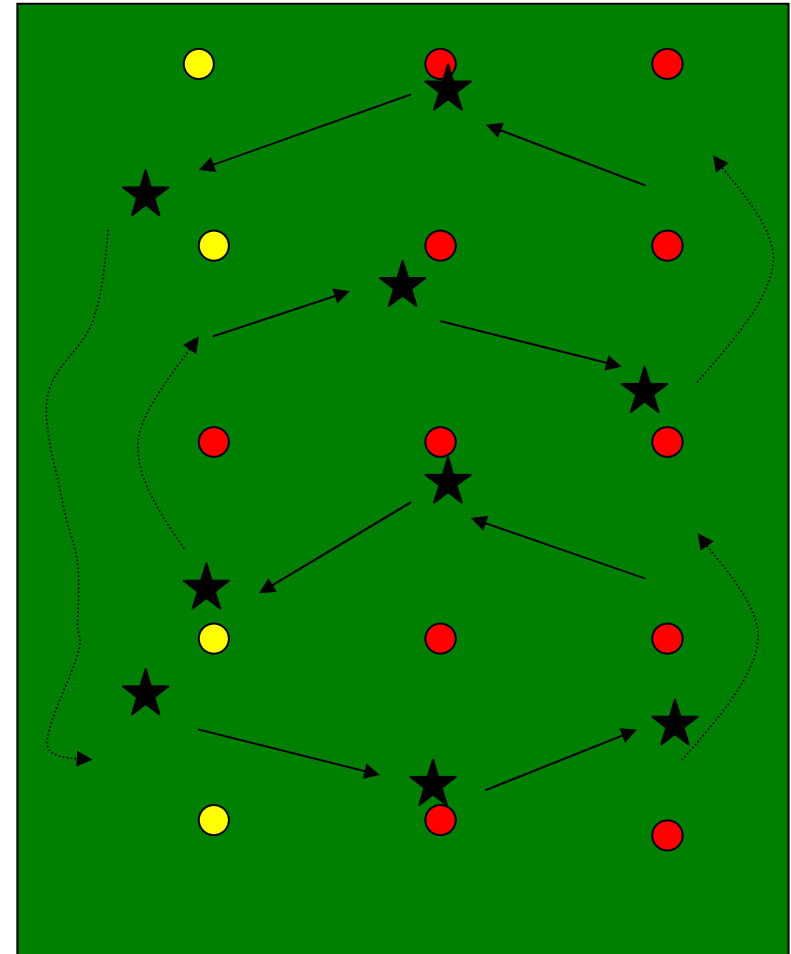
- **Organisation**
 - 8 10 X 10 squares are set up with players positioned at any “spare” cone
 - To begin players choose their own route by moving from cone to cone.
 - Create a network by asking players to move through a sequence of colours.
 - Players perform a variety of movements either at or between the cones. These can include;
 - Calf swings or straight leg jogging
 - Hamstring volleys (hip flexors)
 - Thigh volleys or heels to buttocks
 - Groin abductors / adductors
 - Lunges
 - Intensity should be gradual leading into higher intensity bounding movements (including lateral) to prepare for extended warm up to develop speed, strength, power.
 - Incorporate balls into the practice by allowing players to perform basic movements on or between cones including;
 - Dribbling, turns at each cone, keep/takes, 1-2's etc
-
- **Progressions:**
 - Organise players into pairs, 2 players per square.
 - Players begin by keeping the ball up between them practicing various activities including;
 - 1/2/3 touch, touch ball with different parts of the body, pass over head height, pass with head etc.
 - 1 player serves ball to 2nd player keeping them on their toes through varied service. Six services each and swap over.
 - Complete the above activity but instead after 4 services the server rolls the ball into a new area and both players race to get there first. Switch roles.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Extended Football Warm Up (WU09)

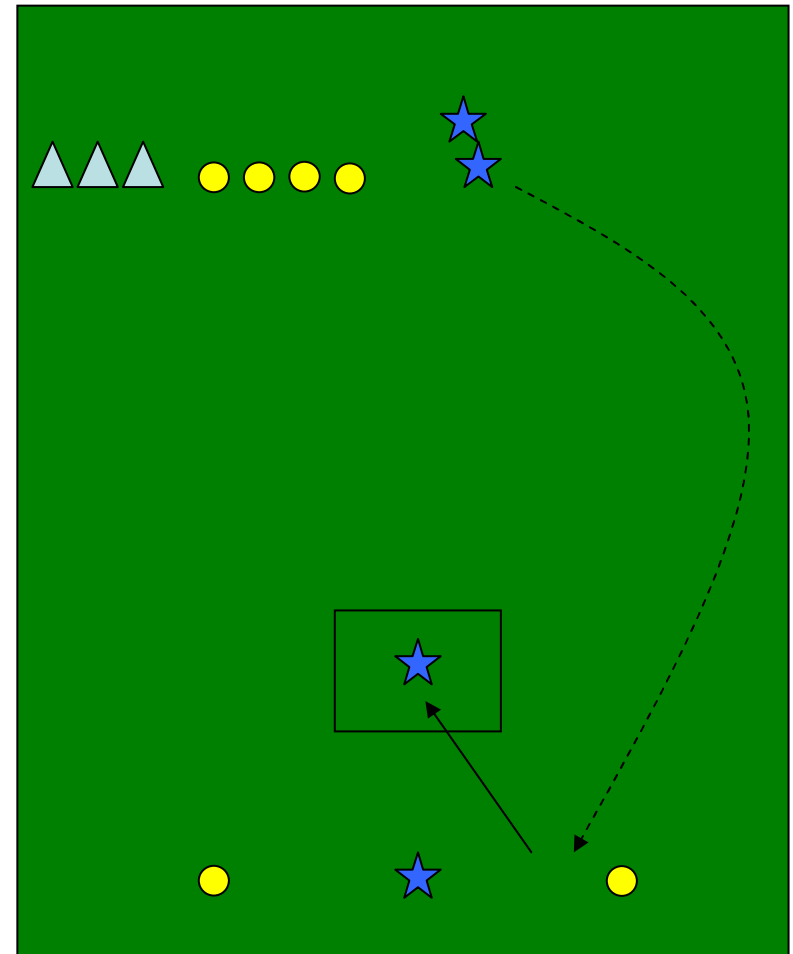
- **Organisation**
- 8 10 X 10 squares are set up with players positioned as shown in diagram.
- To begin player 1 passes forward through yellow gates to player 2. Player 1 then follows pass taking the place of player 2.
- Player 2 receives pass from player 1 and passes forward to player 3. Player 2 then follows pass and takes the place of player 3.
- Player 3 moves ball into the next "lane" and repeats the process.
- As soon as ball is in next lane another player can start through yellow gates.
- When ball reaches end yellow gates, player dribbles ball back to start.
- **Recommendations:**
- Number of touches on the ball can be limited to increase the tempo of the practice.
- Player one plays a 1-2 with player two and transfers to player three, Player two supports. Player three plays a 1-2 with player two who transfers the ball into the next lane. Continue.
- Players can perform dynamic flexibility movements between yellow end and start gates:
 - Calf swings or straight leg jogging
 - Hamstring volleys (hip flexors)
 - Thigh volleys or heels to buttocks
 - Groin abductors / adductors
 - Lunges
- **Physical;**
- High intensity type warm up preparing players for a physically demanding session



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Extended Football Warm up (WU10)

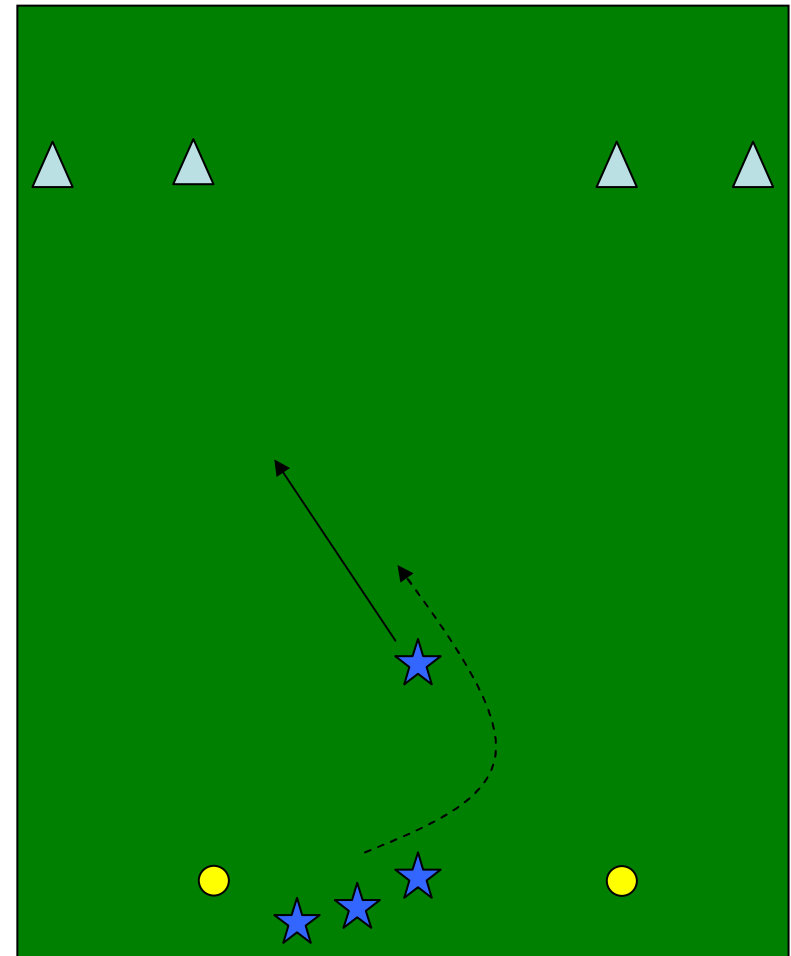
- **Organisation;**
 - Organise players into 2 teams. Players begin by making a lofted pass to another member of the team 20/25 yards away. This player must volley the ball into the player in the box without it touching the ground.
 - The player in the box must always have one foot in the square.
 - Players rotate roles with the first passer entering the box, the box player becoming the volleying player, the furthest player running to the start after working through a set of ladders and poles.
 - Players sprint back to the beginning.
-
- **Recommendations/ progressions;**
 - The first receiving player can;
 - Head it, volley it, chest it, thigh volley etc
 - Play a competition - first team to ten successful passes.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Extended Warm up (WU11) Speed and Agility

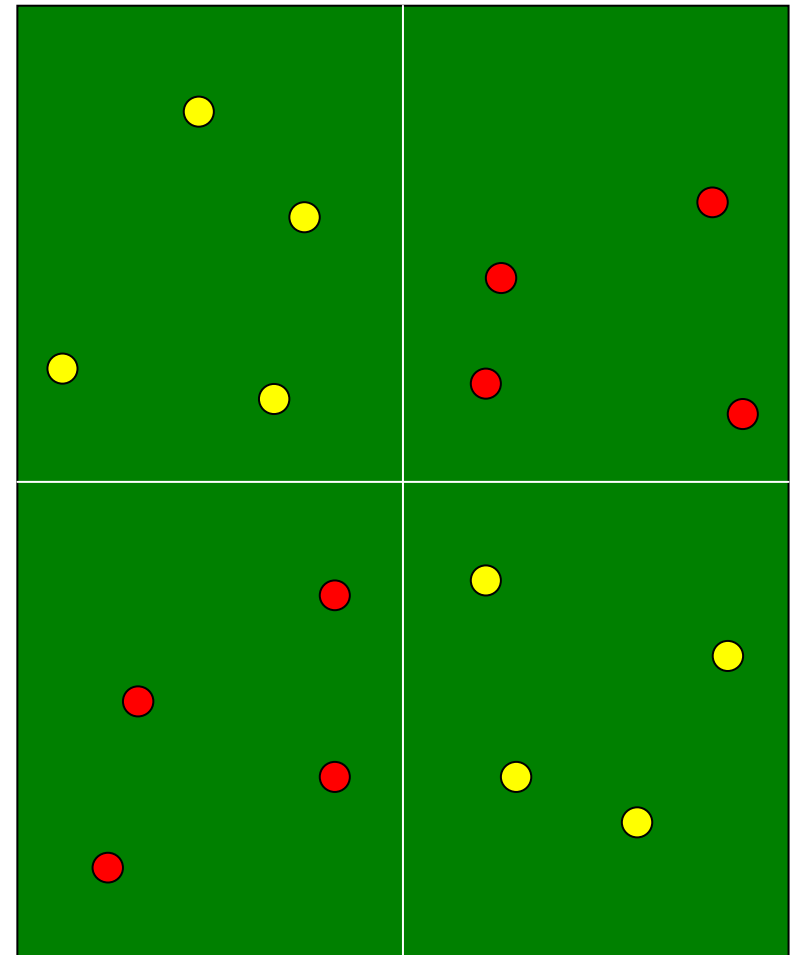
- **Organisation;**
 - Organise players into pairs;
 - One player acts as the attacker / one as a defender;
 - The attacker sets off and attempts to get through one of the goals without being tagged.
- **Recommendations/ progressions;**
 - Add in balls for the attacker only;
 - Add in balls for each player.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU12)

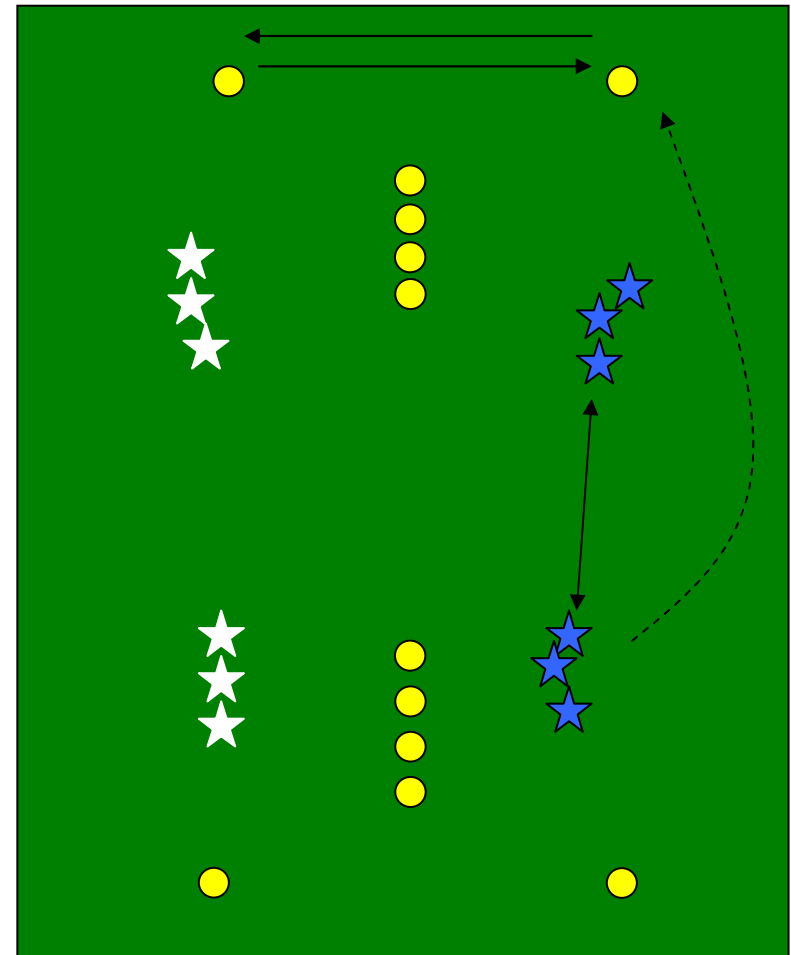
- **Organisation**
 - Situated between the 18yard box and the ½ way line four areas are created with four players per area and one ball.
 - To begin players choose their own route by moving through out the area.
 - Players perform a variety of movements that can include;
 - Calf swings or straight leg jogging
 - Hamstring volleys (hip flexors)
 - Thigh volleys or heels to buttocks
 - Groin abductors / adductors
 - Lunges
 - Intensity should be gradual leading into higher intensity bounding movements (including lateral) to prepare for extended warm up to develop speed, strength, power.
-
- **Progressions:**
 - Incorporate balls by asking players to pass and move to begin with.
 - Other activities can include;
 - Keep ball up as a group
 - Pass in a certain order (Number players)
 - Call a number and following a pass the player leaves and moves to a different area (Diagonal/Across)
 - All players pass and move in a clockwise/anti clockwise direction.
 - Short pass that remain in the centre of the area forcing players to move quickly from out to in.
 - 1-2, spin off to receive again, pass to new player.
 - Add ladders / jumps / cones etc around the area for players to perform activities at after passing the ball at any given stage of the warm up.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU13)

- **Organisation;**
- Organise players into 4 groups positioned at each corner of a 12 metre square
- Players pass to line opposite and join end of own line
- **Recommendations/ progressions;**
- Players pass and follow to end of opposite line performing random dynamic flexibility movements up to end cone.
- As above but players perform dynamic flexibility sequences up to end cone and dribble ball across to opposite end cone.
- As above but players perform dynamic flexibility sequences up to end cone and complete fast feet circuit (Yellow Cones situated between groups)
- Players play one – twos each time and increase sprints to end cone or spins to behind cone.

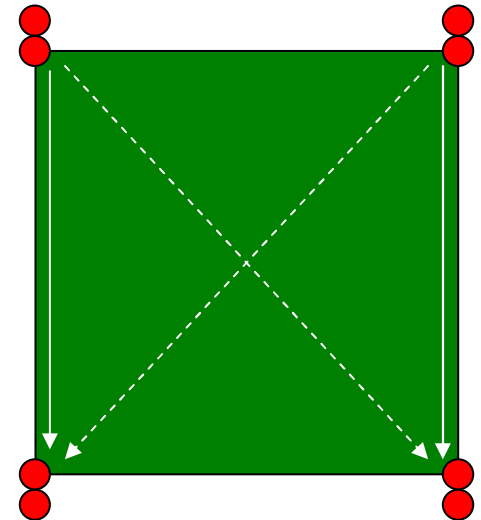
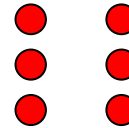
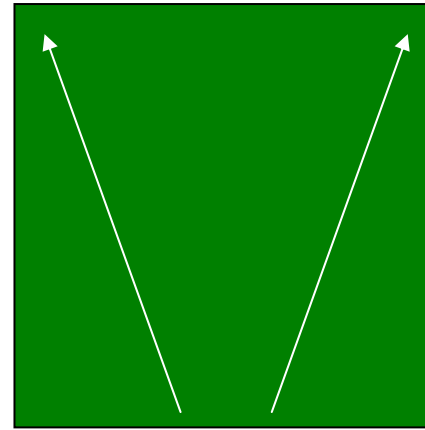


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU14)

- **Organisation**
- 30 x 20 area players begin by jogging in pairs to the far corner of each area and back down the sides to rejoin the group
- Players perform a variety of movements that can include;
- Calf swings or straight leg jogging
- Hamstring volleys (hip flexors)
- Thigh volleys or heels to buttocks
- Groin abductors / adductors
- Lunges / jog on side / arm swings / disco etc
- To increase intensity number the following activities;
- 1) Sprint to top corner 2) Sprint to middle cone 3) Diagonal to top cone 4) Return to back of Q.
- Call numbers consecutively so players perform a variety of movements.

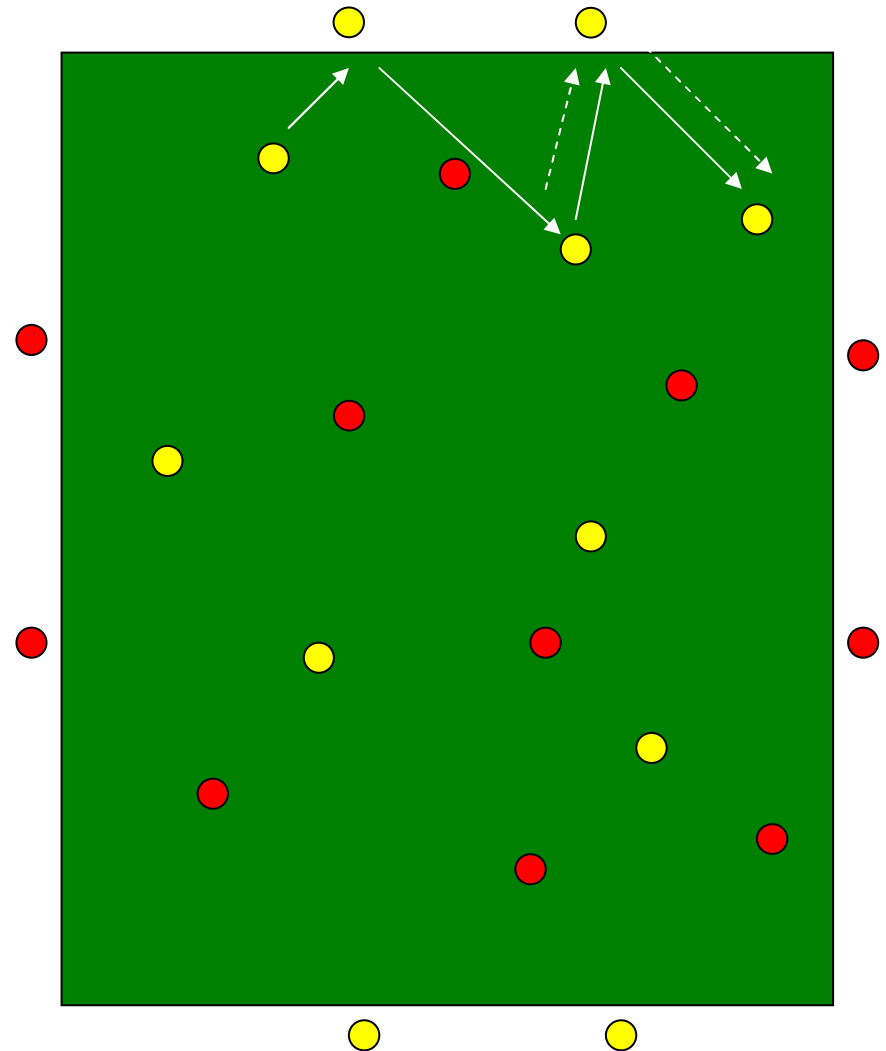
- **Progressions:**
- Organise players at each corner of the area;
- Incorporate balls by asking players to pass and move to begin with to the players in the Q in front of them.
- Other activities can include;
- Pass and follow ball;
- Pass and run to the group diagonally opposite;
- Pass and run to the group horizontally opposite;
- Pass the ball diagonally and follow;
- Pass the ball diagonally and run to group in front;
- Players can now move anywhere they like BUT; They must ensure that group numbers remain balanced at all times to ensure that the practice keeps working.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU15)

- **Organisation**
- Situated between the 18yard box and the $\frac{1}{2}$ way line 2 players from each team are placed at either end of the playing area.
- One ball per group each team transfers the ball to the outer players at one end and then the other.
- The outer player is replaced on each occasion by the passer
- Players not in possession perform a variety of movements that can include;
 - Calf swings or straight leg jogging
 - Hamstring volleys (hip flexors)
 - Thigh volleys or heels to buttocks
 - Groin abductors / adductors
 - Lunges
- Intensity should be gradual leading into higher intensity bounding movements (including lateral) to prepare for extended warm up to develop speed, strength, power.
- **Progressions:**
- When an outer player receives a pass he plays a 1-2 with the other outer player before transferring the ball back in & joining the practice.
- One outer player passes & overlaps the other, receives the ball back & passes back into the practice.
- A pass to an outer player is supported by another player who transfers the ball between the two before the 2nd outer player passes back into the practice (As shown)
- Perform various combinations within the practice (Yorke / Cole, Shevchenko)
- Limit the number of touches by all / certain players.
- Time limit for transfer eg, Can only pass forward etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU16)

Organisation;

Players are organised into pairs and positioned
At each outside cone.

Cones / Mannequins are set up 6m and 12m from centre
cone.

Players alternate by performing a variety of
dynamic movements from start to centre cone
and back.

Recommendations;

Players progress by performing forward
backward and lateral movements at random
between own and other groups cones.

Progress to dynamic sequences and
chopdowns.

Progress to high intensity sprints and agility
sequences between cones. (variation of
commands)

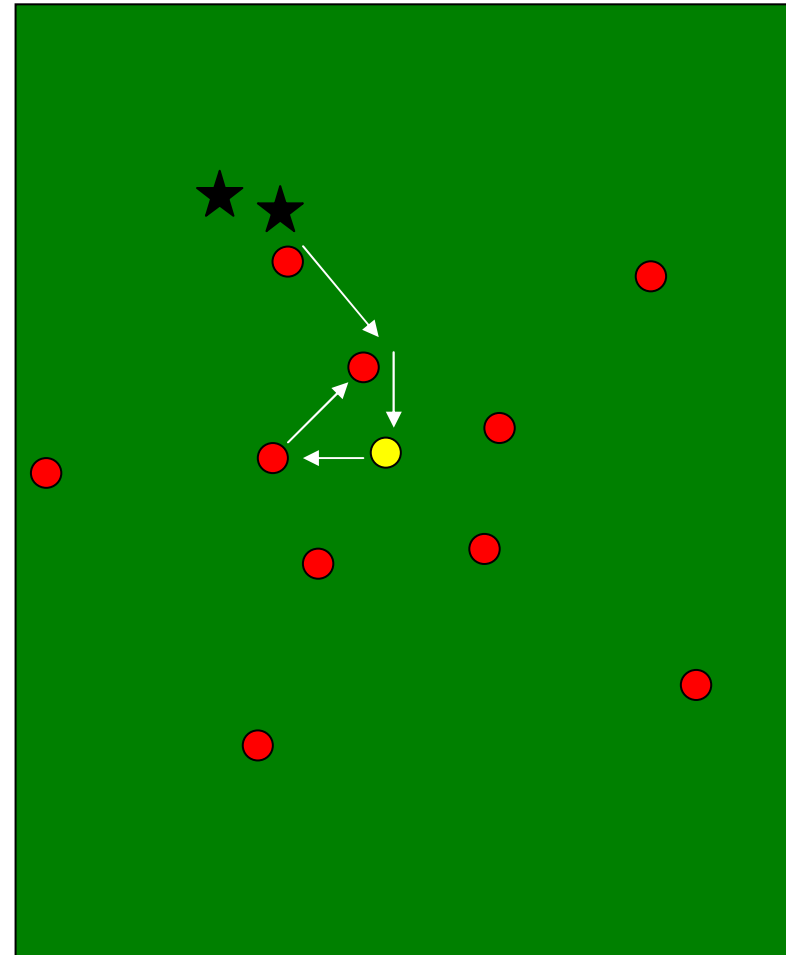
Progressions;

Add a ball for each group and perform similar
movements around the cones;

Perform movements around the cones and finish at the
group to your left;

Dribble and pass across the area and join the group to
your left;

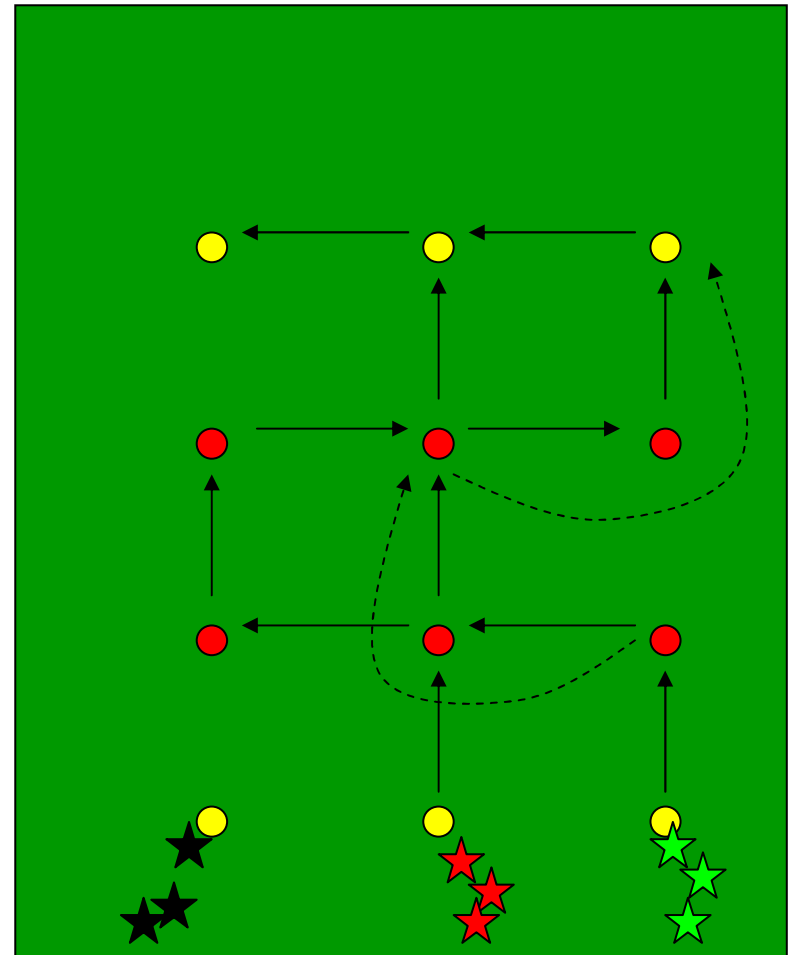
Use the spare player at each group top play
into/overlap/dribble round/Play 1-2 with etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Speed & Agility Warm Up (WU17)

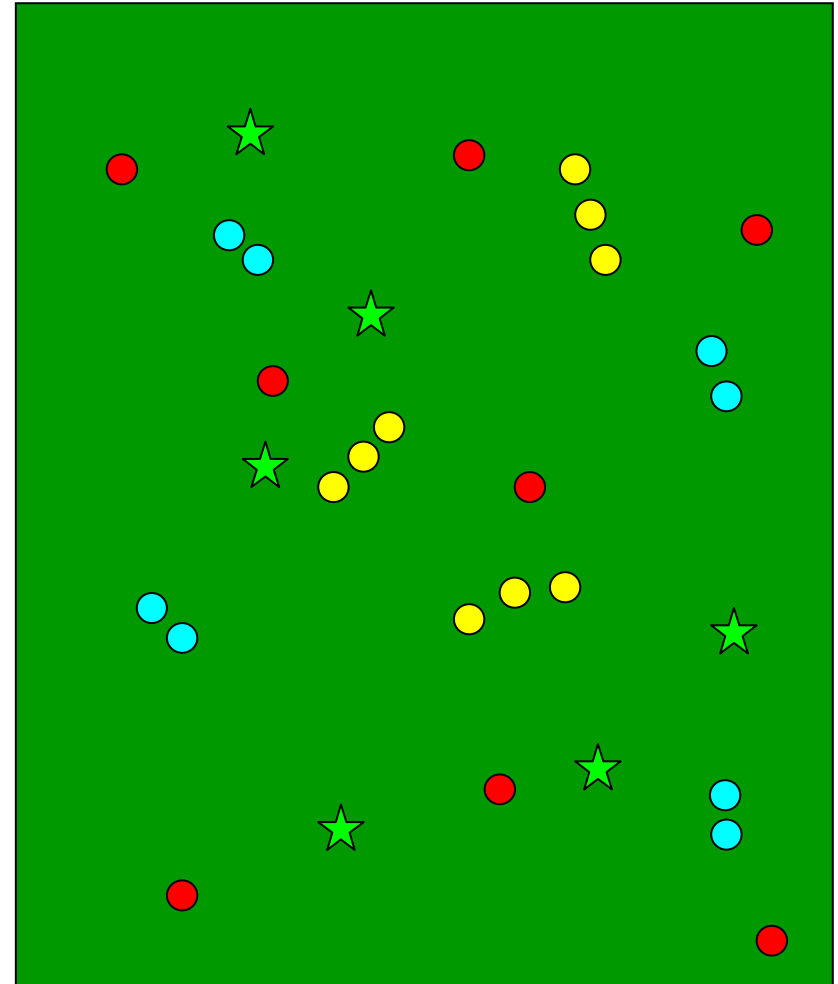
- **Organisation;**
- 3 10 X 10 squares are set up with players positioned as shown in diagram.
- To begin players in the left and middle columns jog forwards to nearest cone, sideways to next cone, forwards etc to end and return to own line.
- Repeat with players in right and middle columns.
- Overload number of players in middle column.
- **Recommendations/ progressions;**
- Introduce dynamic flexibility movements between each cone
- Introduce a ball at each stage of cones for players to move laterally
- The ball can be moved in a number of different ways;
- Toe taps (Forwards/Backwards) drag foot over ball etc;
- One touch to control and one to pass the ball;
- One touch only (weight of pass)
- As above but all players overlap ball quickly when passed which triggers next group of players to “go”.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Warm Up (WU18)

- **Organisation:**
- Players are split into small groups
- Different coloured cones are spread around area at random in 1's, 2's and 3's.
- **Recommendations/ progressions:**
- To begin players jog around coned area performing dynamic flexibility movements and sequences.
- Players progress to performing fast feet movements:
 - 1 cone – lateral hops X 4
 - 2 cones – lateral side steps X 2
 - 3 cones – forward high knees X 1
- Progress to building up fast feet sequences (move to 1 cone then 3 cones then out of area etc.)



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

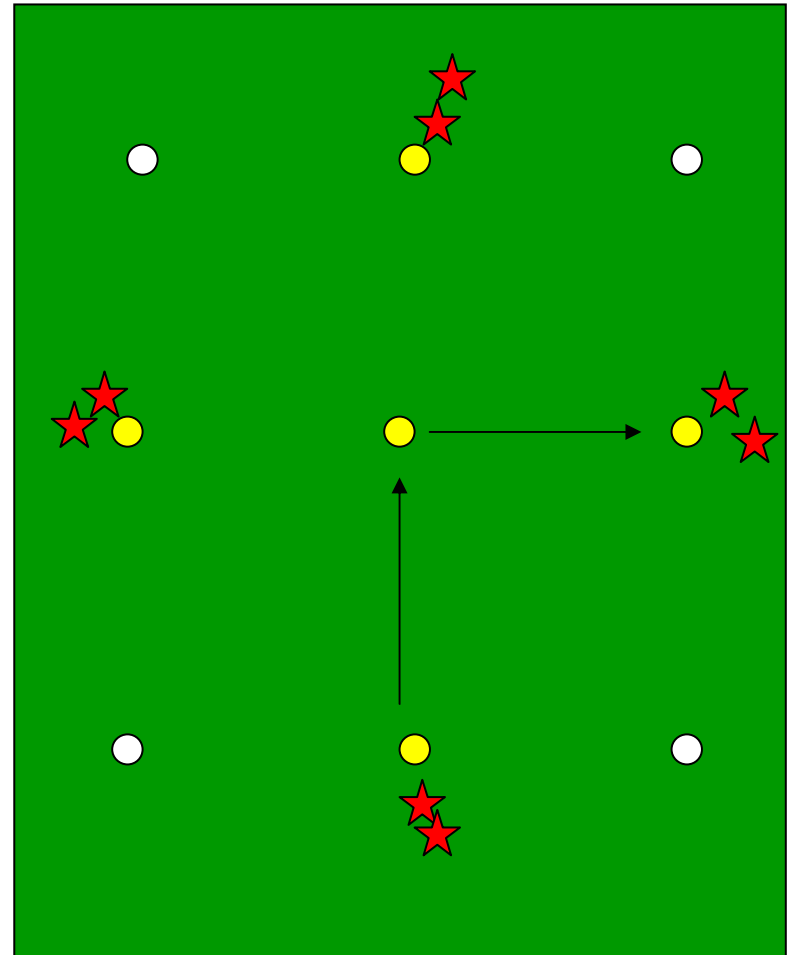
Dynamic football warm up (WU19)

- **Organisation**

- Players are organised into pairs at each yellow cone

- **Recommendations/ progressions:**

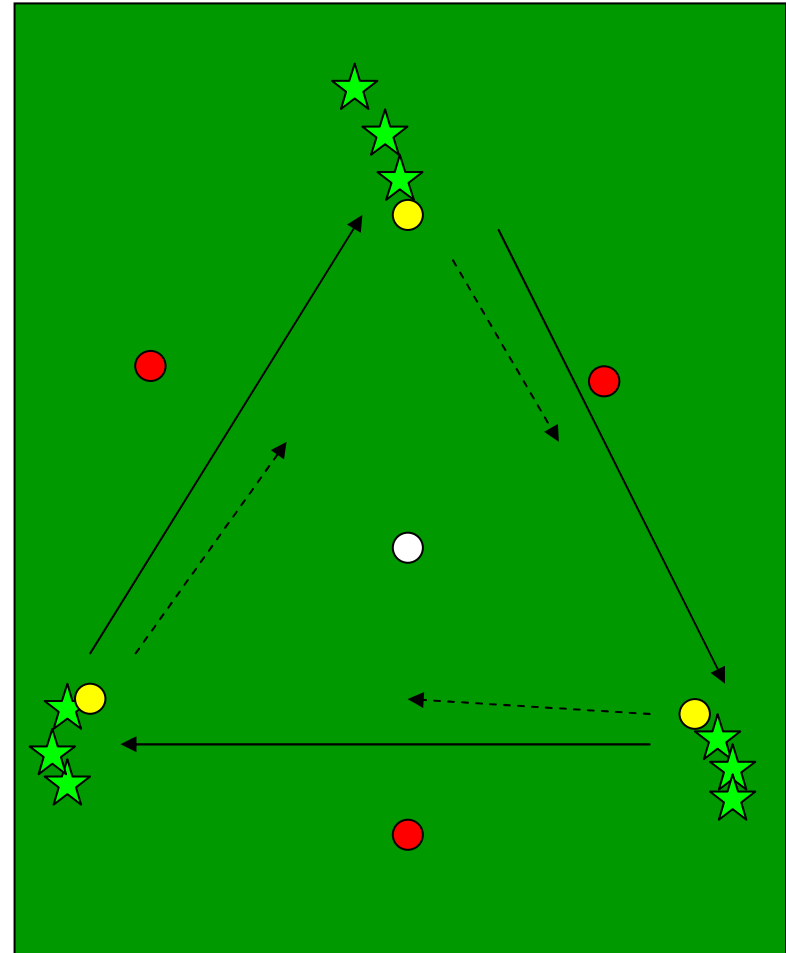
- Players begin by moving to centre cone, and to left or right cone performing dynamic sequences.
- Progress by adding a ball: dribble to centre, cut back with instep out to right, cut back with instep out to white cone, cut back with instep back to start position.
- Vary technical work to any type of turns;
- Work clockwise and anti clockwise;
- Vary shape of practice & add additional cones to make a clock face, players perform tasks in and around the times of the clock;
- Perform 12 hour / 24 hour clocks;
- Run with ball in hands to opposite group;
- Reach Middle cone & pass via throw / Pass / Skill etc
- Vary type of Pass & Movement ie, Head left / Run right etc
- Dribble to Middle, run to left around group & end up at opposite group etc;
- Pass to group on left, touch middle cone, run sideways / Backwards to own group / different group.
- Pass right, run all way round to starting station.
- Players progress to performing sprints after second cut back.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

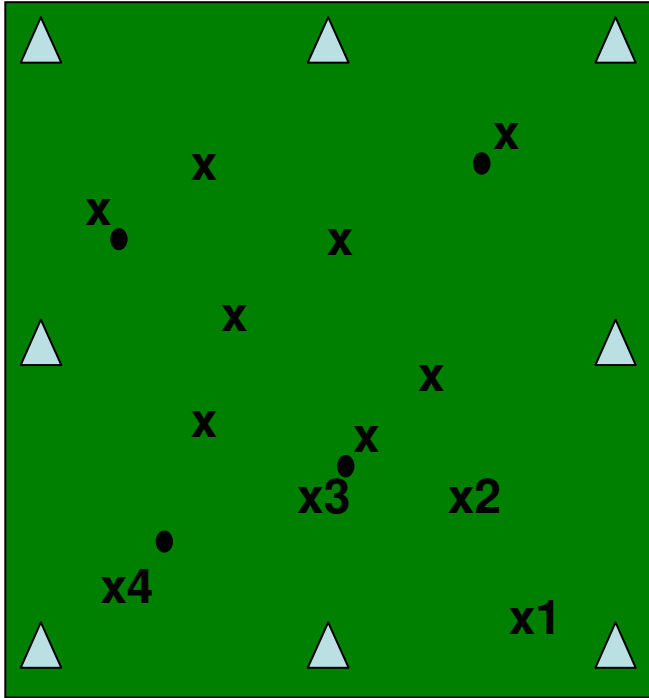
Position Specific Warm up / Technical Practice (WU20)

- **Organisation:**
- Players begin with a range of light dynamic stretches in area moving to and from different coloured poles.
- Players are then split into 3 groups on yellow poles.
- Players jog into middle pole (white) and out to next group performing dynamic movement sequences.
- **Recommendations/ progressions:**
- With a ball players get ball out of feet in direction of next group clockwise, stop ball in between cones and join end of line.
- Next player in line follows and passes ball to player in next line to repeat sequence;
- Repeat but move inside or outside around red/white poles at speed;
- Player who leaves ball, performs movement around cones & supports ball played to front of next group;
- Pass to next group, make angle, receive back, pass to moving runner;
- Play 1-2 with player at front of group, receive back and transfer to player at front of next group, the ball is supported by the player playing the lay off pass for you to transfer;
- Player One Plays pass to player at front of next group and moves to white cone, checks off and performs a Shevchenko to play into receiving players pass who is travelling to next group.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Warm (WU21)



Comments

Organisation

In a 20 x 20 area each player jogs around the specified area, 4 players have 4 balls. After 3 mins add 4 extra balls to be passed randomly by hand. Thus players are continually giving and receiving passes to feet and by hand

Key Factors

Increase muscle temperature
Increase Heart Rate
Increase flexibility
Incorporate stretching

Progression

Pass & Receive in sequence: One to feet, one to hands

Players continue to pass to feet – but "serve" for a header to be directed to a new player

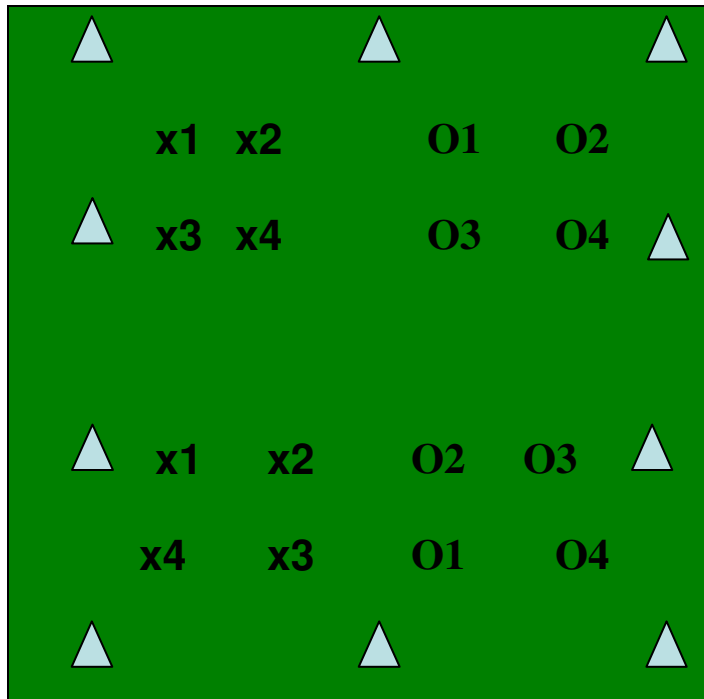
A one – two must be performed before a pass is made to a new player

1 touch one – two

3 touches / seconds possession maximum

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic warm up (WU22)



Comments

Organisation

Split group into 4 teams: (2 x blue, 2 x red), and position them in each corner. Players in each group are numbered 1-4, passing in sequence.

Key Factors

Increase muscle temperature

Increase heart rate

Increase flexibility

- incorporating stretching

Progression

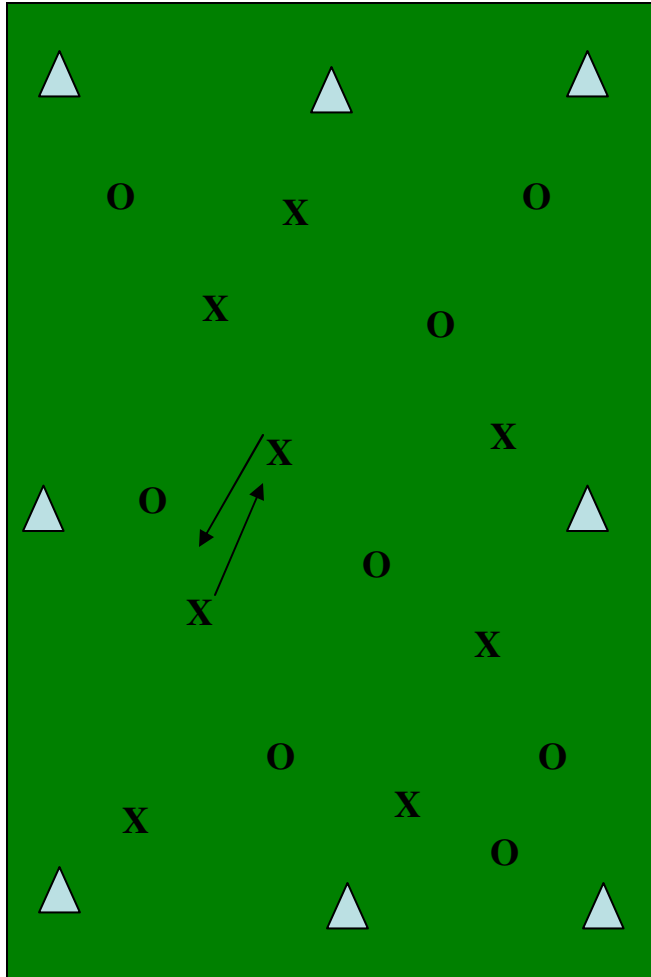
Upon command number called to swap with opposite team in other half

Once a pass is made players must run to outside markers and return

Use whole area and combine two groups of 4 and repeat above

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic warm up (WU23)



Organisation

Players (split into 2 teams of 8) jog around area passing 1 ball per group.

Key Factors

Light intensity

Stretch

Increase intensity

Concentrate on body position when receiving ball.

Progression

Add another ball per group

1 ball in air, 1 on floor

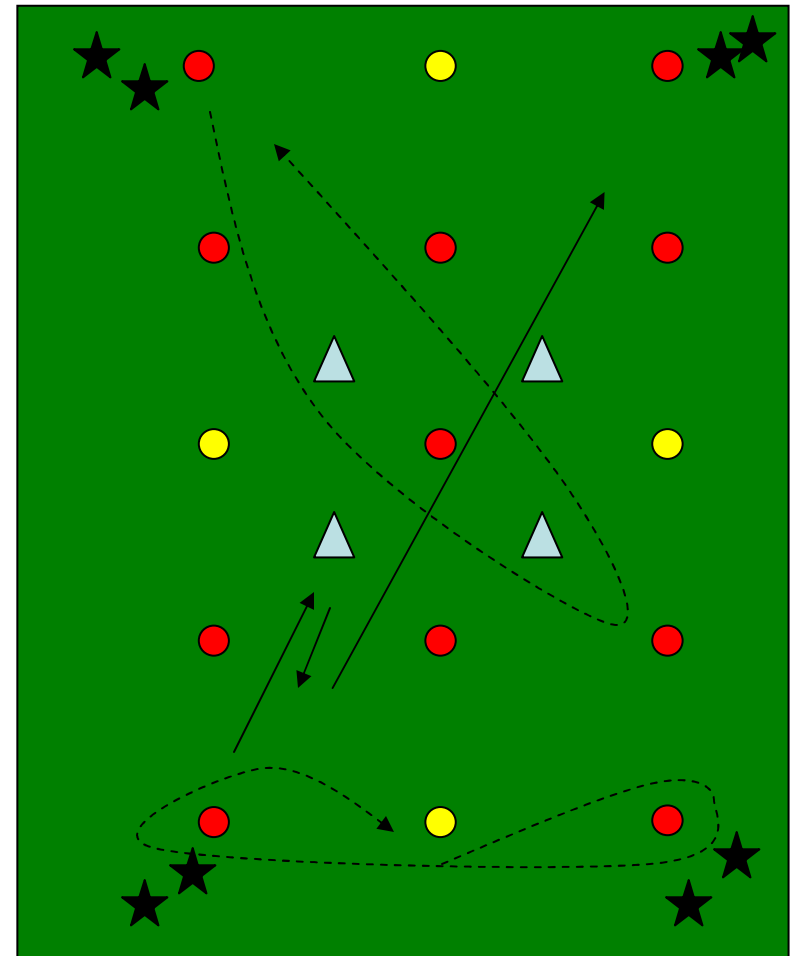
Introduce headers, volleys and turning

Comments

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Extended Agility Warm Up (WU24)

- **Organisation**
- Following any type of passing / dribbling type activity players are organised into equal groups and stationed in the corners of the area or at the yellow cones.
- Mannequins are situated in the centre of the area facing each group
- **Recommendations:**
- When players are organised at the corners of the pitch;
- They can perform a variety of runs involving the mannequins including;
- Run to closest mannequin, jockey backwards, sprint to opposite corner, repeat;
- Sprint around first mannequin across to opposite mannequin and back to group;
- Sprint around first mannequin, across to opposite mannequin and back to group;
- Sprint around first mannequin, up to next mannequin and back to group etc
- When players are stationed at the yellow cones;
- Perform a figure of eight around opposite cones (As shown);
- Sprint around a combination of local cones in any sequence;
- Run in pairs;
- Collect all players in a chain until all players have circulated the arranged course;
- Set a course of a variety of cones and mannequins etc.
- **Physical**
- Moderate / High intensity warm up that should be used as the Peak drill in a moderate intensity session.



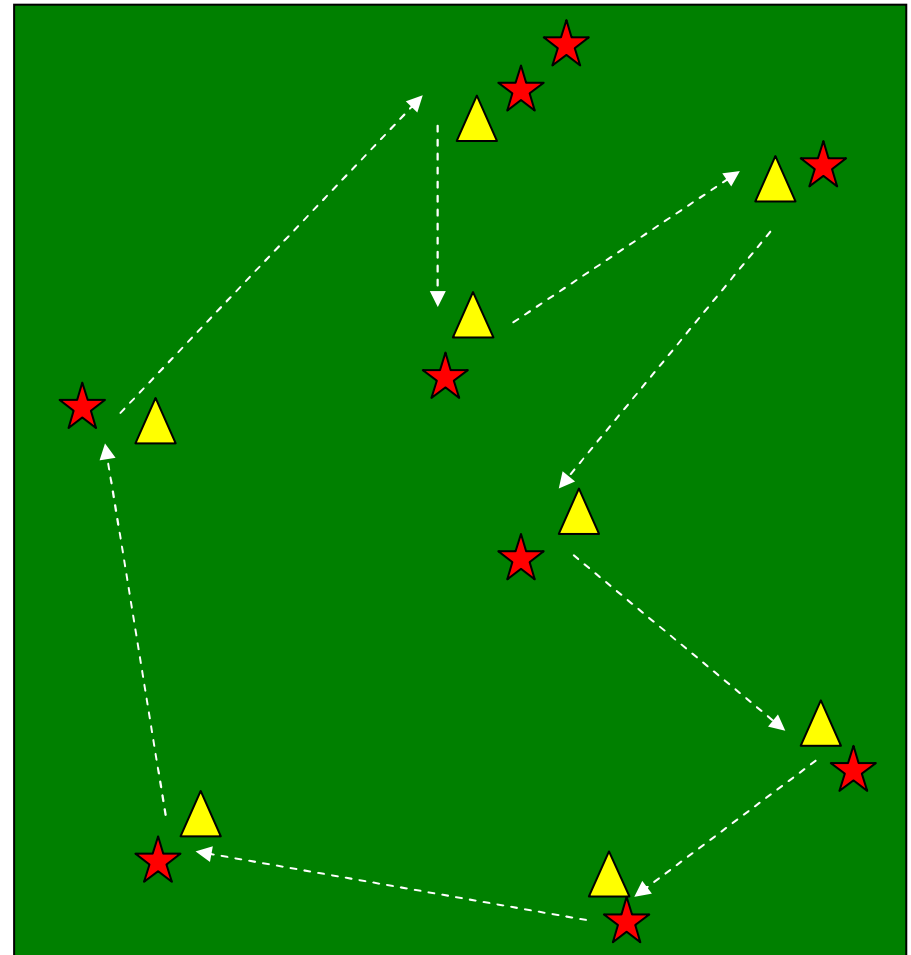
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU25)

- **Organisation**
- Players organised at a series of mannequins with balls starting at one end of the practice.
- The ball is transferred around the area.
- Size of area; 15yds between each pole
- Players move from station to station.

- **Progressions;**
- Players begin by dribbling with the ball from mannequin to mannequin;
- Pass and follow;
- Players do a 1-2 with the person they pass to;
- Players play a 1-2 with the next ball being passed to the next station;
- Go in the opposite direction;
- Players decide when to take it themselves and when to play a 1-2;
- The first touch of the receiving player must take them around the mannequin either in front or behind;
- One touch only.

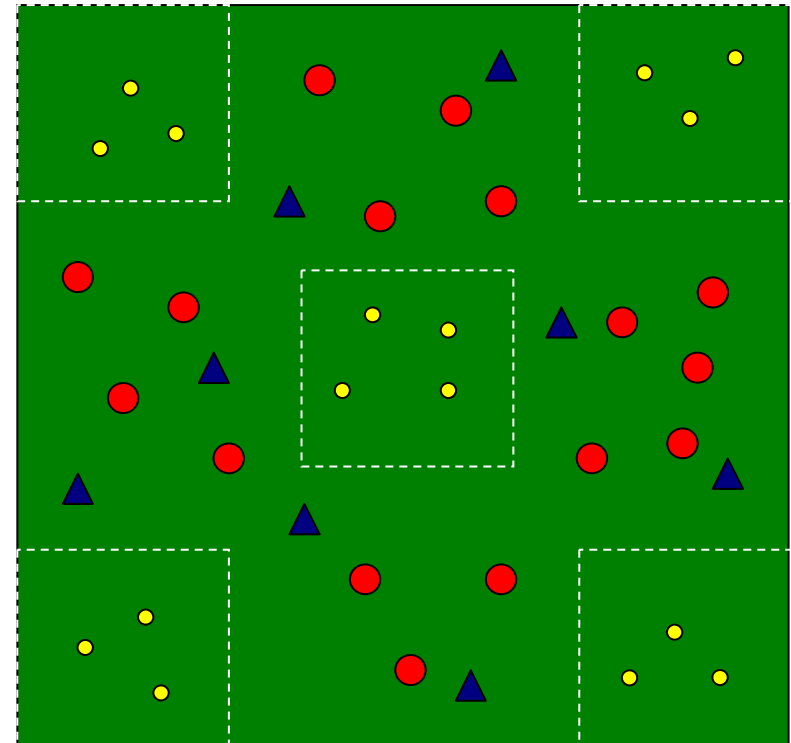
- **Physical**
- Moderate intensity warm up that should be used for aerobic based sessions



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Warm up (WU26)

- **Organisation**
- 16 players organised within the central area
- 5 areas organised through out the practice each holding a number of balls.
- Players begin by getting a ball from any of the areas transferring it to another area and then travelling to a different corner to pick up a different ball.
- **Progressions;**
- Keep ball up to another square and then run with ball to another corner.
- Do a variety of exercises from box to box as you travel to get a ball.
- Pick up a ball and then run with it through the middle square to another corner.
- Go around two poles and then move to another square.
- Players touch the ball quickly with a particular part of the foot before a number of times before travelling to another area.
- Perform two turns of your choice before travelling to another area.
- Players are organised in pairs and pass together in and around the area avoiding the poles and other players.
- **Physical**
- Moderate intensity warm up that should be used for aerobic based sessions



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

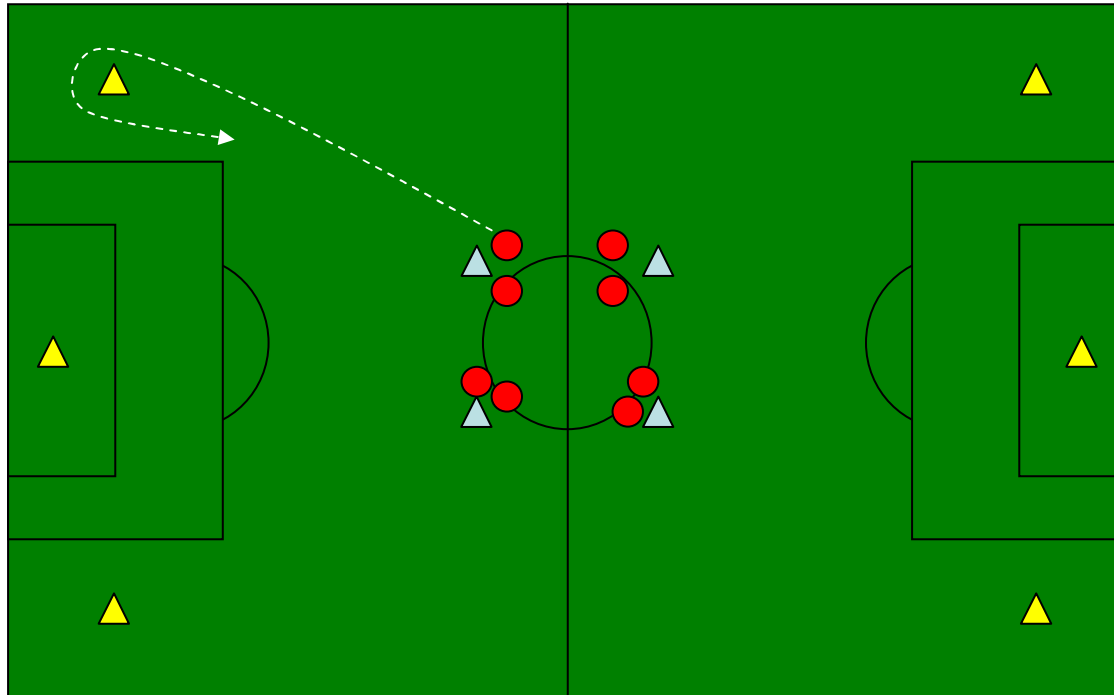
Jog & Stretch / Recovery (WU27)

•Organisation :

•Players start in small groups in the central square and are organised onto a cone each per group.

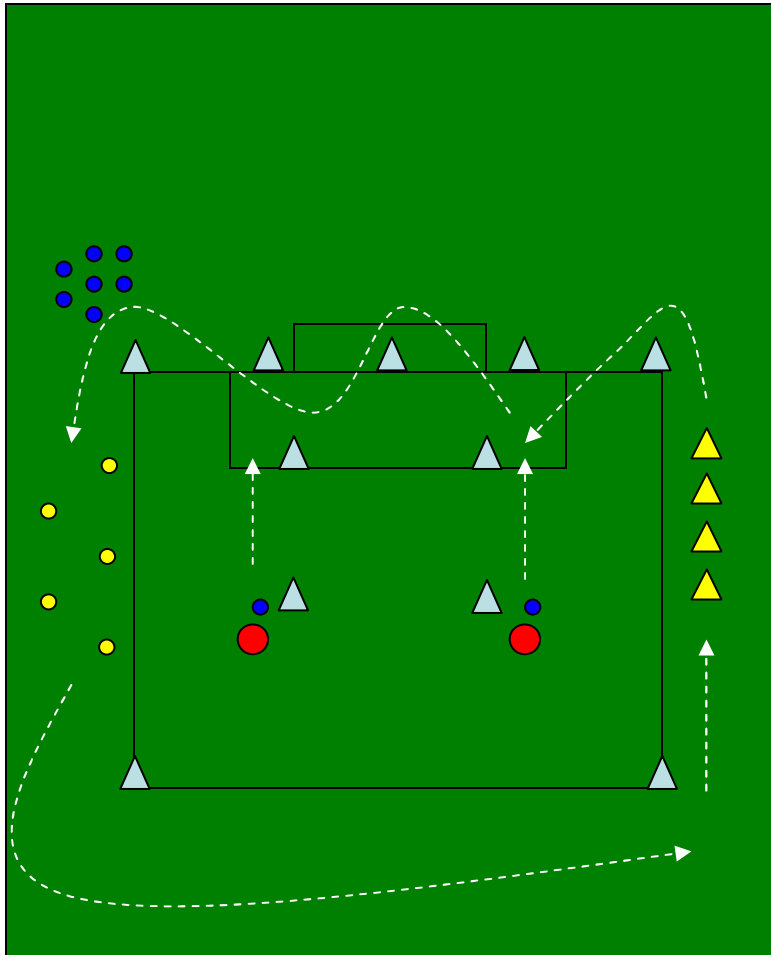
•Groups can jog around any pole they wish as long as they return back through the square once they have done so.

Simple practice that can be developed to incorporate stride runs and additional work.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Penalty box warm up (WU28)

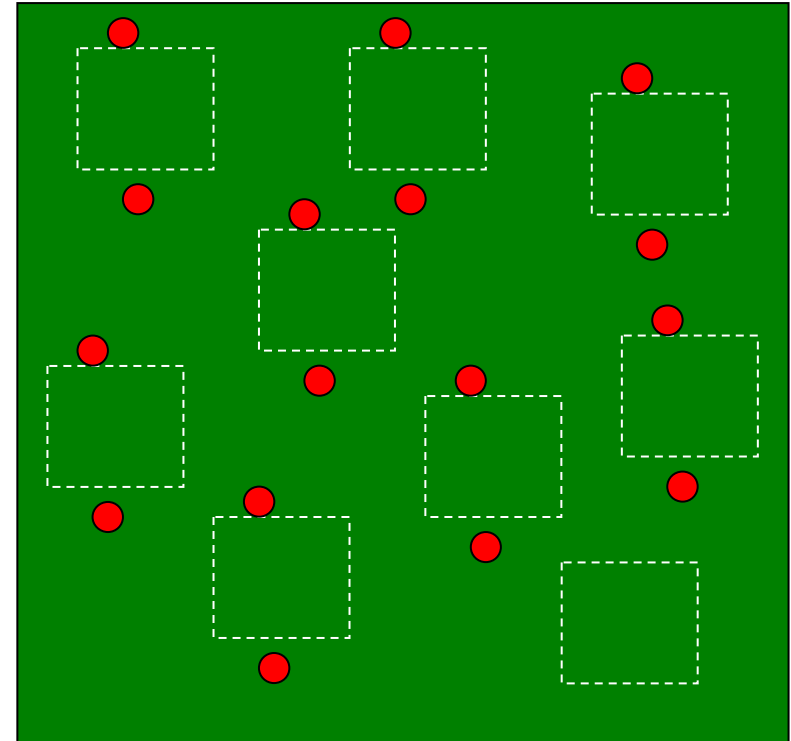


- **Organisation**
- Practice suitable as part of a split warm up / 12 – 14 players.
- Players follow a course incorporating football specific movements / activities.
- To begin players work through a set of poles / ladders down the side of the 18 yard box.
- Players then turn into the box and are served on either foot at two stations – players run backwards after performing these techniques.
- Players then dribble with a ball through cones set out down the side of the 18 yard box before leaving the ball at the corner to stride out back to the start position.
- Players can complete this course at a progressive level of intensity.
- Incorporate stretching at the end of each circuit.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Trains and Carriages (WU29)

- **Organisation**
- 16 players organised within the central area
- 9 squares arranged within area 5 x 5
- 1 ball between 2.
- Players begin by passing the ball opposite to each other.
- **Progressions;**
- Players can move the ball to another side of the square and their partner must get opposite.
- Play one and two touch.
- Players can transfer from one square to another.
- Players perform two changes of direction in between squares.
- Players touch the ball quickly with a particular part of the foot before a number of times before travelling to another area.
- Perform two turns of your choice before travelling to another area.
- **Physical**
- **Turn into a competition where players try and lose partner- high intensity**



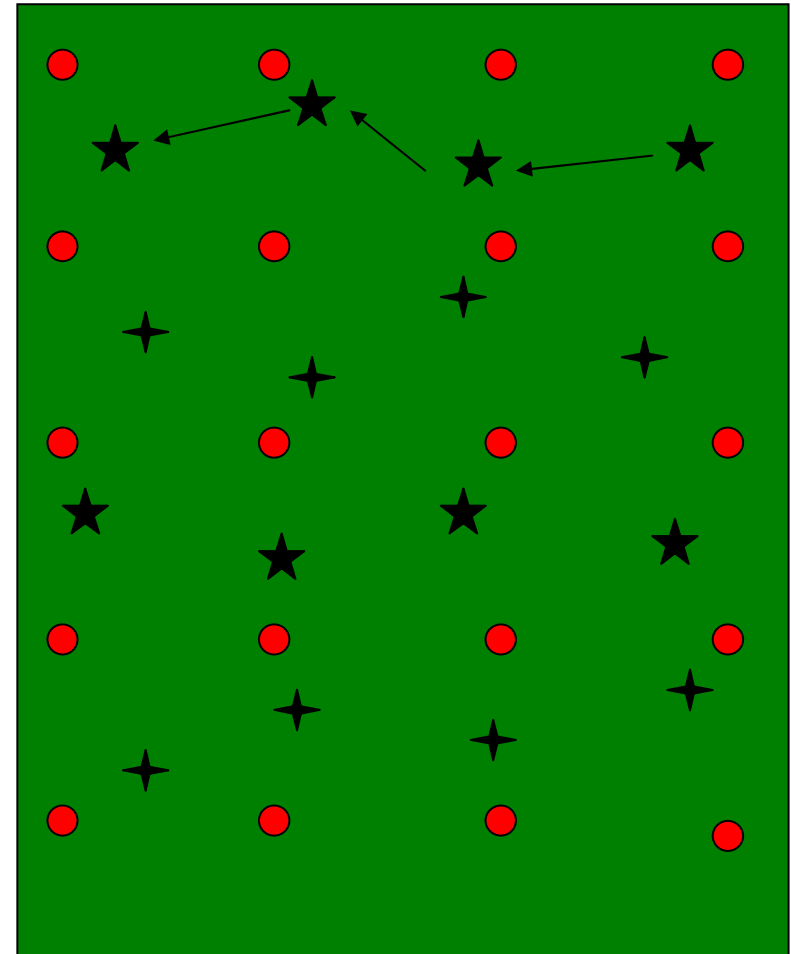
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Passing (WU30)

- **Organisation**
- 16 player in a 1 team
- 40 x 40 area with four teams of 4 players organised into four separate / alternate areas
- To begin, players are not allowed out of their defined areas with the team in possession attempting to transfer the ball up and down their area (As shown)
- The attacking team attempt to pass forwards quickly or switch play to find a better passing option.

Progressions:

- Number of touches on the ball can be limited to increase the tempo of the practice.
- One touch to pass through
- Combinations to transfer the ball across
- Players move in their area one player in a square at a time, can't pass in a square
- Imagine square divided into quarters. Players can't pass up the same half of square must always be on an angle
- Can play straight but receiving player must be moving onto ball.
- Can move in the whole area but same rules apply



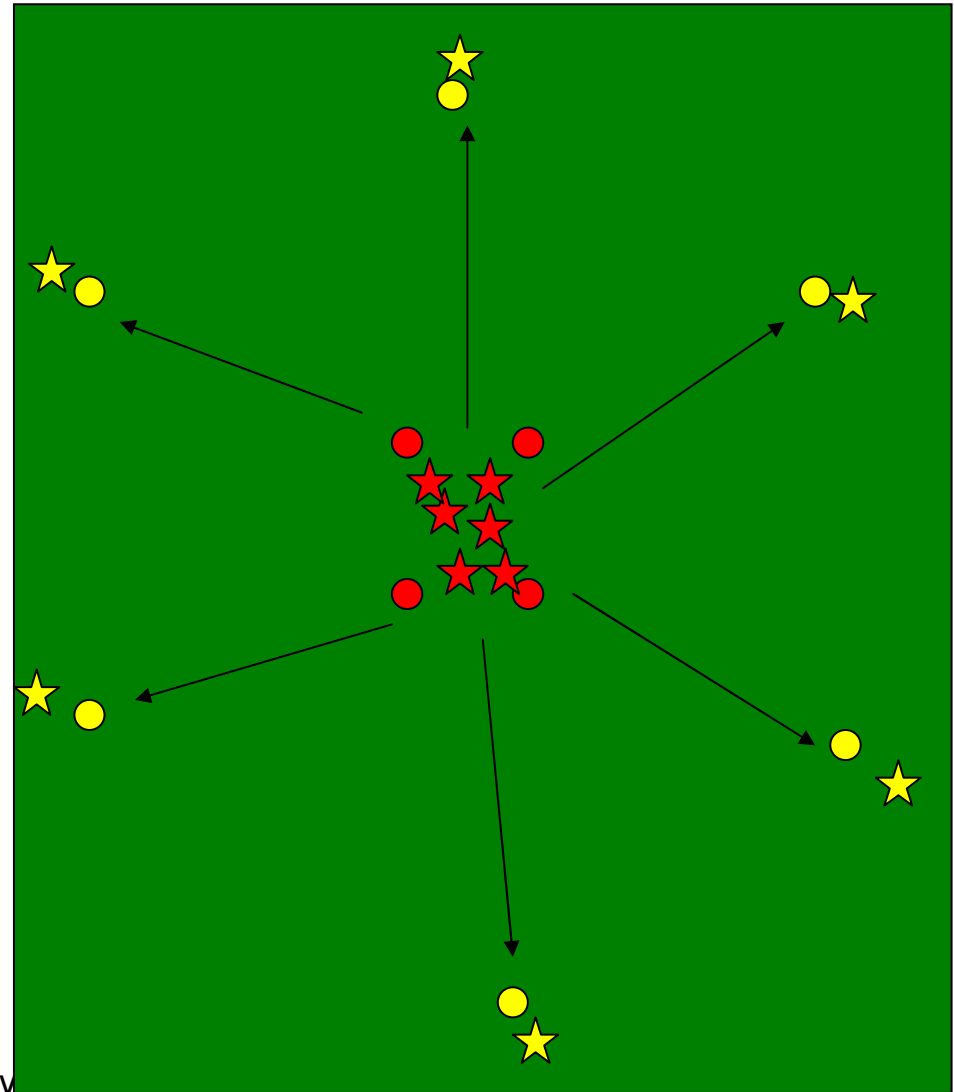
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dynamic Warm Up (WU 31)

- **Organisation**
- Poles organised on the outside and a square organised in centre.
- Area organisation: Outside poles organised 20 yards from centre red square. Distance between poles is 10 yards.
- Players work in the 2 groups with 1 group working and 1 group resting.
- Players from the square run to a players on the yellow poles and change over.
- Players perform dynamic movements (side-step, backwards, knees, groins, walking lunges) in and out of poles.
- Players are encouraged to change direction and move to different poles.

- **Progressions**
- Gradually increase the running pace between the square and pole to $\frac{3}{4}$ pace.
- At the pole players perform passes (right foot/left foot) with server and go round the pole and back into to square.
- Passes progressed to volley (right/left), chest/volley, header.

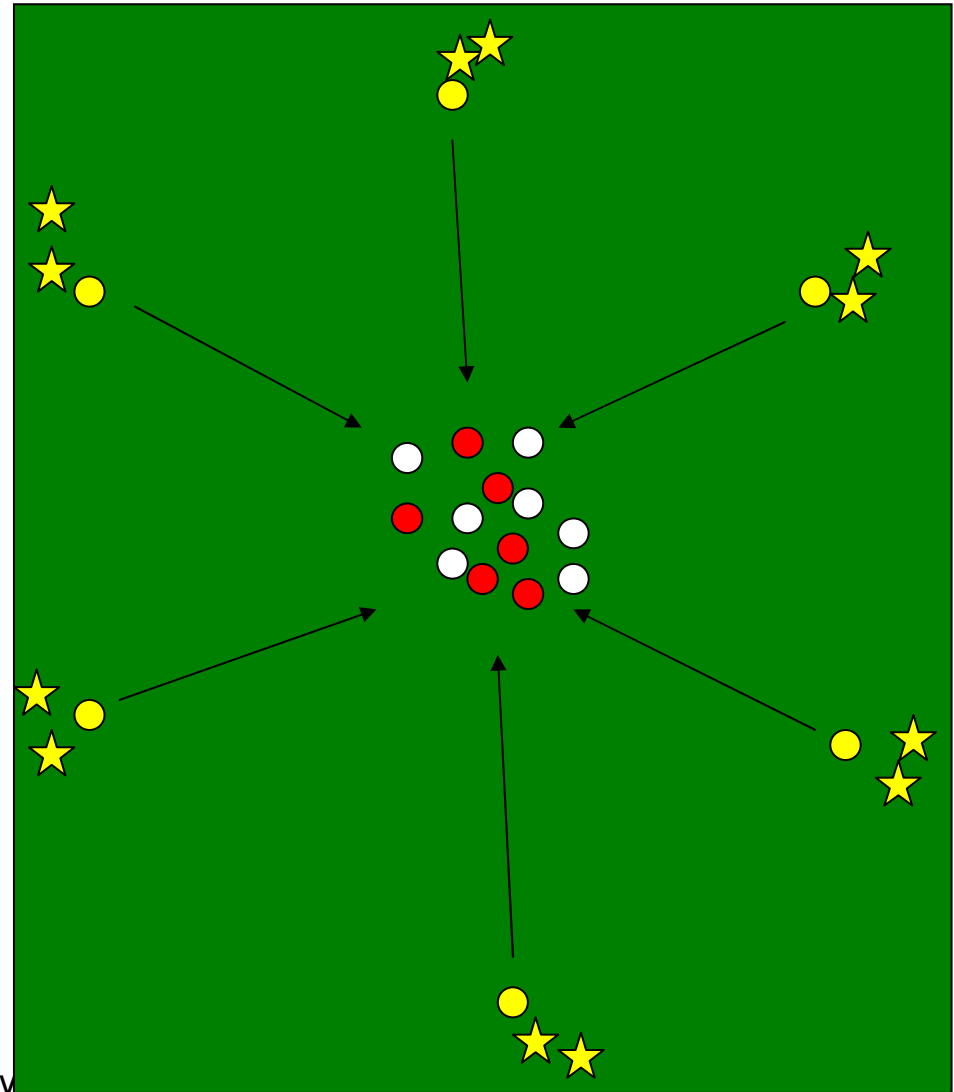
- **Physical**
- Progressive practice which can be used as the first phase of the warm-up.
- All movements are in a straight line.



Developed by
Academy Manager

Dynamic Warm Up (WU 32)

- **Organisation**
- Discs organised on the outside and a number of poles in the centre area.
- Area organisation: Outside poles organised 20 yards from centre poles. Distance between each outside disc is 10 yards.
- Players are spread out evenly on the outside discs.
- The players jog in from outside discs and perform dynamic movements (e.g. backward, sideways, jockey, knees etc.)
- Players then go through a set number of poles as instructed by the coach and then accelerate to the next yellow disc. Encourage players to drop the shoulder and move through the poles as fast as possible.
- **Progressions**
- Vary the dynamic movements from the yellow disc to the poles.
- Encourage players to run to discs either left, right or diagonal after they have gone through the poles.
- **Physical**
- Progressive practice which can be used as the first phase of the warm-up.
- All movements are in a straight line.



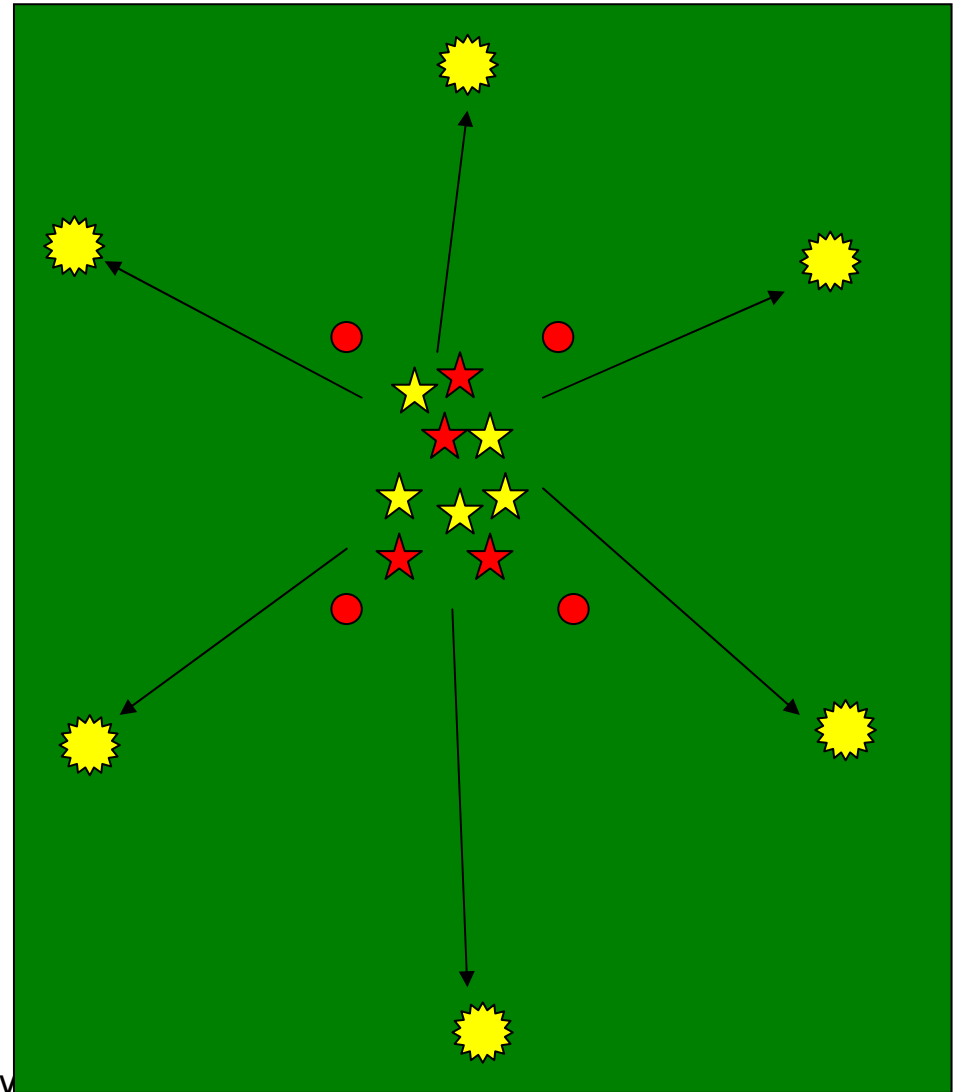
Developed by
Academy Manager

Dynamic Warm Up (WU 33)

- **Organisation**
- Area organisation: Centre 20 x 20 square with mannequins placed 20 yards from the centre square.
- Players start in the centre square and one group run out to the mannequins.
- At the mannequins the players perform knees-chest, sit-ups and press-ups.
- The players then run back in to the square where the rest of the players run out.

- **Progressions**
- Vary the movements at the mannequins (e.g. burpees, star-jumps etc.)
- The players have to travel with a football out to the mannequin and then perform the set exercises. When exercises are completed, the players run back with the ball to the next group.

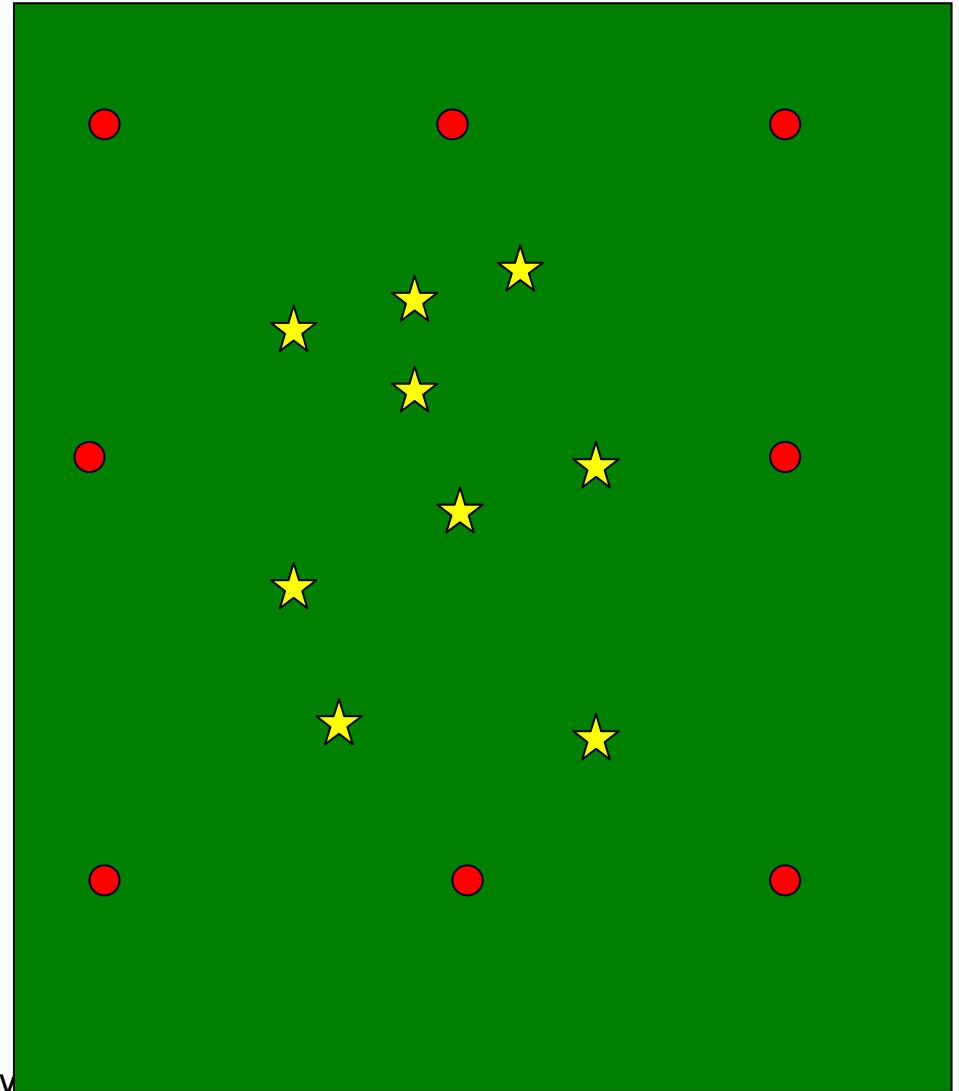
- **Physical**
- Low to moderate intensity practice where the intensity can be progressively increased to prepare the players for the next phase.
- All movements are in a straight line.



Developed by
Academy Manager

Dynamic Warm Up (WU 34)

- **Organisation**
- Area organisation: 40 x 40 square
- All the players work at the same time in the square.
- Players keep on the move in the square and the coach shouts different activities/movements.
- Breaks for stretching should be incorporated in the activity.
- **Progressions**
- Progress the activities in the square from straight line to changes of direction.
- On command from the coach the players can move round a disc and back in the square.
- **Physical**
- Low to moderate intensity warm-up which should be used as the first phase of the warm-up.
- This practice is ideal for the players to loosen up and progress into more speed and agility.



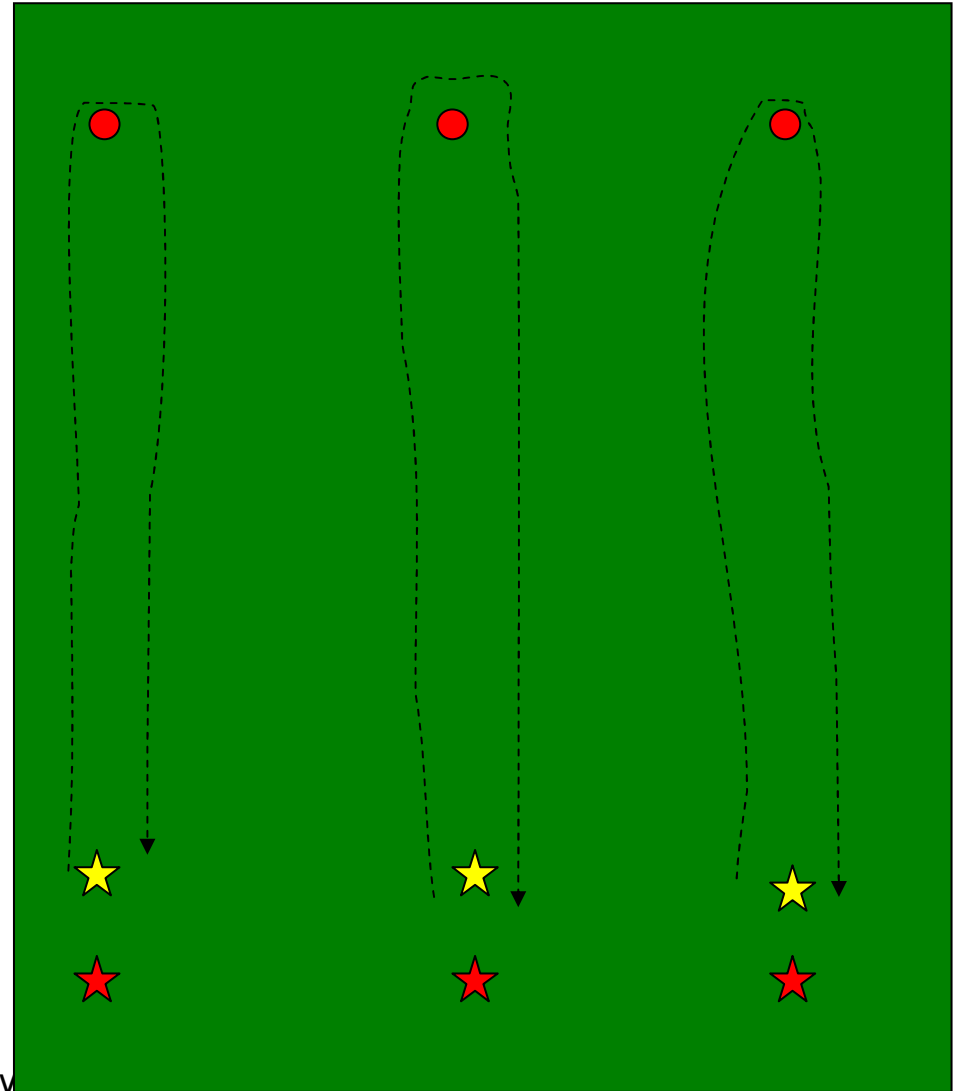
Developed by
Academy Manager

Dynamic Warm Up (WU 35)

- **Organisation**
- Area organisation: players in pairs and a pole about 20 yards from the pair.
- The players are organised in a line with at least 5 yards in between each pair.
- Player 1 (yellow) and player 2 (red) play 10 passes and then player 1 runs up to red pole and runs back.
- Start movements in a straight line with dynamic activities up to pole (e.g. sideways, backwards, jockey, hip opener etc).
- Exercise time 1-2 min/player or change over after every run.

- **Progressions**
- Progress passing to volley, thigh-volley, chest-volley, header)
- The running speed should be progressed from a jog to $\frac{3}{4}$ paced run.
- Players run across diagonally and change groups.

- **Physical**
- This practice could be used as first phase of the warm-up where most movements are in a straight line.
- This practice is ideal for the players to loosen up and progress into more speed and agility.



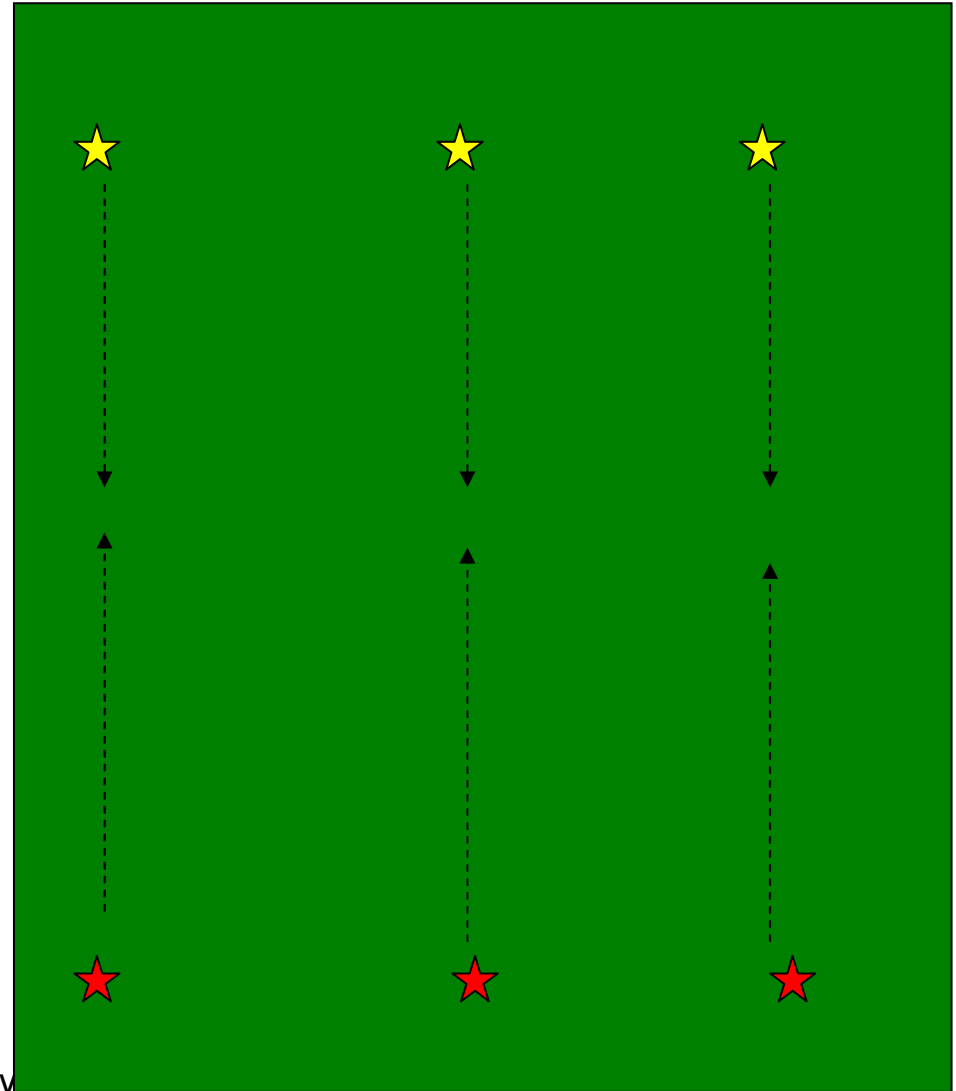
Developed by
Academy Manager

Dynamic Warm Up (WU 36)

- **Organisation**
- Area organisation: players in pairs and each player stand about 30 yards facing each other.
- The players run towards each other and across to the other side.
- The players then turn and run back in to the middle.
- Movements can vary between sideways, jockey, backwards, hip opener etc.
- Work 5 min continuously and then stretch.

- **Progressions**
- Players turn at halfway facing the other player and run back to the line, turn and run back to the middle.
- The running speed should be progressed from a jog to $\frac{3}{4}$ paced run.
- Players run across to different poles and work with another partner.

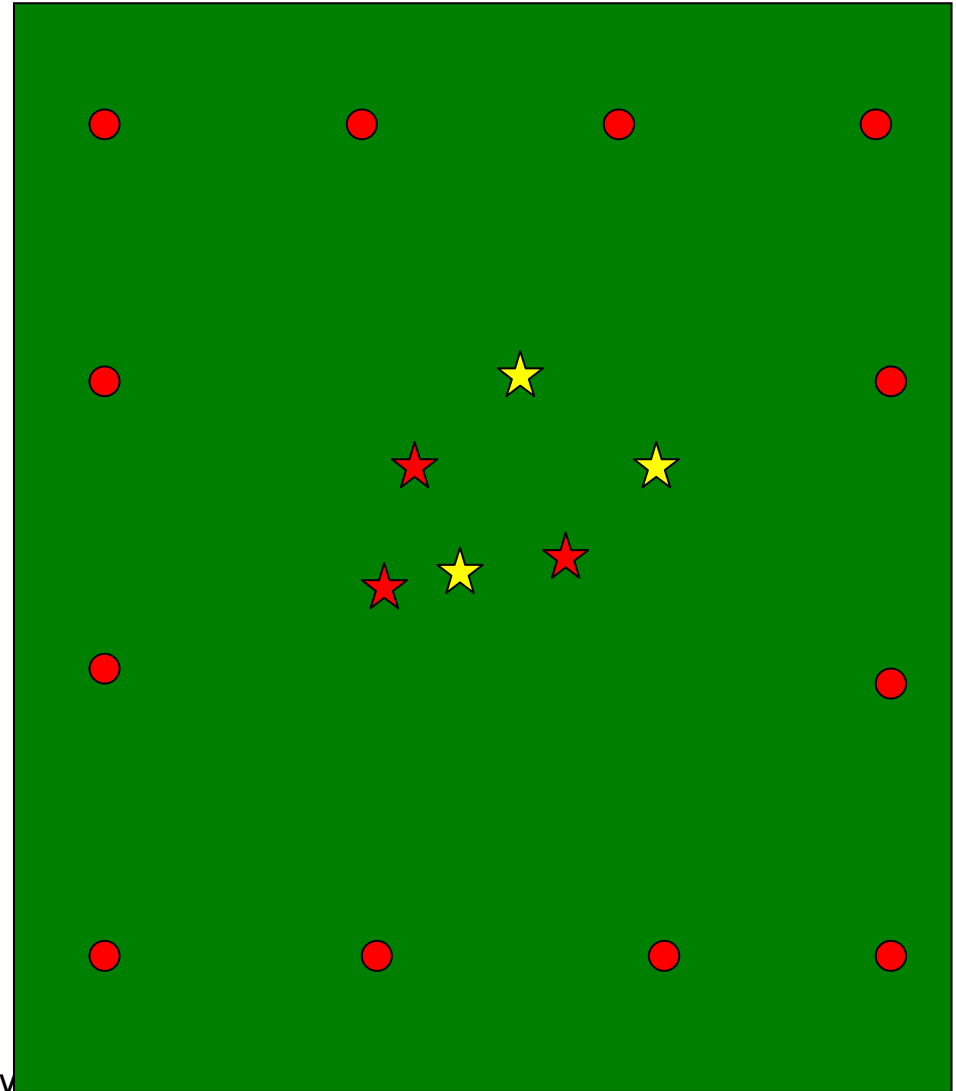
- **Physical**
- This practice could be used as first phase of the warm-up where most movements are in a straight line.
- This practice is ideal for the players to loosen up and progress into more speed and agility movements.



Developed by
Academy Manager

Dynamic Warm Up (WU 37)

- **Organisation**
- Area organisation: 40 x 40 yard
- Some players have a football where they throw the ball to another player
- Vary the throw chest, underarm, overarm.
- The player catching the ball must jump and catch it. Encourage full stretch.
- Work 5 min continuously and then stretch.
- **Progressions**
- Players feed for a left/right foot pass left/right foot volley, header
- The players have to accelerate/change direction after each touch.
- The running speed should be progressed from a jog to $\frac{3}{4}$ paced run.
- Players run across to different poles and work with another partner.
- **Physical**
- This practice could be used as first phase of the warm-up where most movements are in a straight line.
- This practice is ideal for the players to loosen up and progress into more speed and agility movements.



Developed by
Academy Manager

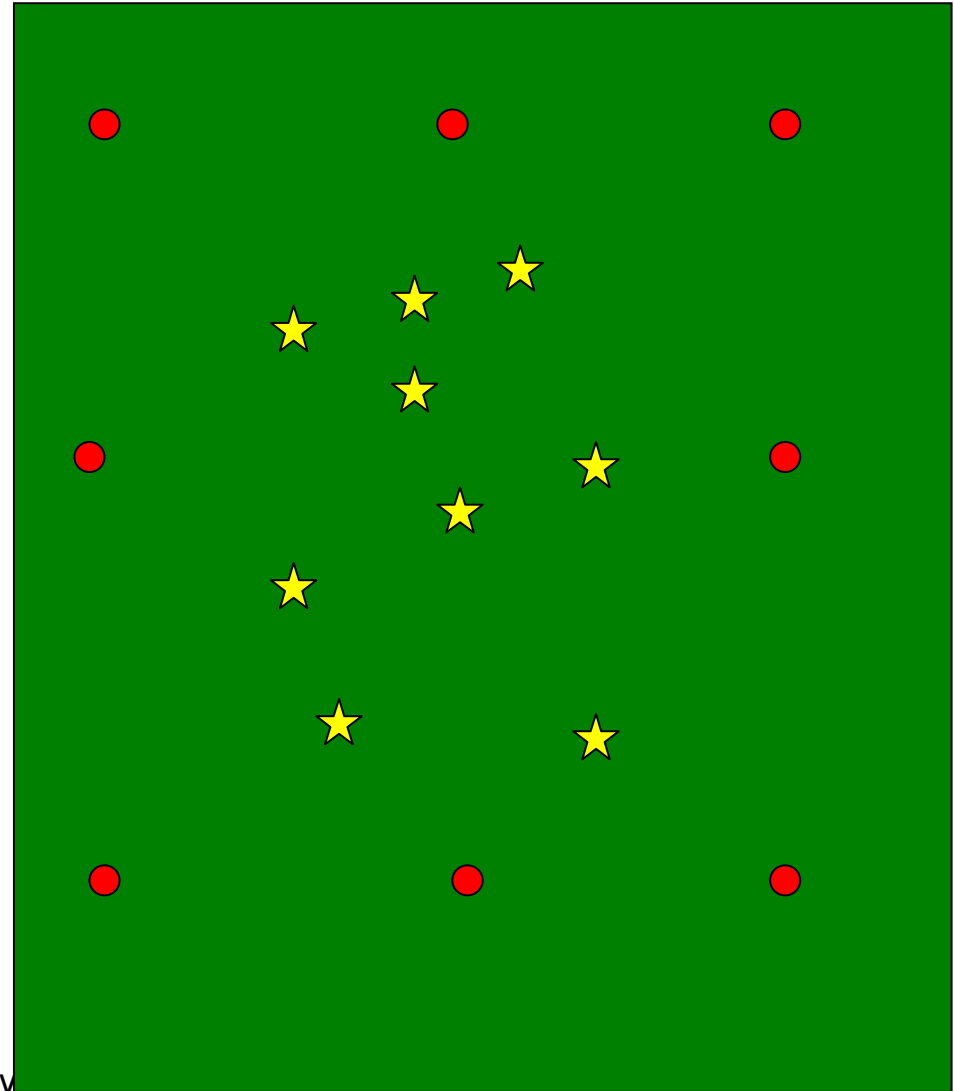
Standard Pre-match Warm Up (WU 38)

- **Organisation**
- Area organisation: 40 x 40 square
- All the players work at the same time in the square.
- 5 balls in. The balls are moved and passed around the area
- Breaks for stretching should be incorporated in the activity.

- **Progressions**
- Receive ball and control into space. Add change of pace following ball into space.
- Following a pass player must follow the pass – increase speed the player runs.
- Dynamic movements with ball. Ball starts above head and lowered to meet – knee, inside of foot, Toes
- Dynamic movements with ball – volleys. High wide volleys (inside of the foot), narrow high volleys and high thighs.
- Following on from a pass player runs around an outside cone and into the middle. Then two cones which must be on a different side of the square.

- **Possession (Max 2 min games)**
- Keep ball
- As above and must have a minimum of two touch.
- As above 10 passes = goal

- A period to do there own thing
- Sprint work just prior to start of game.



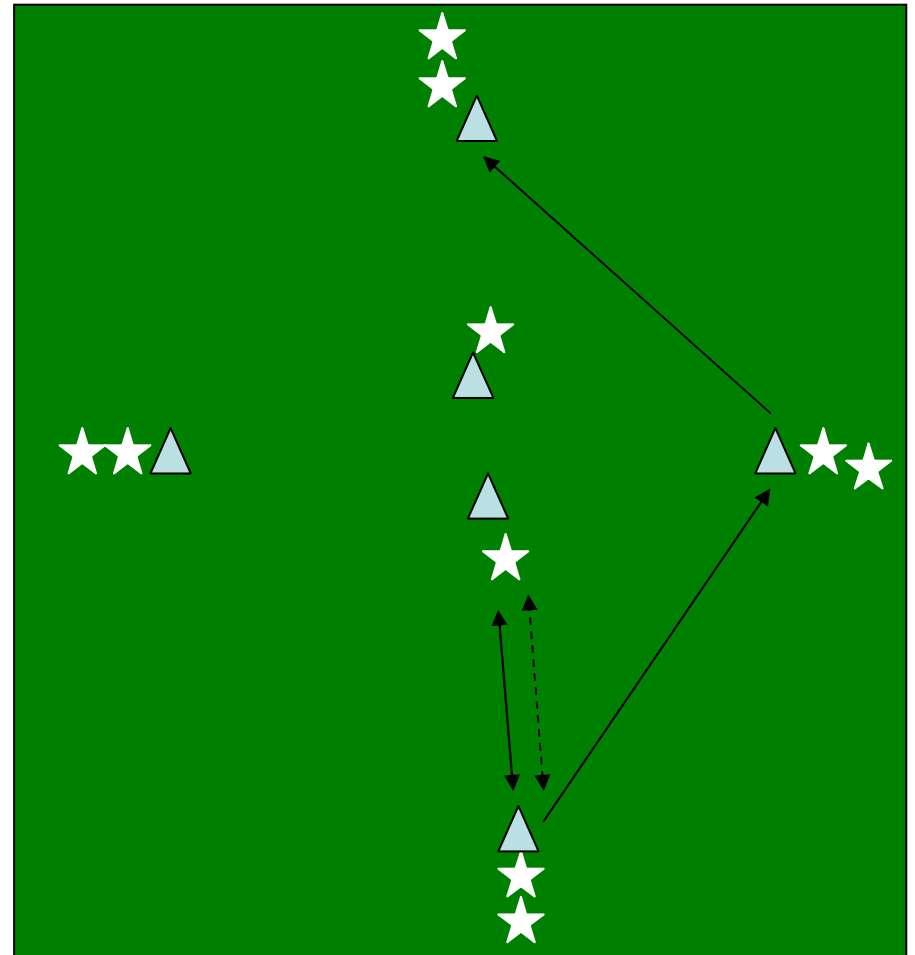
Developed by
Academy Manager

Dynamic Football Warm up (WU39)

- **Organisation**
- Players organised at a series of mannequins with balls starting at either end of the practice.
- The ball is transferred clockwise around the area.
- 12 yds between mannequins
- Players move from station to station.

- **Progressions;**
- Pass and follow;
- Players do a 1-2 with the person they pass to;
- Players play a 1-2 with the next ball being passed to the next station;
- Go in the opposite direction;
- Players decide when to take it themselves and when to play a 1-2;
- The first touch of the receiving player must take them around the mannequin either in front or behind;
- One touch only.

- **Physical**
- Moderate intensity warm up that should be used for aerobic based sessions



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

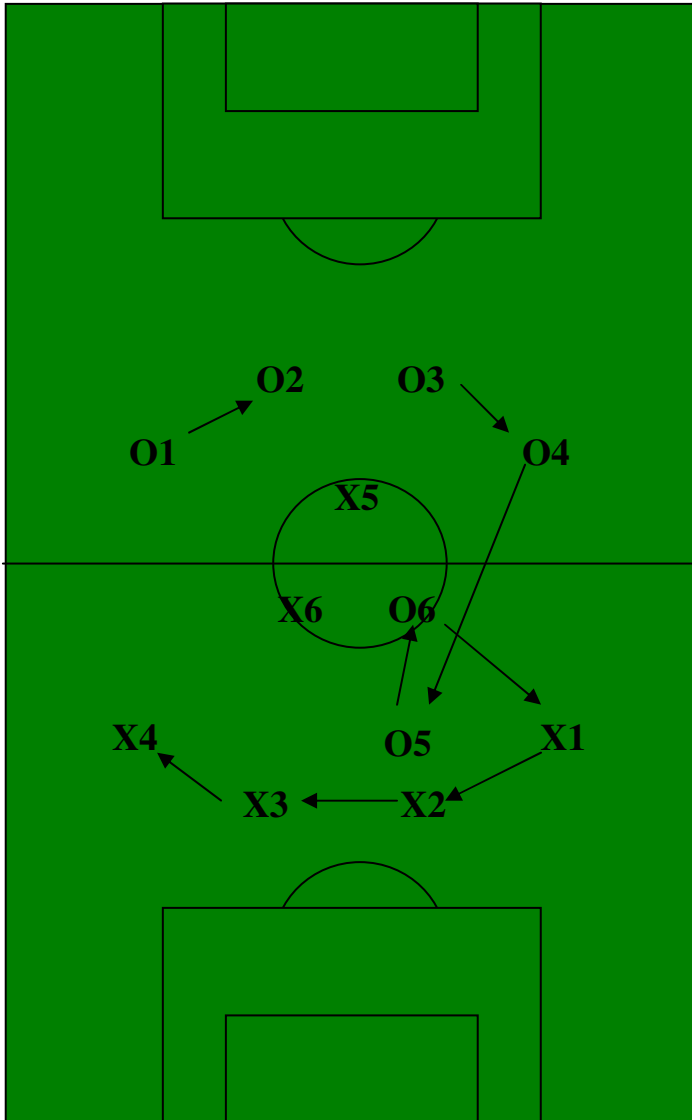


Technical Practices

Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club Academy Technical Programme

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Build Up Play (TP01)



Organisation

Players are organised into two teams. Teams transfer the ball across the back four and then deliver the ball for the opposing back four who mimic their play

Key Factors

Quality of passing and control

Angles and distance of support

Body Position

Decision

Movement to receive

Transition from defence to attack and vice versa

Progression

Add a centre midfield player to support the transfer of the ball

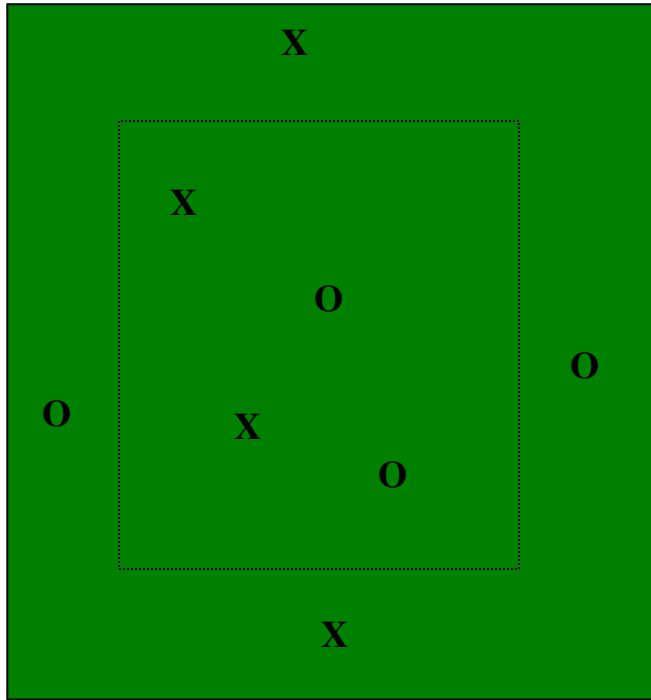
Add a centre forward to allow combinations for transfer

Add wide midfield players to allow combinations for transfer

Free play

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Possession (TP02)



Comments

Organisation

Players form a 2v2 inside an area (20x20) with 4 outside players

Players in possession inside can use any outside player

Key Factors

Remain composed and keep the ball

Pass back or sideways if you can't go forward

Angle of body to see "free" players

Pass early where possible

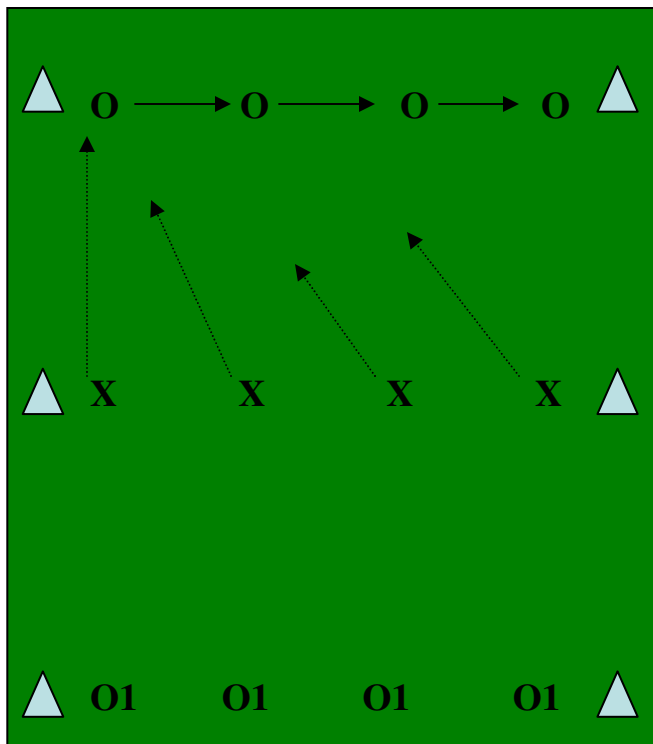
Movement off the ball from inner player to create space

Progression

2 touch on the inside, 1 touch on outside

Xs can only play to Xs

Defending : Pressurising (TP03)



Comments

Organisation

4 players (O) pass the ball along the line (10x20) from player to player. Each player must take 1 touch. The 4 defending players (x) pressure the ball as it travels.

Key Factors

Pressure on the ball

Cover and support

Recovery runs

Tracking players

Communication.

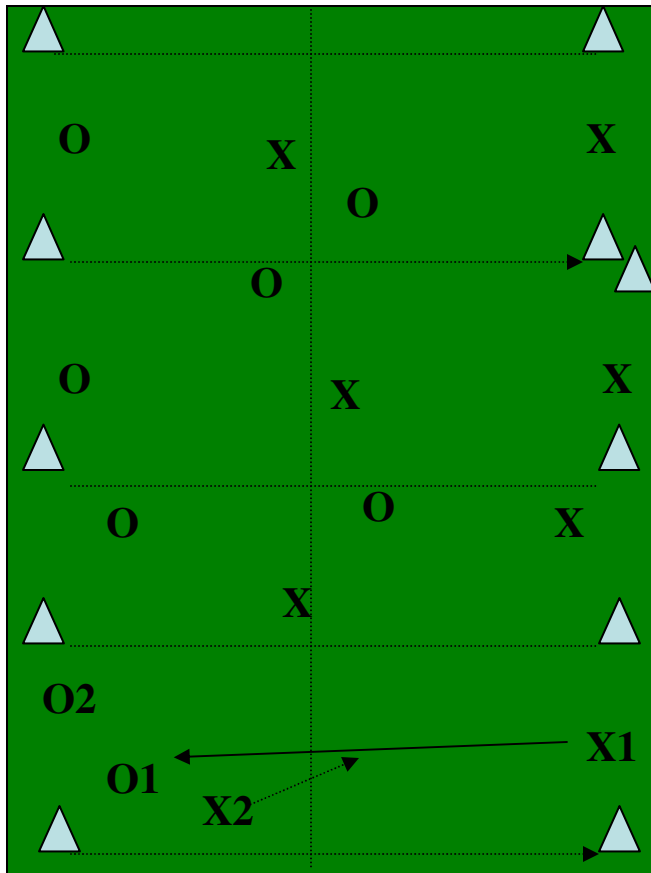
Progression

Players must take a touch before passing

Add in 4 players (O1) behind the 4 defenders, for the attackers to pass into.

Free play so attackers have to track players

Defending : Retreating Defence (TP04)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into groups of 4

Player X1 serves the ball to O1 who attempts to beat X2

X2 must “retreat” into own half before applying pressure

Key Factors

Get back behind the ball as a priority

Apply pressure when in own half

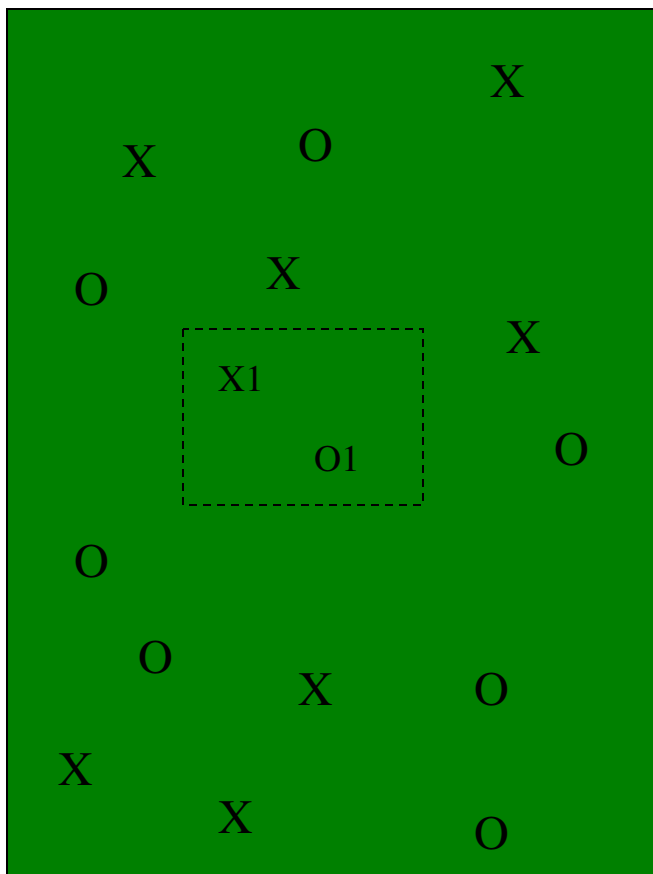
When ball moves forward or sideways retreat back behind ball again.

When to apply press

Progression

X1 and X2 verses 1 and O2

Coaching the Strikers / Team Play (TP05)



Comments

Organisation

- X1 and O1 are strikers in need of work with back to goal in a 10x10 area.
- Players on outside pass into striker to score

Key Factors

Environment: Size, structure and relevance to the area being used in relation to the age, ability, number of players and topic of session being conducted

Targets: The targets set out the key points and conditions of the activity in order to effect the players and the session as a whole

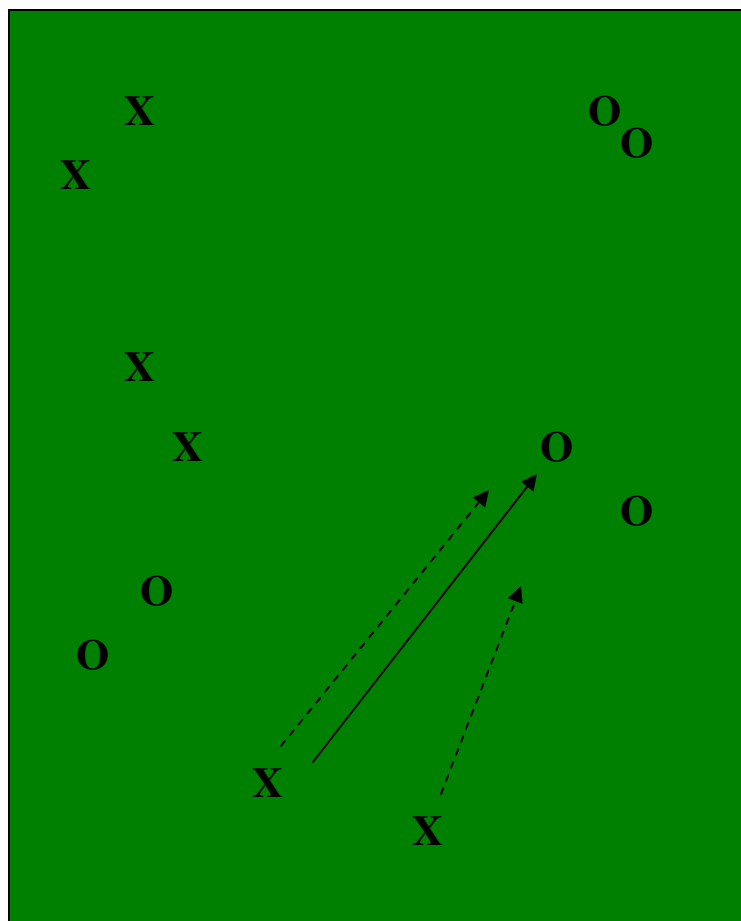
Role: Including aspects such as organisation, safety, communication, observation and leadership

Progression

- Must pass to striker after 3 passes
- Place 2 Xs and 2 Os on outside to create more space.
- X1 must pass O1 before passing outside

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Defending (Pressurising) (TP06)



Comments

Organisation

In pairs players receive ball, pass or move in area

1 ball per 4 players

Every time a pass is made by players in pairs passively pressurise the pair receiving

Key Factors

Nearest man horizontally pressure ball.

Cover, balance and distance of second defender

Remain “compact” at all times

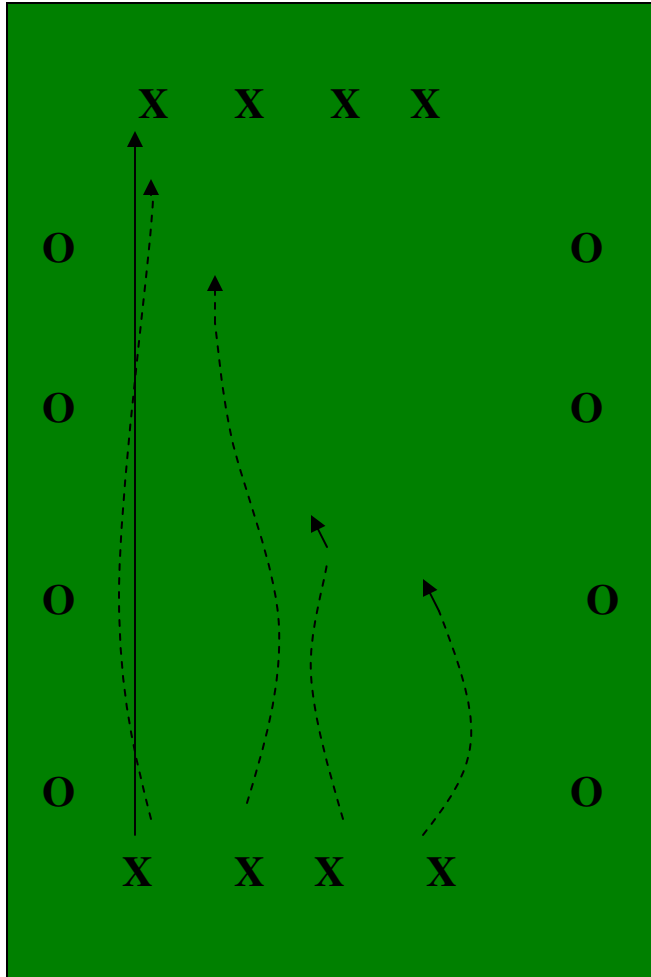
When ball travel back, move forward as a unit until ball stops

Progression

Work in 4’s therefore operating as a “unit”

Actively defend until ball is repossessed

Defending (Pressurising) (TP07)



Comments

Organisation

4 groups of 4 are organised around a square 20x20

1 group working at a time pressurising as a unit, preventing ball from passing own line

Key Factors

Nearest man horizontally applies pressure

If ball moves sideways, retreat behind ball until pressure is required.

When and when not to press

Angles, distance of support and cover of 2nd defender.

Progression

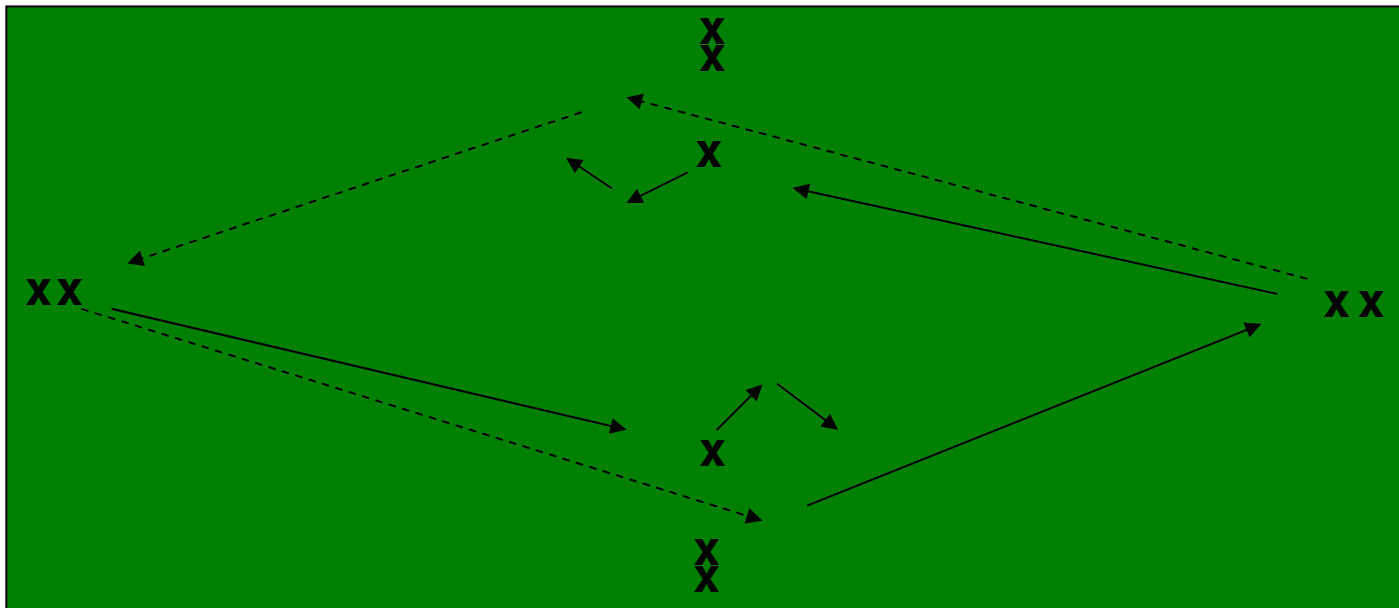
Add players in middle behind pressing defenders

Forward Movement 1a (TP08)

- Organisation : Players rotate down one side of the Diamond only.
- Players work both ways to practice overlapping down left side as well as down the right.

Progression : Add a passive defender marking the receiver, thus affecting the decision making of the players.

Key factors : Quality of passing, Accuracy, weight, quality of control, quality of support, Communication



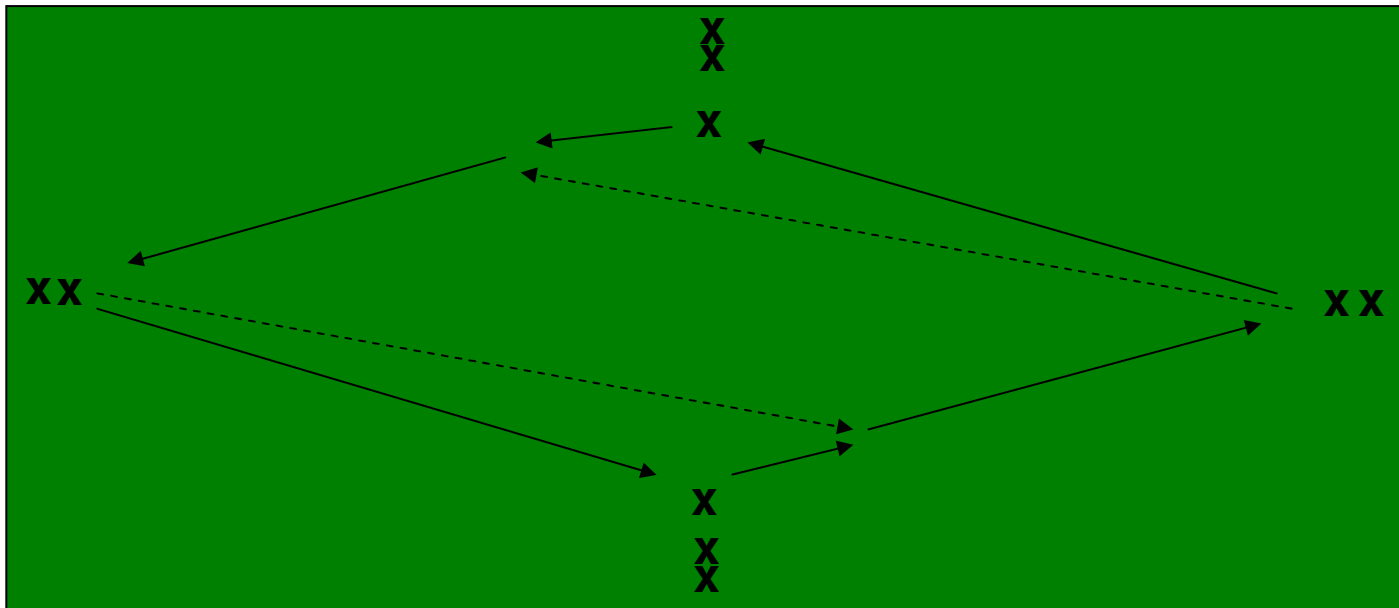
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Forward Movement 1b (TP09)

•Organisation : As practice 2.1 but X1 runs inside for either a pass down the outside of the passive defender or a pass inside. (Often demonstrated by Robert Pires / Ashley Cole)

Progression : Add a passive defender marking the receiver, thus affecting the decision making of the players.

Key factors : Quality of passing, Accuracy, weight, quality of control, quality of support, Communication



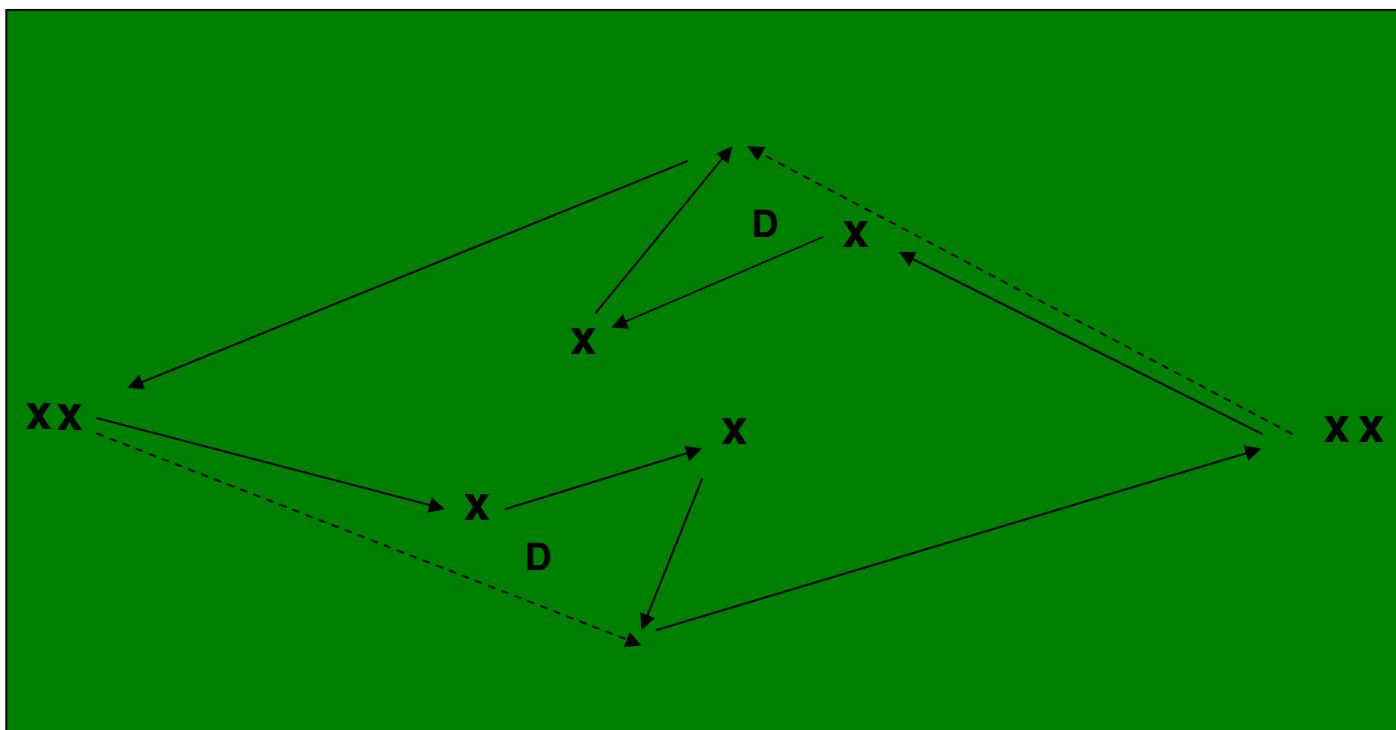
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Forward movements inc positional play 1c (TP10)

•Organisation : As practice 1b but a Striker is added who will become available for the wide player to “bounce” the ball off behind the passive defender to the overlapping player.

Key factors

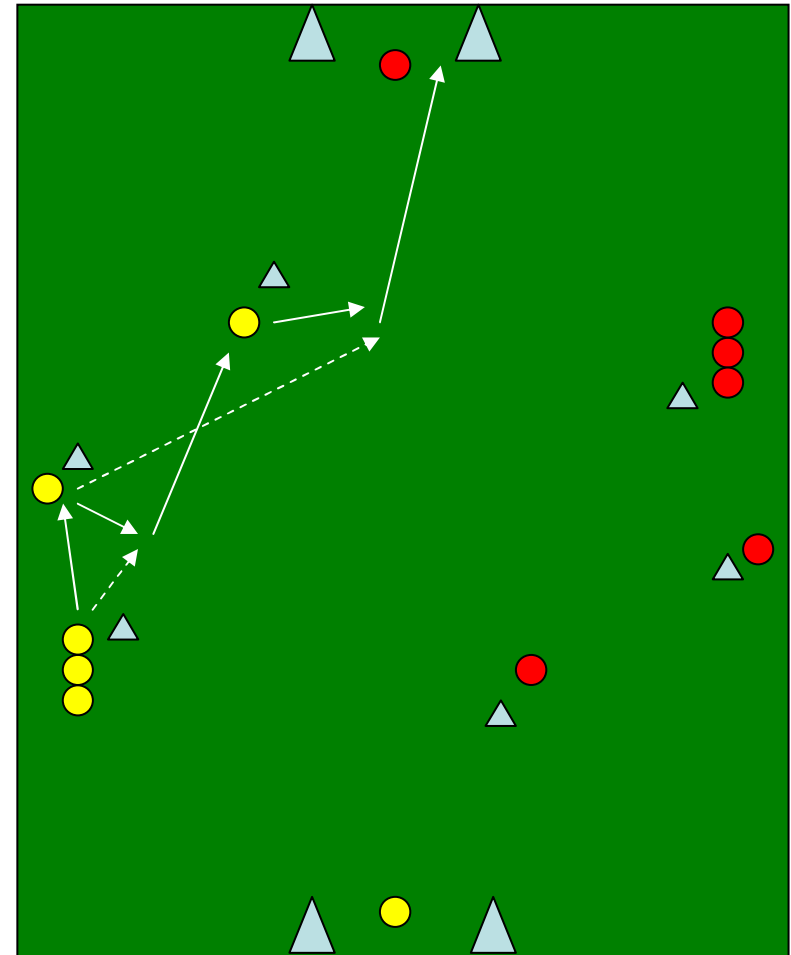
Quality of passing, Accuracy, weight, quality of control, quality of support, Communication, Timing & angle / distance of support to the Striker



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Combination Play Technical Practice (TP11)

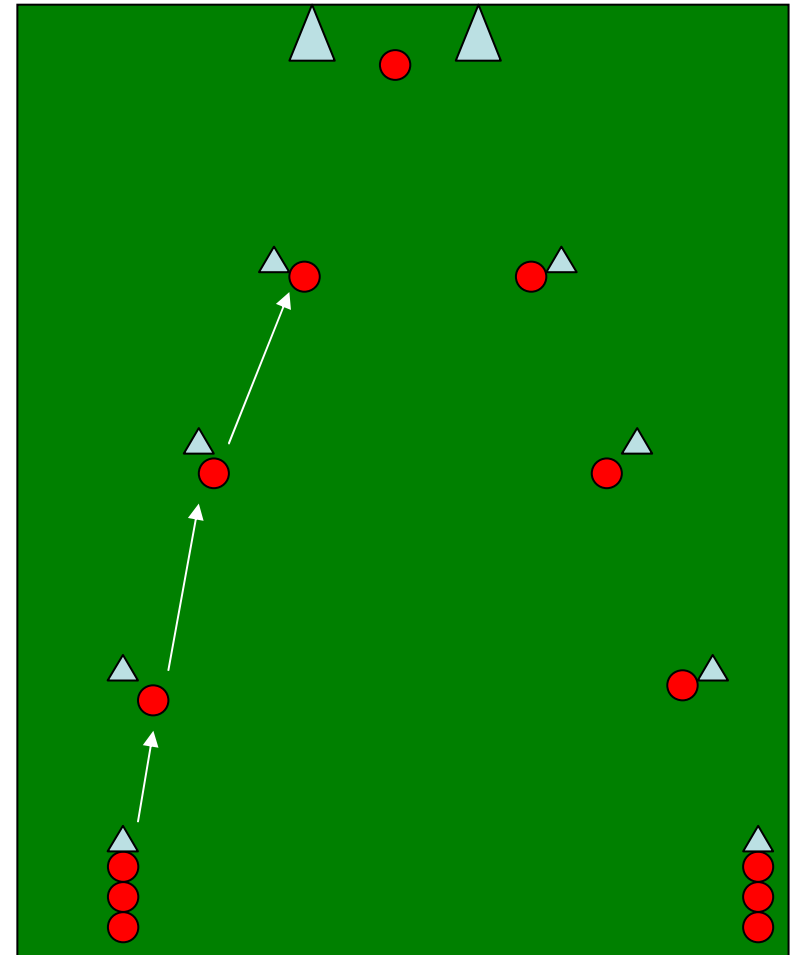
- **Organisation**
- Simple ½ combination practice
- Organised in half pitch practice plus 10 yards;
- 2 groups work, player who shoots joins the end of the other group;
- Players follow their passes and take up the next position in the practice;
- **Progressions;**
- P1 to P2, P2 to P1, P1 to P3, P3 to P2 who shoots;
- P1 to P2 who turns with ball plays ½ with P3 and shoots;
- Can CF (P3) play in supporting player with 1 touch;
- CF can take ball away and back heel to supporting player;
- P2 gets in line with P3 & allows pass to run to P3, receives pass & shoots;
- P1 combines with either P2 / P3, one player must provide support in wide area to cross – allow players to determine how to do this (Overlap / run from P2, P3 etc)
- **Key factors;**
- Quality of pass;
- Quality of movement to receive;
- Body position;
- Foot to receive with;
- Angle & Distance of support etc
- Decision
- End product



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Body Position / Combination Play Technical Practice with Mannequins (TP12)

- **Organisation**
- Simple ½ practice to develop opening the body to play forwards;
- Organised in half pitch practice plus 10 yards;
- 2 groups work, stagger their start so they don't shoot at the same time;
- Players follow their passes and take up the next position in the practice; player who shoots joins the end of the other group;
- **Progressions;**
- P1 to P2, P2 to P1, P1 to P3, P3 to P2 etc;
- P1 to P2 who turns with ball plays ½ with P3 and slides in P4 or running P3;
- Move Mannequins based on possible positions of opponents, eg, Place Mannequin one in wider position so WM has to roll inside to receive.
- Add additional mannequins in central midfield with players to work through a range of combinations.
- **Key factors;**
- Quality of pass (Safe side / far side);
- Quality of movement to receive;
- Body position;
- Foot to receive with;
- Angle & Distance of support etc
- Decision
- End product



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Shooting practice with pattern (TP13)

- **Organisation:**

- 16 – 22 players
- Players are organised into 4 groups with 2 groups situated to the right of each goal, 2 groups are placed on the respective mannequins.
- Players play a series of patterns to transfer the ball for a cross / shot;
- Area size 50/60 x 40 to allow quick play.

- **Recommendations:**

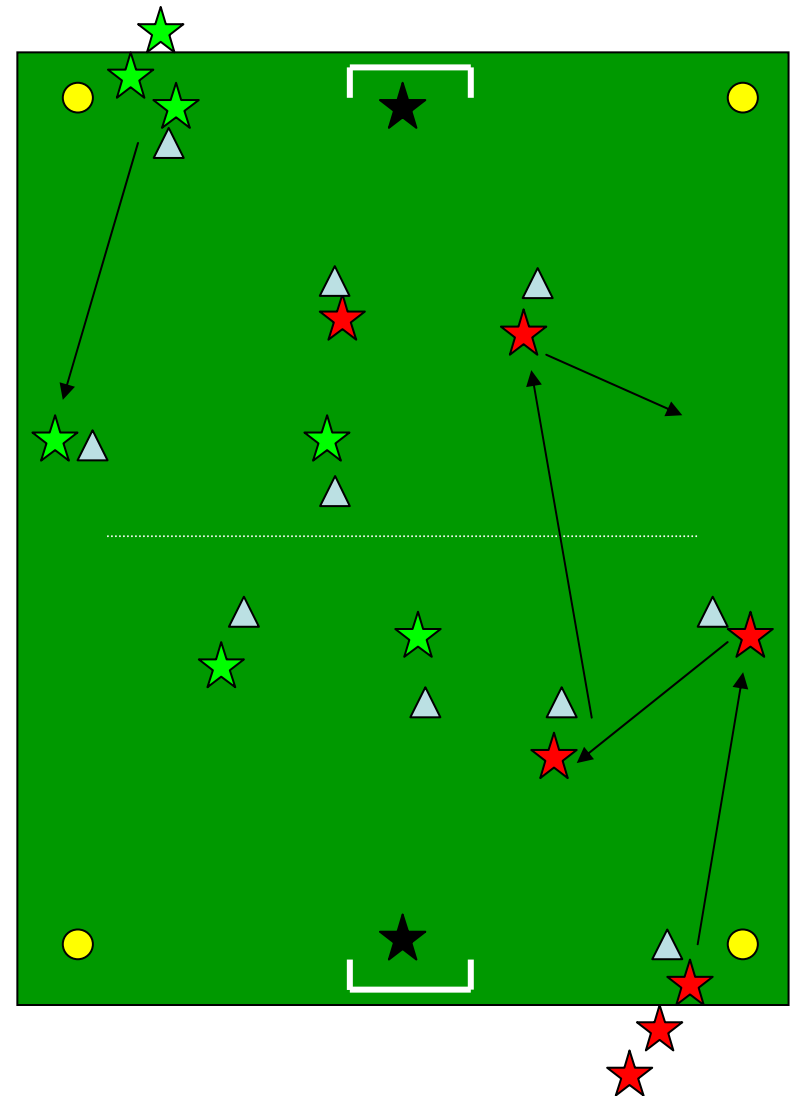
- Play starts from the full back position rather than the GK to ensure that play starts quickly;
- Players play safe side to ensure the ball is protected to allow safe progression of the ball;

- **Progressions;**

- Players play one/two touch;
- Players play wide players first to begin the pattern;
- Place play striker first to begin the pattern;
- Wide players can stay wide or cut inside;
- Work on the situations that develop. Depending on theme.
- Themes can include; Defending as a back four, defending crosses, Compactness etc
- Link Play, combination play, wide attackers, wm rolling inside etc

- **Physical**

- Moderate / High intensity warm up that should be used as the Peak drill in a moderate intensity session.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

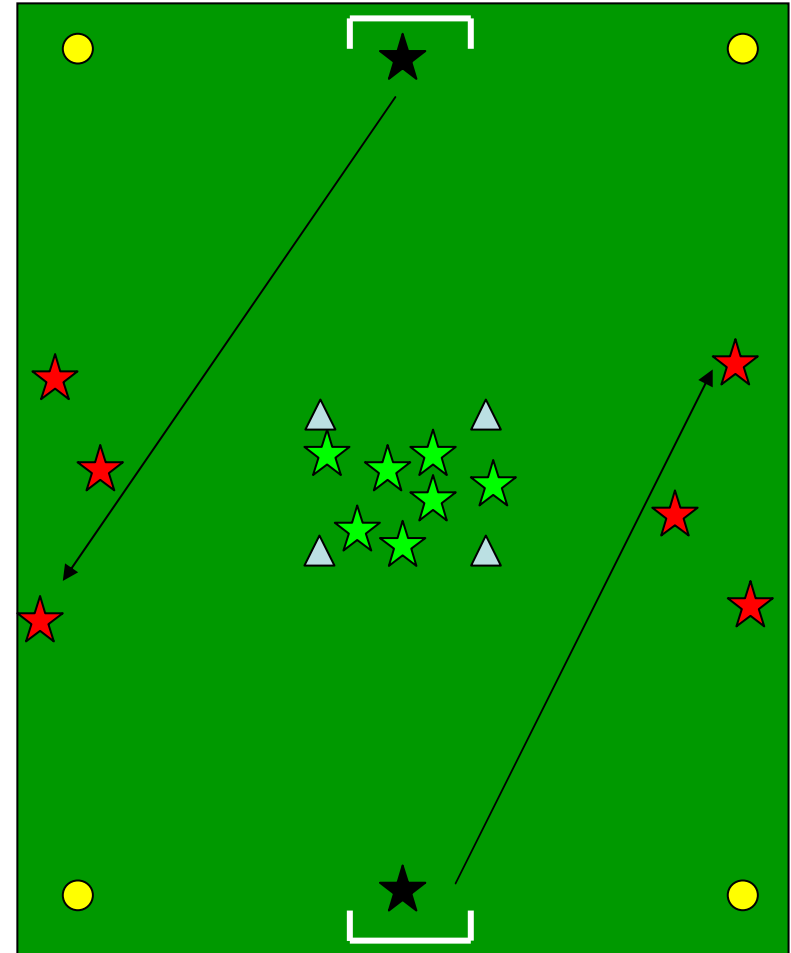
Shooting practice with pattern 2 (TP14)

- **Organisation:**
- GK throws / kicks ball wide to furthest wide player, receiving player dribbles ball before crossing for 2 forwards to finish
- **Size of area; 54 x 45 (Width of Penalty area + 3 yds either side)**

- **Progressions;**
- GK throws / Kicks to furthest player who lays ball back to supporting player. This player then takes on player one before crossing;
- As above but player now passes through the defenders legs before moving to cross;
- As above but player now plays a 1-2 around the defender before crossing;

- Use mannequins as defenders in wide areas. Vary the service to the wide players / Add support from a central position;
- If the GK serves to the closest player he plays a 1-2 with a player from the central group who passes around the mannequin for the furthest attacker to cross;
- If the GK serves to the furthest attacker, he travels inside to pass to a player from the central group he plays the ball to the overlapping deeper player.

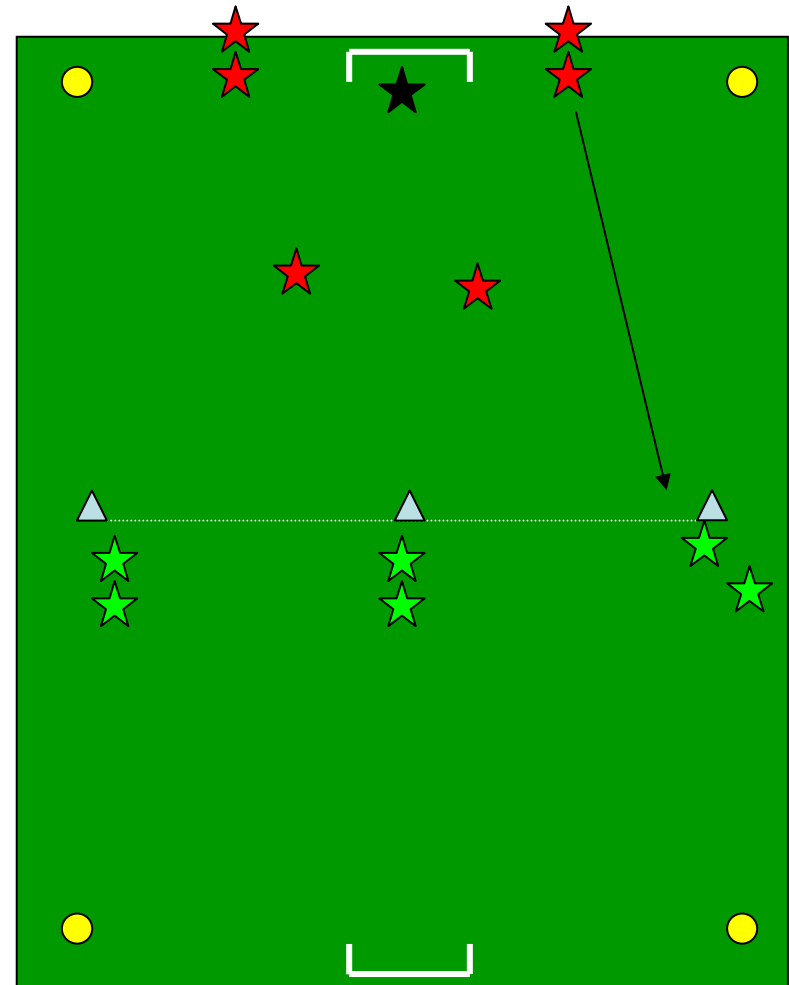
- 2 servers introduced and are positioned by the goals, if one player shoots the 2nd attacker is fed a ball for a reaction finish.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Defending practice; Technical (TP15)

- **Organisation:**
 - 16 – 18 Players
 - Players are organised into 2 groups, one group attacks (3 players) whilst 2 players defend;
 - Rotate attacking and defending players
 - Area; Width of 18 yard box / 18 yard box + 10 yards
- **Recommendations:**
 - Play starts from a waiting defending player who plays to one of the attacking group;
 - The defending players can move once the attacking team is in possession
- **Key Factors;**
 - Pressure on the ball;
 - Cover and support
 - Angles and distances to ensure defenders can swing across quickly if ball transferred;
 - Communication;
 - Recovery runs;
 - Tracking players



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

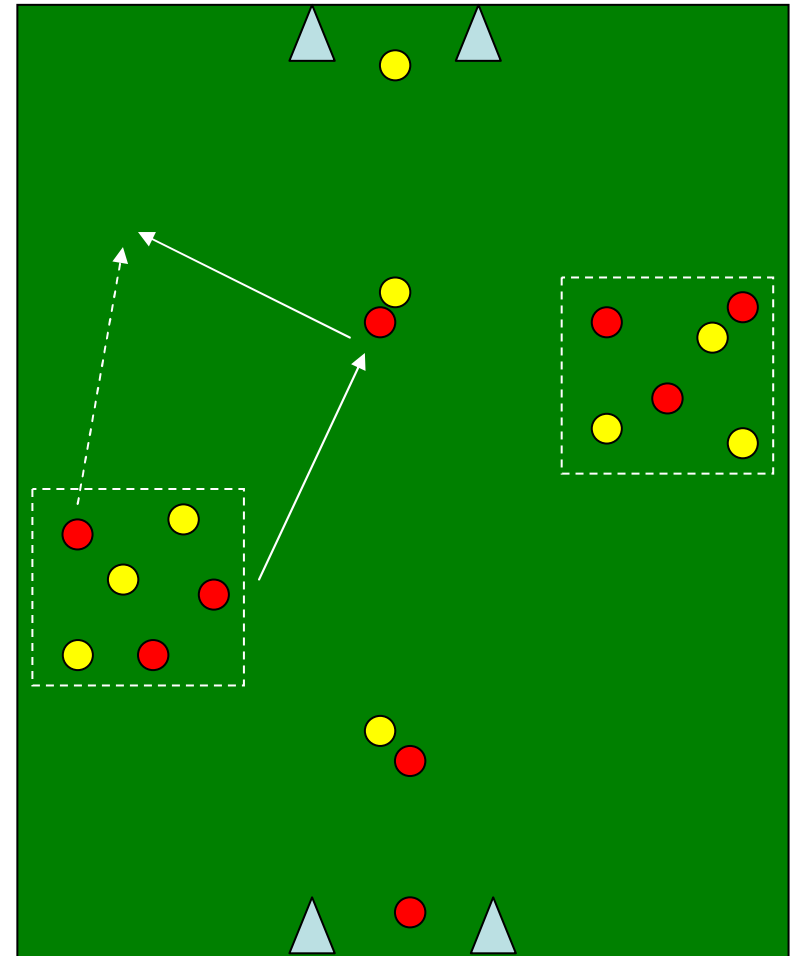
Counter attacking Technical Practice (TP16)

- **Organisation**
- 18 players organised into two teams
- 4 Vs 4 in defined area on half way line
- One team attempts to keep ball, if possession lost the defending team can break out to attack to score.
- Repeat with other group.

- **Progressions;**
- Add 1 defender to attempt to break down attacks (Positioned in front of goal)
- Add CF to play ball into (As shown)
- Players can chase in an attempt to stop a goal being scored.
- Teams can only break out on the coach's command

- **Options;**
- Get ball out of box
- Play wide to supporting runner
- Be direct and attack goal
- Play into CF (What type of ball / m'ment to receive / m'ment off the ball)

- **Key factors;**
- Be direct
- Attack at pace
- Decision
- Angle & distance of support
- Timing of movement on/off the ball
- Quality/type of pass depending on decision



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

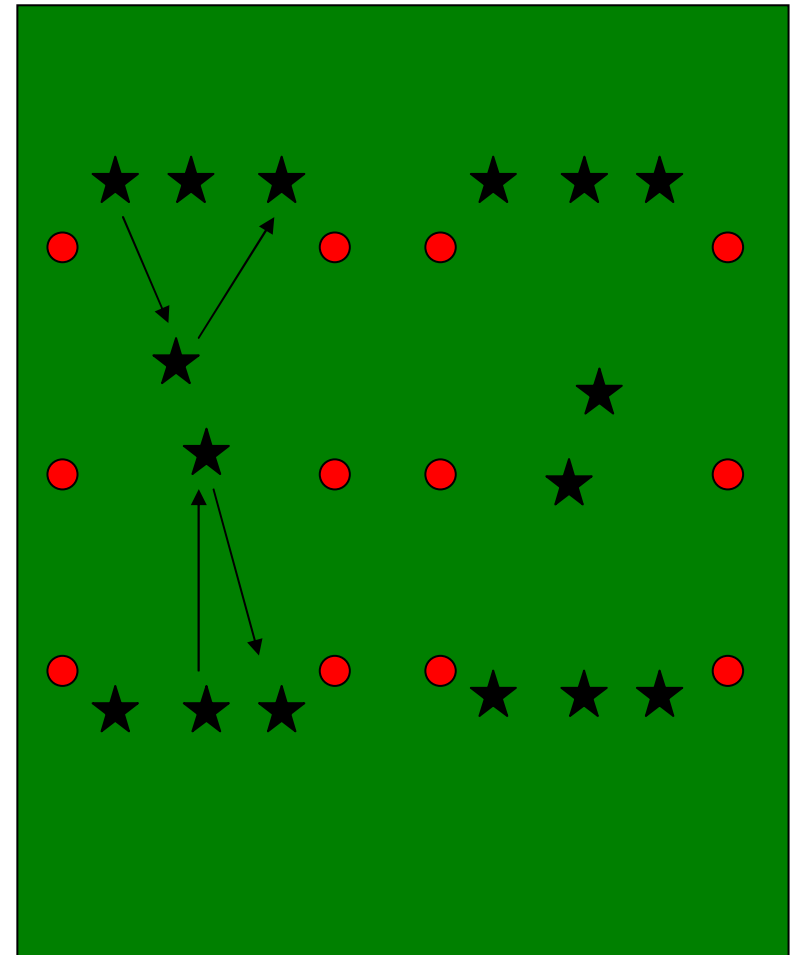
Technical Practice

Passing & Control (TP17)

- **Organisation**
- Eight players in each group with two working at any one time. Players work for One minute and change over.
- Three players are situated at the end of each practice. Two with a ball each, one without.
- 30 x 15 sized area. To begin a ball is served into the central player who finds a spare player with a pass. This player then repeats this practice by swapping positions with the other working player.

Progressions:

- Short passes so that working players have to make longer runs to receive a pass.
- Volley / ½ Volley / Chest volley etc
- Turn with ball and transfer to second group.
- Turn with ball, pass to opposite group, support and receive second pass which is transferred to the free player at that end.

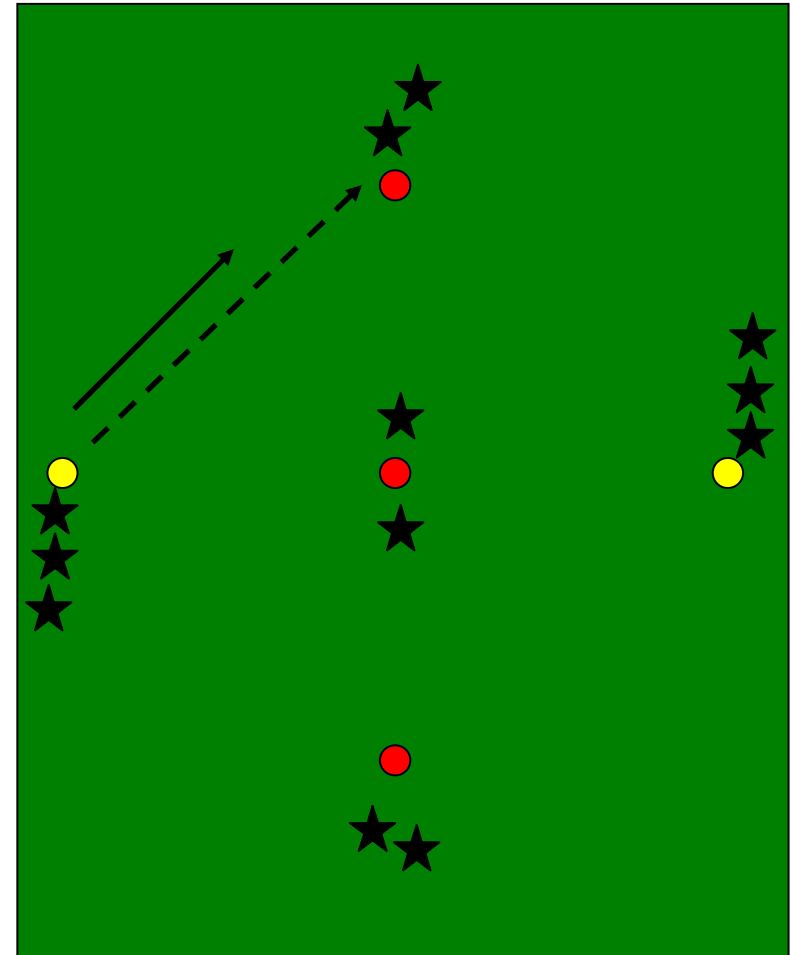


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice Passing & Control (TP18)

- **Organisation**
 - 12 – 20 Players organised at four stations;
 - Ball is transferred in a clock wise direction to begin with using a maximum of two touches;
 - Size of area is 24 x 24.

- **Progressions:**
 - Change direction;
 - Play a one two with the passer;
 - Players are not allowed to follow their pass but must move to a different pole; Players must look to ensure all groups are kept even;
 - Passer runs towards receiver, receiver touches ball passed runner and goes round the other side to retrieve;
 - Run with ball and play off front foot across pole to receiver;
 - Add two central players as shown to allow a wall pass to be played on two sides of the diamond;
 - Add two central players (As shown) Yellow plays to red and moves into central pole. Receiving red player bounces ball to player coming off central pole and continues. Central player becomes a red player;



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

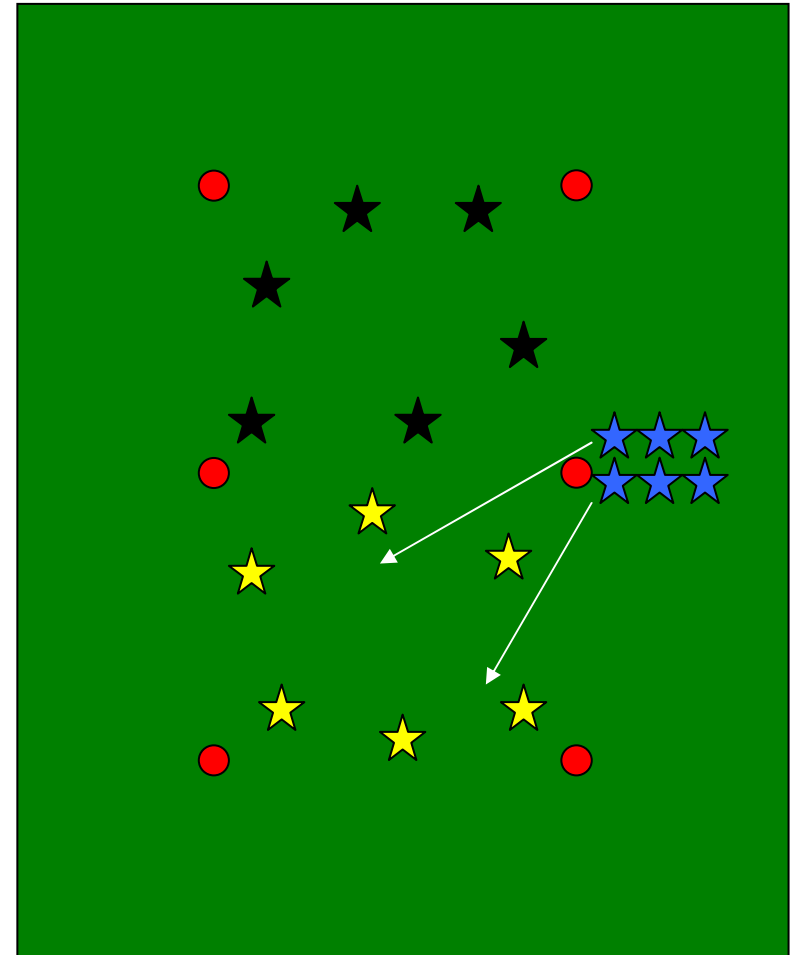
Pressing & “Hustle” (TP19)

Organisation;

- Eighteen players organised into three teams. Two team's occupy two 12 x 12 square areas with the third team's players organised into pairs and sent into an area to win possession when the ball is played in.
- The coach passes the bal alternately to the black and yellow team and they attempt to keep possession in their area. If the defending pair win the ball, a new ball is played by the coach to the waiting team who once again attempt to keep possession in their area.
- Each defending pair has to win back three balls for their team before the next pair go in.

Progressions:

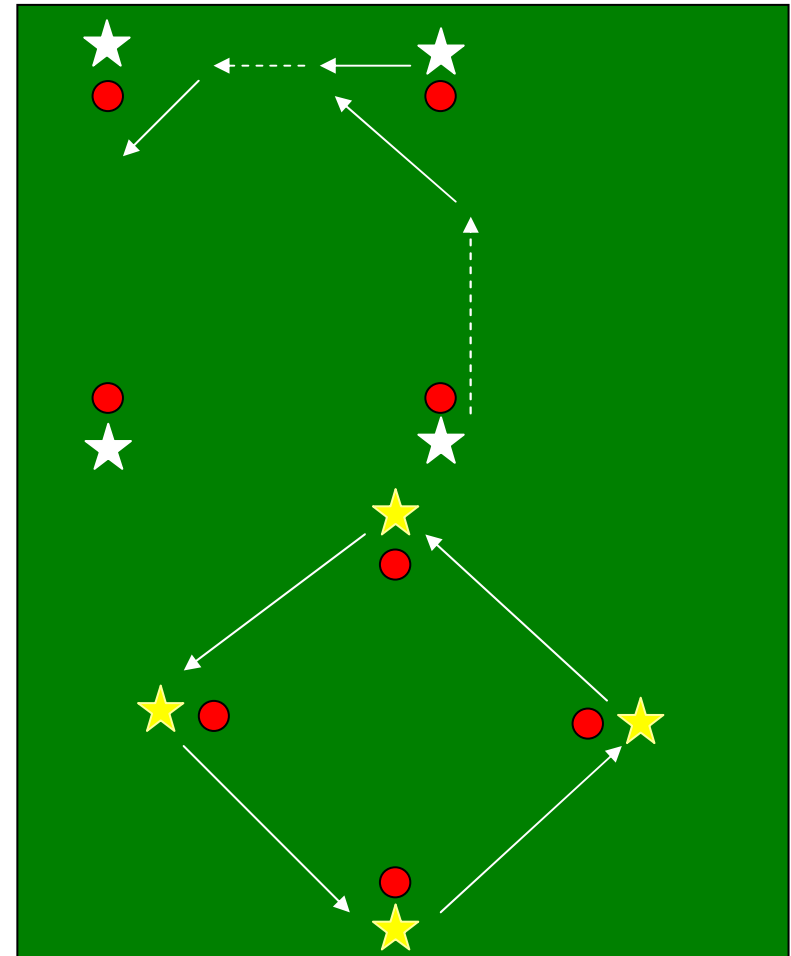
- The coach maintains control of the practice by serving to each group;
- All scores are added with the worst team performing a punishment;
- 10 extra passes are added to the teams score if they slide tackle. This is for two reasons;
 - 1, Good habits; Keep players on their feet
 - 2, Safety of team members in such a tight area.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice Passing & Control (TP20)

- **Organisation**
- Eight players in each group performing simple passing techniques.
- Group One; Player 1 dribbles towards partner & passes off front foot into path of player 2. Repeat.
- Group Two; Pass & control ball around the outside of the cone. Repeat
- **Progressions:**
- Change direction
- Reduce the number of touches
- Increase / Decrease tempo.
- Vary technique of control for Grp 2
- Grp 1 can use other foot to pass.
- **Key Factors**
- Quality of pass / Control
- Movement to receive ball
- Disguise in pass
- Communication



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

Passing & Control / Mourinho “Y” Practice relating to movements of Attackers / Midfielders (TP21)

- **Organisation**
- Four groups positioned in a “Y” shape;
- Player one passes into the player at the front of the central group;
- This player creates space to receive, checks around the corner and passes to the player at the front of the group on the left / Right (Work left/right groups alternately)
- Receiving player dribbles the ball to the back of the bottom group.

- **Progressions:**

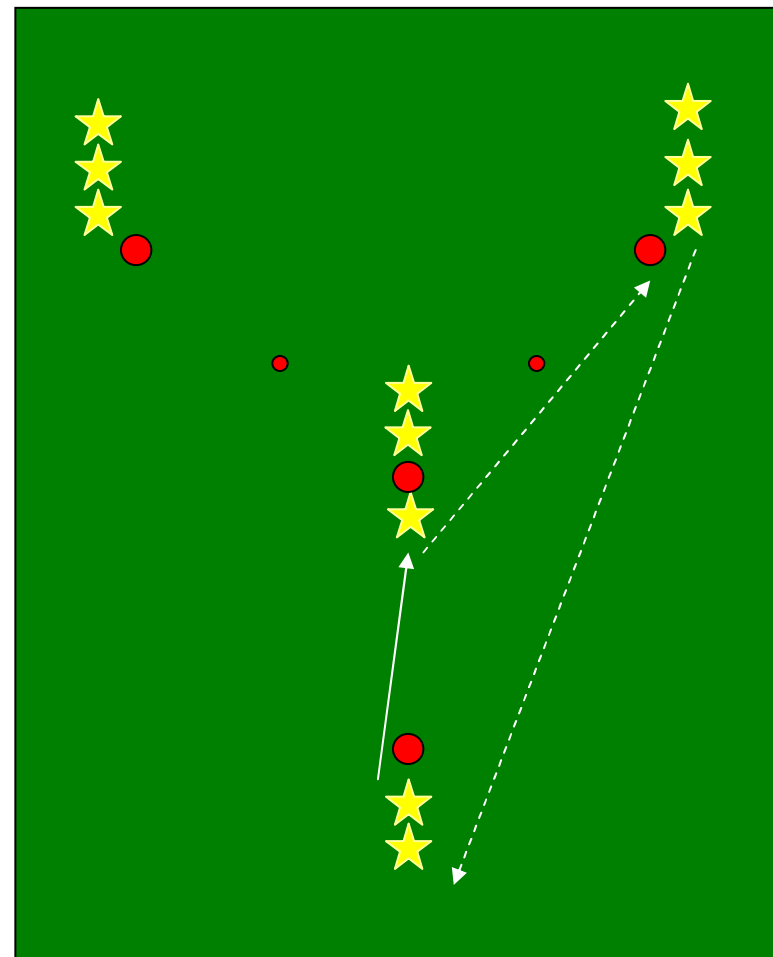
- Take the ball with either foot; Inside / Outside
- Ensure a face to face pass takes place after the turn;
- Player 1 plays a 1-2 with player 2 & supports ball to player 3, Player 3 to player 2 and passes back to player 1's group. Repeat on other side;
- Add additional cones to extend the Y (As shown)
- As above but when ball is set back supporting player plays around corner to opposite side

- **Key Factors**

- Quality of pass / Control;
- Angle & Distance of support;
- Movement to receive ball;
- Disguise in pass;
- Communication;

- **Physical**

- Light intensity warm up / Perfect for a day before a game etc

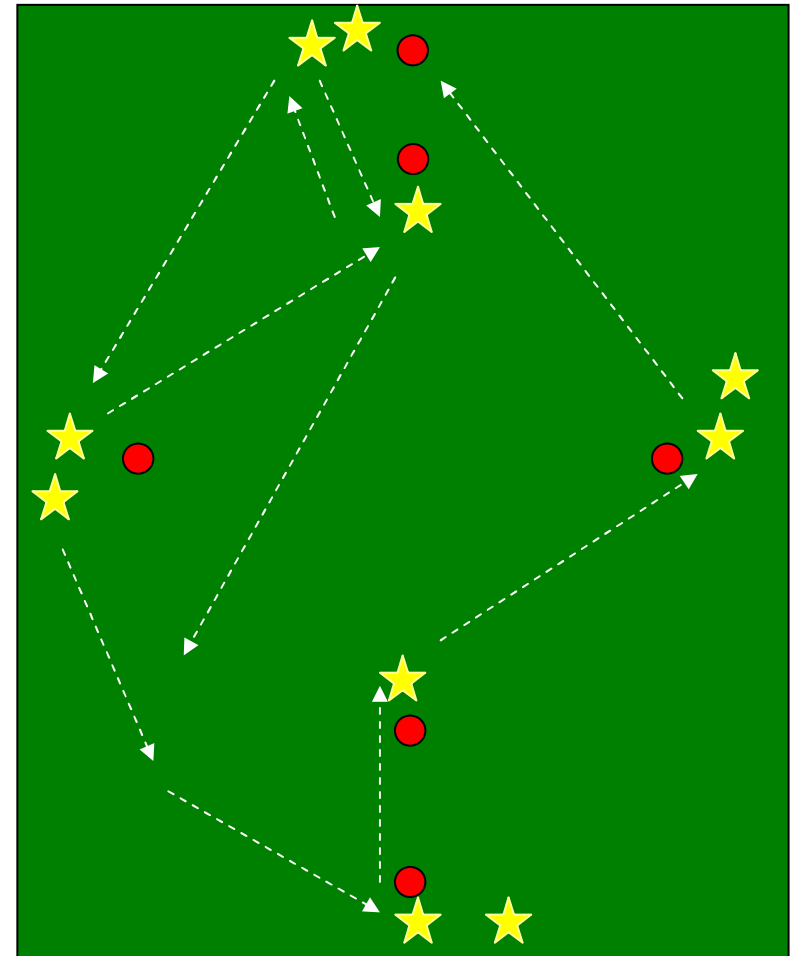


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

Passing & Control Practice relating to movements of Attackers / Midfielders off the shoulder / in the hole (TP22)

- **Organisation**
 - Four groups positioned in a diamond shape;
 - Player one passes into the player in front who turns and plays into the wide group;
 - This player creates space to receive, checks around the mannequin and passes to the player at the front of the group in front.
 - Receiving player continues the practice by passing to the player in front.
 - Simple rotational practice with both sides playing at the same time with each player following their pass.
- **Progressions:**
 - Alter the direction in which play is developed;
 - Players drive towards each other and pass round the mannequin on the front foot;
 - Players play a 1-2 to transfer the ball – the ball is always played into space;
 - The first player to receive the ball in the central position turns (As if he is the player in the hole) and passes straight into the space between the 2 mannequins for the running wide player (As if he were sliding a ball between the full back & Centre back)
- **Key Factors**
 - Quality of pass / Control;
 - Angle & Distance of support / Playing off the shoulder;
 - Movement to receive ball 1;
 - Movement to receive ball 2;
 - Disguise in pass;
 - Communication;

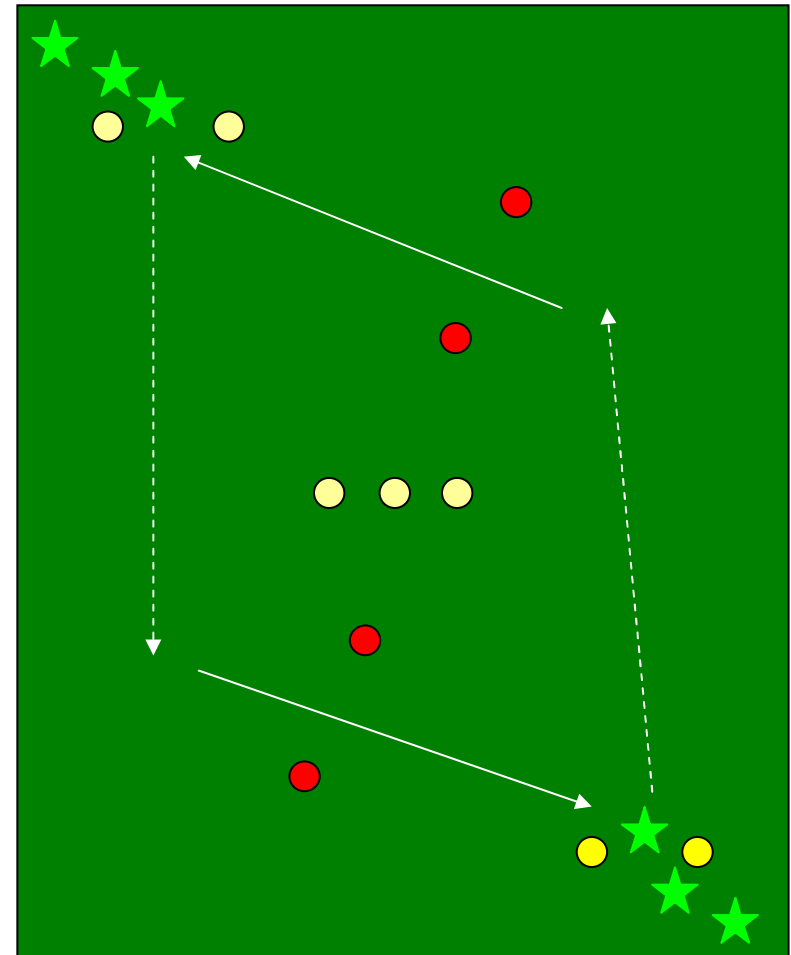


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

Running with the ball (TP23)

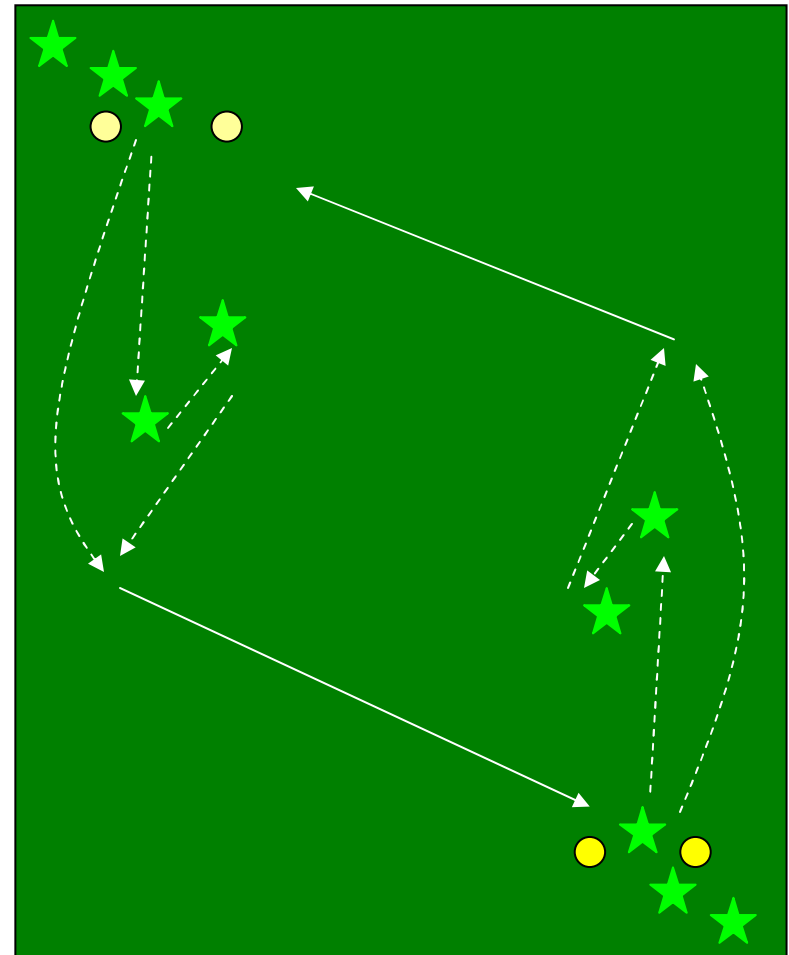
- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating 16 players
- Player 1 runs with the ball to the red cones & passes across to the opposite group. Repeat.
- **Progressions:**
- Add more balls to allow greater player involvement.
- Passing player chases receiver.
- Increase tempo where each player tries to catch up the player in front.
- Add in central cones x 3 that players must run through before progressing to the passing gates;
- Add ladders at each end which players move through after passing;
- Speed up practice by allowing players to run straight across through white poles;
- Players play a 1-2 from passing gates;
- Players perform a “sid” with next player in the queue, who plays ball into path of 1st player.
- Players perform a “sid” with next player playing back to passer, passer plays round corner into path of runner.
- **Key Factors**
- First touch out of feet
- Laces to move the ball
- Head up / Get into stride
- Movement to receive ball
- Quality of pass
- Communication



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice Passing & Movement (TP24)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating 16 players
- Player 1 plays to player two who steps over to allow the ball to run through to Player Three.
- Player Three lays the ball back to Player Two who passes into the path of the running Player One.
- Pass to opposite group and repeat.
- **Progressions:**
- Player Two passes to the front of the opposite group who plays a one two with the running player one.
- As above but the Player at the front of the opposite group lays the ball to Player Three for a one/two. Thus Player 1 becomes Player 2, Player 2 becomes Player 3 etc
- **Key Factors**
- Control
- Quality of passing
- Body Position to receive the ball
- Angle and distance of support etc

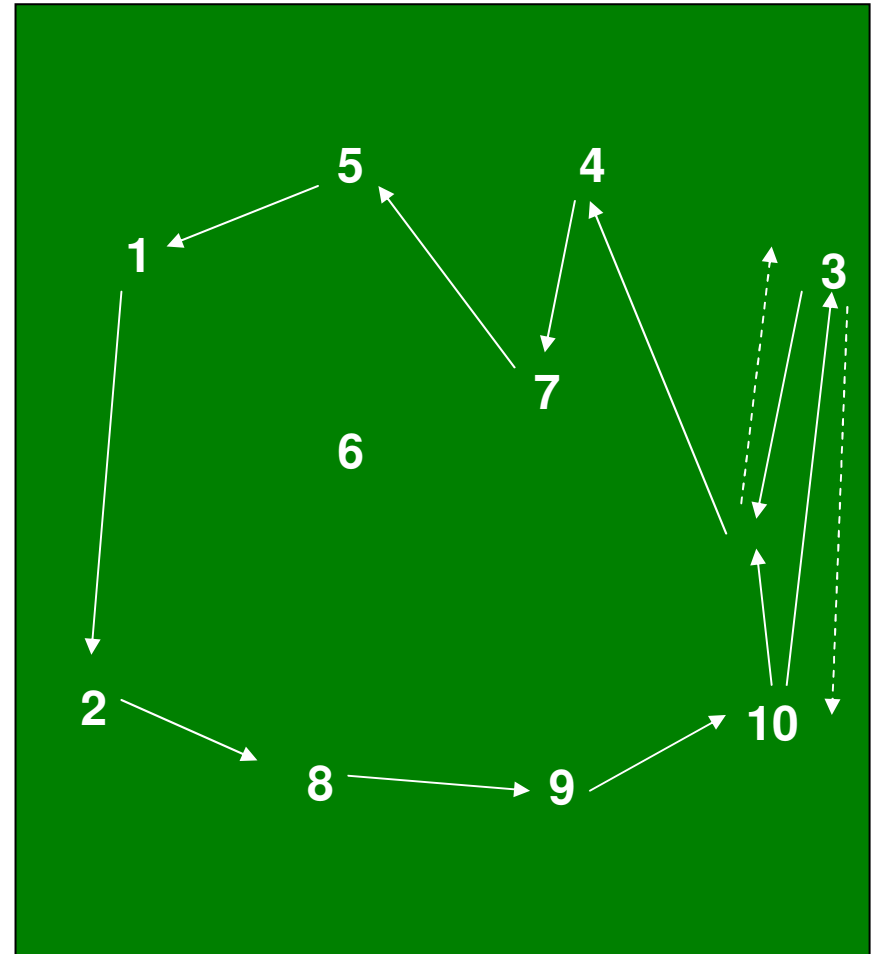


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

Passing & Control / Team shape & Movement (TP25)

- **Organisation**
- Ten players organised across the width of the pitch transfer the ball across the shape.
- 10 passes the ball to 3 receives it back & passes to 4, 10 & 3 change places. Continue with 1 & 2 changing places etc
- 40 Yards approx between units.
- **Progressions:**
- 2 comes short to receive off 5, 2 to 6 who passes in the moving 1.
- 4 to 6, 9 comes in short to receive, 6 plays 8, 8 plays supporting 7 who plays out to 10, 7 & 9 have changed roles.
- 8 comes short to receive off 1, shevchenko to 2, 2 plays 6, 6 plays 9, 6 & 8 change.
- 4 to 6 & set back for 4 to play 2, 2 plays 1 who plays 8, 6 & 4 and 1 & 2 change places.
- Have two team transferring the ball in opposite directions.
- **Key Factors**
- Angle & distance of support
- Transition from defence to attack
- Timing of movement & supporting runs
- Quality of passing
- Communication



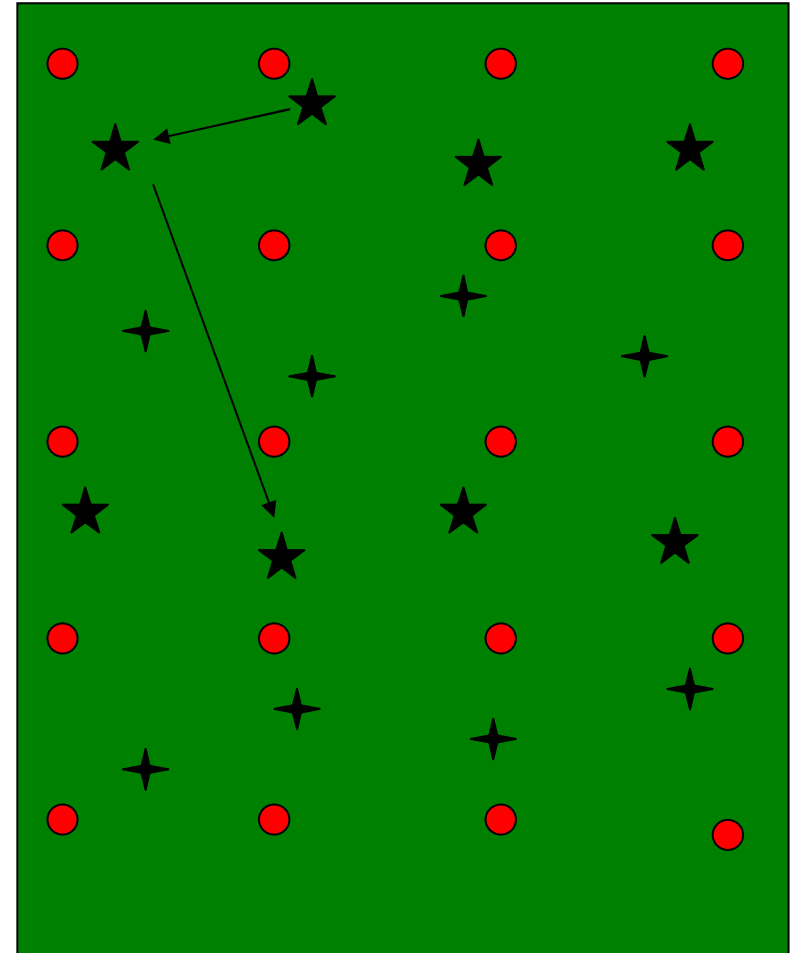
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice Defending (TP26)

- **Organisation**
- 60 x 40 area with two teams of 8 players organised into four separate / alternate areas
- To begin, players are not allowed out of their defined areas with the team in possession attempting to transfer the ball to their team in a separate area (As shown)
- This practice allows you to focus on both attacking and defending principles.
- The defending team focuses on staying compact as a unit and not allow the ball to be played through them.
- The attacking team attempt to pass forwards quickly or switch play to find a better passing option.

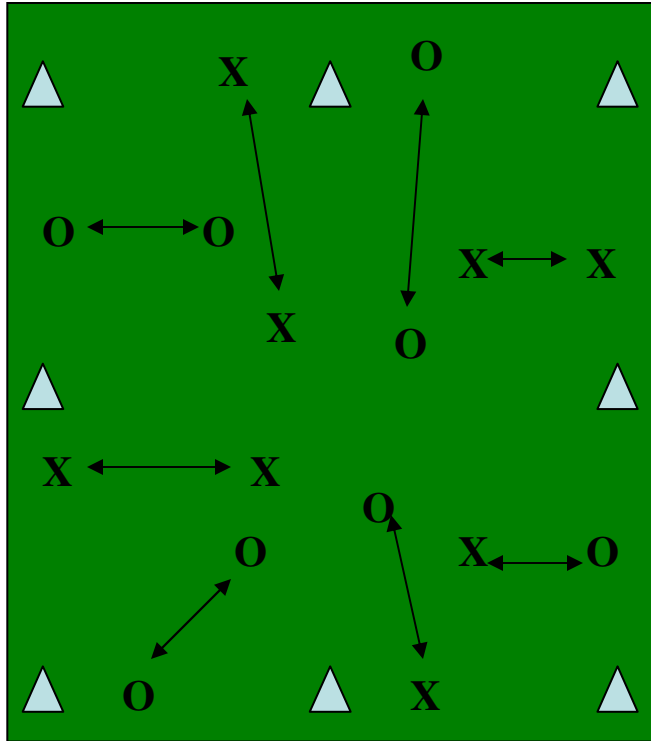
Progressions:

- Number of touches on the ball can be limited to increase the tempo of the practice.
- One touch to pass through
- Eight passes max before transfer
- Switch groups over to ensure each group has the opportunity to practice attacking & defending movements.
- No passes to be overhead height
- Change positions with other players in your group
- Passing player switches zone with receiving player if ball passed through zones successfully.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Control (TP27)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into pairs and control the ball before passing. To begin, players are stationary and play two touch. Players remain stationary whilst working on control and aerial control (chest, thigh, head).

Key Factors

Get in with the ball.

Select controlling surface.

Show surface to control the ball.

Withdraw surface to reduce impact.

Angle of body to turn.

Progression

Servers remain on the outside whilst players move randomly from server to server.

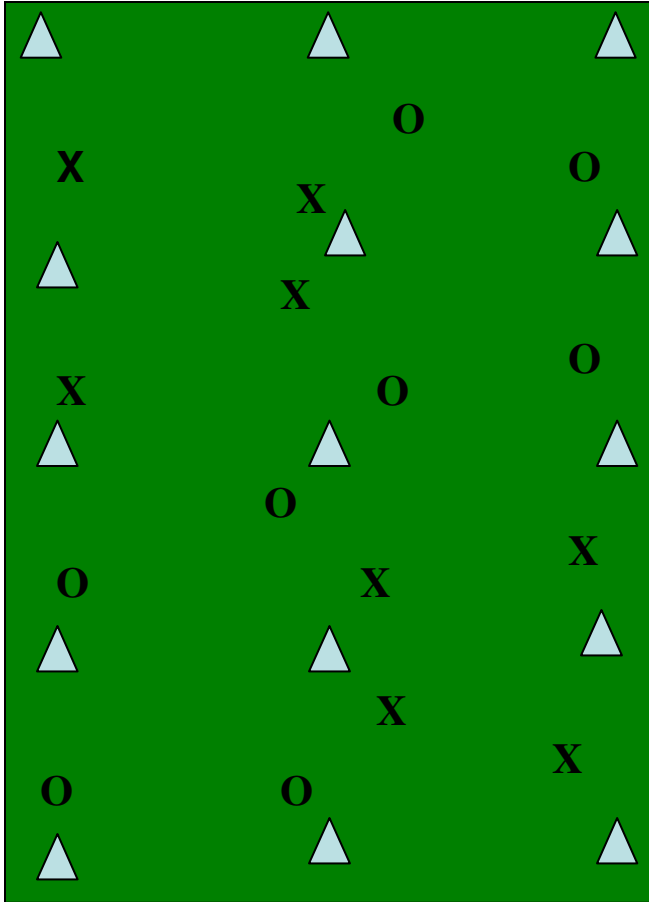
Players control to turn and pass to 'any' free server.

Players control to turn and pass to servers in the same colour only.

Work through ground and aerial control to turn.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Control (TP28)



Organisation

Organise players into pairs, 1 ball between two in each grid.

Players begin by passing back and forth.

Introduce key points 1 at a time.

Players number cones of grid 1-4.

Key Factors

Move into line with ball

Offer surface area to control ball

Relax on impact

Angle body to enable turn

Progression

Players sending calls out number, to which receiver controls in that direction.

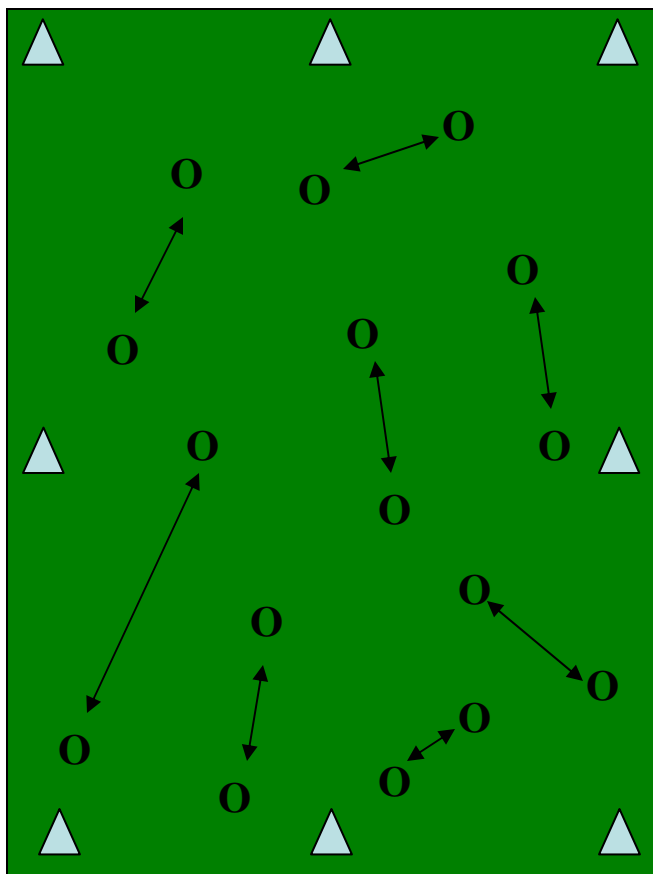
Players inside control and pass in direction of player on opposite end.

Incorporate aerial control and repeat.

Comments

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Passing (TP29)



Comments

Organisation

Players work in pairs and pass and move randomly within the defined area. On the shout of change, the player in possession finds a new 'free' partner with a pass, the partner without the ball becomes open for a pass from a new partner

Key Factors

Non kicking foot by the side of the ball.

Open up foot to connect with instep.

Keep from ankle on impact.

Follow through with kicking leg.

Focus on accuracy and weight of pass.

Progression

Players play 1/2/3 touch

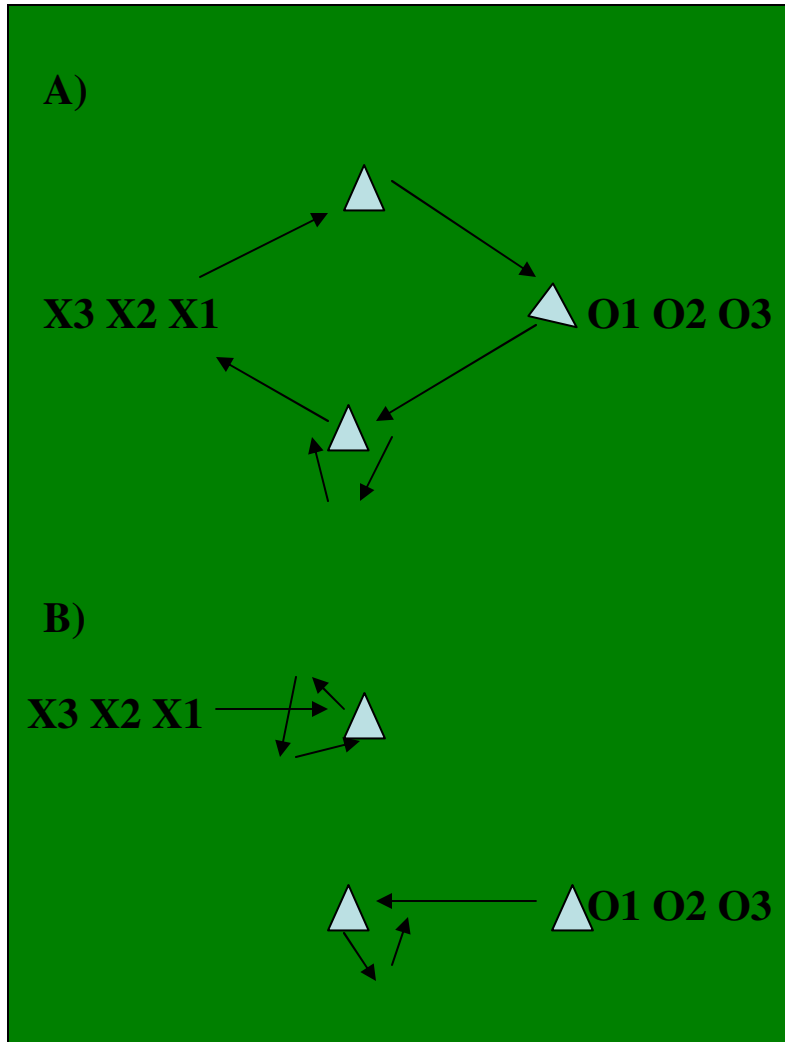
Players play a 1-2, then find a new partner with the next pass.

Players work in groups of 4, 1 ball between each pair. On the shout of 'change' the 2 players in possession pass to the opposite free player.

Players are numbered with 1 ball between the group and pass in sequence.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dribbling (TP30)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into 2 groups

Players are instructed to dribble to the cone, move around it and then on to the next group.

Both groups work at the same time.

Key Factors

Keep the ball close

Keep your head up

Good first touch

Change of speed and direction.

Progression

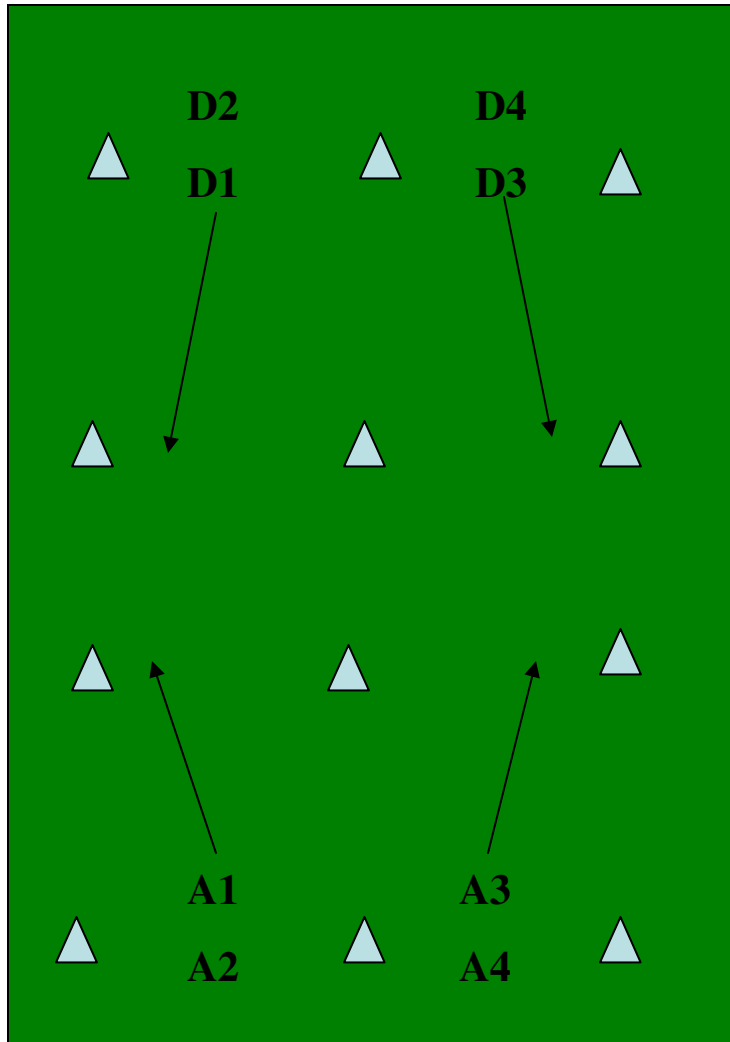
Players use varying fakes / feints to go around the central cone
1.e scissors / double scissors turning using the body (as in B)

Add a passive defender to pressure players.

The defender can chase the attacker once he has been beaten.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dribbling (TP31)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into 4 group, 2 groups are attackers, 2 act as defenders.

Players take it in turn to attack and defend.

Attackers score points by reaching the end lines.

Players switch roles following activity.

Key Factors

Keep the ball close

Keep your head up

Change of direction at pace.

Progression

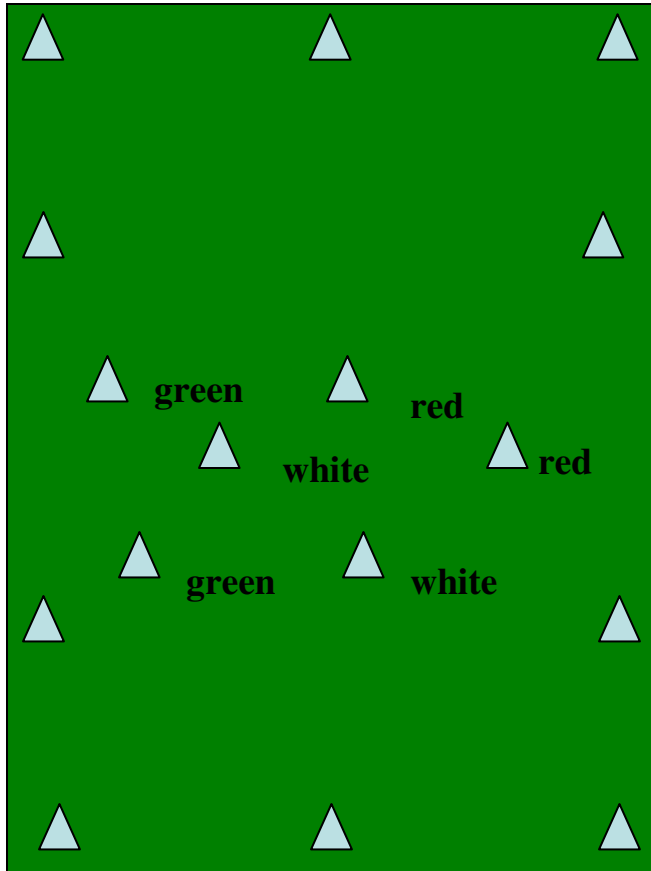
Players play 2 V 1, 2 V 2, 3 V 3

If an attacker is having difficulty, an extra attacker can join in to support play.

If an extra attacker joins in so can an extra defender.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Running with the Ball (TP32)



Comments

Organisation

Players are split into 4 teams of 4 in 2 end areas, 1 team of blue and red in each, all given numbers 1-4.

Players pass in sequence ensuring that they control ball into space on receipt each time.

Key Factors

Move ball out of feet to build up speed.

Use laces to maintain running pattern.

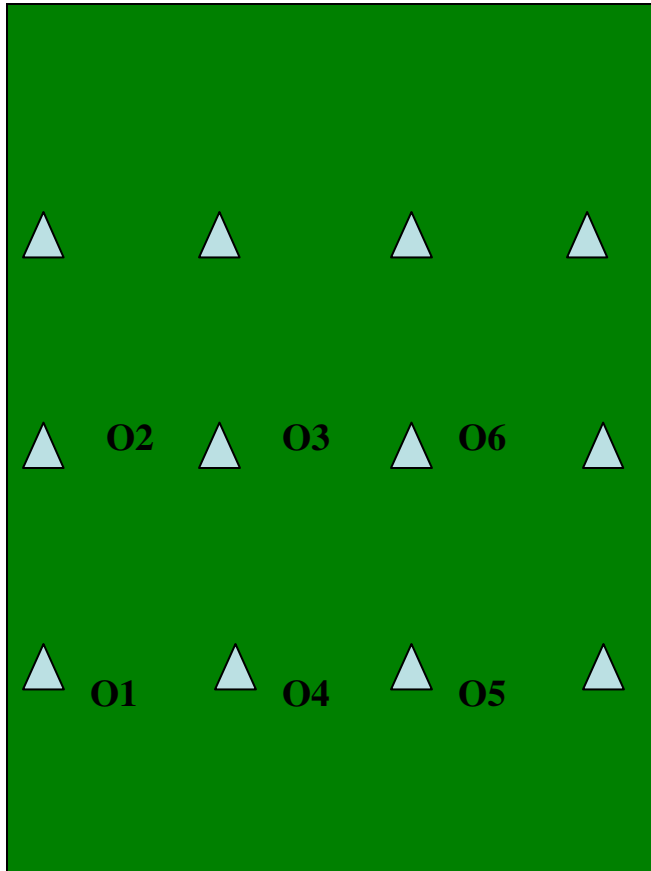
Keep head up.

Progression

Upon number called players run with ball across central area to opposite team of same colour.

Players repeat, but move ball around additional coloured cones called.

Heading (TP33)



Comments

Organisation

Players work in pairs to begin with. 1 player acts as a server whilst the second player heads the ball back. To progress, players head the ball to their partner and run around them and back to their original position.

Key Factors

Eyes open / mouth closed

Make contact with the forehead

Arms out of balance

Arch your back and follow through.

Progression

Initially players serve to themselves.

Players serve to each other.

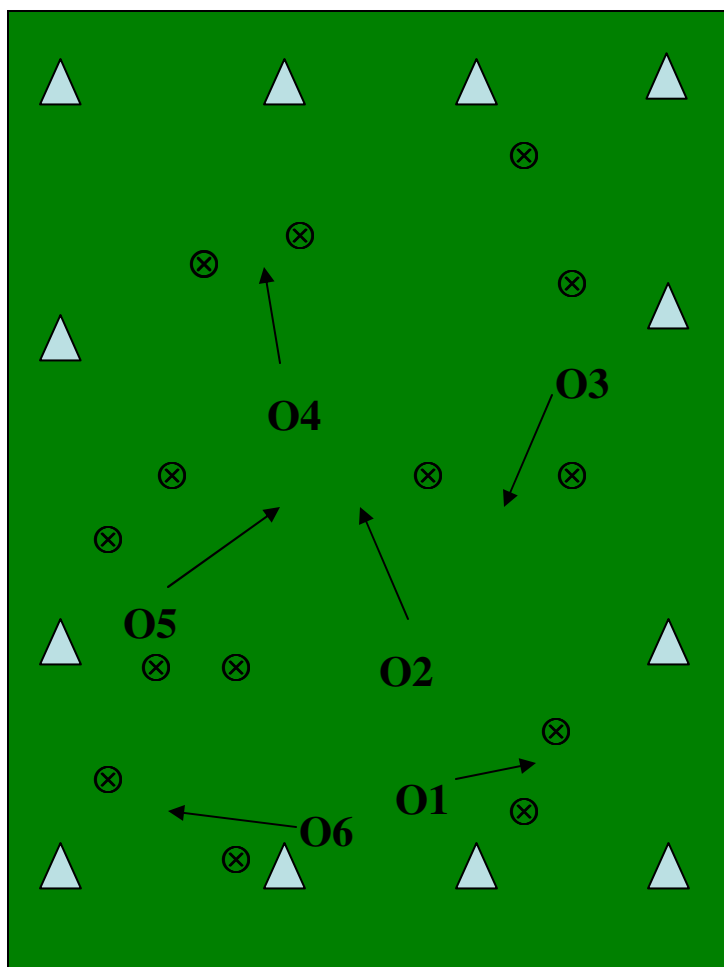
Add a third player and work on attacking and defensive headers:-

– Attacking headers: the middle player serves to an outside player who heads through the servers legs to score.

–Defending headers: the outside player heads the ball over the server to player three.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Passing / Control (TP34)



Comments

Organisation

Split the group into pairs. One player rests whilst the other dribbles around the area. The player with the ball scores a goal by passing through the legs of the stationary player.

Key Factors

Keep your eye on the ball

Use the inside of the foot to pass

Place non-kicking foot down the side of the ball

Keep ankle firm on impact

Pass through the ball and follow through.

Progression

Players play for 60s - The player with the most goals wins.

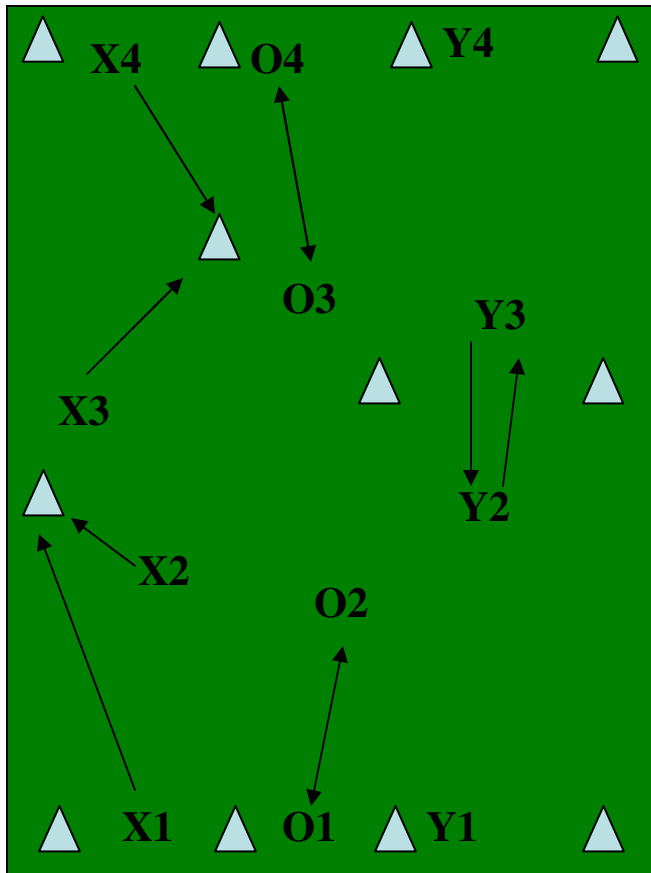
Players score goals by making a 1-2 with stationary players.

To increase intensity; players switch roles once a pass is made.

The receiver must dribble and pass the ball through the legs of the passer before they can switch roles with a different player.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Passing / Control (TP35)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into pairs and work in 10 x 10 areas.

Players begin by simply passing the ball to and from each other over this 10 yard distance (as demonstrated by O1 - O4)

Key Factors

Keep your eye on the ball

Use the inside of the foot to pass

Place non kicking foot down the side of the ball

Keep ankle firm on impact

Pass through the ball and follow through.

Progression

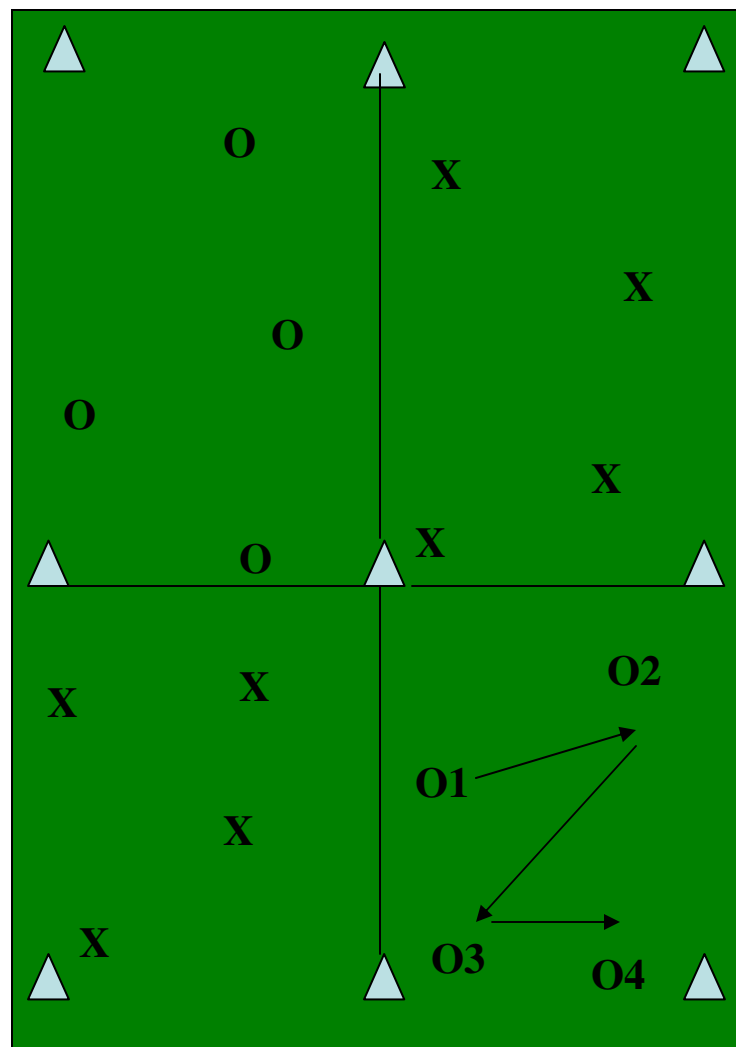
Players play 1/2/3 touch

Players pass to their partner and then rotate in a clockwise movement to receive a pass in the opposite area (as demonstrated by Y1 -Y4).

The central cones are placed at varying distances. Players receive the balls at these cones ensuring they pass over varying distances (as demonstrated by X1-X4)

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Passing (TP36)



Comments

Organisation

Players are split into 4 groups of 4 numbered 1-4

Players pass and move in sequence.

Key Factors

Low intensity

Stretch

Increase intensity

Progression

Upon command players swap groups. (Yellows with yellows, reds with reds).

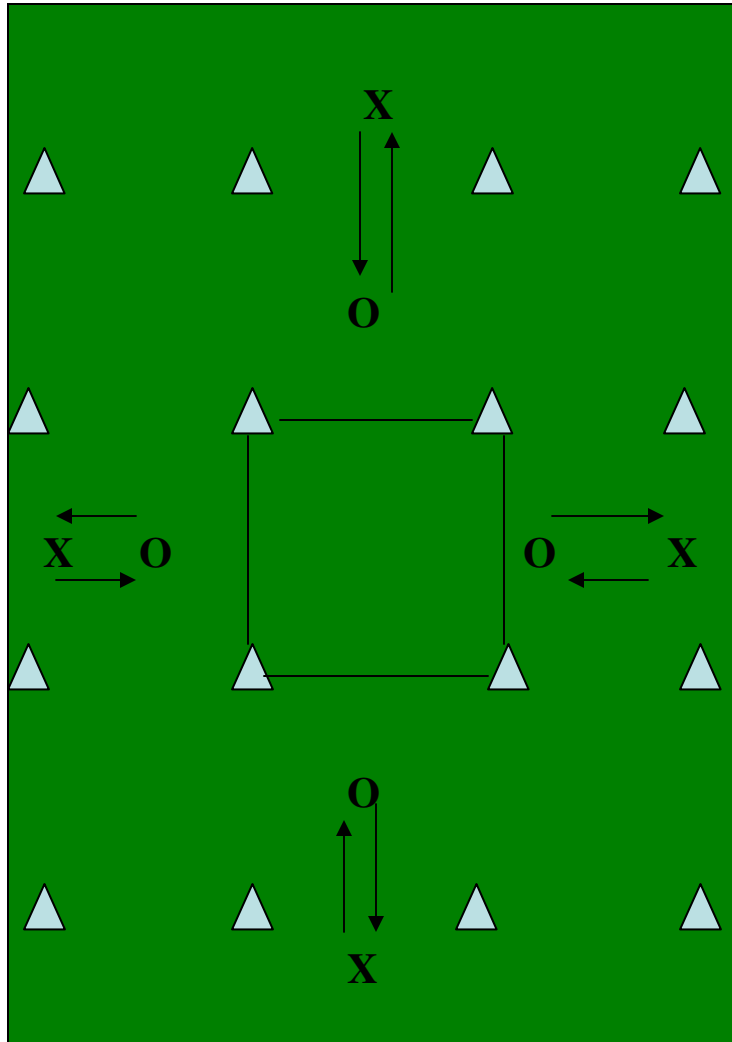
Upon command players whose number is called make an angle in next area to receive ball.

Player receiving passes to opposite group of same colour.

Players when number is called enter opposite group to form 3 V 1 to act as passive defender.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Control (TP37)



Comments

Organisation

Players organise into pairs, 1 player outside, 1 inside
Players on outside with ball pass into middle through markers
Players in middle control and pass back
Change roles and repeat.

Key Factors

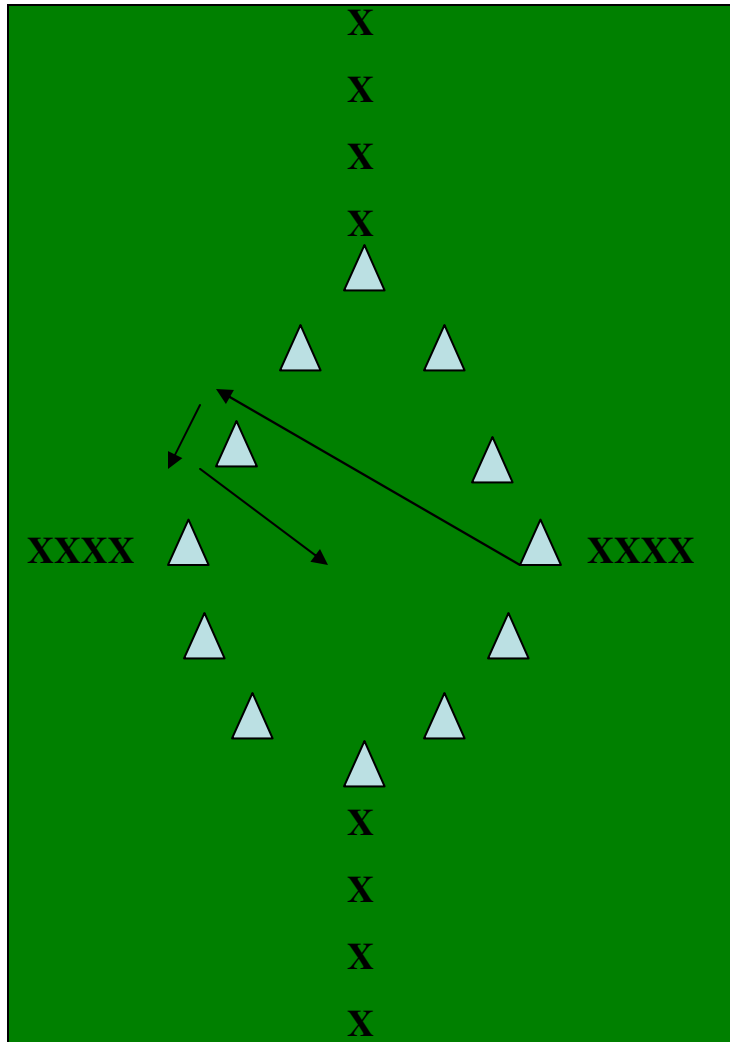
Move body in line with ball
Offer surface area to control
Relax surface on impact
Prepare next pass

Progression

Upon receipt players control in different direction and pass to alternative outside player.
Vary service - thigh, chest, head and play speed game.
Progress to 3 V 1 inside area where 1 defends
Progress to 2 V 2
Pass inside / outside cone
1 touch on outside
Change direction and pace through middle

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Running with the Ball (TP38)



Organisation

Players are split into 4 groups of 4 positioned at different points at the clockface given numbers 1-4.

Every group are to pretend that they are standing at 6'O' Clock.

Upon command players run with the ball to appropriate cones.

Key Factors

First touch out of feet

Head up

Maximise running speed

Use laces

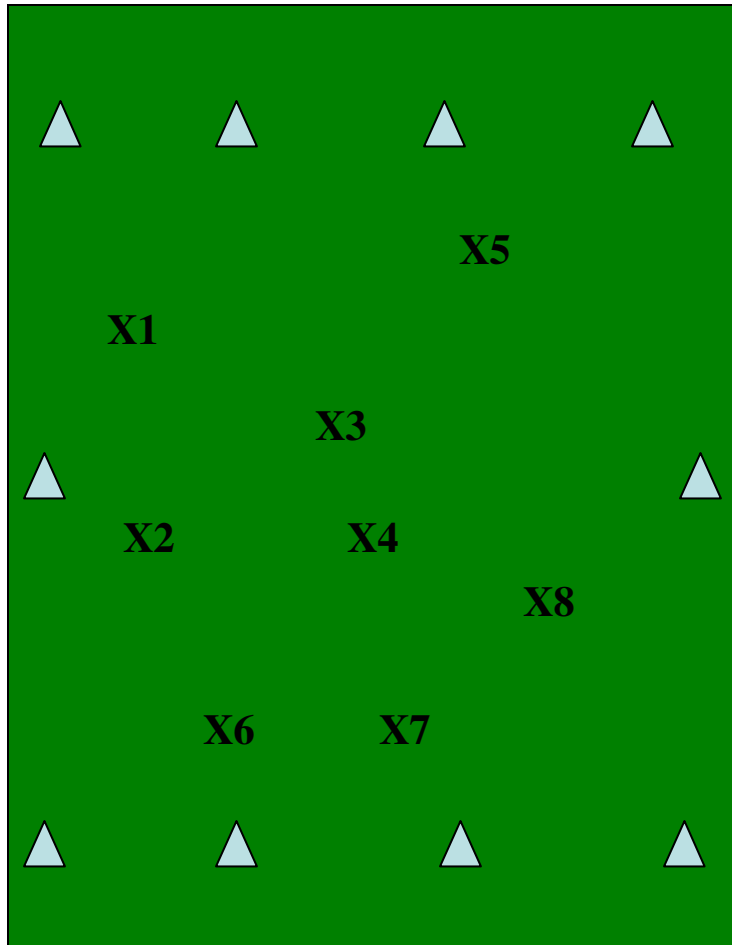
Progression

Players run clockwise around circle before returning to group.

Add defenders to form 4 V 1, 4 V 2, 4 V 3 etc.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Turning (TP39)



Comments

Organisation

All players dribble around the designated area with a ball each

Key Factors

Keep the ball close

Keep your head up

Change of direction at pace

Progression

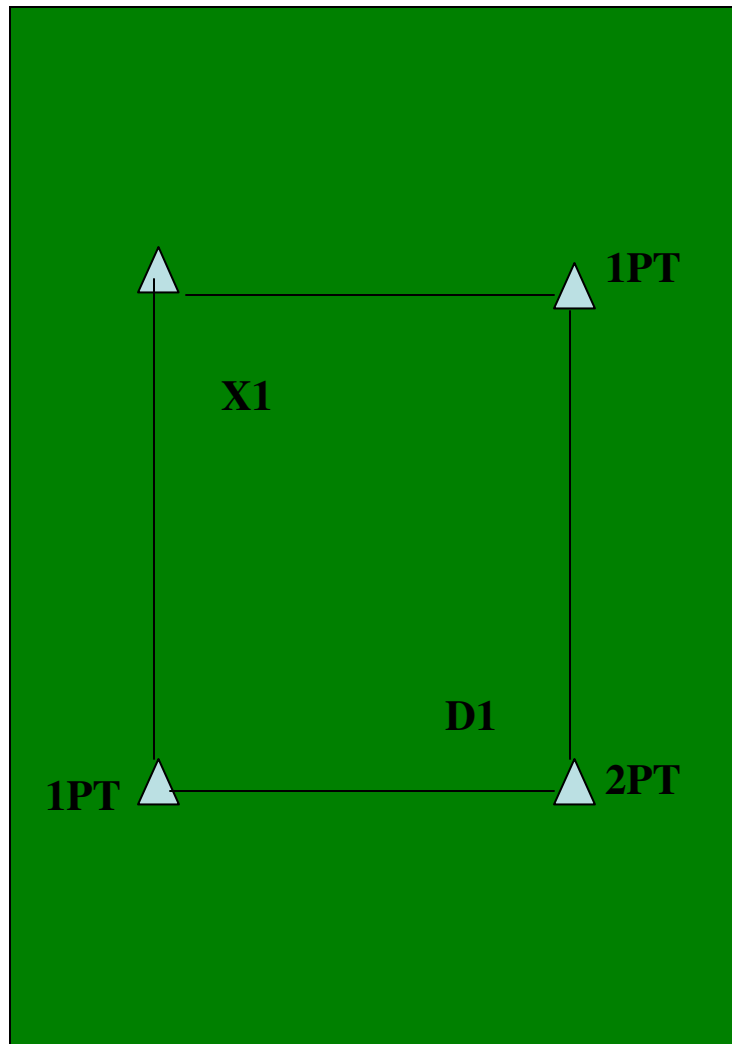
Players are instructed to dribble and are given specific turns to do.

Players dribbling with their left foot, keep their right arm out and vice versa.

Add a passive defender to ensure the ball is kept safe at all times

Allow defender to 'steal' the ball if possible

Turning (TP40)



Comments

Organisation

Players start at opposite corners. The player with the ball acts as the attacker, whilst the player without the ball acts as the defender.

The attacker has to reach any cone, without losing possession.

The attacker gains points for reaching certain cones.

Key Factors

Keep the ball close

Keep your head up

Change of direction at pace

Progression

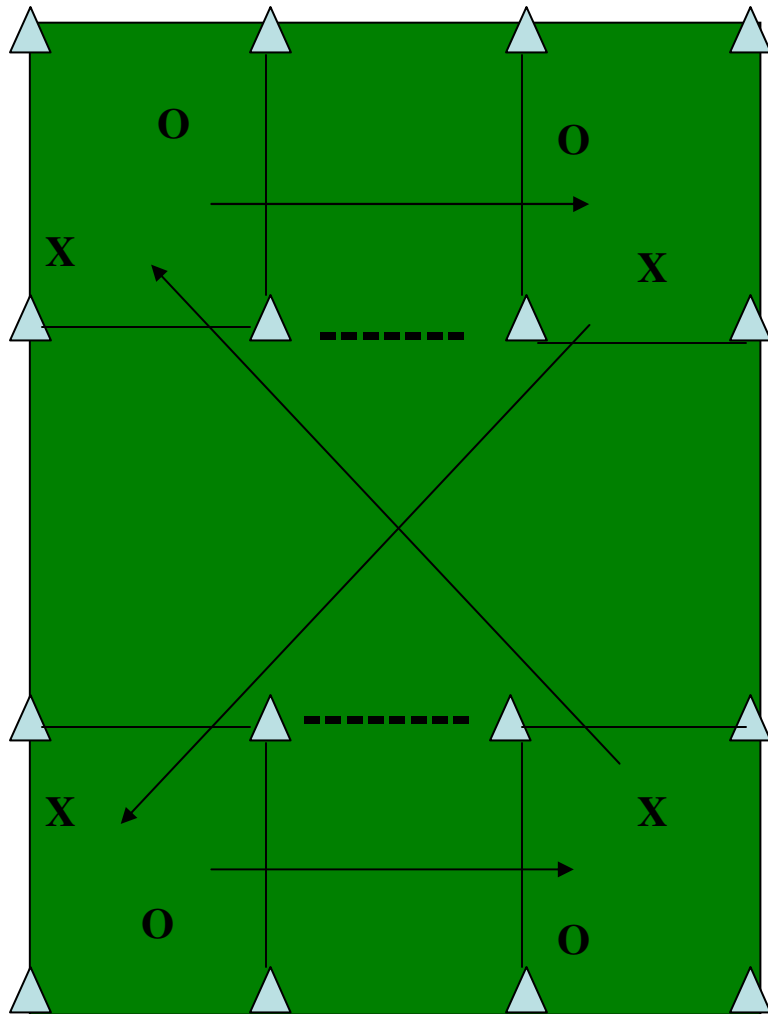
Each player has a ball. 1 player still acts as the attacker, 1 as the defender.

The attacker has 60s to avoid the defender who tries to tag the attacker to score points.

Play 2 V 2 in a 20 X 10 area. Players score by playing the ball into an end player.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Long Passing (TP41)



Organisation

Players are organised into pairs and positioned into 4 boxes.

1 ball is passed between the groups parallel to each other, initially, then 2 balls in a figure 8 as illustrated.

Key Factors

Move in line with the ball

First touch out of feet slightly behind ball

Lean back / Use laces

Strike underneath centre of ball

Follow through

Progression

Players form 3 V 1 in each end zone.

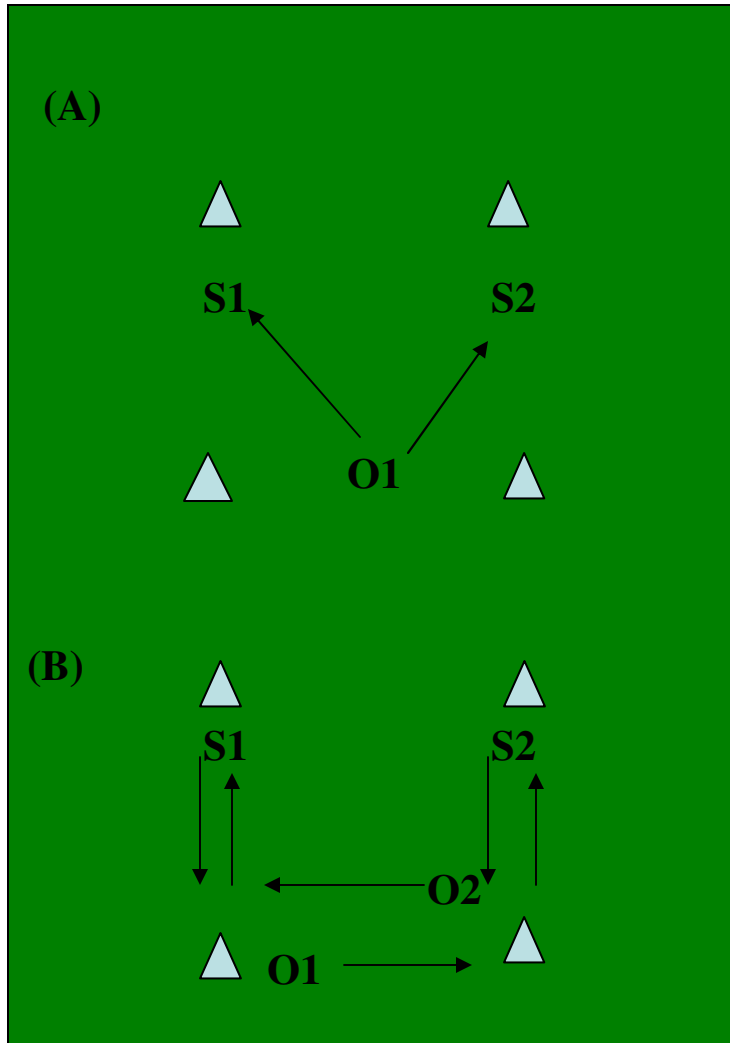
1 group starts with ball and must complete 3 passes before passing across to opposite group.

Add 1 ball.

Comments

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Heading (TP42)



Comments

Organisation

3 Players per group, 2 players act as servers, 1 player heads the ball.

Or travels from server to server

Switch roles.

Key Factors

Get in line

Keep your eye on the ball

Make contact with your forehead

Eyes open, mouth closed

Follow through for power

Body position and stance

Progression

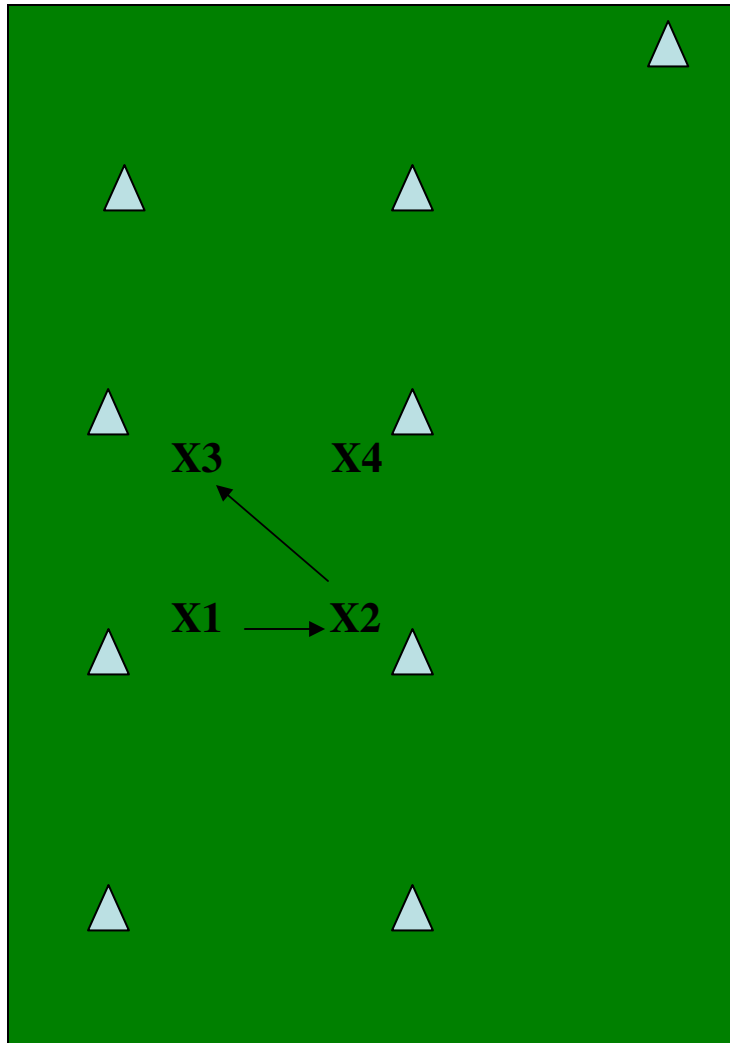
4 players per group. Once each has completed a header they shuffle across to receive off the next server.

Players still change positions but must now head diagonally.

One player practices attacking headers whilst the other practices defending headers.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Heading (TP43)



Comments

Organisation

2 V 2 in a 10 X 10 area. X1 serves to X2 who attempts to score by heading past the opposing players.

Key Factors

Get in line with the ball.

Keep your eye on the ball

Make contact with your forehead

Eyes open, mouth closed

Follow through for power

Body position and stance

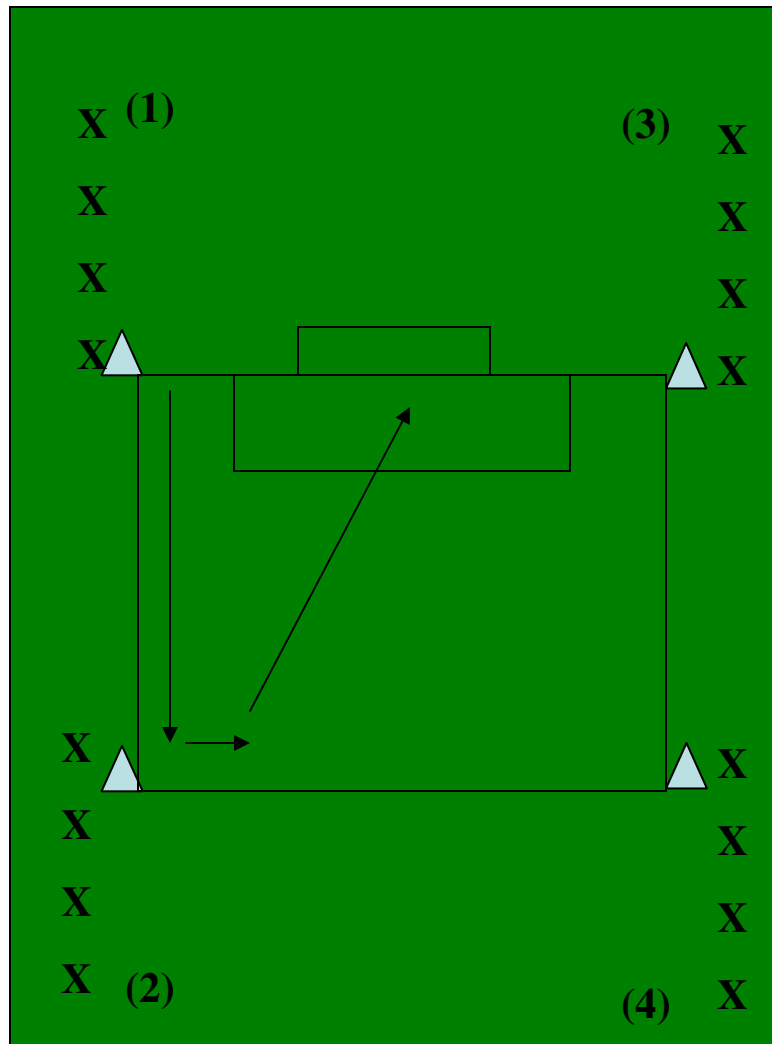
Progression

Players can practice defending headers by attempting to head 'over' the opposing players.

Score extra points by scoring directly from an opponents header.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Shooting (TP44)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into 4 groups of 4

Groups 1 and 3 pass alternatively to groups 2 and 4 and change groups.

Players in groups 2 and 4 shoot and change groups.

Key Factors

First touch out of feet

Angled approach

Non kicking foot beside ball

Use laces to stroke through centre of ball

Follow through

Aim low and across goal

Progression

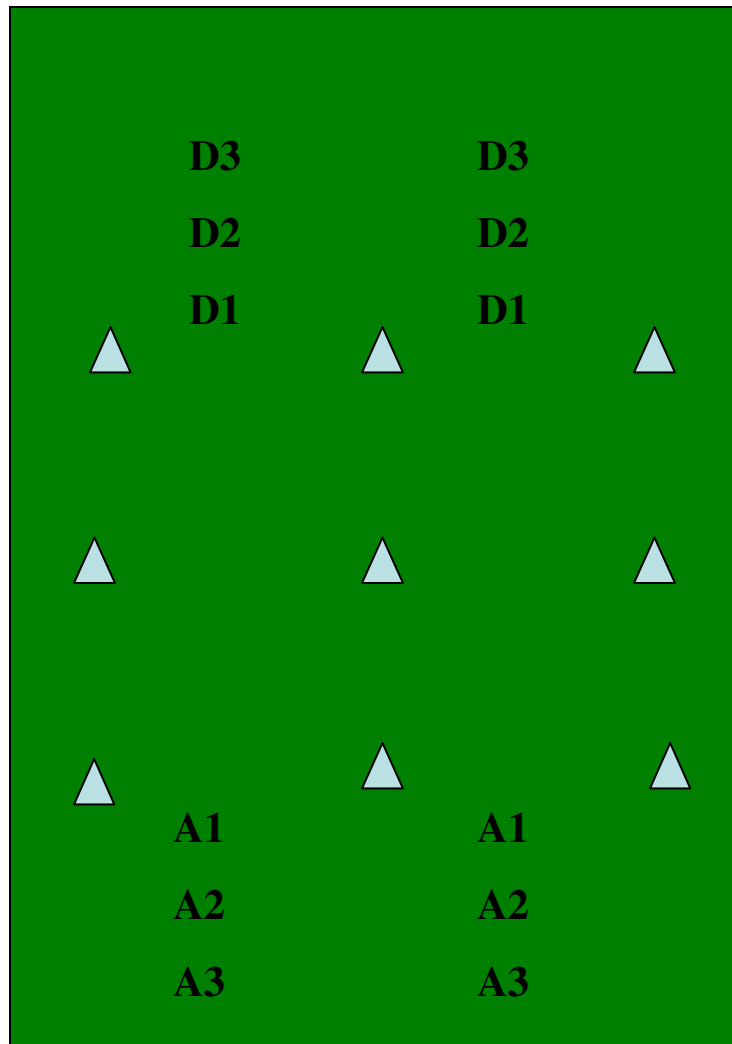
First time finish when appropriate.

Upon completion of pass, players become defenders.

Incorporate 2 V 1, 2 V 2

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Defending (TP45)



Comments

Organisation

Defender plays the ball to the attacker and follows his pass
The defender then jockeys the attacker back to the start position.

Key Factors

Get in line
Pressure on the ball
See the ball
Patience
Body position
Decision
Recovery runs
Tracking players

Progression

Organise the groups of players into groups of 3 - a server, an attacker in the middle and a defender. The defender attempts to stop the attacker from crossing the end line.

Take out the central cone and play 2 V 2

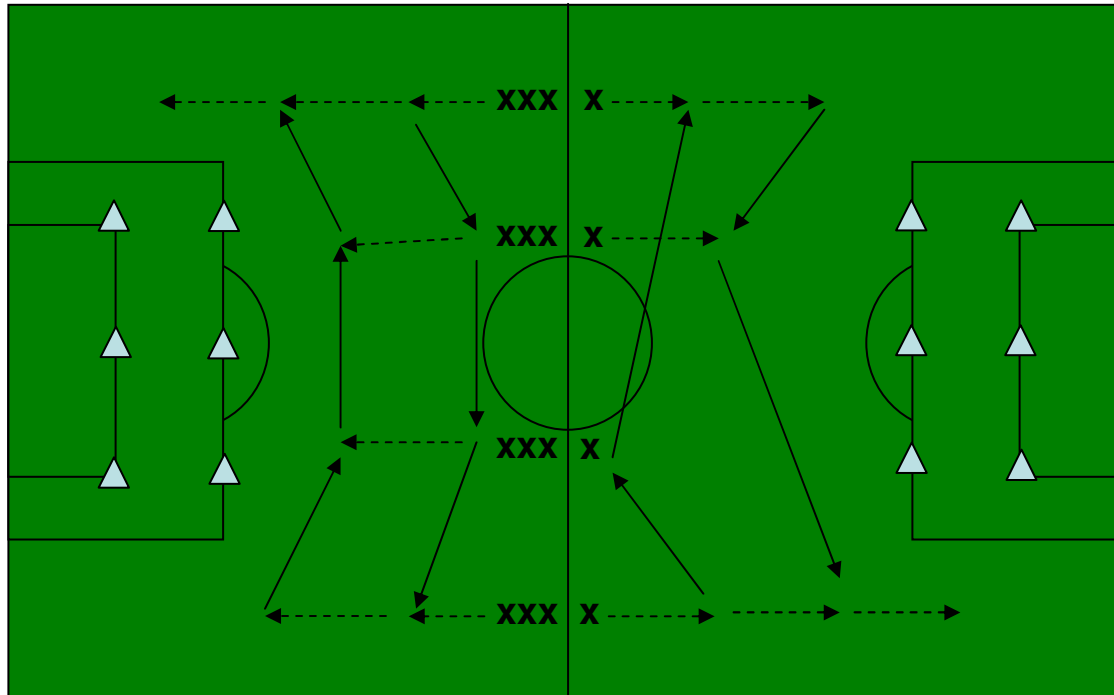
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Switching Play to good effect (TP46)

- Organisation :
- Players are organised in fours across the width of the pitch
- Players switch play from side to side quickly into the target area

Progression : On ball transfer form the midfield player to the opposite winger, nearest midfield player to amend run into a crossing position.

Key Factors : Quality of passing, control, running with the ball, crosses, finishing. Movement of players on & off the ball.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

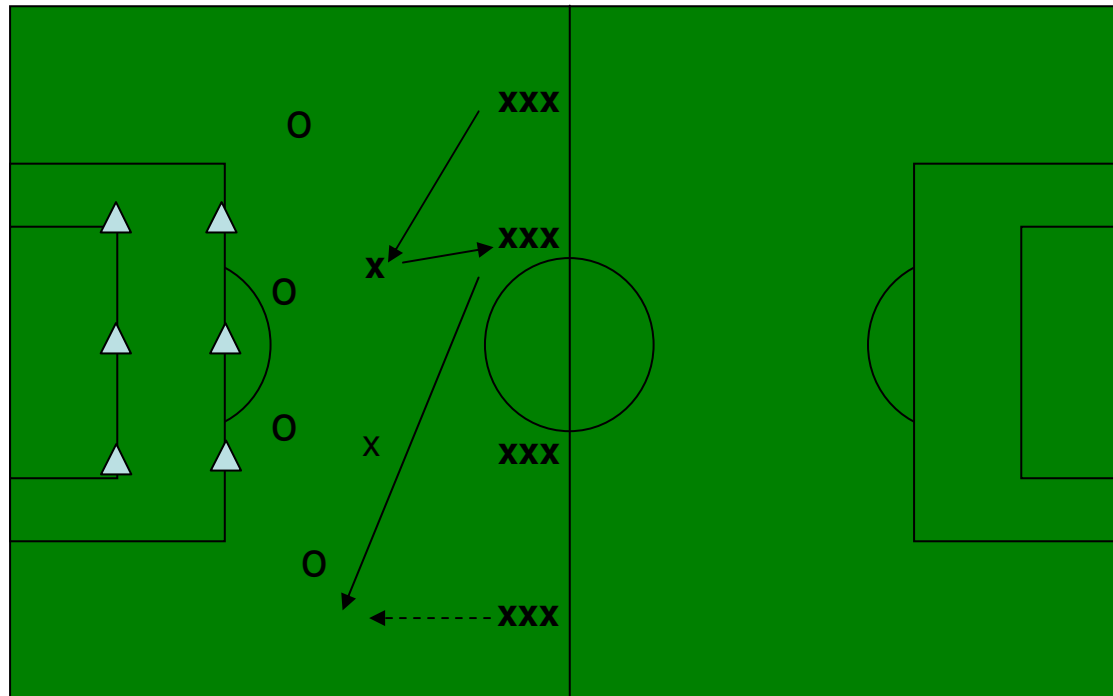
Switching Play to good effect (TP47)

- Organisation :
- 6 Attackers Vs 4 Defenders + GK's
- Only full backs can move outside the width of the penalty area to defend therefore creating a 2 v 1.
- Start with pass by winger into first striker

Key factors : Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, M'ment on & off the ball

Can winger dribble? If so leave 1 v 1. Be patient if unable to cross immediately

To progress; 8 attackers Vs 4 defenders, 11 Vs 11



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice Passing & Movement (TP48)

- **Organisation**

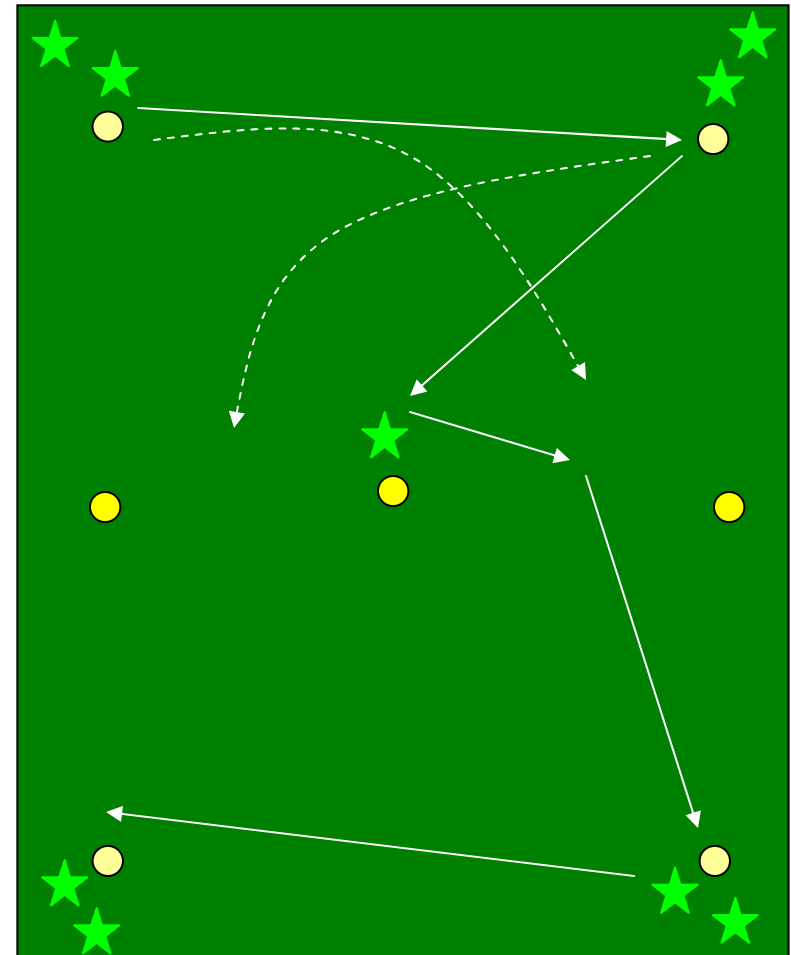
- Squad practice incorporating 16 players
- Player 1 plays to player two who controls and passes into the striker.
- Both players make overlapping runs with the striker passing into the path of the running player.
- Alternative add the same area so players go through practice twice.

- **Progressions:**

- The Player at the front of the group plays a 1-2 with the playing passing the ball before it is transferred across the area.
- The striker plays a 1-2 with the player he received the ball off who then plays in the running player.
- The runner runs down the line / diagonally behind the striker.

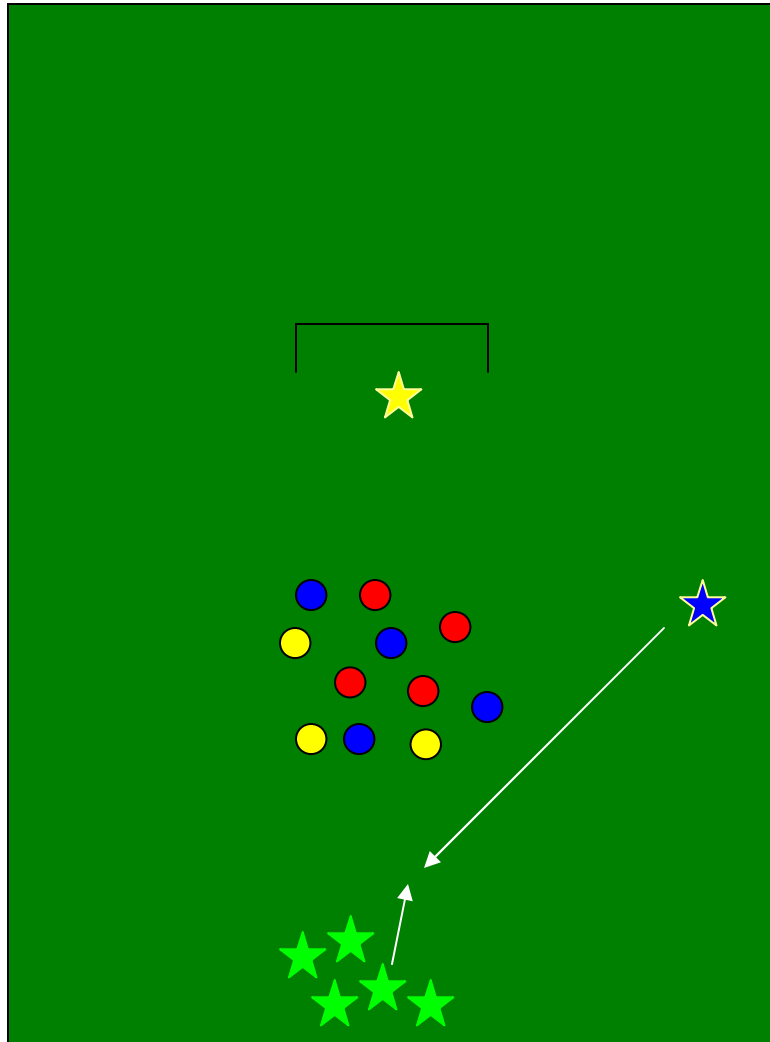
- **Key Factors**

- Control
- Quality of passing
- Body Position to receive the ball
- Angle and distance of support etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Shooting (TP49)



Organisation

Players are organised into 1 group.

Players take it in turns to receive a pass from the coach who serves for a shot.

Progressions

Vary service to the shooting player;

Serve to the players feet for him to dribble through the poles and shoot;

Serve into the Poles for him to react and pick the ball up and shoot;

Serve over the poles to control, dribble through and shoot;

Serve on the other side of the poles for a 1 touch finish.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Penalty Box Game (TP50)

Organisation;

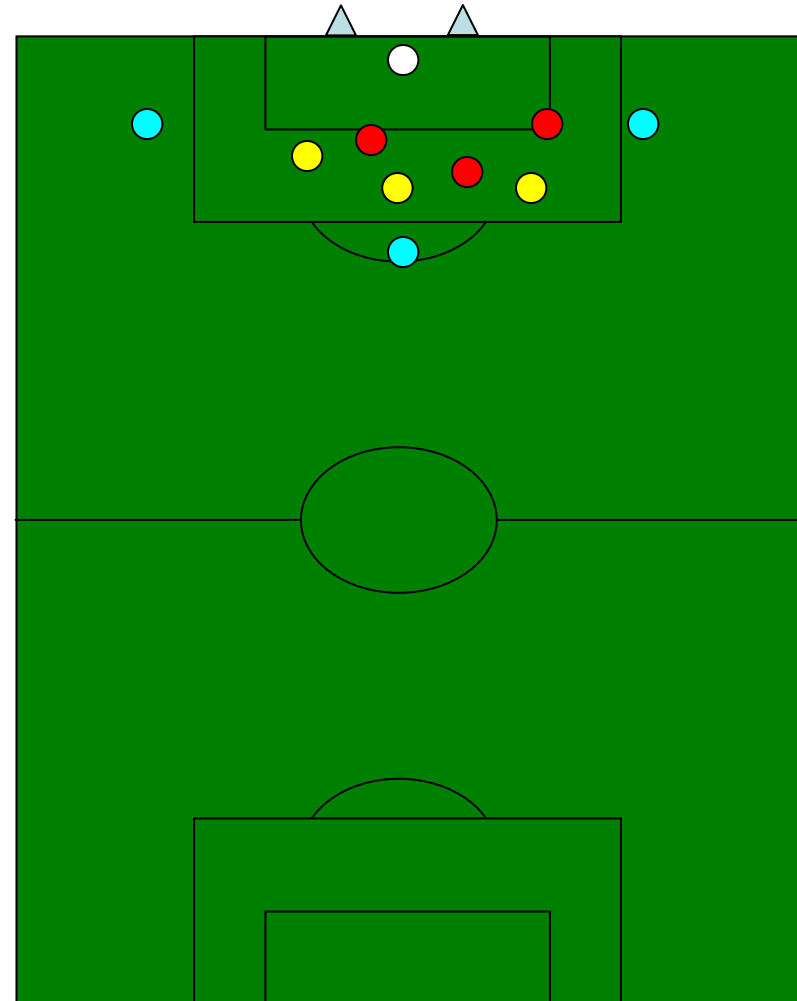
3 teams, 3 Vs 3 and 1 GK;
Organised within the dimensions of the penalty box;
Teams rotate to attack / defend and feed passes;
Attackers can pass to any of the outside players;
Outside players cannot pass to outside players;
Outside players are on one touch / can move down the line of their side of the box.
Balls are situated at the corners of the Penalty Box;
Rotate all players

Progressions;

Man marking in the penalty box;
Play 6 balls from each corner;
Play an allocated period of time per group.

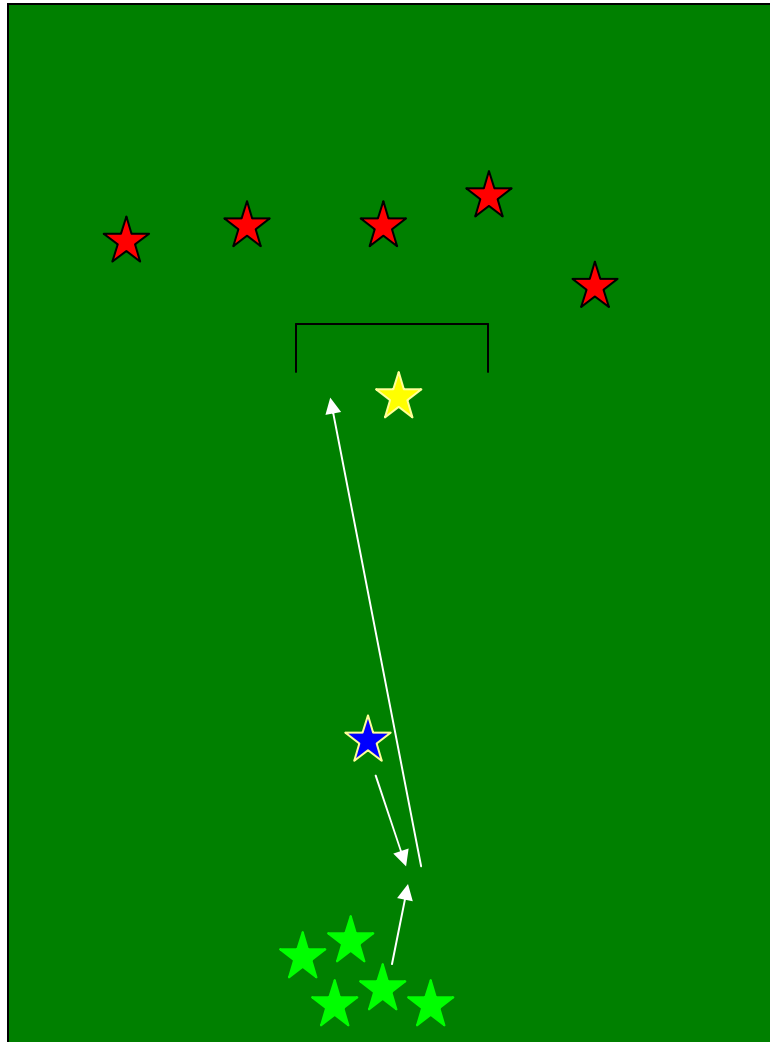
Key factors;

Body position to receive the ball and shoot quickly;
Disguise in passing / shooting
Running off the ball to receive a pass;
Keep the ball moving;
Angle & Distance of support.
Create space as a Team;
Switch play to keep possession by moving the ball into areas where there is greater space;
Quality of touch, Passing, shooting.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Shooting (TP51)



Organisation

Players are organised into 2 teams.

Players from Team 1 take it in turns to receive a pass from the coach who serves for a shot.

The service is varied for each round of shots.

If a player shoots over the bar or the shot is parried over the bar from the Goalkeeper then it counts as a “strike”, 3 strikes and the team is out and have to field.

Progressions

Vary service to the shooting player;

On the floor

Half Volley

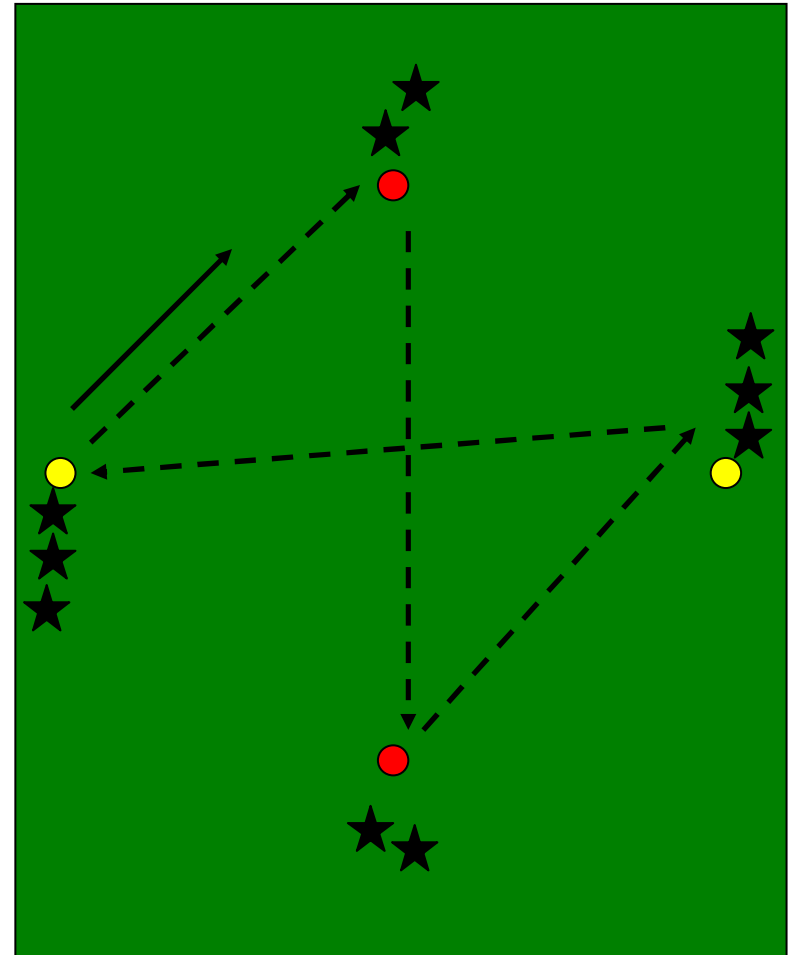
Volley

Passed back to the shooter with pace.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

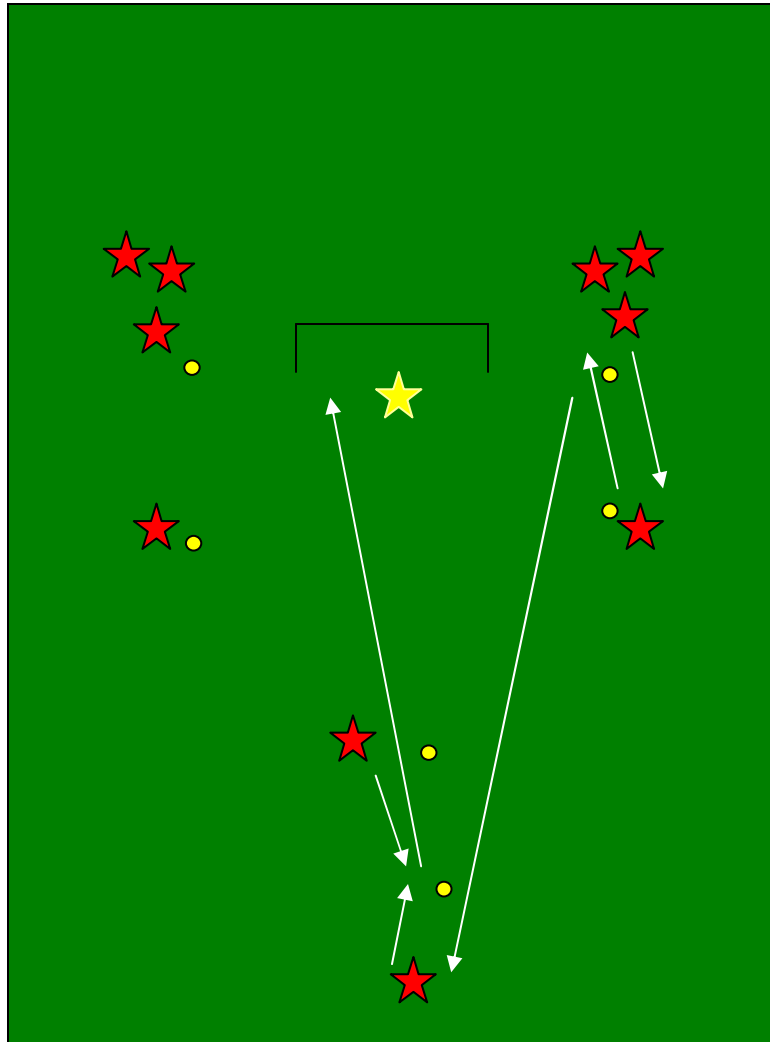
Technical Practice Passing & Control (TP52)

- **Organisation**
- Variation on TP18;
- Pass and Follow;
- Add additional balls;
- Players can determine when to speed up / slow down the process.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

“Celtic” Shooting drill (TP53)



Organisation

From one side of the goal the starting player plays a one two and then transfers the ball.

A second one two is played in front of goal for a shot.

Repeat the practice using the players on the other side of the goal.

All players follow their passes.

Progressions

Vary service to the shooting player;

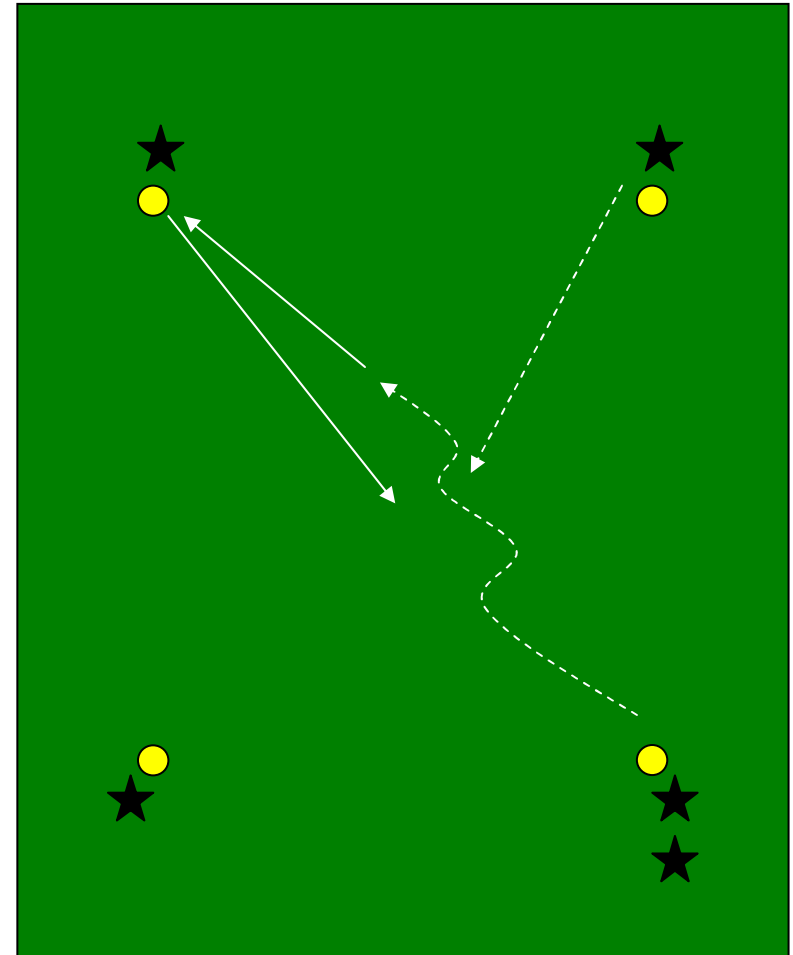
Players decide when to play a 1-2 and when to pass for themselves;

All players move to receive / run off cones at a match like tempo;

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice Passing & Control (TP54)

- Organisation
- Simple technical practice incorporating 5 players.
- Player 1 dribbles with the ball before passing to the player opposite.
- This player using 1 or 2 touch then plays the ball forwards for his opposite player to run onto (As shown)
- Continue.
- Progressions
- Play a 1-2 with the opposite player before releasing the running player.
- Perform a takeover with the opposite player before making a pass to the running player.
- The receiving player plays directly across to the running player and makes a run forward himself to receive a forward pass.

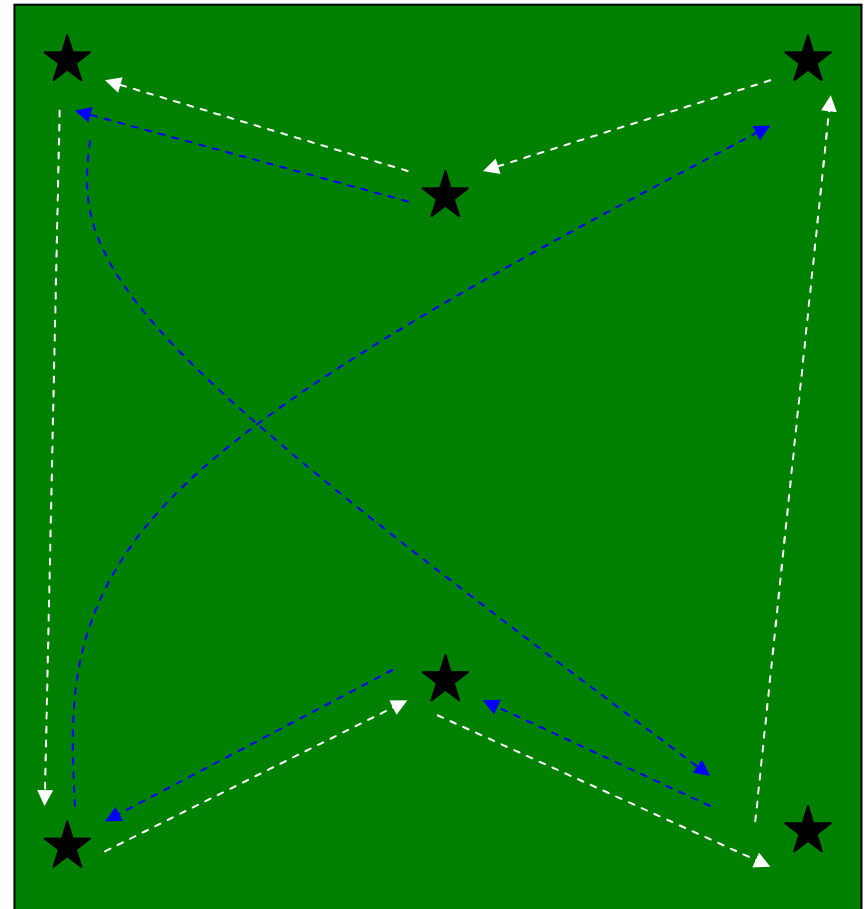


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

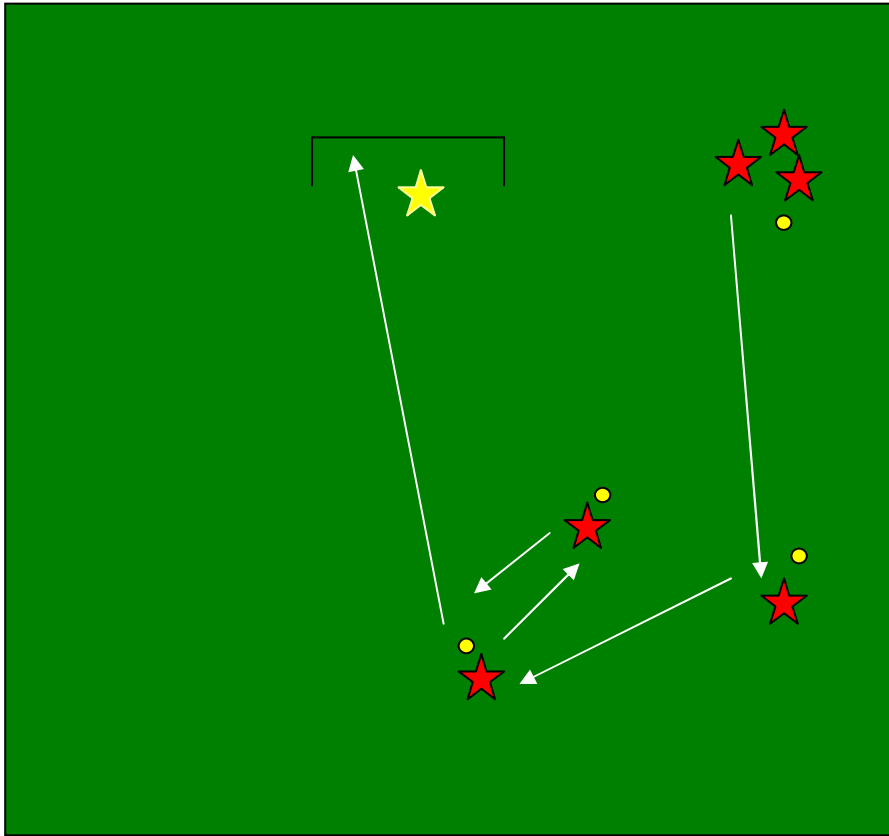
Full back distribution / unopposed position specific practice (TP55)

- Organisation
- Simple technical practice incorporating 6 players.
- The ball is transferred around the practice from player to player as shown.
- Depending on the distances between stations the ball can be passed on the floor / in the air.
- Progressions
- Play a 1-2 with the player whom you receive the ball off.
- The ball can be distributed using a lofted pass in a figure of eight pattern as shown through blue lines.
- Move the stations so that passes are not being made in straight lines.
- Allow link players to transfer the ball in any direction.
- Work in the opposite direction.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

“Beckham box” Shooting drill (TP56)



Organisation

From one side of the penalty box the starting player plays a one two and then transfers the ball.

A second one two is played in front of goal for a shot.

Repeat the practice using the players on the other side of the goal.

All players follow their passes.

Progressions

Vary service to the shooting player;

Players decide when to play a 1-2 and when to pass for themselves;

All players move to receive / run off cones at a match like tempo;

Player 1 passes to player 2, Player 2 passes to player 3 who passes back to Player 2, Player 2 passes to player 4 who lays in player 3 for a shot on goal.

Player 1 passes to player 2, player 2 passes back to player 1 to cross for moving player 3 & player 4.

Repeat all on opposite side.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Crossing & Finishing practice (TP57)

Organisation;

3 groups of players are organised 20 yards from the penalty box.

Players in the central group transfer the ball into a wide position.

Players in the wide areas combine to transfer the ball forwards for the ball to be crossed to the attacking players.

Work both sides.

Progressions;

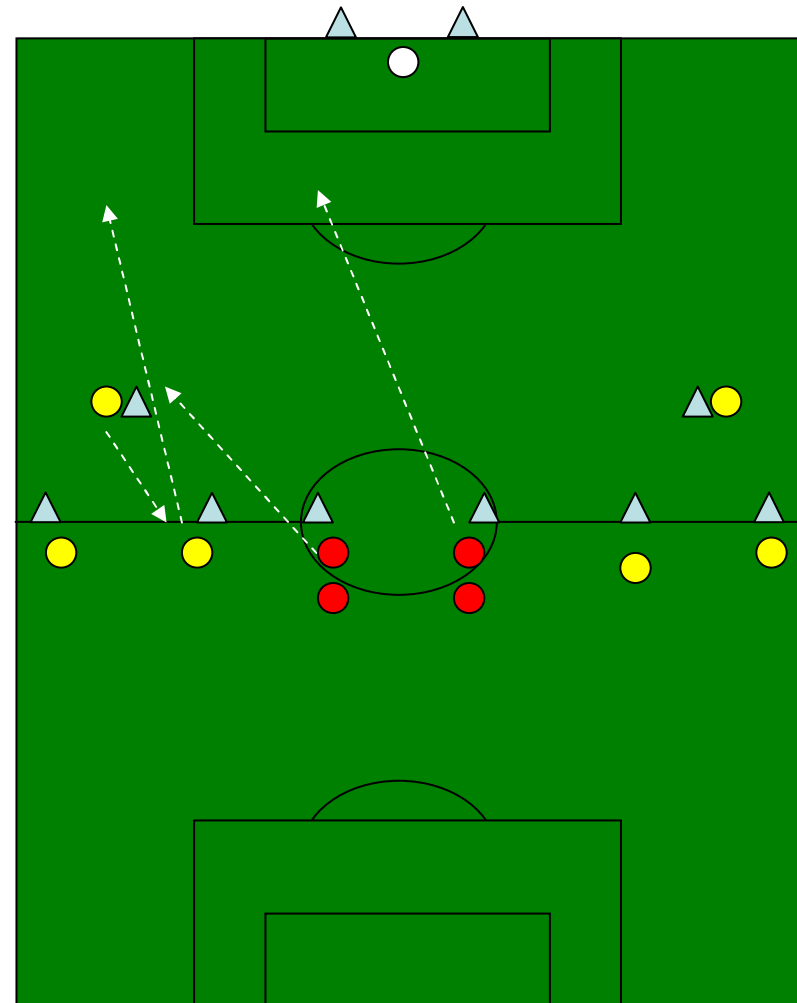
Vary the way in which the ball is circulated by the wide players.

Closest player in the opposite wide group attacks the back post area./

Add in defending players to play against the 2 attackers / wide players.

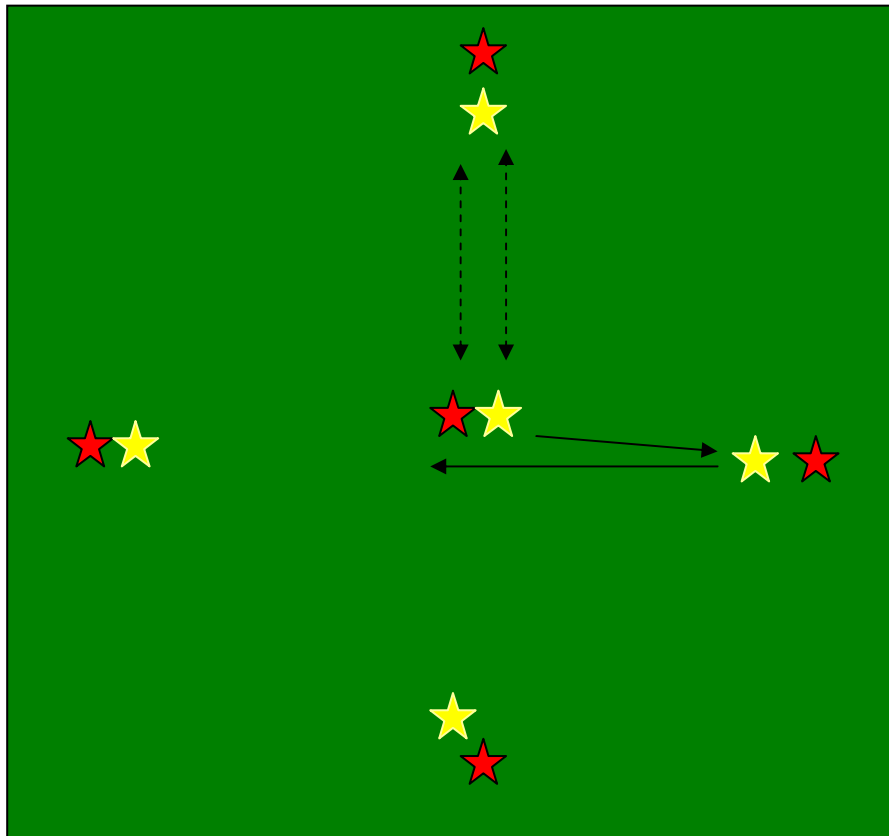
Add in a supporting midfielder to join the attack to score.

Competition between the wide players and strikers eg, number of assists / no of goals etc.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Aize defending technical (TP58)



Organisation

30 x 30 square. 10 players in 5 pairs. One attacker one defender. One of which is in the middle. Attacking player in middle passes the ball to one of the other four attackers and runs towards any other of the pairs except for the one which the ball was passed to, the defender follows. They then run in the middle and receive pass. Practice then is repeated.

Progressions

Players on outside conditions to 1 or 2 touch;
Players have to move to lose defenders
Middle players have to shield ball

Key Points

Body position
Track runners
Stop runners
Touch tight
1v1 determination

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Four corner Passing

Body Position to Receive (TP 59)

•Organisation : Players are organised into two teams. Two players from each team placed in each square, Four players on the outside of the area (2 from each team) and 2v2 in the middle. Ball to be transferred via the middle players to pass into squares. Players then swap positions

•Playing Area : 40 x 40 area.

•Progressions

2 touch / 1 touch

2v2 possession and release players to build to 6v6 + 2

Key factors :

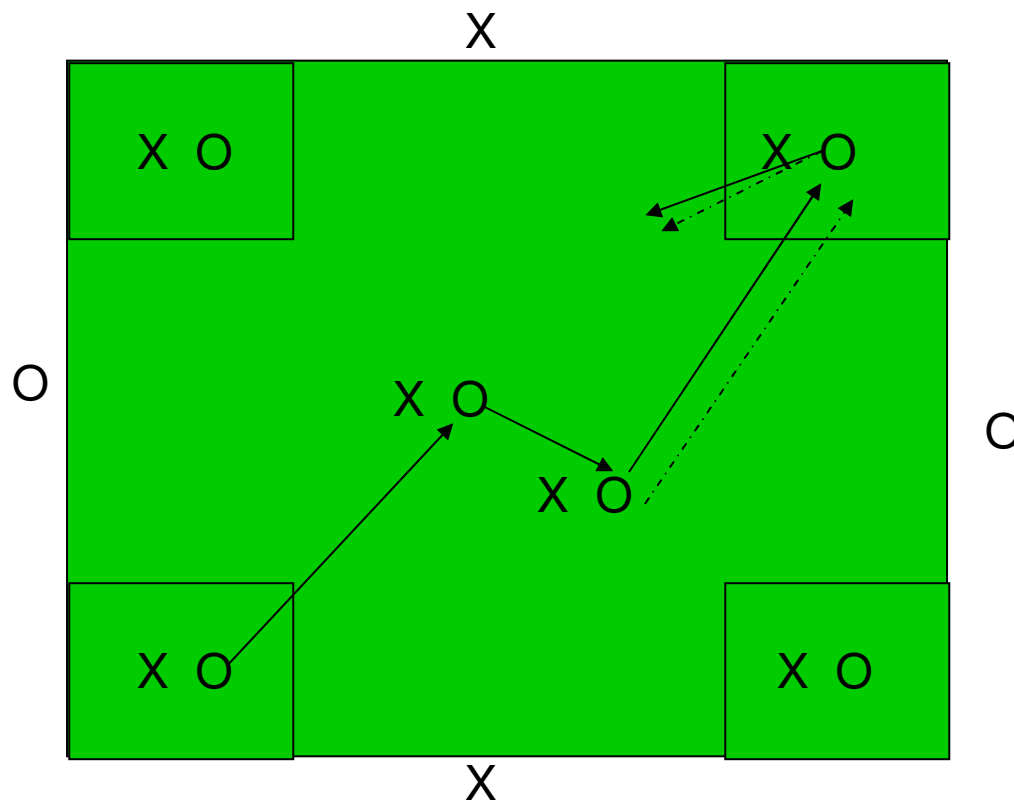
Body shape

How to receive the ball

Type of pass – pace and angle

Angle/Distance/Timing of support.

Decision making



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Ajax Shooting Practice (TP 60)

Organisation;

Squad session

3 groups of players are organised as in picture.

1st player passes to second who bounces it back and spins to receive the ball off top player who sets for shot.

Players rotate groups to shoot from different angles.

Progressions;

2nd player comes short and spins to receive the ball from the top player for a shot. 1st player misses out 2nd to pass direct to top man..

As above but passing area is increased and players have to hit chest of top man.

Key points

Quality of pass

Quality of movement

Tempo

Hit the target

First touch out of feet

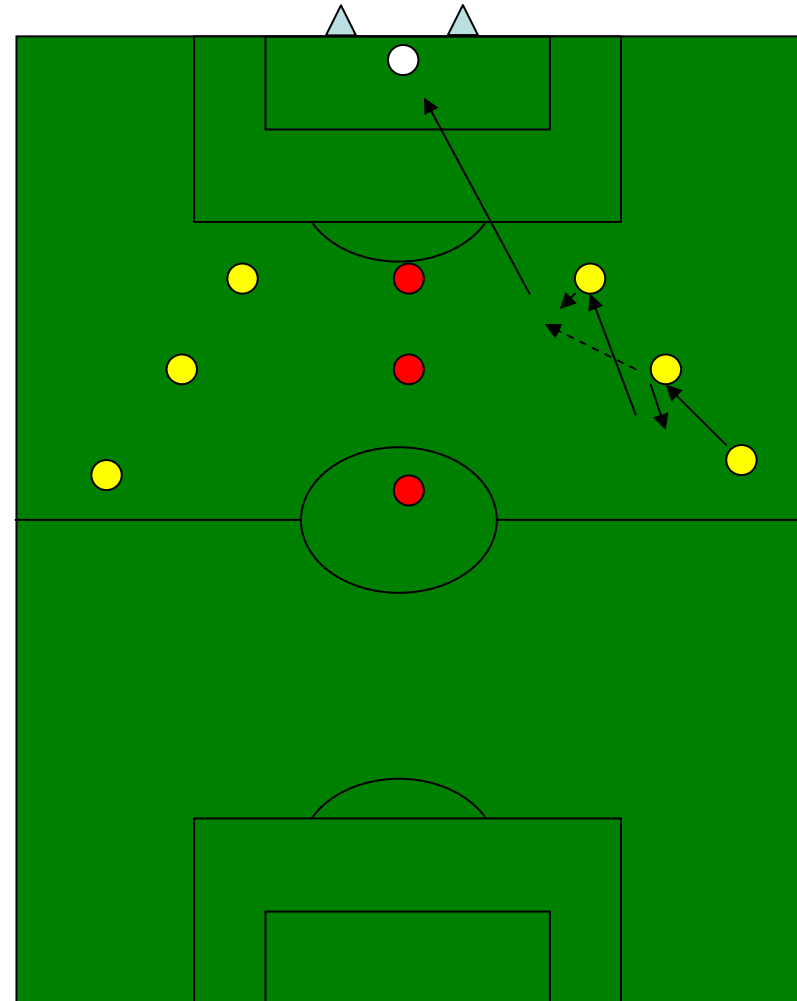
Angled approach

Non kicking foot beside ball

Use laces to stroke through centre of ball

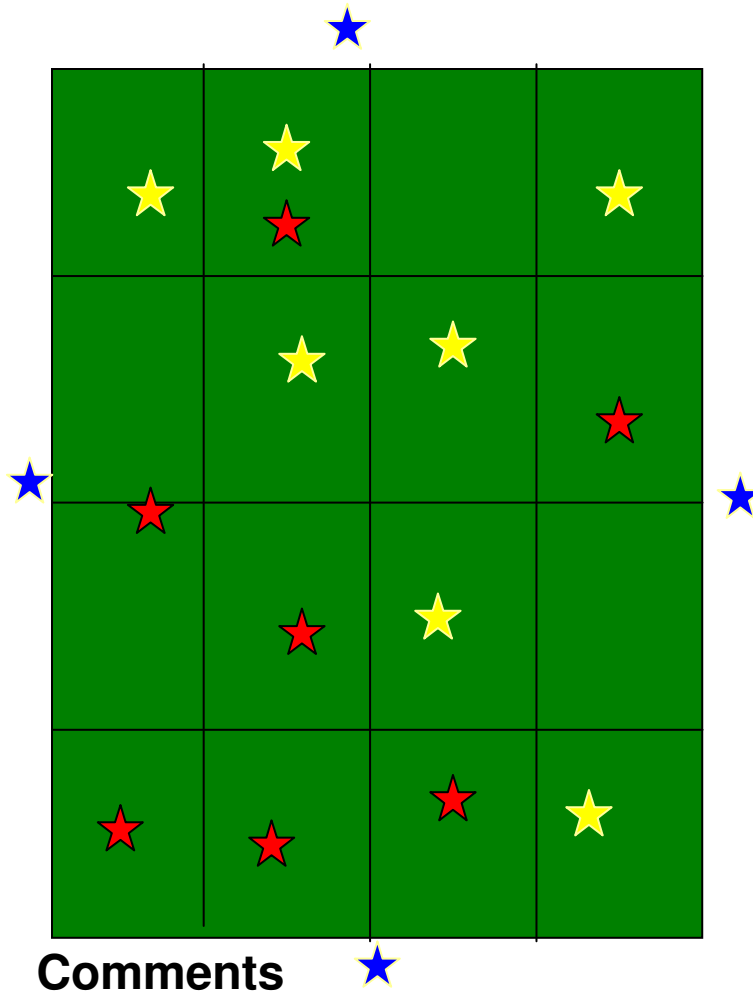
Follow through

Aim low and across goal



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Boxes Passing / Control (TP 61)



Organisation

Players are organised into two teams with at least one ball per team.

Players begin by simply passing the ball to and from each other any where in the square and by using the players on the outside.

1 player in square at 1 time. Can't pass within a square.

Key Factors

Keep your eye on the ball

Use the inside of the foot to pass

Place non kicking foot down the side of the ball

Keep ankle firm on impact

Pass through the ball and follow through.

Progression

Players play 1/2/3 touch

Players 1 touch on the outside and rotate.

Have to play on angles

Can only go to an outside player on one touch

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

Decision making Passing & Movement (TP62)

- **Organisation**

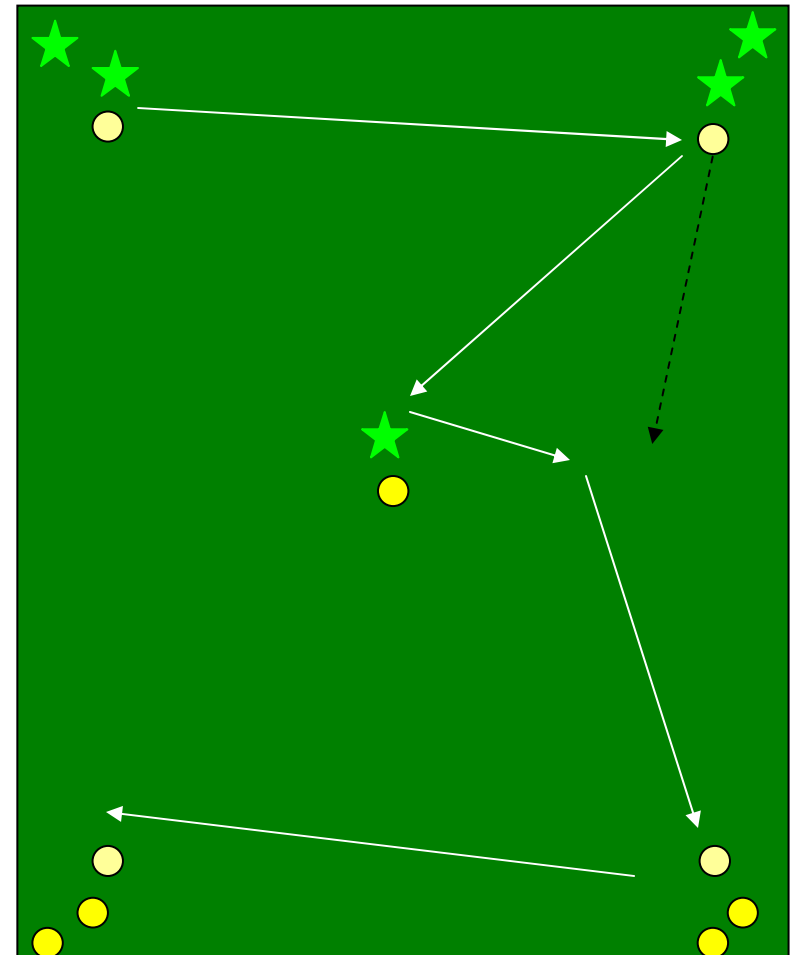
- Squad practice incorporating X players
- Player 1 plays to player two who controls and passes into the striker.
- The passer joins in to make 2 v 1. The non passer goes as the striker
- Passive to start with, then add competitive element.

- **Progressions:**

- The Player at the front of the group plays a 1-2 with the playing passing the ball before it is transferred across the area.
- The striker plays a 1-2 with the player he received the ball off

- **Key Factors**

- Control
- Quality of passing
- Body Position to receive the ball
- Angle and distance of support etc

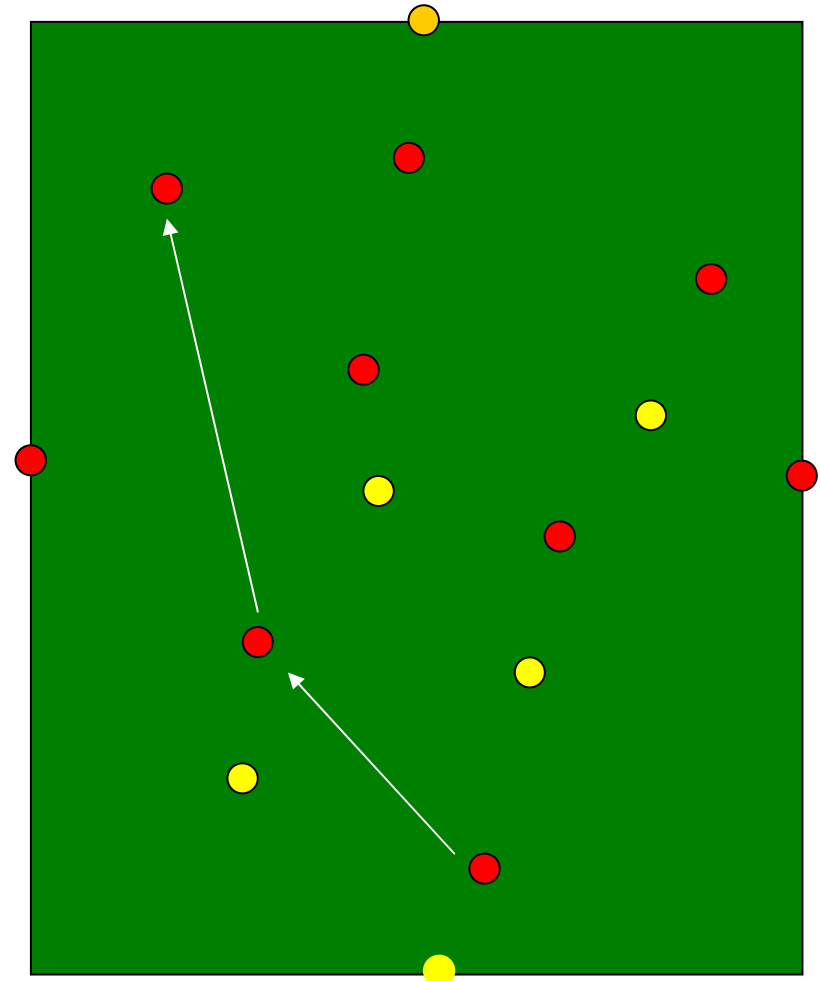


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

Directional Transfer (TP63)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice
- 2 players from each team opposite each other one playing one way one the other.
- Remaining players inside area.
- 2 balls per team
- Transfer the ball around area and from one end to the other through the outside players
- **Recommendations;**
- To swap with outside players run the ball and perform a take over.
- Play out one touch and swap over.
- Player who passes attempts to swap with an outside player (rotation)
- Players decide how they swap with the outside players.
- **Key information;**
- Decision / A & D of support / Acc & Qual of pass.
- Quality of movement on / off the ball.
- Supporting long pass of neutral players.
- Quick combination play.
- Defending as a group / Compactness.
- Collective pressure / Communication / Positioning.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

Birmingham Res Pre-match (TP64)

- **Organisation**

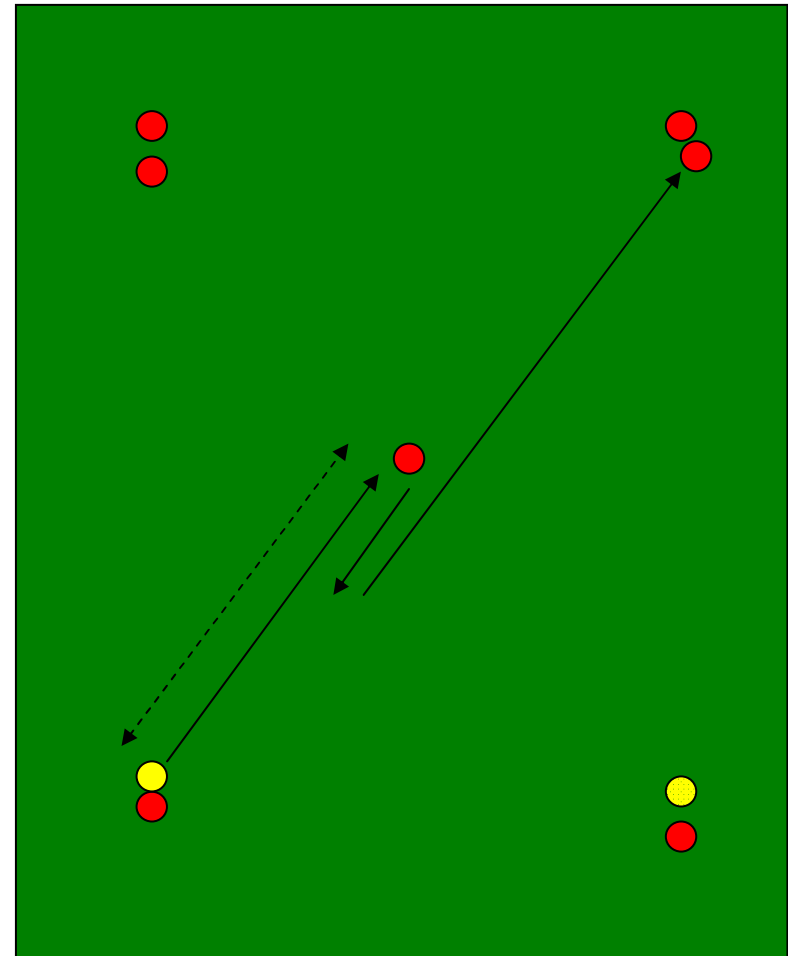
- Squad practice
- A ball at the feet of the two players in yellow
- Ball passed to player in middle to be bounced back.
- The yellow player then passes diagonally to the opposite line. The players then swap positions.
- As the ball is passed diagonally the second ball is passed and the practice is repeated.

- **Recommendations;**

- To swap with outside players run the ball and perform a take over.
- Play on one touch.
- Players decide how they swap with the outside players.
- As above but instead of the middle player swapping with the outside player he spins and follows the diagonal pass
- As above but middle player plays 1-2 following diagonal pass.

- **Key information;**

- Qual of pass.
- Quality of movement on / off the ball.
- Supporting long .
- Quick combination play.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Shooting Practice (TP65)

Organisation;

Simple shooting practice involving 3 stations;

Organised around the penalty box;

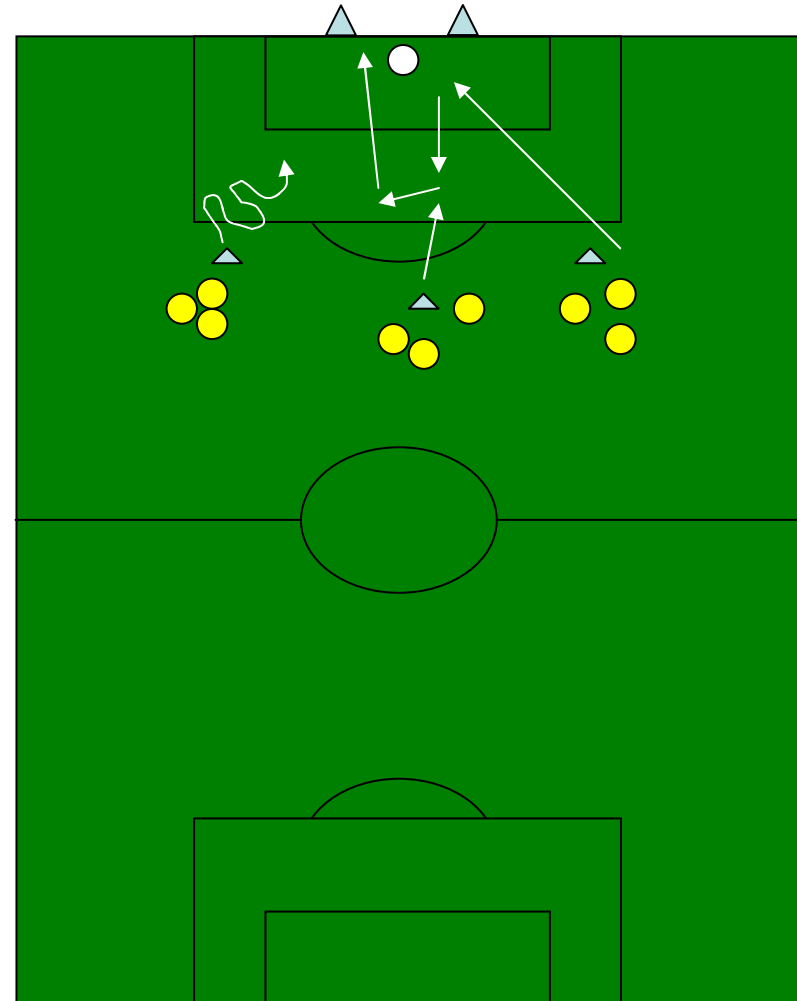
Players are split into groups of three;

Group One (Far side) Take ball, shoot and face Group Two for Wall pass;

Group Two (Middle) Play 1-2 with player from group 1, shoot and then face Group three as a defender;

Group Three (Near side) Take ball and try to beat player from Group two and shoot;

All players rotate round groups – 1 to 2, 2 to 3, 3 to 1 etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

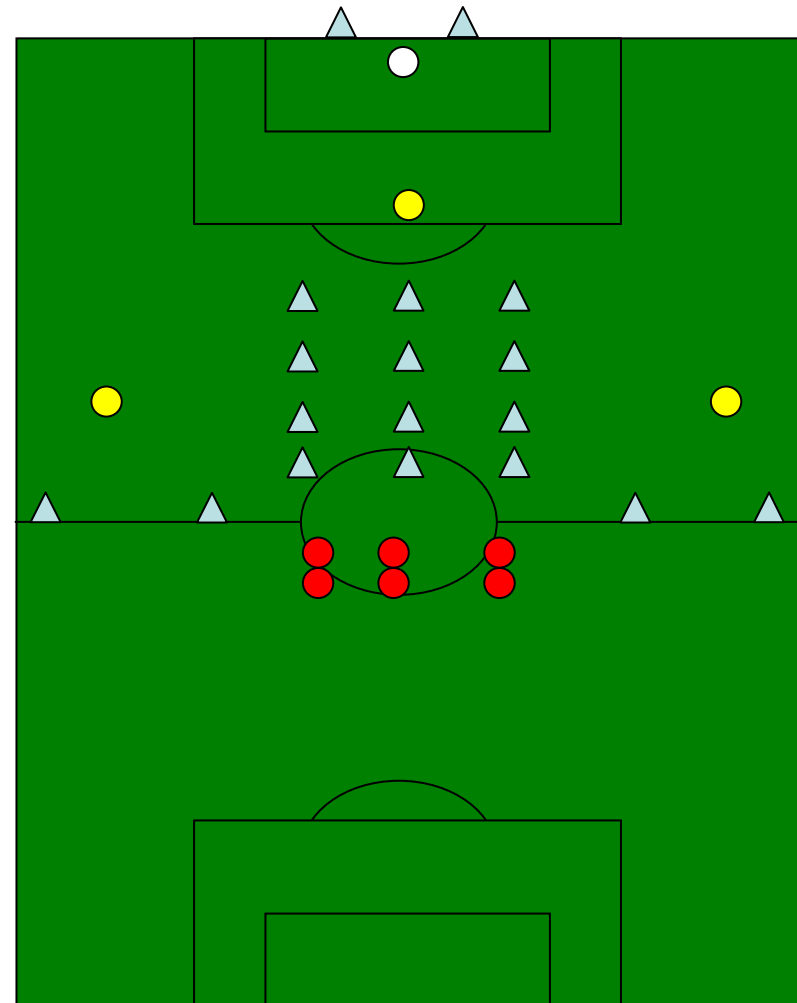
Allpress Shooting (TP66)

Organisation;

3 groups of players are organised facing three channels with a ball on each channel with 3 defenders (in yellow) defending 3 goals. The front person in each group set off at the same time weaving in and out of the channels. One of the dribblers attacks and tries and scores in any of the three goals (can be defended by GK also).

Progressions;

Defenders start as passive and roles are rotated.
Defenders then become active and rotate roles
Defenders then become active and rotate roles if they win the ball off the attacker
Time limit on the dribbling players

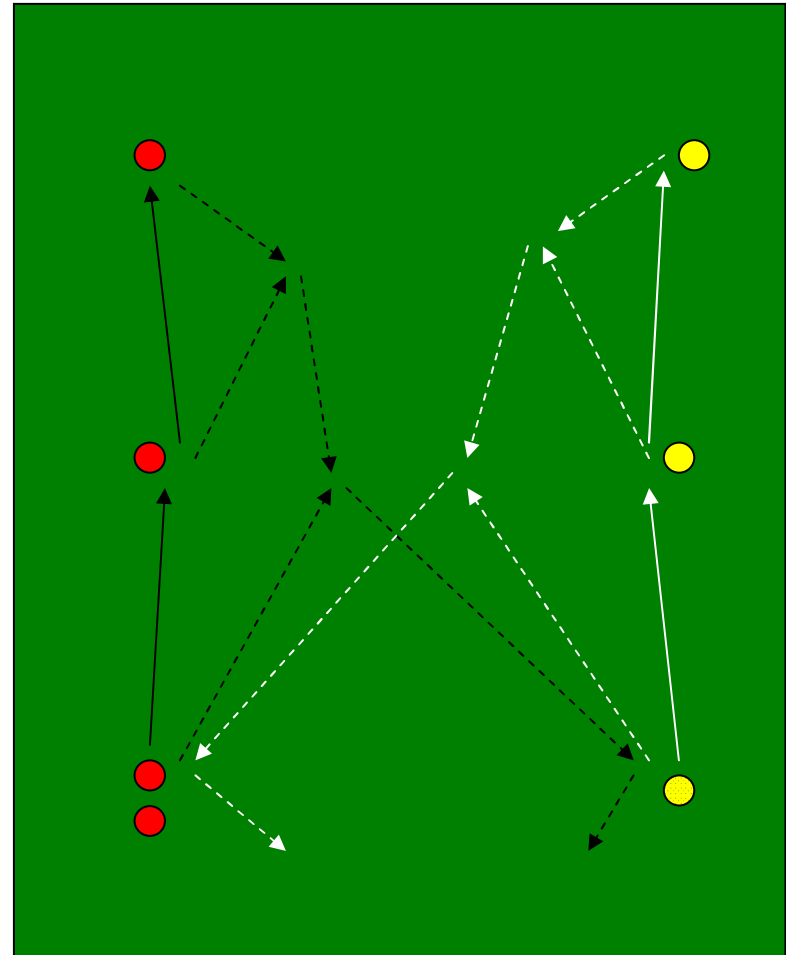


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

Piet Hamburg (Grasshoppers) (TP67)

- **Organisation**
 - Working the left side (Black lines) and then the right (White lines)
 - X1 Passes to X2, X2 passes to X3 and pressurises;
 - X3 Beats X2 and is pressurised by X1;
 - X3 Beats X1 and drives towards O1, drops shoulder and moves out of practice;
 - Repeat on opposite side using yellow players.
 - After each turn players move on to next station;
 - X1 takes up position behind 1st yellow player etc
-
- **Key information;**
 - Quality of pass.
 - Quality of movement on / off the ball.
 - Tempo of work
 - Quick play.

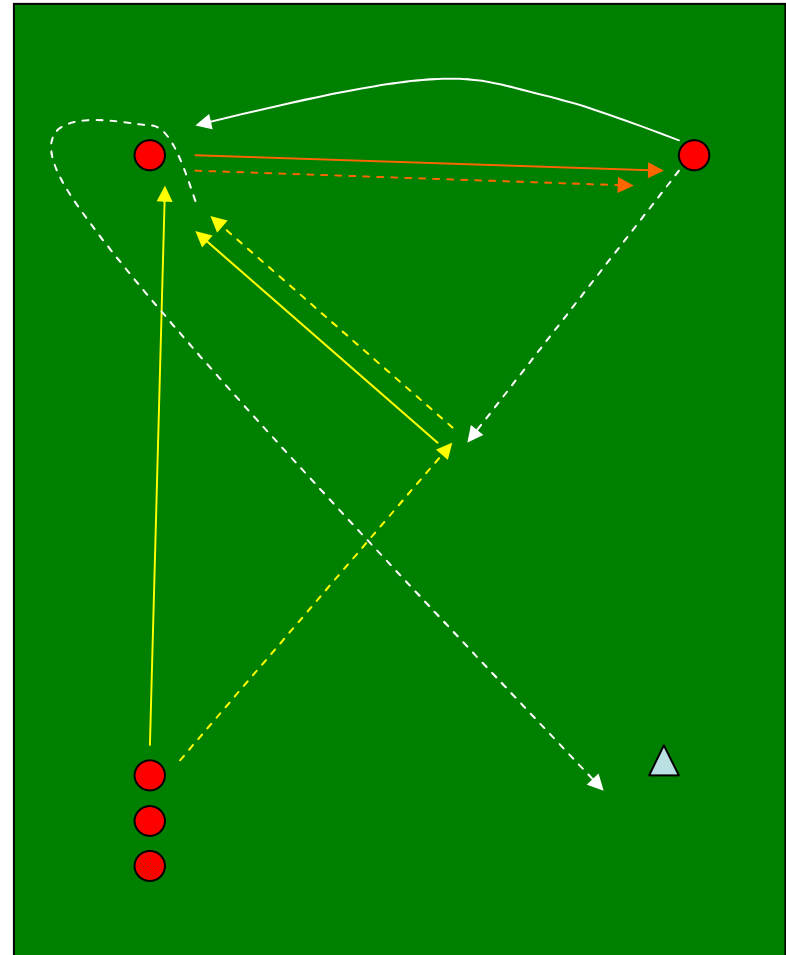


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

Piet Hamburg (Grasshoppers) (TP68)

- **Organisation**
- Red 1 Passes to Red 2 who in turn passes to Red 3;
- Red 2 Pressures Red 3 who plays a wall pass around him (Ending up in Red 2's original position);
- Red 1 Pressures Red 3 in the corner who turns and accelerates towards the cone.
- All movements and passes are colour coordinated.
- All players rotate;
- Red 1 becomes Red 2
- Red 2 becomes Red 3
- Red 3 becomes Red 1
- Repeat
- **Key information;**
- Quality of pass.
- Quality of movement on / off the ball.
- Tempo of work
- Quick play.

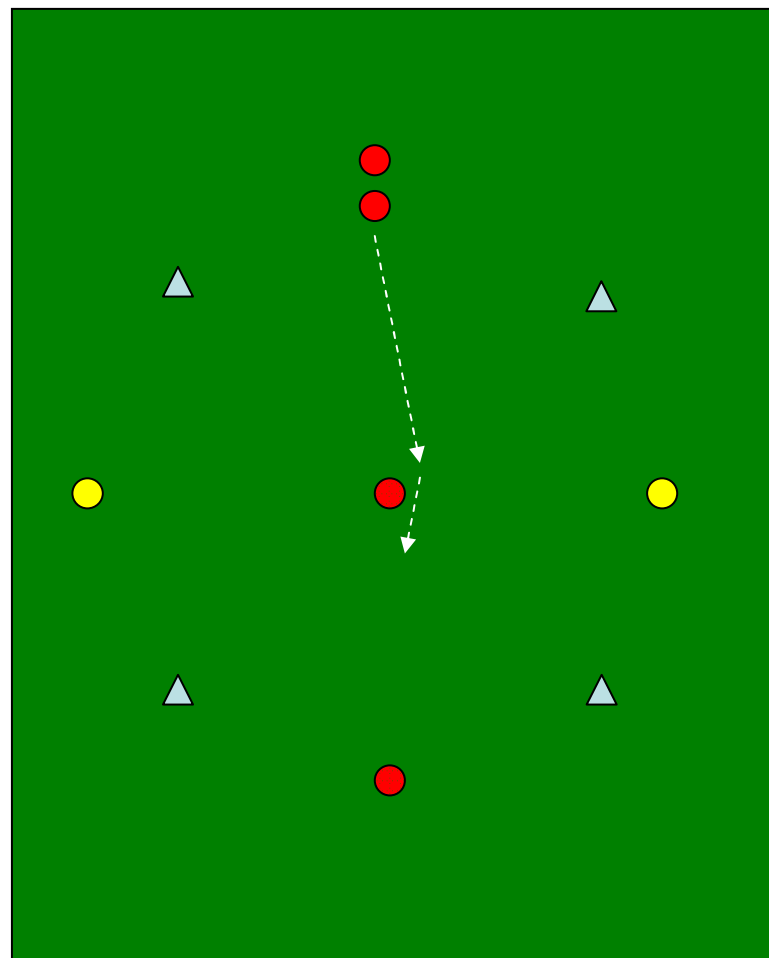


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice

Piet Hamburg (Grasshoppers) (TP69)

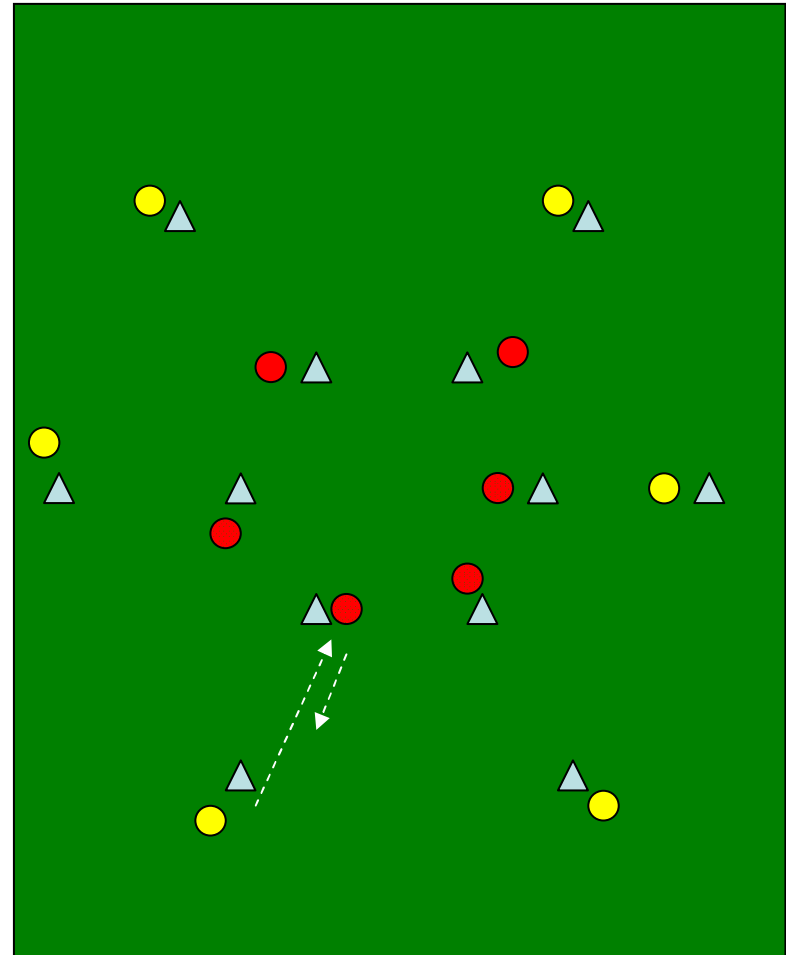
- **Organisation**
 - Red 1 dribbles ball and takes on the defender in the middle of the practice;
 - Red 1 Becomes defender after attempt;
 - Red 1 now faces Yellow 1;
 - Repeat;
 - Each attacker replaces the gap left on the outside;
 - Defenders play Live and Passive.
-
- **Key information;**
 - Quality of Dribble / Attacking Movement
 - Quality of movement on / off the ball
 - Tempo of work
 - Quick play



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Technical Practice Stewart Rowley (TP70)

- **Organisation**
- Yellow 1 passes to Red 1 and moves towards him to act as a defender;
- Red 1 performs turn to beat yellow 1 and dribbles to cone;
- Middle players move in a clockwise direction after they have taken their turn to defend;
- This ensures that players are always switching roles & facing other opponents;
- **Key information;**
- Quality of Dribble / Attacking Movement
- Quality of movement on / off the ball
- Tempo of work
- Quick play



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

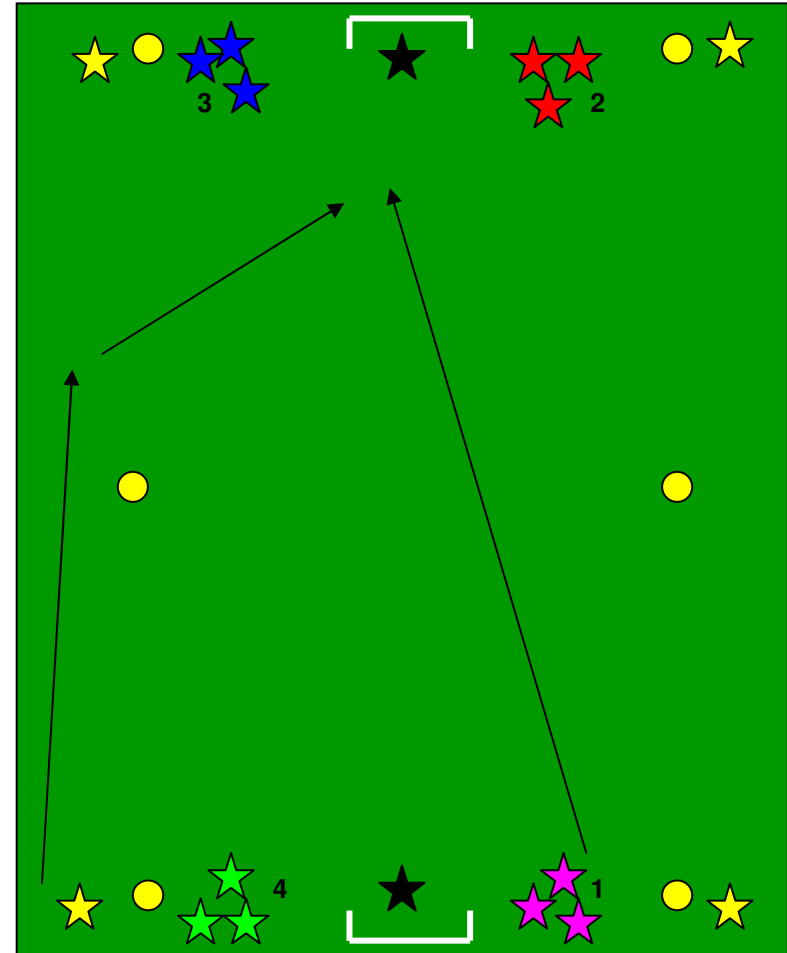
Jeff Tipping Crossing & Finishing Practice (TP71)

- **Organisation:**

- 18 Players;
- Players are organised into 4 teams of 3 players and are positioned on the goal line in between the 6 yard box and the 18 yard box line;
- Area size 45 yards long / 10 yards in from each corner flag;
- Play begins with a winger moving down the channel to deliver to group one, then group two etc;
- Each group ends up diagonally eg, group 1 becomes group 3, Group 2 becomes Group 4 and vice versa.

- **Progressions;**

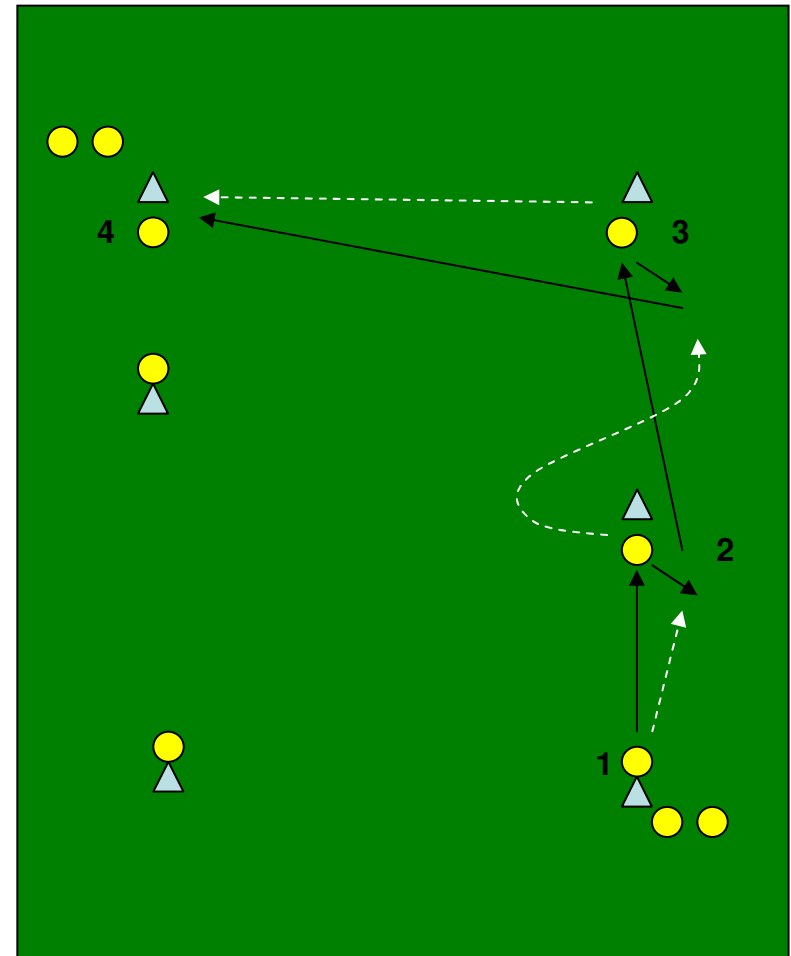
- Wingers can vary their crossing – Byline, from deep etc
- Attackers can vary their runs – Front post / Back post / edge of box etc;
- Add in defenders to play against the attackers;
- One of the three attacker plays a 1-2 to set off the winger;
- Wingers may return to their original starting positions;
- One attacker takes up the position of central striker, the ball is played into him and set wide.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

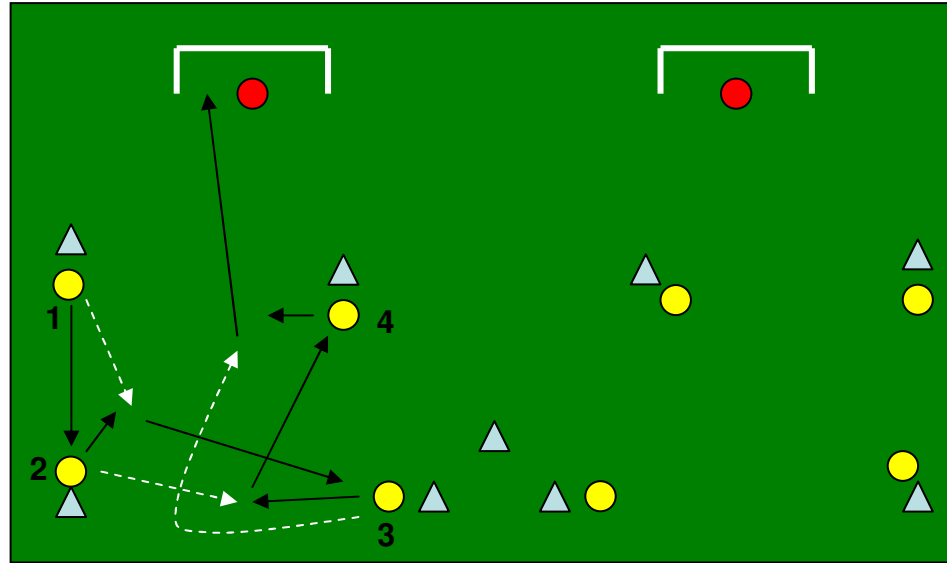
Dries Kroos – Technical Practice (1) (TP72)

- **Organisation**
- 12-14 players, with 8 footballs
- Player 1 play's pass to player 2, who sets ball back to player 1. Player 1 plays first time pass to player 3, who sets player 2. Player 2 plays ball to player 4 and process is repeated down opposite side.
- Ensure that the players movement is good, move away, then turn to receive
- Ensure that the players on the middle cones turn the correct way (i.e. keep their eyes on the ball).
- Ensure that the passes and set are off a high standard – distances between pass 1 and pass 2 are different and this will affect the weight of the pass and also distance of the ball being set.
- **Progressions:**
- Add in passive defenders on middle cones to apply pressure etc
- Players can perform 1-2's with the end players



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Dries Kroos – Technical Shooting Practice (2) (TP73)



- **Organisation**

- 12-14 players, with footballs and 2 goal keepers
- Player 1 play's pass to player 2, who sets ball back to player 1. Player 1 plays first time pass to player 3, who sets player 2. Player 2 plays ball to player 4 and process is repeated down opposite side.
- Movement of players – Player 1 follows pass, player 2 after setting ball, moves to receive pass from player 3. Player 3 then moves around player 2 and gets ready for the set from player 4 to shoot at goal. Player 4 picks up any rebounds from the keeper
- Ensure that the players movement is good, move away, then turn to receive
- Ensure that the passes and sets are off a high standard – if they miss the target, must run towards triangle (recovery run due to possession lost), then back into position ready for next repetition.

- **Progressions:**

- Add in passive defenders to apply pressure
- Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

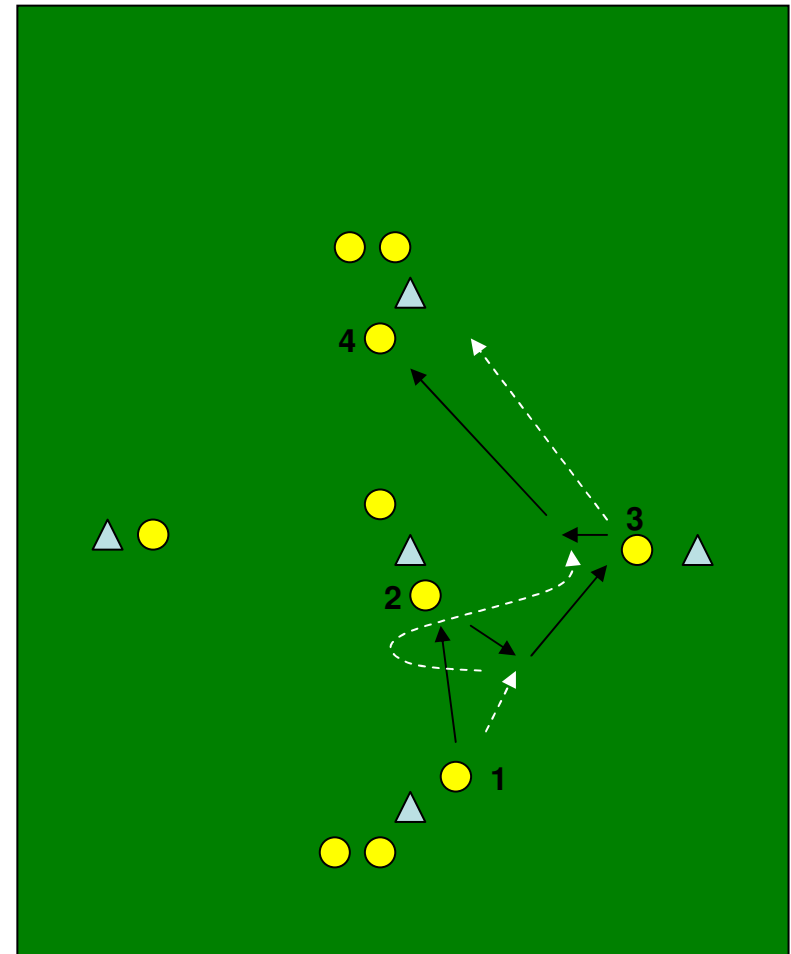
Dries Kroos – Technical Practice (3) (TP 74)

- **Organisation**

- 12-14 players, with 6-8 footballs
- Player 1 play's pass to player 2, who sets ball back to player 1. Player 1 plays first time pass to player 3, who sets player 2. Player 2 plays ball to player 4 and process is repeated down opposite side.
- Movement of players – Player one follows pass, player two after setting ball, goes around player one before receiving pass from player 3. Player 3 plays ball to 4 and stays on cone. Player 3 follows pass into 4.
- Ensure that the players movement is good, move away, then turn to receive
- Ensure that the players on the middle cones turn the correct way (i.e. keep their eyes on the ball).
- Ensure that the passes and set are off a high standard – distances between pass 1 and pass 2 are different and this will affect the weight of the pass and also distance of the ball being set.

- **Progressions:**

- Add in passive defenders on middle cones to apply pressure etc
- Players can perform 1-2's with the end players



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager



Small Sided Games Attacking / Defending

Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club Academy Technical Programme

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Defending Play

Three zone work; 1 Team attacks, 1 defends, 1 rests (SSG01)

Organisation

Three teams organised into three areas. To begin players must remain in their designated areas.

Playing Area 18 Yard Box to 18 Yard Box.

To begin; the central group attacks one of the end groups who attempt to defend the goal;

Following the attack, the defending team moves in to the central area and attacks the team at the opposite end;

Teams rotate by attacking and defending in turn through out the practice.

*Make central zone shorter than two outer zones to allow quick transition to maintain tempo

Outer zones; 30 yards, Central zone; 20 yards.

Progressions;

Place an attacker in each end zone for the attacking team to play into and to create a 5 Vs 4;

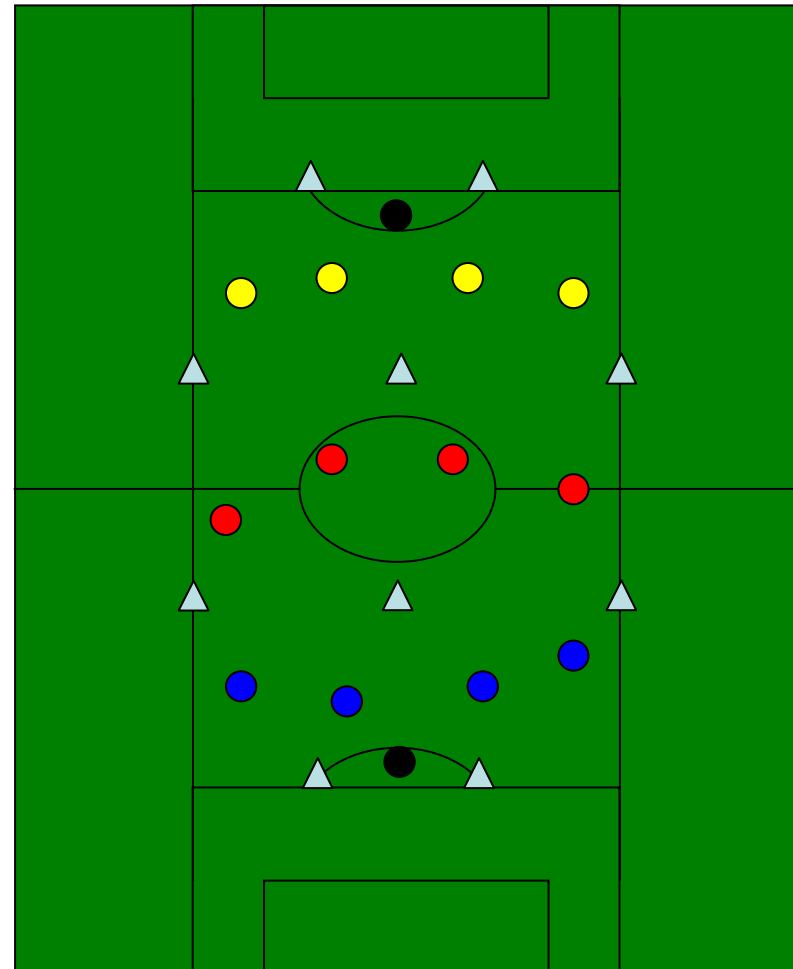
Place players at the side of each attacking area for the attackers to play into / to allow crosses to defend against;

Allow one player to drop into mid zone when attacking to allow safe switch of play (Two touch only).

To progress take out zones to allow free movement and play

Key factors

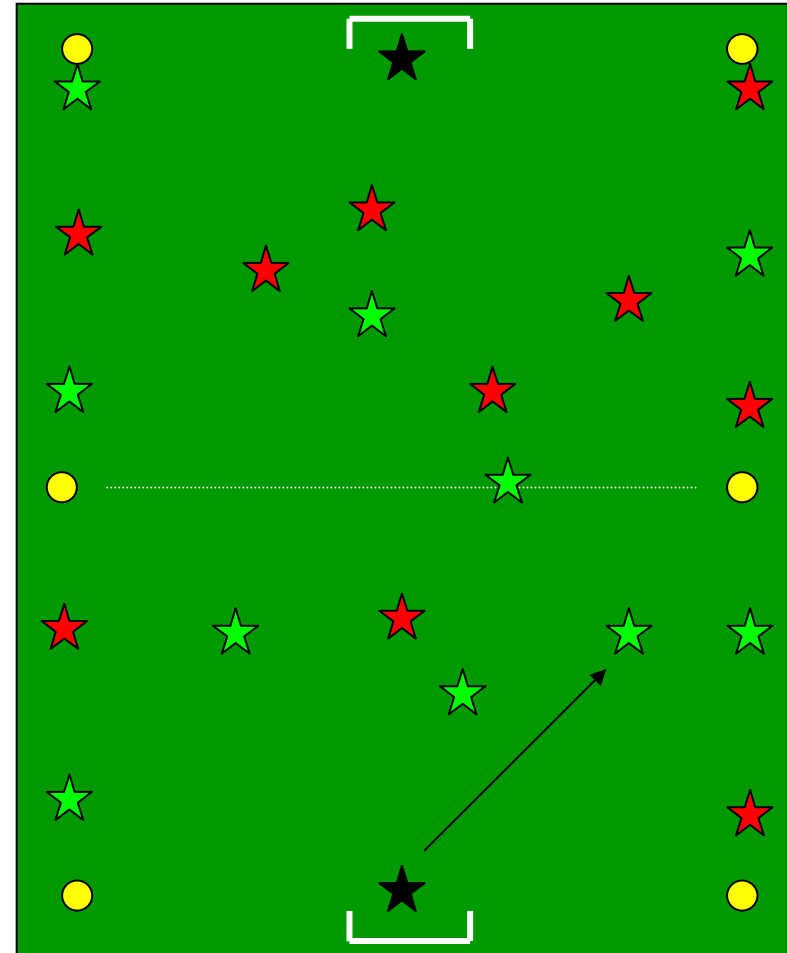
Pressure on the ball, Cover and support, Angles and distances, Communication, Balance of the team, recovery runs, tracking players, Compactness as a team, making play predictable.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Game with side players (SSG02)

- **Organisation:**
- 22 Players
- Players are organised into 2 teams of 5v5 in each half with GK's.
- Area size can vary between 18 Yard box to 18 yard box to $\frac{1}{2}$ pitch / $\frac{1}{2}$ pitch + 10 yards;
- Players can move anywhere in the pitch;
- Players can play side players at any time.
- **Recommendations:**
- Players continue quick fire attacking/defending attempting to practice combination play / pattern of play / defending crosses / Back four shape / Link play etc;
- Encourage players to play and move forwards as much as possible.
- **Progressions;**
- Players on the outside play one/two touch;
- Players on the inside swap places with players on the outside if they pass to them;
- Place players on the goal lines next to the goal – they can only play one touch;
- Work on the situations that develop. Depending on theme.
- Themes can include; Defending as a back four, defending crosses, Compactness etc
- Link Play, combination play, wide attackers, wm rolling inside etc
- **Physical;**
- High intensity type activity / Use as part of a physically demanding session



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Squad Practice : Set Plays (SSG03)

- **Organisation:**

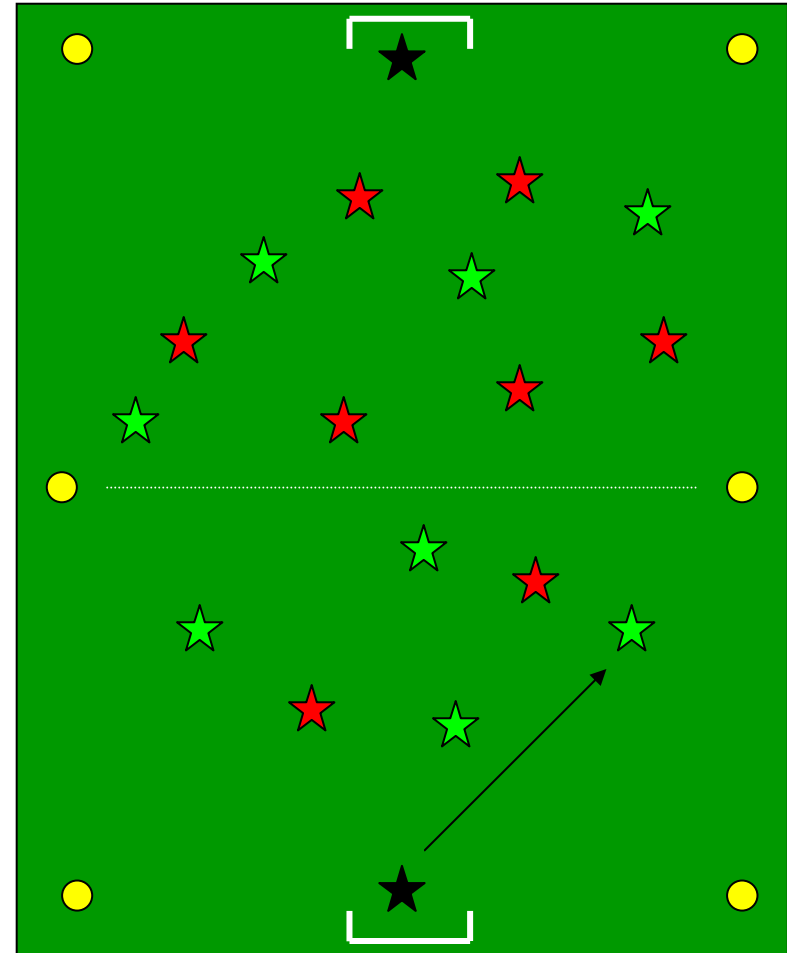
- 18 Players; 9 vs 9
- Halfway line is used as edge of 18 yard box (Thus approx 70 long)
- Ideal for cold days when players need to be kept on the move;
- Put the 8 attacking players involved in set plays all in one team, attacking permanently marked out box;
- Stop play at appropriate time for attacking corners, various free kicks & throw ins;
- Set it up and allow 2/3 attempts and then let play continue

- **Recommendations:**

- Play two halves – swap teams at ½ time to allow the practice of defending set plays;
- Reduce the width of the pitch slightly (6 yards max)
- Add in offside lines to maintain game realism;
- Condition the practice to focus on team strategy;

- **Progressions;**

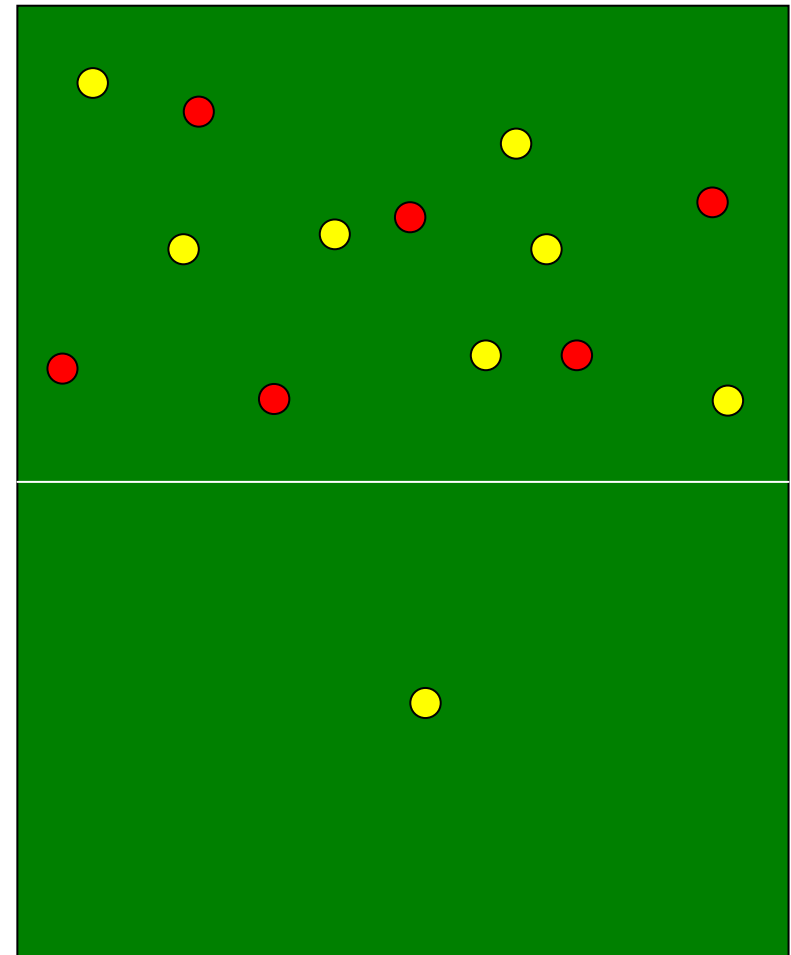
- Work on the situations that develop. Depending on theme.
- Themes can include; Defending as a back four, defending crosses, Compactness etc
- Link Play, combination play, wide attackers, wm rolling inside etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

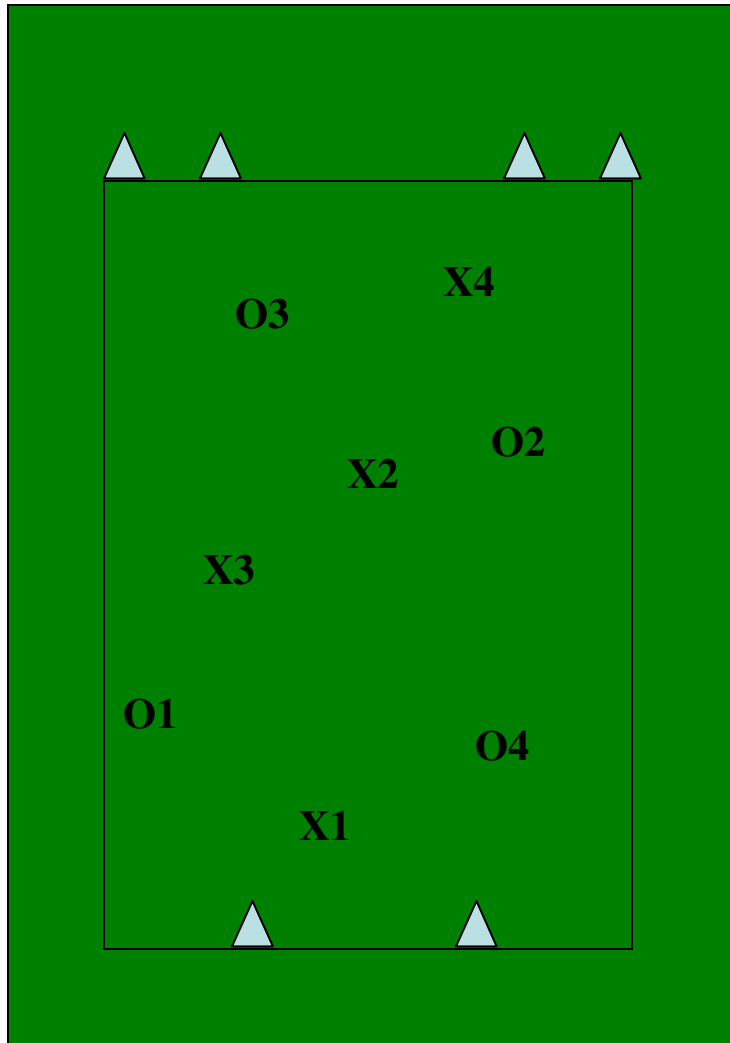
Possession and switching play game (SSG04)

- **Organisation**
- Split the players into two groups within a 40 x 40 yard area
- Possession practice with 6 vs 5 in one area;
- If the defending team wins possession they transfer to their spare player and attempt to keep the ball;
- All players apart from one defender must transfer across the areas to support play / win back possession.
- **Progressions:**
- Place floating players in each area to allow the team in possession to transfer from area to area to retain possession if a certain number of passes has been completed;
- Play 1/2/3 touch;
- Place players on the outside of the area to support possession play;



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Defending (SSG05)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into 2 teams

One team defends a central goal

One team defends 2 wide goals

Key Factors

Pressure

Cover and support

Communication

Tracking players

Recovery runs

Progression

Both teams are set different strategies:

Retreating defence

Target set: Don't allow the attacking team to enter your half of the pitch.

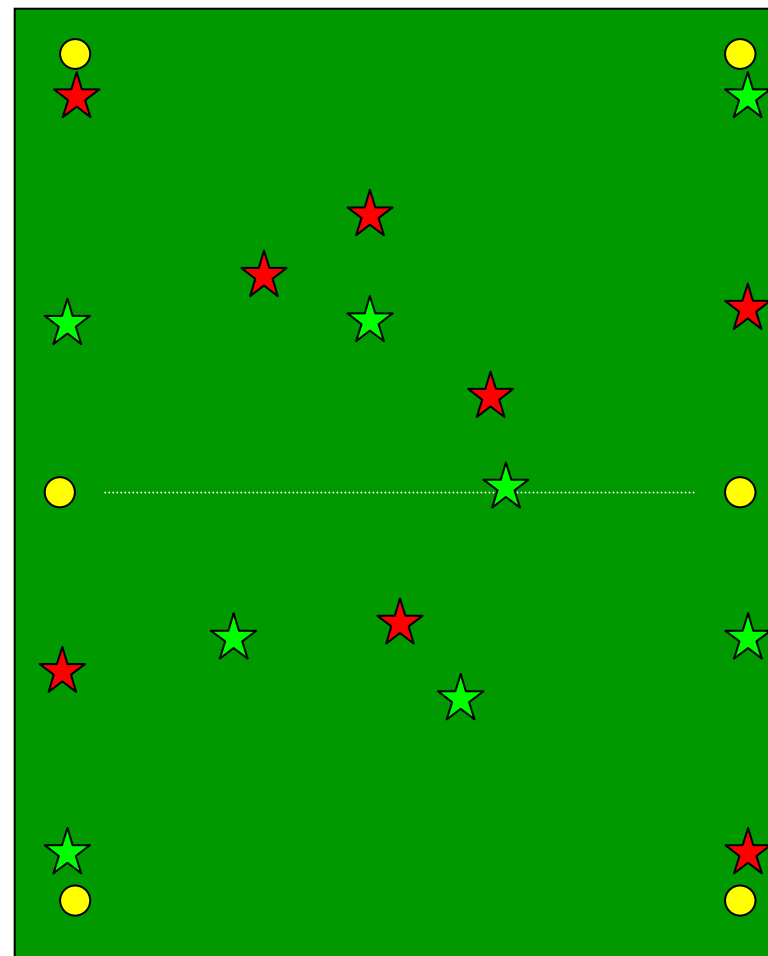
Pressurising from the front

Target set: Win the ball back in 5 passes.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Game with side players (SSG06)

- **Organisation:**
- 16 Players
- Players are organised into 4 teams of 4. Two teams play against each other whilst 2 teams act as side players
- Area size 40 x 40 to ensure a physical training effect
- Players can move anywhere in the pitch;
- Players can play side players at any time.
- **Recommendations:**
- Players continue quick fire attacking/defending attempting to practice combination play / pattern of play / defending crosses / Back four shape / Link play etc;
- Encourage players to play and move forwards as much as possible.
- **Progressions;**
- Use any player on the outside;
- Only play your colour;
- Play into a corner player, get the ball back and attack the other end;
- Transfer from corner to corner to score;
- Two touch on the outside;
- Players on the outside touch two cones after passing to maintain 70% Heart rate



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Three Goal Game with three goalkeepers (SSG07)

•Organisation;

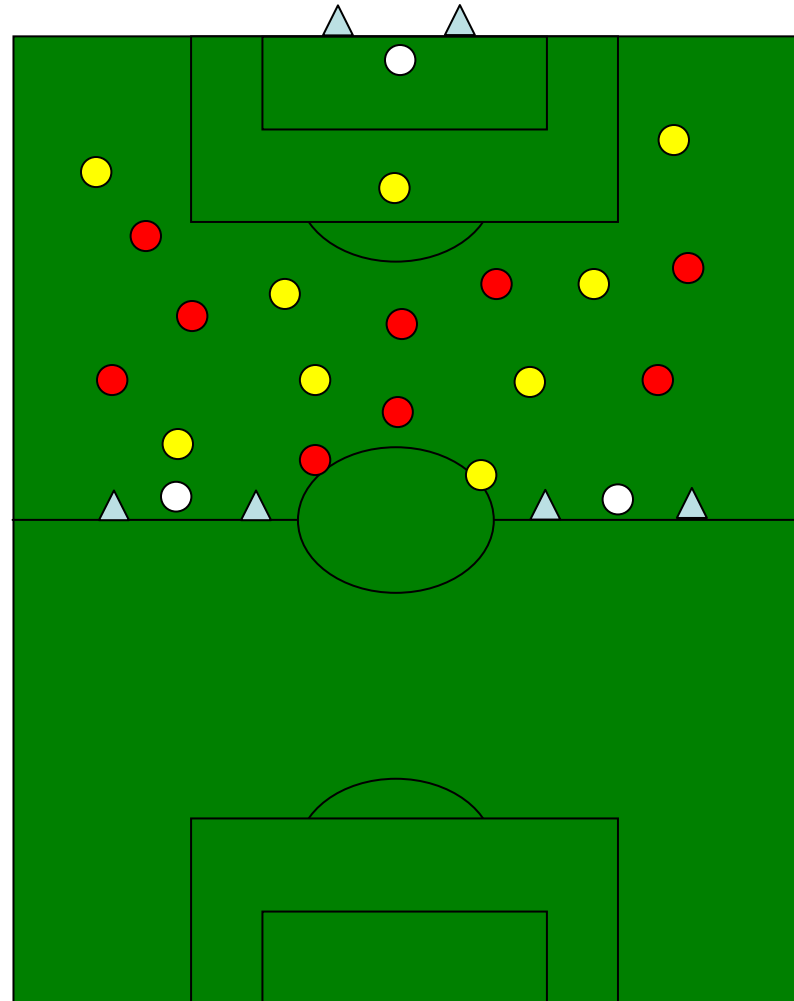
- 2 teams, 8 Vs 8 and 3 GK's;
- Organised within one half of the pitch;
- Teams must attack & defend all goals;
- Teams can not score in a goal that they have just defended;
- Corner kicks to be taken if the ball knocked out of play by a defender.

•Progressions;

- A Team can only attack in one direction, eg, attack two goals or attack the one goal;
- A team retains possession & attacks in the opposite direction if they score a goal;
- Man to man marking through out the game;
- Limited touches through out the game.

•Key factors;

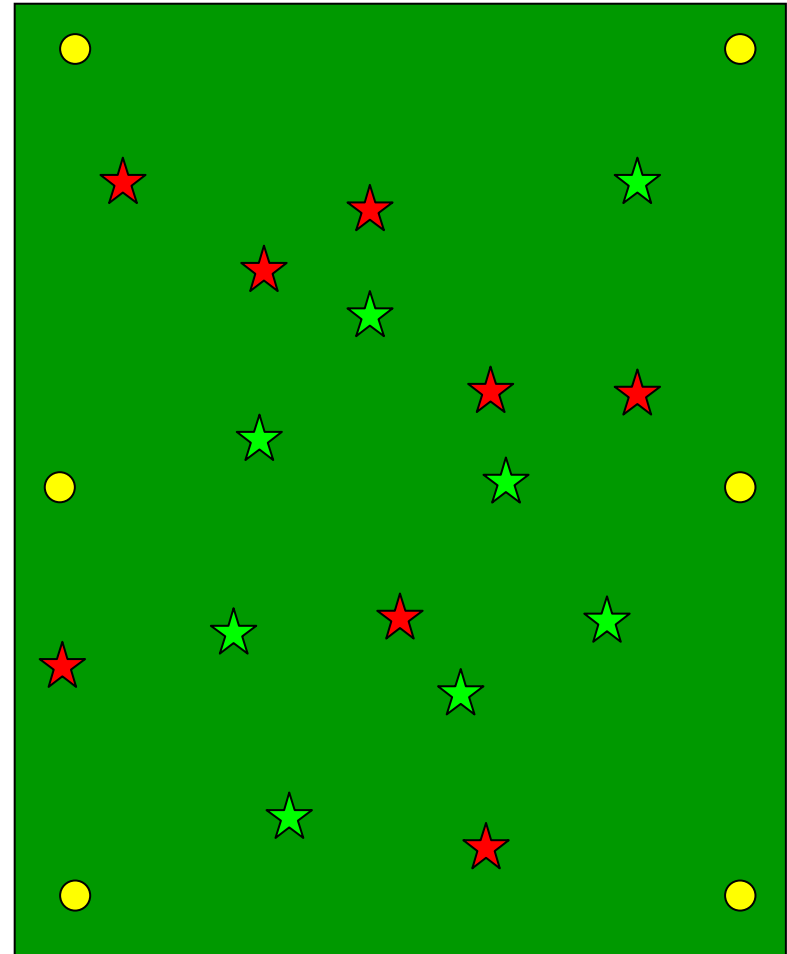
- Body position to receive the ball and transfer quickly;
- Disguise in passing
- Running off the ball to receive a pass;
- Keep the ball moving;
- Move the ball off the line to ensure angled passes;
- Angle & Distance of support.
- Create space as a Team;
- Switch play to keep possession by moving the ball into areas where there is greater space;
- Quality of touch, Passing;



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Three Pole Game (SSG08)

- **Organisation:**
 - Maximum of 24 players
 - Players are organised into 2 teams.
 - Area size 30 x 40 to ensure a physical training effect
 - Players can move anywhere in the pitch;
 - A goal is scored by moving the ball into a position to hit one of the opponents Poles.
- **Recommendations:**
 - Encourage players to play and move forwards as much as possible.
 - Ensure players recognise if it can't be played forwards then play is switched as quickly as possible.
 - Ensure players defend and attack as a team – quick transition.
 - Players must make forward runs to develop play when ever possible.
- **Progressions;**
 - **Limit the number of touches per player;**
 - **Players retain possession after scoring a goal and attack the opposite end;**
 - **Play a floating player that can't be tackled.**
- **Physical;**
 - High intensity type activity / Use as part of a physically demanding session



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Creating Attacking situations (SSG09)

- Organisation : 9 Vs 9 + GK's in full width pitch x 70 yards.
- Players do not start in wide areas but move there during normal play.
- Maximum of 2 attackers Vs 1 defender in wide area of attacking half at any one time
- No restriction on touches or movement of players

Key factors :

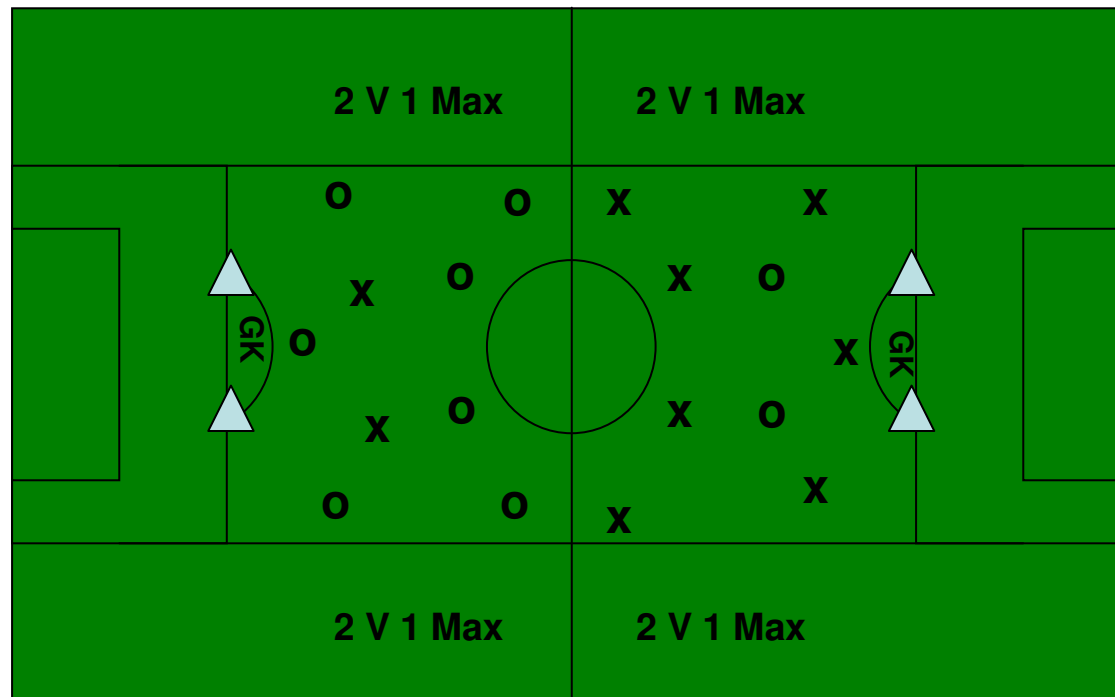
Quality of passing & movement to create 2 v 1 situations in wide areas of attacking half

Decision making in wide areas

Quality of crosses

Positions of attackers in scoring positions

Quality of finishing



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small sided development game (SSG10)

- **Organisation:**

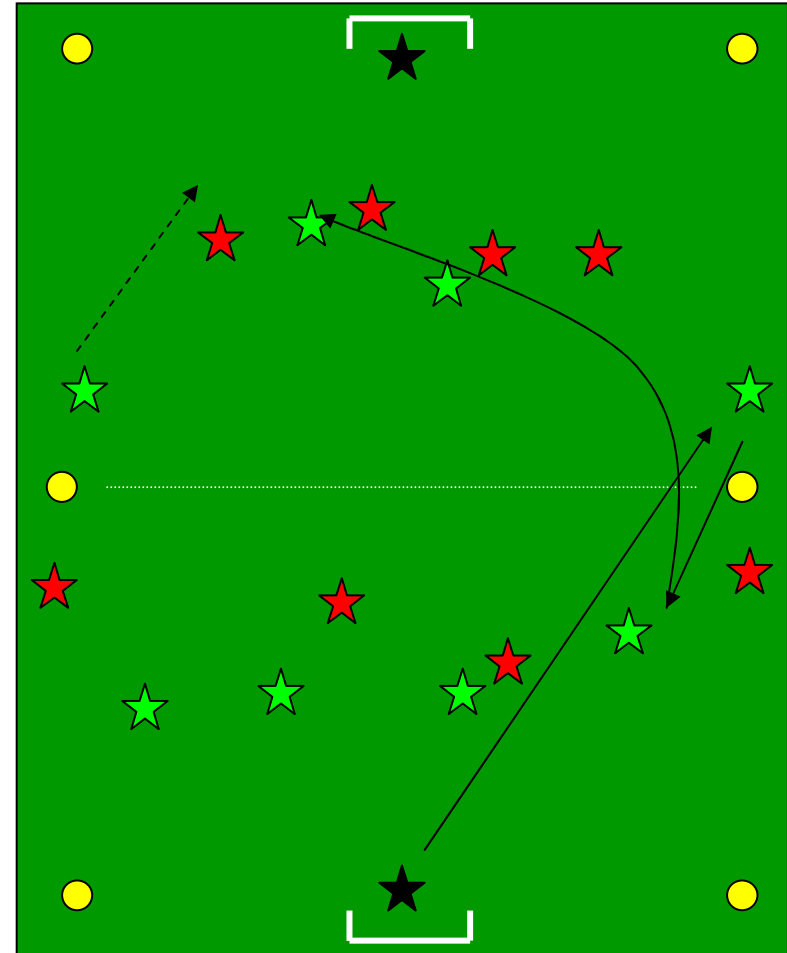
- 18 Players
- Players are organised into 2 teams of 4v4 in each half with GK's.
- Area size can vary between 18 Yard box to 18 yard box to ½ pitch / ½ pitch + 10 yards;
- Players to remain in their designated half of the pitch;
- Incorporate 22 – 24 players by adding in 2 attacking mf's & 1 holding defensive mf. This will overload 6 Vs 5 (Outfield)

- **Recommendations:**

- GK's to begin game by feeding wide player in opposite half for cross or 1 v 1.
- OR; Practice started by the coach in a central position by passing to one half and then the other
- Players continue quick fire attacking/defending attempting to practice combination play / pattern of play / defending crosses / Back four shape / Link play etc

- **Progressions;**

- Take out middle line / add in Central Midfielders for each team. Wide player plays a 1-2 with the opposing full back and develops play from this point after play breaks down;
- Keep middle line and allow play to flow from one half to the other rather than the coach dictating
- Wide players and attackers rest when not in possession;
- Vary start position; Into; Full backs / WM / Kick from GK / Into CF's etc;
- Work on the situations that develop. Depending on theme.
- Themes can include; Defending as a back four, defending crosses, Compactness etc
- Link Play, combination play, wide attackers, wm rolling inside etc

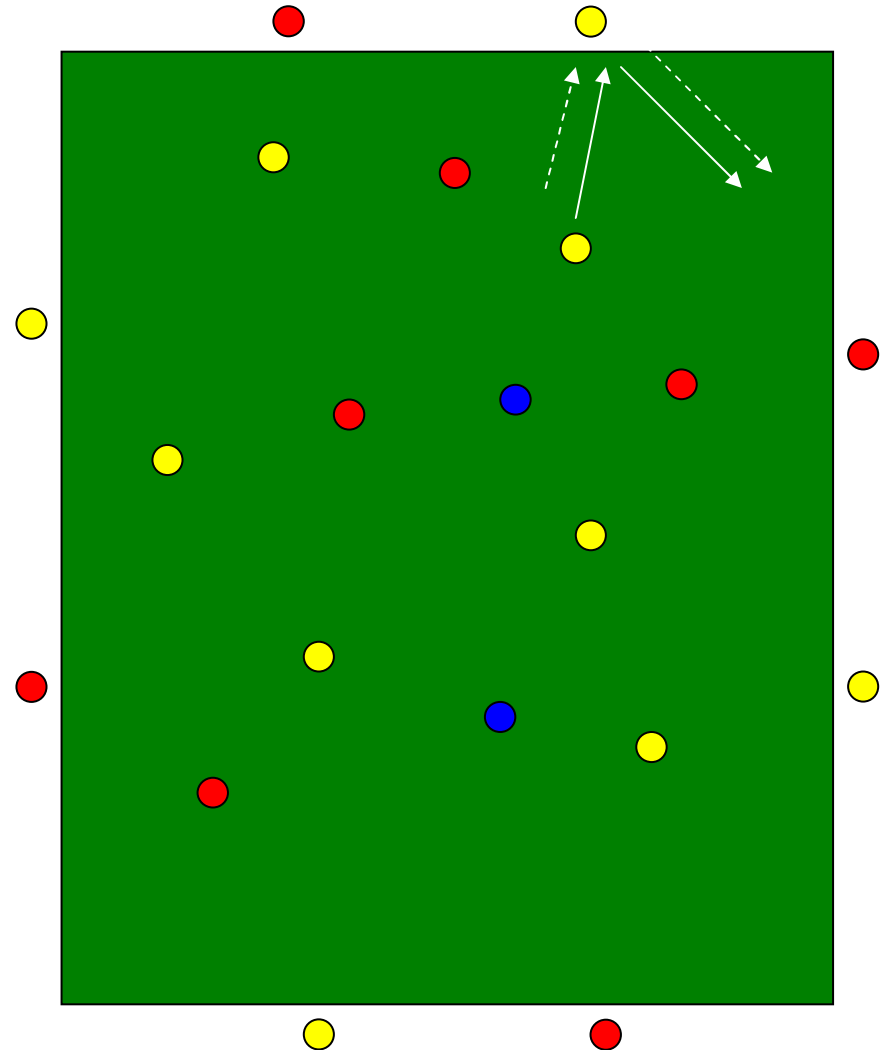


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small sided game

Movement related practice (SSG11)

- **Organisation**
- 2 teams organised within a 30 x 30 / 40 x 40 area;
- Number of players from 16 – 22 players;
- Two floating players that play for the side in possession;
- Players must make 8 passes to score a goal;
-
- **Progressions:**
- Players interchange from outside to in when a pass is made;
- Floating players must be in opposite sides of the field;
- Make play directional by organising players between 18yd box to 18 yd box and adding GK's for each team – No goals.
- A goal is scored when the ball is transferred via players from one GK to another;
- Successful transfer allows the team to keep possession and attempt to transfer the ball back;
- Reduce the number of floaters;
- Restrict the size of the area based on the play of the opposition eg, small if the opposition will press via high tempo etc;
- All passes must be played on the ground;
- The ball must be played forward following a pass backwards etc.
-
- **Key factors;**
- Create space as a Team;
- Switch play to keep possession by moving the ball into areas where there is greater space;
- Quality of touch, Passing;
- Angle and distance of support;
- Turning / Shielding the ball;
- Body position to receive / move the ball;
- Forward runs as practice is developed



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small sided game

Movement related practice (SSG12)

- **Organisation;**

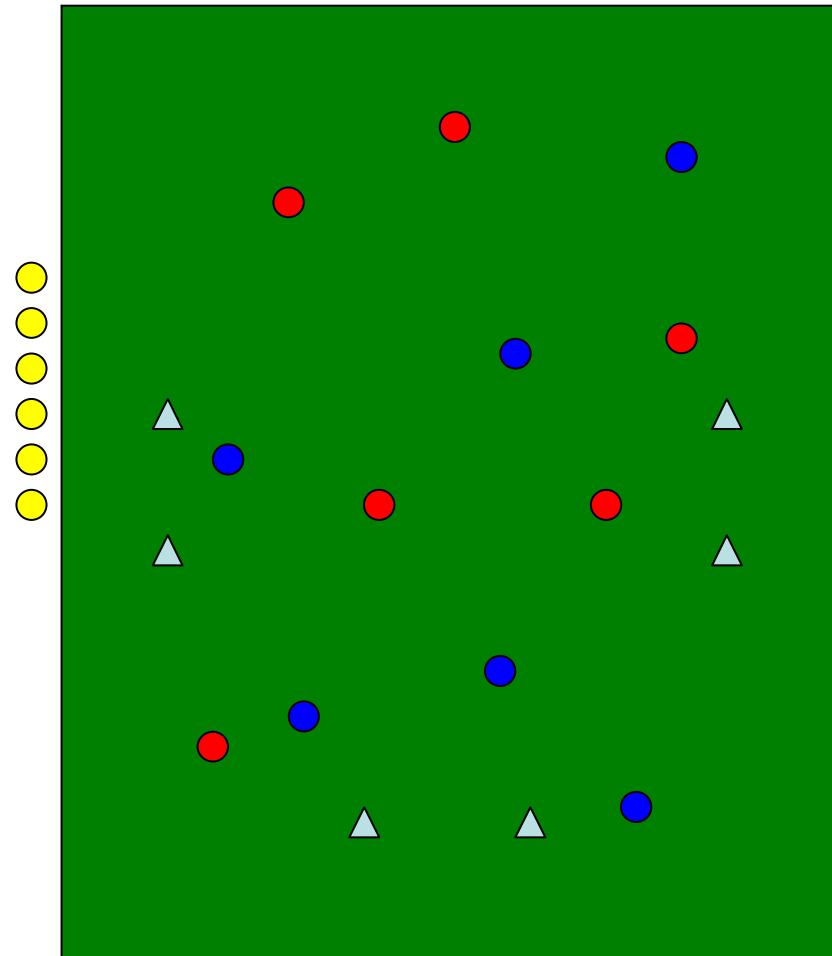
- 3 teams, 6 Vs 6 with 6 resting;
- 18 players, 3 goals, area 50 x 50;
- You can only score through the front of the goals;
-

- **Progressions;**

- Players must choose a player to man mark;
- Team that does not have the ball can cover the goals; This will create a 6 Vs 3 with the team in possession having to work hard to move the ball in a position to score;

- **Key factors;**

- Body position to receive the ball and transfer quickly;
- Disguise in passing
- Running off the ball to receive a pass;
- Keep the ball moving;
- Move the ball off the line to ensure angled passes;
- Angle & Distance of support.
- Create space as a Team;
- Switch play to keep possession by moving the ball into areas where there is greater space;
- Quality of touch, Passing;

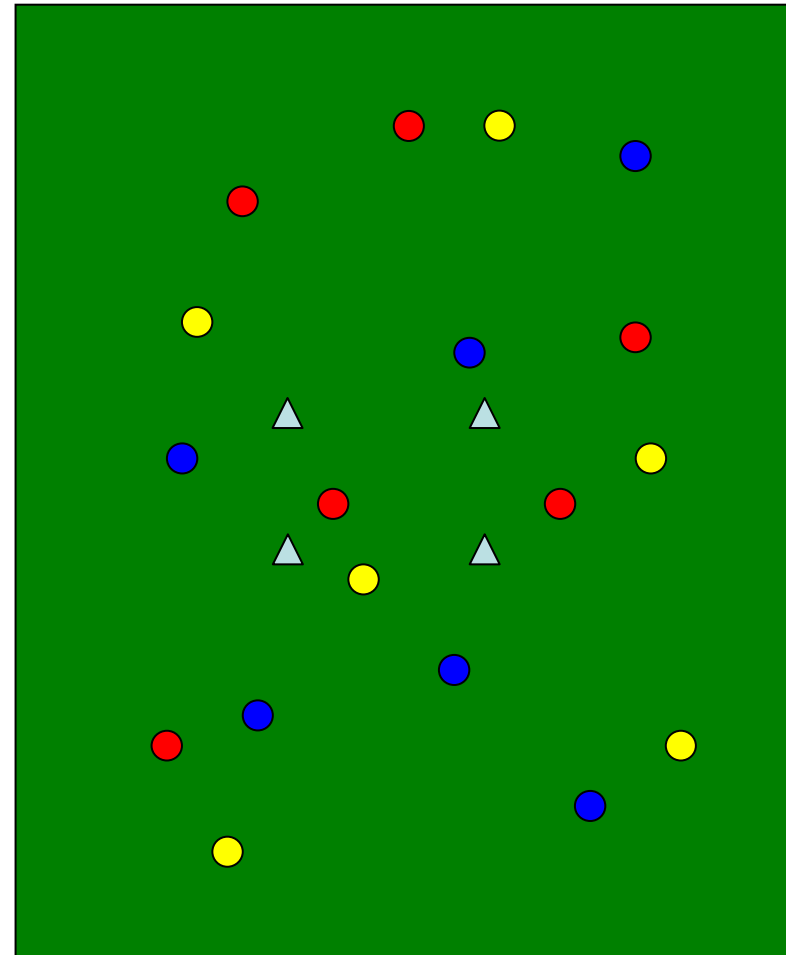


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small sided game

Movement related practice (SSG13)

- **Organisation;**
 - 3 teams of 6 players;
 - 18 players, area 50 x 50, One ball per team;
 - Teams transfer the ball around the area with the object of the game to try and pass to a team mate through the central square;
 - Teams must decide when it is possible to do this and when they must move the ball elsewhere.
 -
- **Progressions;**
 - Add in a small goal in each corner; Teams score goals by passing to a team mate through any goal (Wide/Central); The object of the exercise is to focus on running off the ball;
 - Once the above has been achieved and a goal has been scored, the player with the ball plays a 1-2 with a team mate followed by a pass to a runner from a different team through the gates;
 -
 - Play 2 teams Vs 1 with two players from the team in possession positioned in the central square (Remove the wide goals). The team in possession attempts to keep the ball and transfer via the two players in the square.
 - Players in the square must combine to move the ball out to team mates;
 - The team in possession must change the two players in the square every 15 seconds.
 -
- **Key factors;**
 - Body position to receive the ball and transfer quickly;
 - Disguise in passing
 - Running off the ball to receive a pass;
 - Keep the ball moving;
 - Move the ball off the line to ensure angled passes;
 - Angle & Distance of support.
 - Create space as a Team;
 - Switch play to keep possession by moving the ball into areas where there is greater space;
 - Quality of touch, Passing;



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Play (SSG14)

Organisation

16 players organised into two teams;
When the Goalkeeper has the ball the attacker for the opposition (Circled in white) operates as a defender.
Area 18 yard box to 18 yard box;

Progressions;

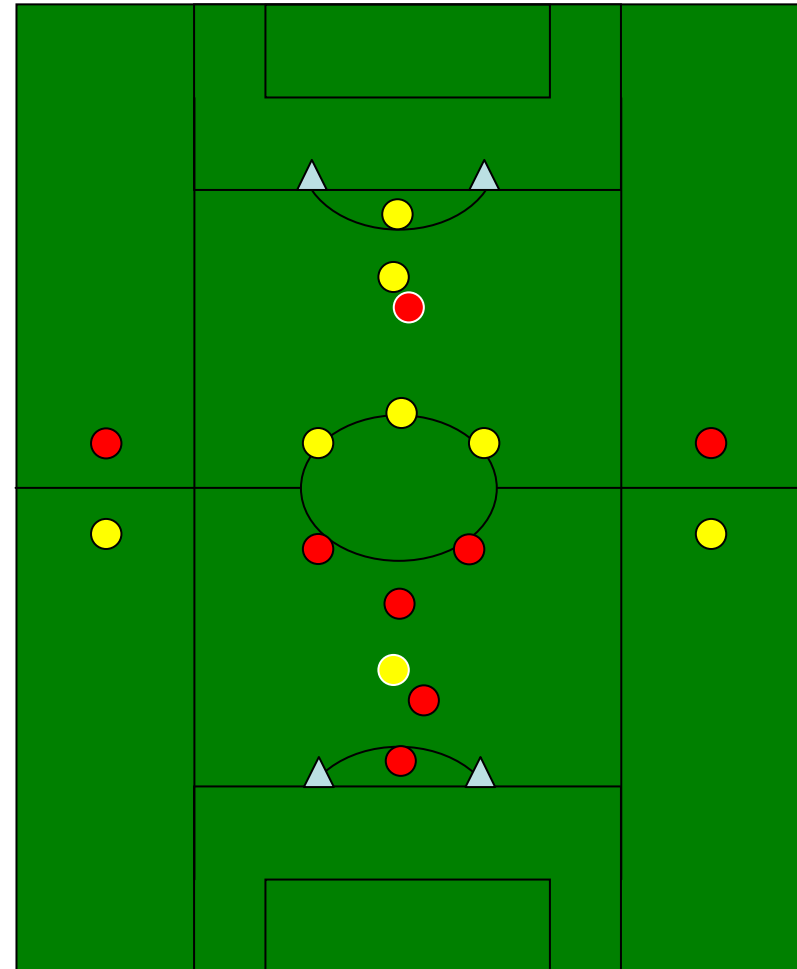
GK to serve to defenders who can then play forward to any player;
Passive pressure only in wide areas;
Only one player allowed in wide area at any one time;
Introduce full backs as game develops;

Options;

Wide players to come off the line to receive;
Rotation of midfielders to receive ball;
Combination play in midfield and in attack;
Simple process involving the swapping of places; eg, If WM comes inside / FB or CM go wide, If CF comes short WM or CM goes long etc

Key factors;

Create space (Width / Length / Depth)
Body position to receive / to play forward
Decision based on passing priorities
A & D of support / Timing of movement on/off the ball
Quality/type of pass depending on decision
Pass through midfield quickly / Create goal scoring opportunities in central & wide areas
End product



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Play

Three zone game (SSG15)

Organisation

Two teams organised into three areas. To begin players must remain in their designated areas.

Playing Area 18 Yard Box to 18 Yard Box.

Progressions;

Players can move zones by passing / dribbling into the next zone.

Players must return to their original places once possession is lost.

One attacker can drop into the middle zone without being marked to receive possession.

Based on the requirements of the game one player can move zones even if they don't have possession.

Play 2 Vs 2 in central area, 2 wide players stand on the outside of the central area on opposite sides. These players can only join the play when passed to and are replaced by the passers.

Wide players can make 3rd man run to support in the attacking third without being passed to;

Progress to 11 Vs 11;

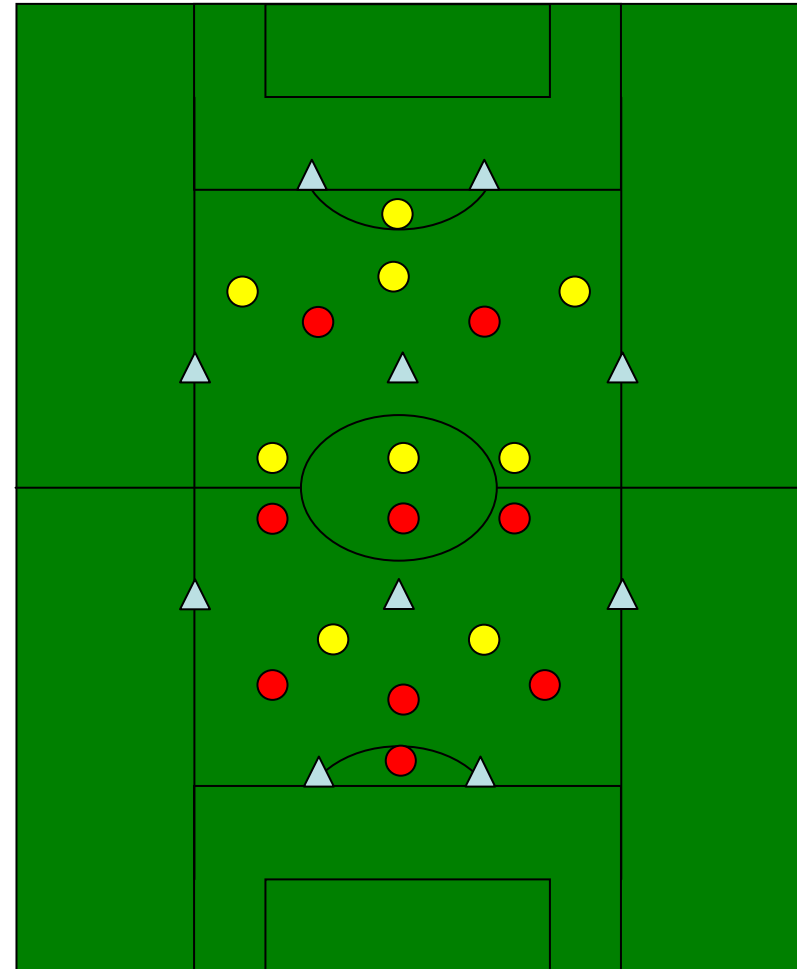
- 442 makes attacking play in final third more difficult;
- 352 makes attacking play easier;
- Large squads of players can be utilised; 362 or 453

Time limits to score in attacking thirds.

To progress take out zones to allow free movement and play

Key factors

Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, Movement on & off the ball



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Play

Zonal attacking game (SSG16)

Organisation;

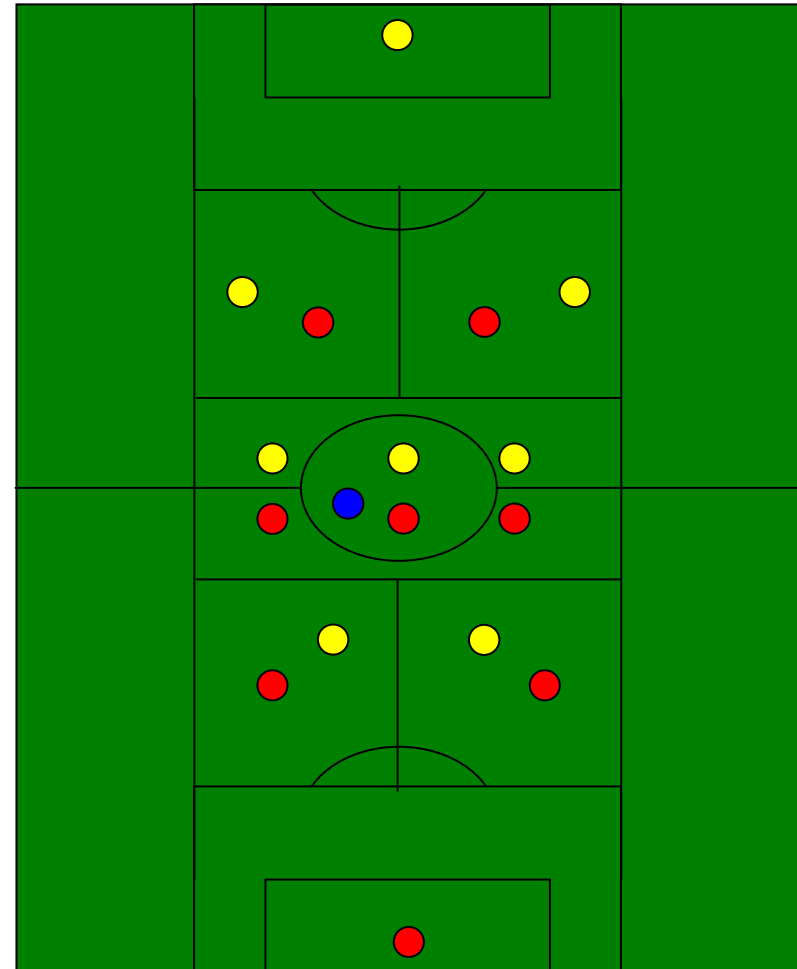
17 players organised within a 30 yard by 80 yard area;
Central area 30 wide by 20 long / 4 areas 15 yd by 15yd;
3 Vs 3 in a central area with a floater;
Once the team in possession has made 6 passes the ball is transferred to one of the forwards;
The forwards must be allowed to control the ball before being pressured by the defender;
Forwards attempt to create an opportunity to shoot;
If the defender wins the ball it is transferred back into the central zone to attack the other way.

Progressions;

One player can move into the attacking zone to create a 2 Vs 1;
Remove central line between attacking zones to create a 2 Vs 2;

Key factors;

Receive the ball side on to aid quick transfer / have an attempt on goal;
Keep ball and defender in view;
Use of arms for balance / hold off defender;
Keep ball moving whilst feinting to change direction;



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

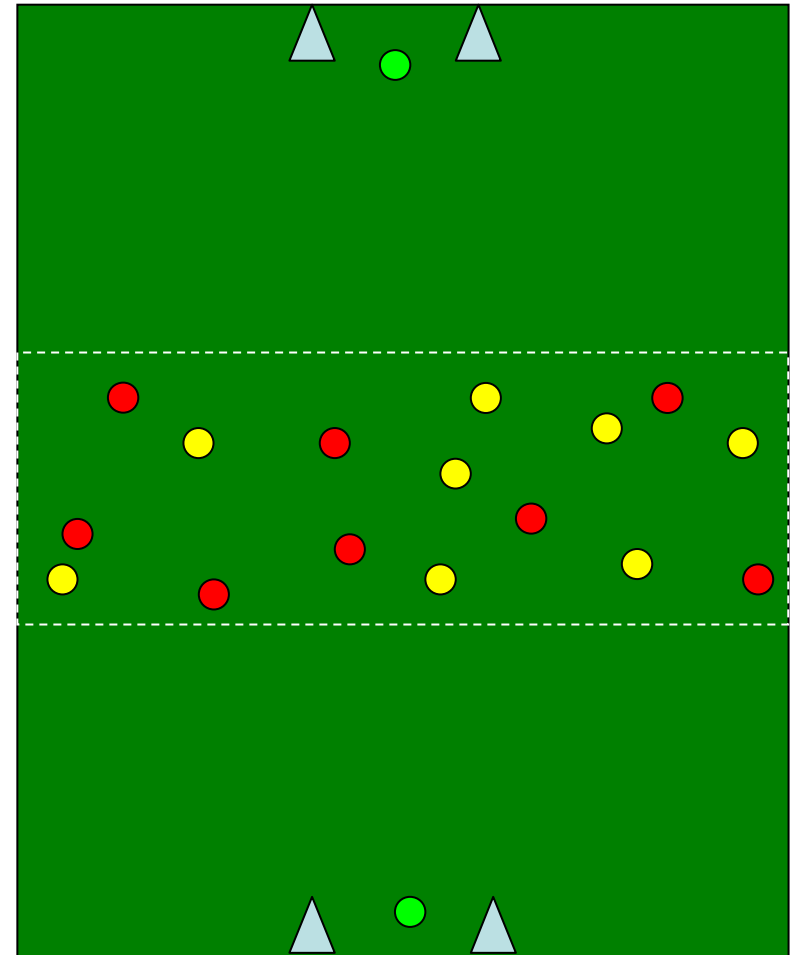
Small Sided Game Counter attacking (SSG17)

- **Organisation**
- 18 players organised into two teams
- 8 Vs 8 in defined area on half way line
- One team attempts to keep ball, if possession lost the defending team can break out to attack to score.
- OR both teams need to make a certain number of passes before they can break out. Break out can include dribbling or passing to another.
- Players can attack in either direction

- **Progressions;**
- Place 2 defenders versus one attacker in end zones; Allow 1 player only to join in to make 2 vs 2.
- Add an extra attacker in end zone to make 2 vs 2
- Player who makes pass must join.
- Any player can join.

- **Options;**
- Get ball out of area
- Play wide to supporting runner
- Be direct and attack goal
- Play into CF (What type of ball / m'ment to receive / m'ment off the ball)

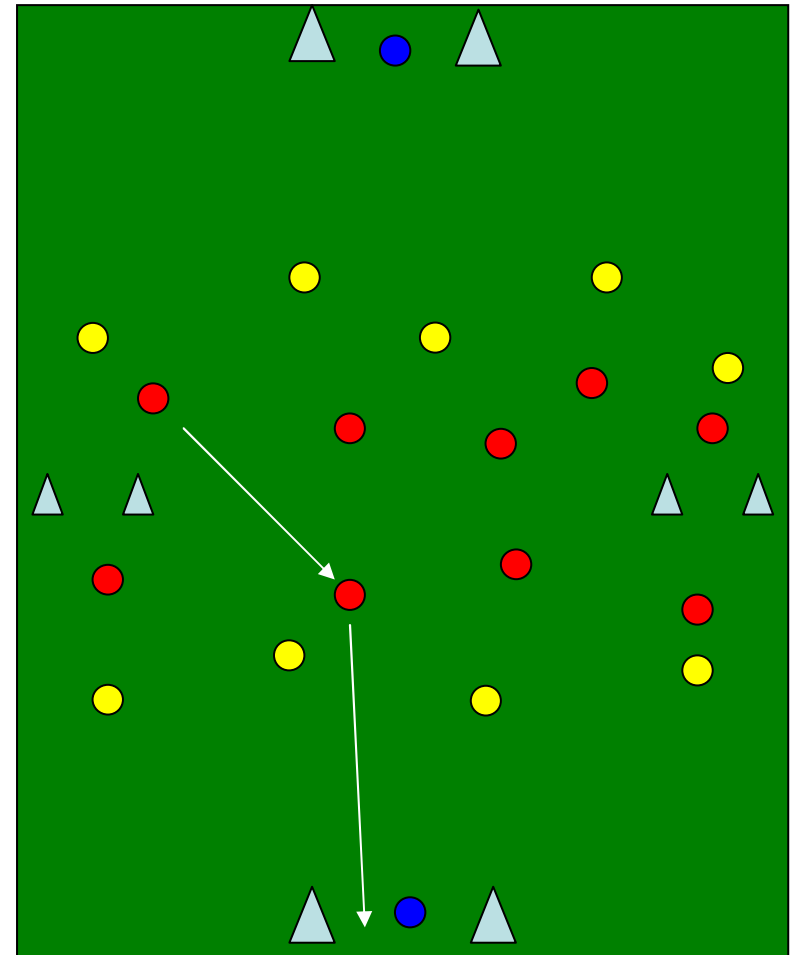
- **Key factors;**
- Be direct
- Attack at pace
- Decision
- Angle & distance of support
- Timing of movement on/off the ball
- Quality/type of pass depending on decision



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Counter attacking / Switching Play (SSG18)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating 16 – 22 players
- 2 teams organised within a full pitch.
- One team defends the central goals (Red team) whilst the other team defends the normal goals.
- The red team should break out to attack either of the normal goals at any given opportunity.
- **Recommendations;**
- Get ball out of area
- Play wide to supporting runner
- Be direct and attack goal
- Play into CF (What type of ball / m'ment to receive / m'ment off the ball)
- Regroup and quarter the field to defend small goals with numbers
- **Key factors;**
- Compactness as a team / don't allow opposition to play through or round you
- Be direct
- Attack at pace
- Decision
- Angle & distance of support
- Timing of movement on/off the ball
- Quality/type of pass depending on decision
- **Options;**
- Divide the pitch into three zones, defending players can not track attacking players into these areas.
- Swap team roles at given intervals.
- The team attacking the normal goals only have a limited time to have an attempt on goal.

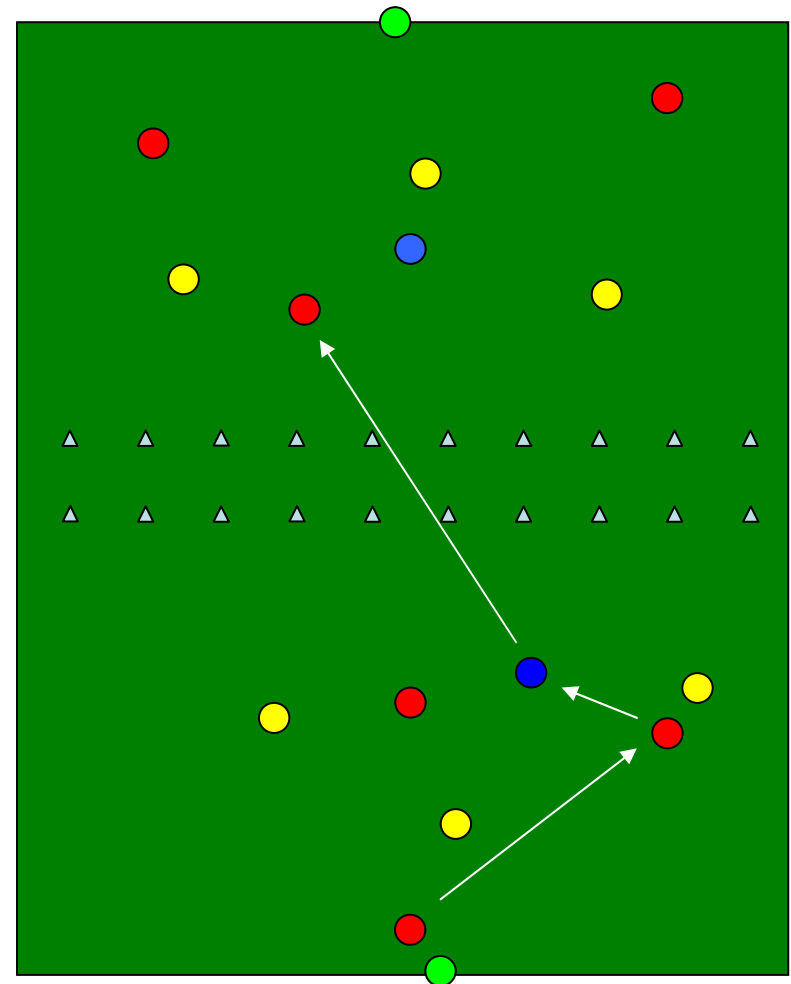


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small Sided Game

Possession & support and Defending / Pressing (SSG19)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating 16 players.
- 3 Vs 3 plus one neutral in each zone.
- 2 Target players, one behind each end line at a distance of 6 yards.
- 60 x 40 area with separating zone of 10 yards.
- **Recommendations;**
- Possession play in one zone to pass the ball across the free zone to team mates who attempt to pass to the mobile target player, they receive possession from him in order to play back across the zone.
- Neutral players play with the team in possession and do not defend.
- **Key Factors;**
- Creating space as a team / A & D of support.
- Pass forward & control the ball forward wherever possible.
- Pass & receive using the least amount of touches possible.
- **Options;**
- Make 6 passes before transferring the ball.
- Passing player can support in central zone but must then return to original zone.
- Passer swaps zones with receiving player.
- Neutral players can / cannot transfer across zones.
- Target players swap places with passer of ball.
- **Physical**
- Moderate intensity type activity / Use as part of a moderate session



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small Sided Game

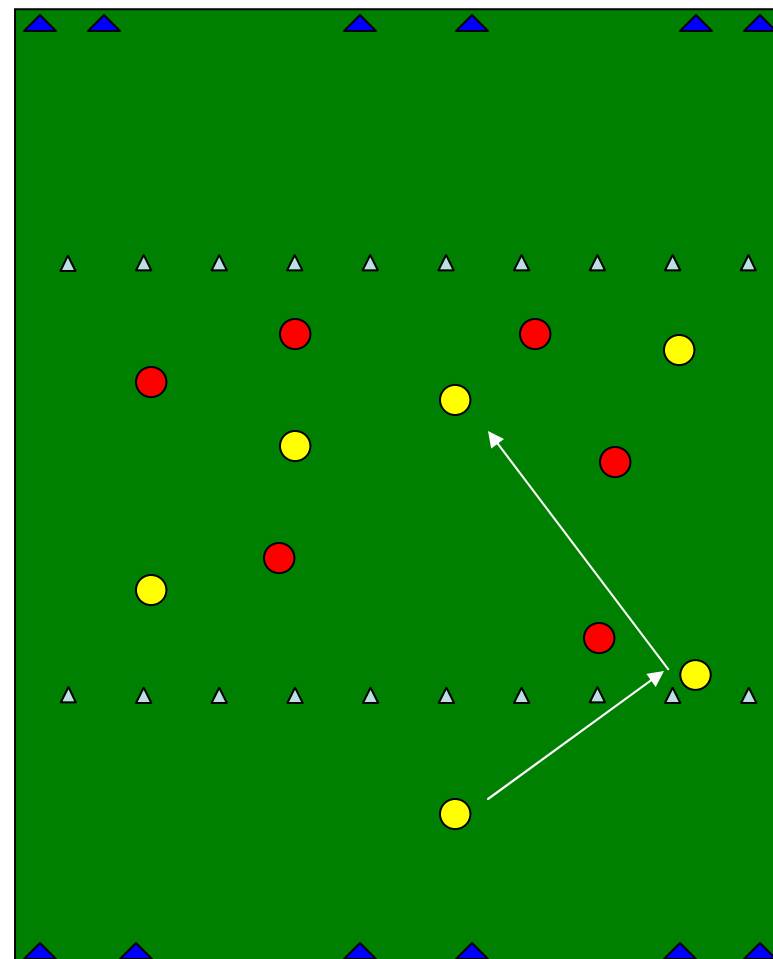
Possession & support and Defending / Pressing (SSG20)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating 12 - 18 players.
- 3 x teams of 6 in a 40 x 30 area with 2 x ten yard end zones inc goals.
- Team in possession must run the ball / pass to a moving player into the end zone to score in one of three goals.
- End zone lines act as offside lines.
- The team in possession can use their end zone as a safety area to transfer the ball across the field.
- The defending team must retreat behind this line after scoring a goal.

- **Progressions;**
- Add a neutral player to support possession development.
- Allow the neutral player to have 2 touches only.
- Neutral player has unlimited touches whilst all other players are on two touch.
- Allow a goal to be scored if a player runs over the end line.
- Minimise the number of touches allowed by each player.

- **Key Factors;**
- Creating space as a team / A & D of support.
- Receive the ball safe side / Move to create space.
- Play in between units / Body position must be side on.
- Movement up and down the field to create space.
- Switch play with purpose.

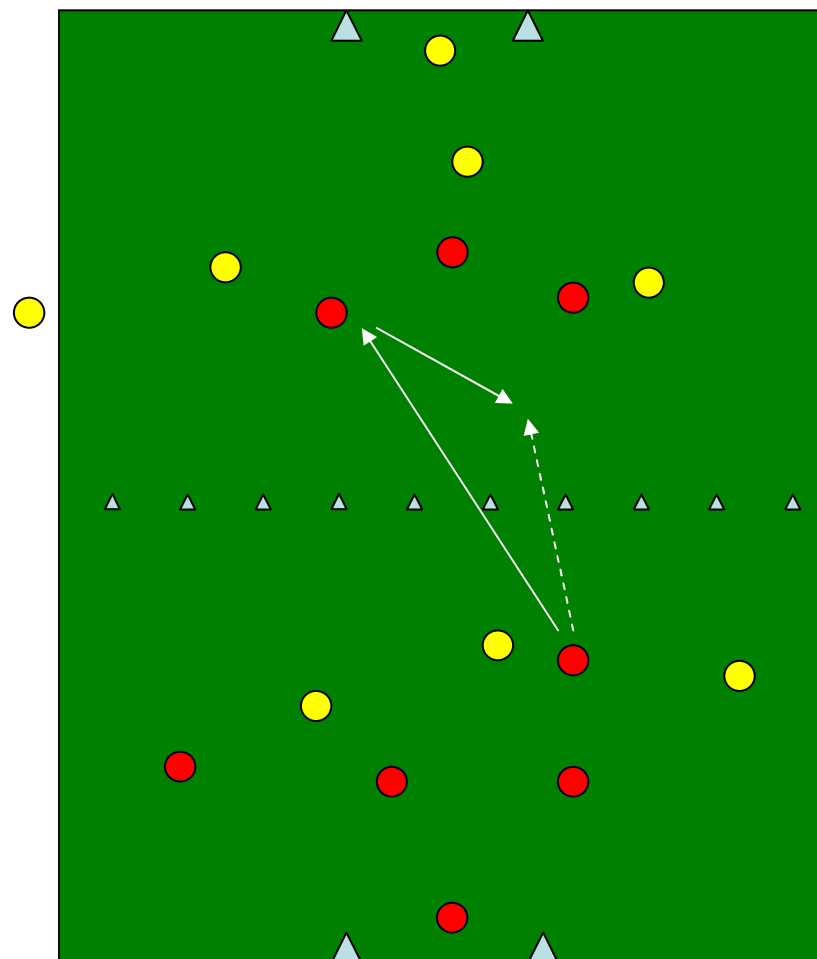
- **Physical**
- Moderate type activity / To be used as part of an aerobic based session



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small Sided Game Combination Play (SSG21)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating 16 players.
- 4 Vs 3 in defending area, 3 Vs 3 in attacking area with one defending player resting. The team with the overload attempt to transfer the ball into the attacking area, one player is allowed to follow to create a 4 Vs 3 overload.
- Once an attack is completed the attacking runner rests / the resting defender from the opposing team joins in. This now creates a 4 Vs 3 in the opposite direction.
- Thus a 7 Vs 6 practice in both directions + GK's;
- Players are organised within a ½ pitch + 15 yards / Full width.
- Defending players are not allowed to follow the attacker across zones.
- **Progressions;**
- Game can be played 2 v 2 with 1 player from each team in each zone. Defenders can't follow attackers into the opposing zone.
- Game can also be played 3 v 2, 4 v 3, 5 v 4 etc applying above rules;
- Adjust playing area accordingly;
- Progress to 9 v 9 in narrow area (18 yd to 18 yd / Width of 18 yd box)
- Progress to three zone game;
- Progress to open game and highlight when & where combinations can be carried out successfully.
- **Key Factors;**
- Movements to create space / A & D of support.
- Quality of pass / Movement to receive / foot to receive
- Attitude to play forward & combine, 1 touch / 2 touch
- Decision / End product
- **Options;**
- Make 6 passes before transferring the ball;
- Only the passing player is allowed to join;
- The player in the best position can join;

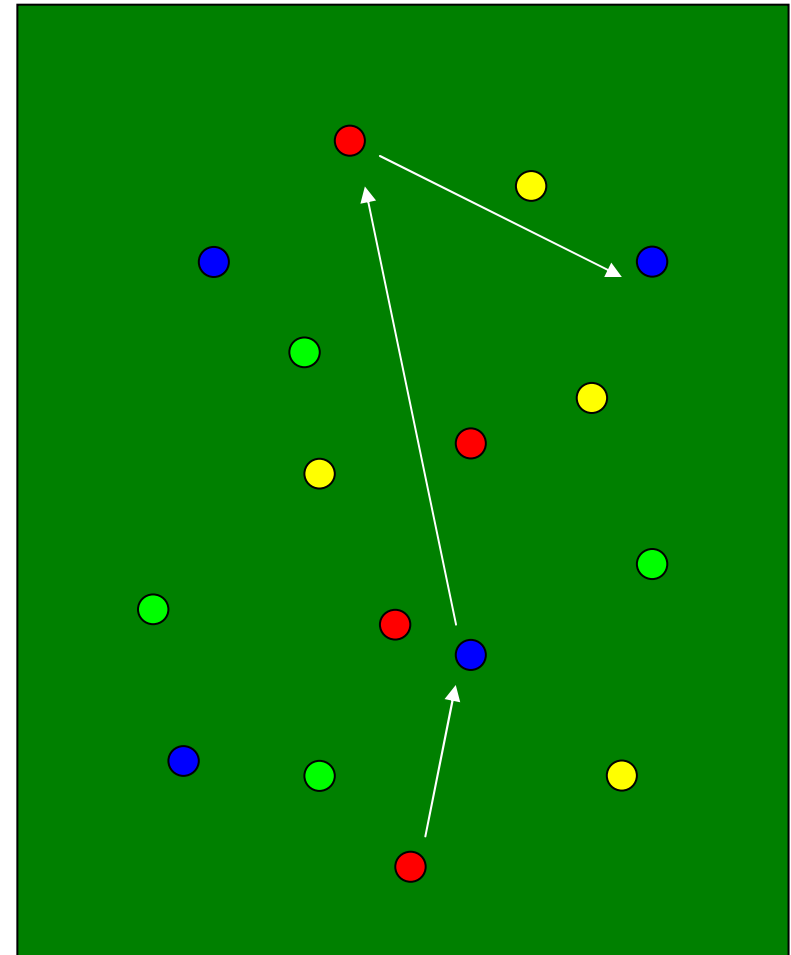


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small sided game

Non directional possession play / Pressing & Defending (SSG22)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating (16 Players)
- 2 teams of 8 comprising of 4 blue & 4 red Vs 4 yellow & 4 Green.
- 50 x 50 area.
- The team in possession retains the ball but may only pass to alternate colours Eg, blue, red, blue etc
- **Recommendations;**
- 8 passes to score a goal.
- Add target players to make it directional.
- Allow free passing to any player on your team.
- Don't have to pass to alternate colours but limit the number of touches for a group Eg, Blue – All in / Red – 2 touch and vice versa.
- **Key information;**
- Quick decision making of who a player can cannot pass to.
- Quick transition from attacking to defending & vice versa.
- Accuracy, passing & disguise of passes.
- Quick support & movement.
- Minimum number of touches in possession.

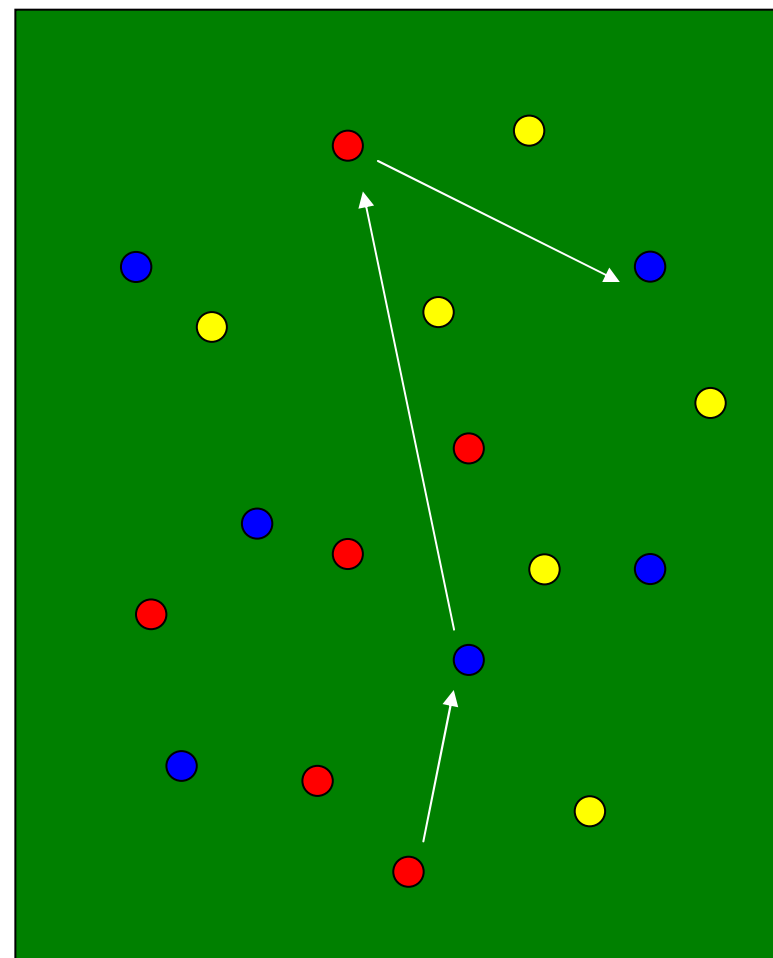


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small sided game (In progress)

Non directional possession play / Pressing & Defending (SSG22)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating (18 Players)
- 3 teams of 6 comprising of 4 blue, 4 red & 4 yellow.
- 50 x 50 area.
- To start the practice 2 teams work together to keep possession from the defending team Eg, Red / Blue Vs Yellow.
- If possession is lost the team that gave the ball away become the defending team with the other two teams working together to retain possession.
- **Recommendations;**
- 8 passes to score a goal.
- Add target players to make it directional.
- You have to pass to alternate colours.
- Limit the number of touches for a group Eg, Blue – All in / Red – 2 touch and vice versa.
- Allow free passing to any player on your team.
- **Key information;**
- Quick decision making of who a player can cannot pass to.
- Quick transition from attacking to defending & vice versa.
- Accuracy, passing & disguise of passes.
- Quick support & movement.
- Minimum number of touches in possession.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small sided game

Teaching Players to problem solve (SSG23)

Organisation

Players are organised into two teams with 3 floating midfielders.

Players are organised into set area's with the floating players allowed to move from area to area

Playing Area : 60 x 40 with coned areas.

Progressions;

Team in possession has to make 8 passes to score a goal.
Midfielders play 2 touch whilst all other players have open touches.

Midfielders have open touches whilst all other players are conditioned to two touch.

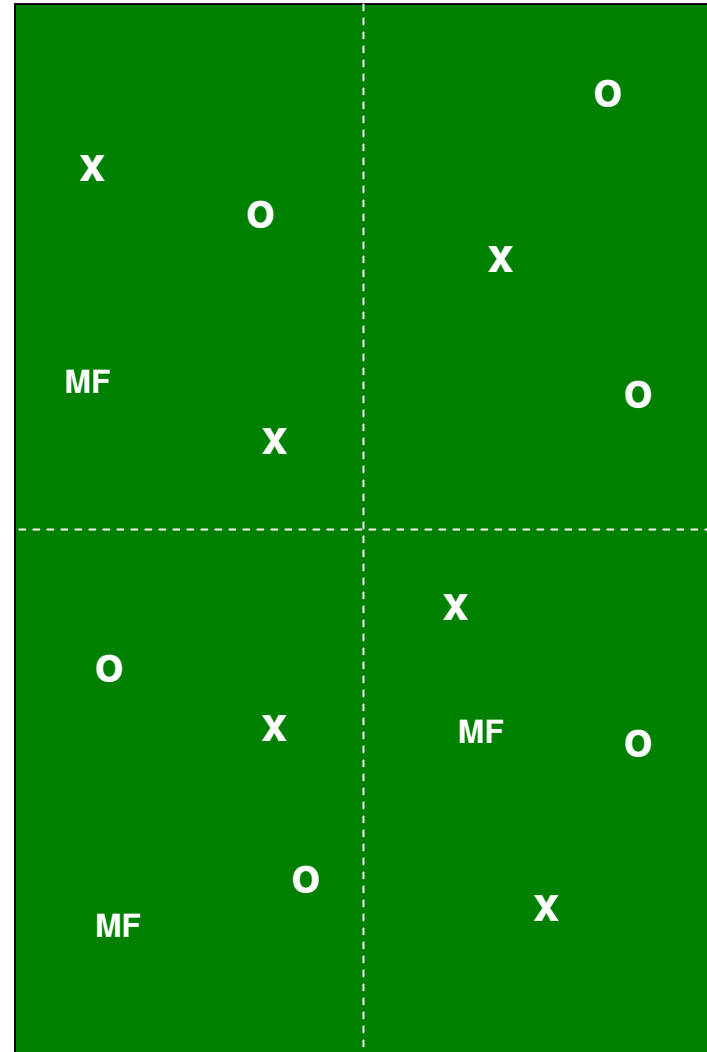
Remove One line of cones to even the numbers on both sides of the pitch.

Remove all lines to allow open play.

Midfielders cannot be in the same areas at one time.

Key factors;

Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, M'ment on & off the ball, Awareness of positioning.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Play (SSG24)

Organisation

18 players organised into two teams;
2 Vs 2 at each end, Wingers only in outer corridor, No defending in midfield or wide areas, Live play only when defending the goal. Defenders free to play out to midfield. Basic pattern of play framework allowing the coach to work through combinations

Progressions;

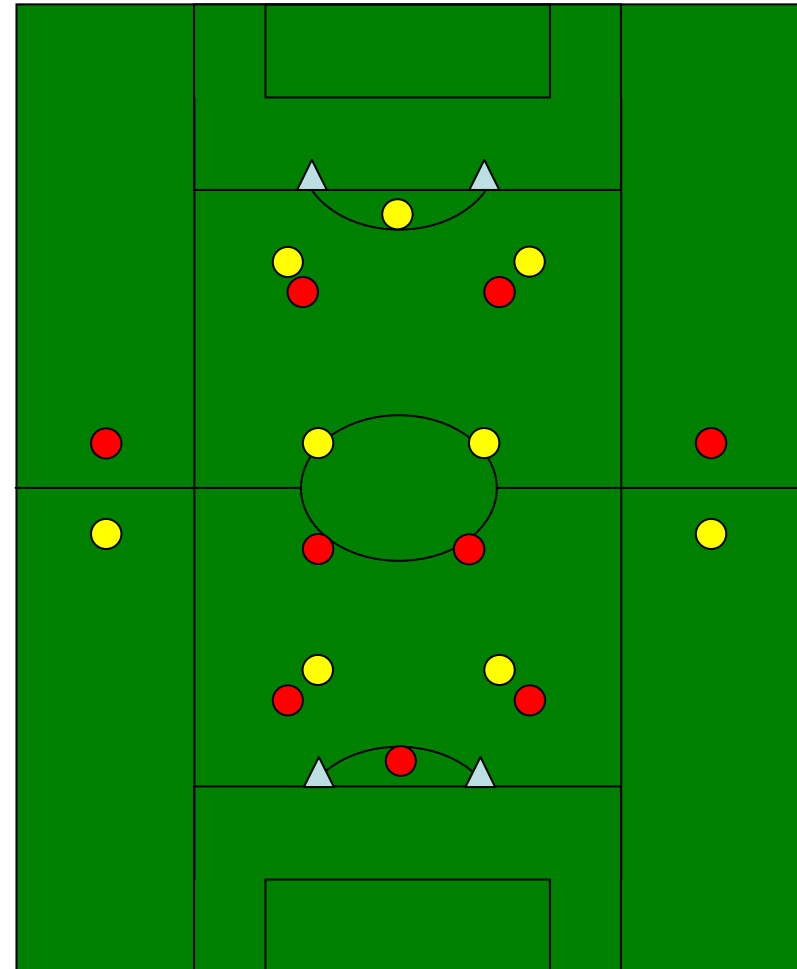
Midfielders & Wingers on two touches until the final third;
One midfielder to join attack to create 3 Vs 2;
Winger on the opposite side to support to create 4 Vs 2 (Take up position on the edge of the box);
Midfielders can apply passive pressure; No tackling, only allowed to intercept;
Add full backs to progress to 11 Vs 11 / Add floater in MF to create 3 Vs 2
Play 3 Defenders Vs 2 CF's in end areas to create 3 Vs 3 when a MF joins.

Options;

CB into CF (In air), lay off to CM; CB into CF (In air), lay off to Winger; CB into CM who plays wide;
CB to Winger who plays into CF and follows, CM takes up new wide position, CF can play either option etc

Key factors;

Create space (Width / Length / Depth)
Body position to receive / to play forward
Decision based on passing priorities
A & D of support / Timing of movement on/off the ball
Quality/type of pass depending on decision
End product

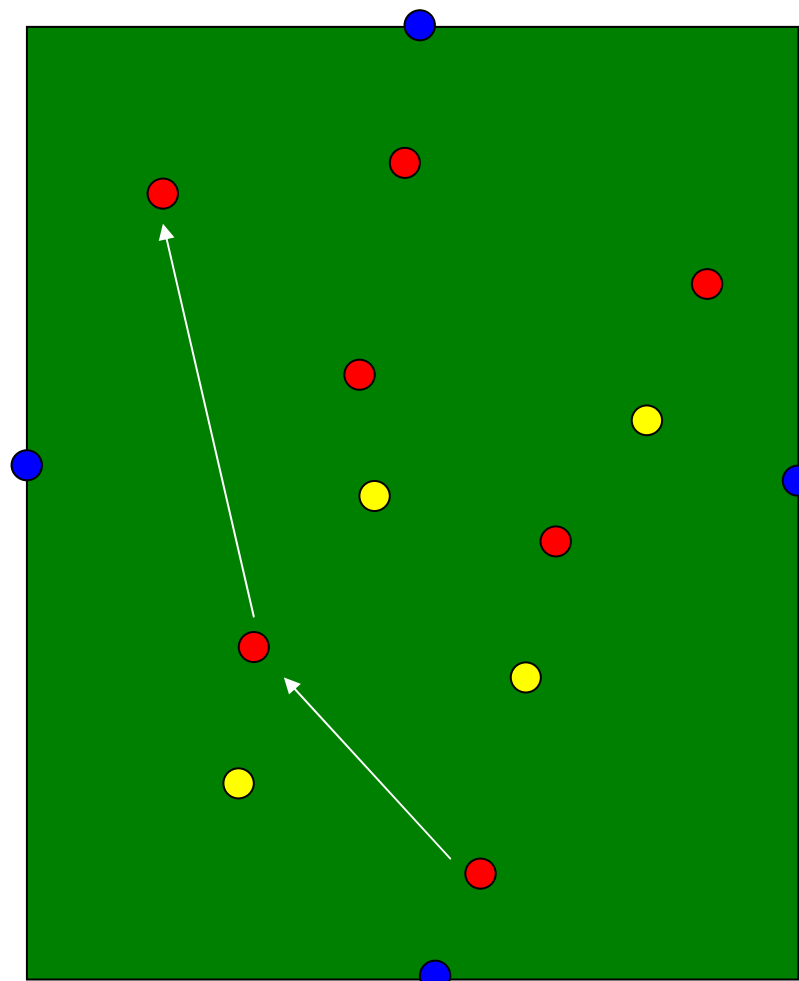


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small sided game

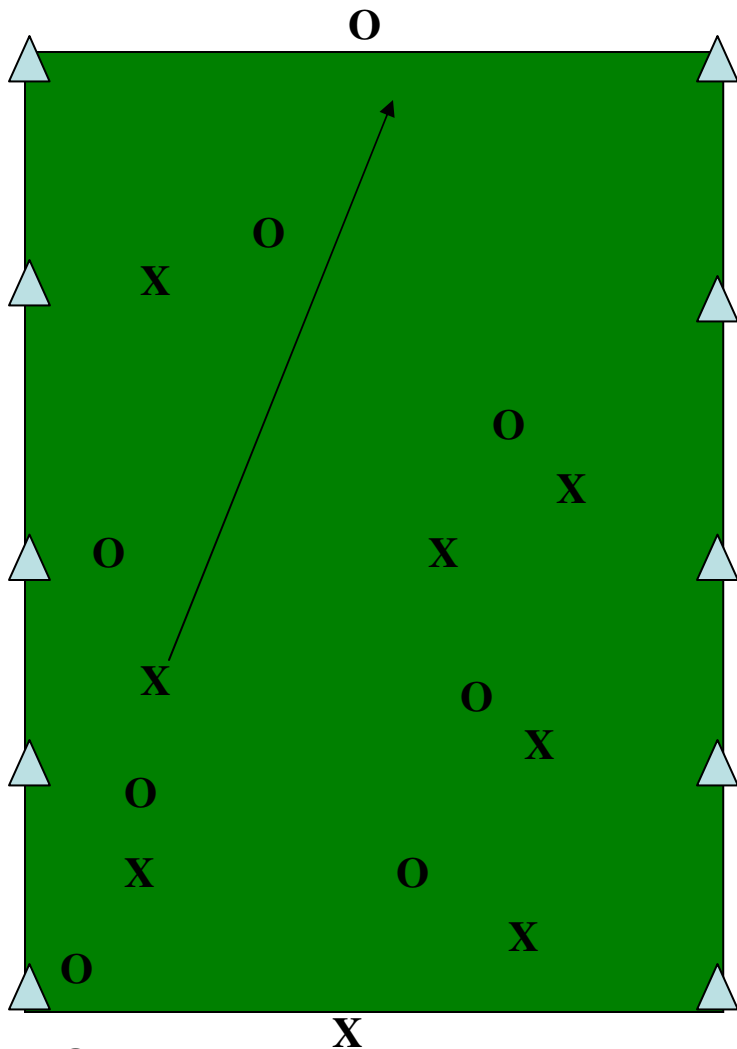
Non directional possession play / Pressing & Defending (SSG25)

- **Organisation**
 - Squad practice incorporating (15 Players)
 - 7 Vs 4 in an area of 50 x 40 Yards.
 - 4 Neutral players operate along the sides of the area.
 - The 7 players play 2 touch against the four defenders & may use the neutral players.
 - Neutral players may pass to neutral players if necessary.
 - If the four defenders gain possession they can use the neutral players to create a 8 Vs 7.
- **Recommendations;**
 - 8 passes to score a goal.
 - Make it directional by allowing the 7 players to play up/down the pitch to score.
 - 7 players cannot use the neutral players.
 - Increase no. of players playing 8 Vs 5 / 9 Vs 6 etc
- **Key information;**
 - Decision / A & D of support / Acc & Qual of pass.
 - Quality of movement on / off the ball.
 - Supporting long pass of neutral players.
 - Quick combination play.
 - Defending as a group / Compactness.
 - Collective pressure / Communication / Positioning.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Long Passing (SSG26)



Comments

Organisation

Players play 7 v 7 with 1 (GK or outside player) on each end

Players must pass ball into end player(s) to score

End players can move anywhere along line

Key Factors

Prepare first touch out of feet on angle

Place non kicking foot slightly behind ball

Strike through below centre of ball with laces

Lean back

Follow through

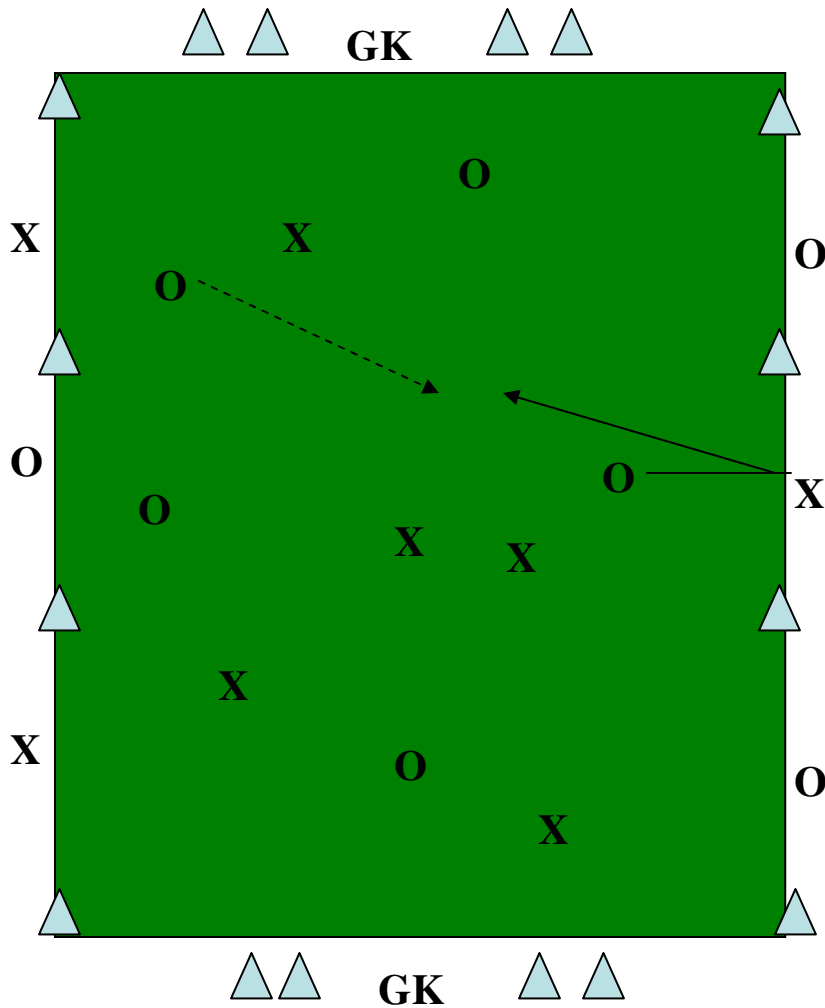
Progression

Must attempt to pass to end player after 3 passes.

Score by passing to 1 end then opposite end whilst keeping possession

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Control (SSG27)



Comments

Organisation

Players are split into 2 teams of 8 shooting into opposite goals

Place 3 of each team on outside of area to act as wall passes.

Key Factors

Move in line with flight of ball

Offer surface to control

Relax surface area on impact

Prepare for next movement i.e. pass, dribble, shoot etc

Progression

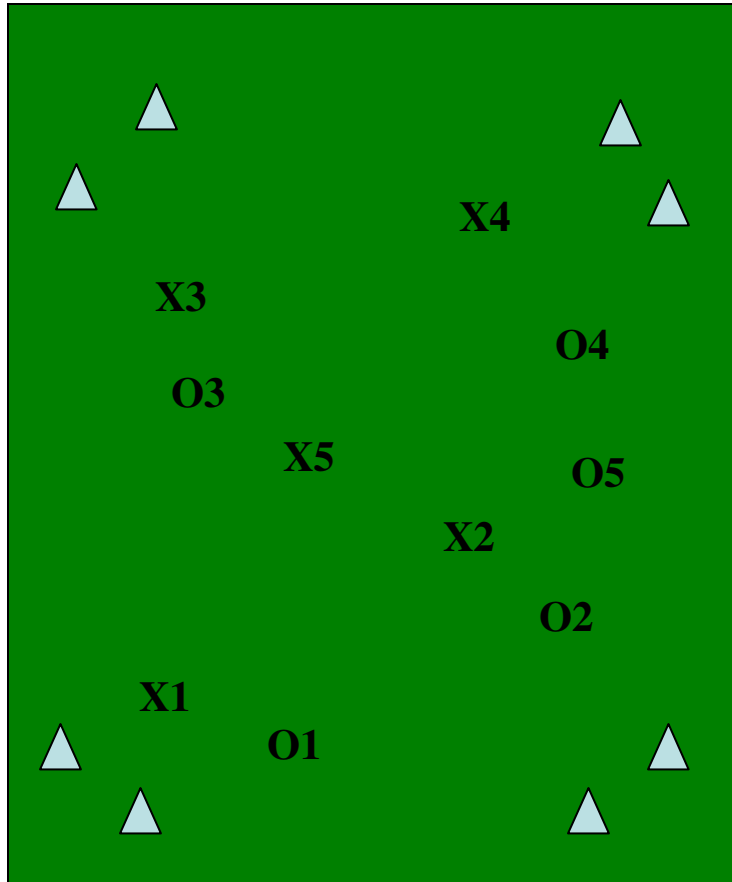
ball must be passed into outside players hands

Outside players feed ball back in air to inner players

Must control ball from outside 3 times before attempting to score

2 touch only.

Dribbling (SSG28)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into 2 teams in an area including 4 corner goals

Teams defend 2 sets of goals (diagonally opposite) whilst attacking the other goals

Players are conditioned to 'man' mark a specific player throughout the activity.

Key Factors

1st touch

Attitude

Angle and support of surrounding players

Keep the ball close

Change of pace

Use of various feints / turns / movements.

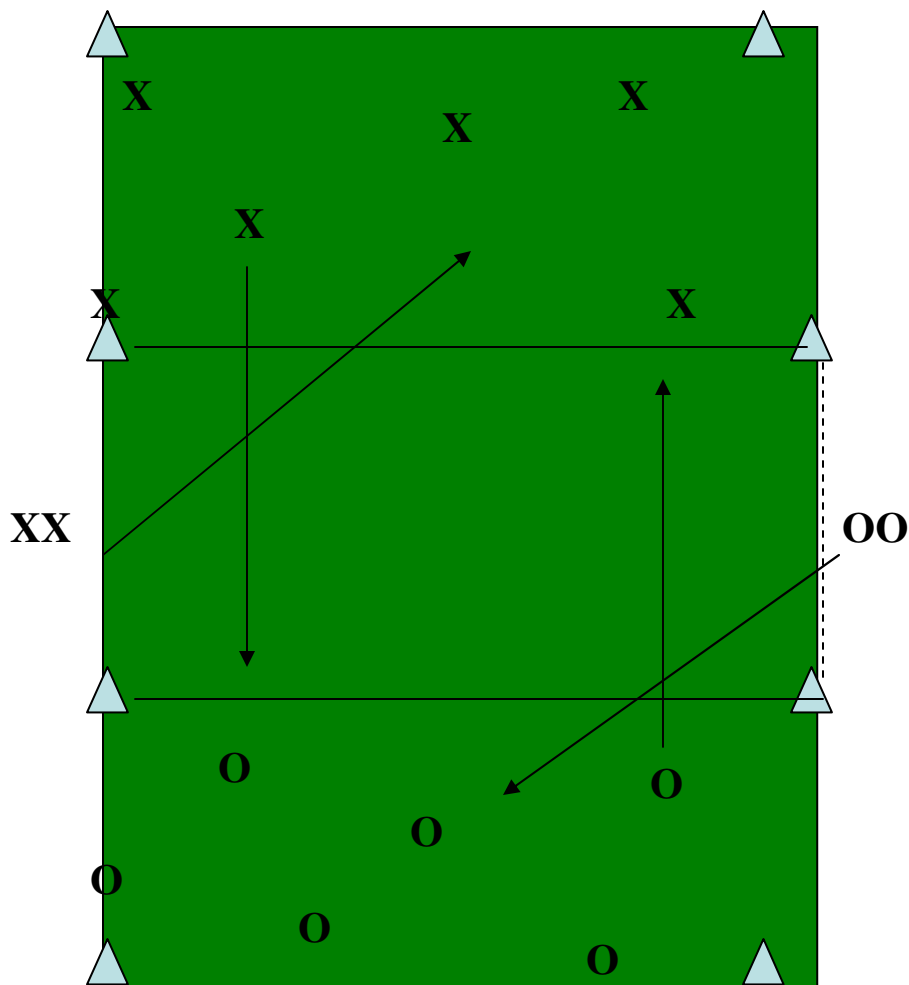
Progression

Depending on the ability of players a number of conditions can be added:

- You must beat a player before passing
- You must engage a player before passing
- Nominated players can't be tackled

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Running with the Ball (SSG29)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into 6 V 2 in 2 end zones.

Players in group 1 run with the ball to group 2, across central zone.

2 passive defenders enter end zones when ball is ran in.

Key Factors

First touch out of feet

Head up

Use laces

Maximise running speed

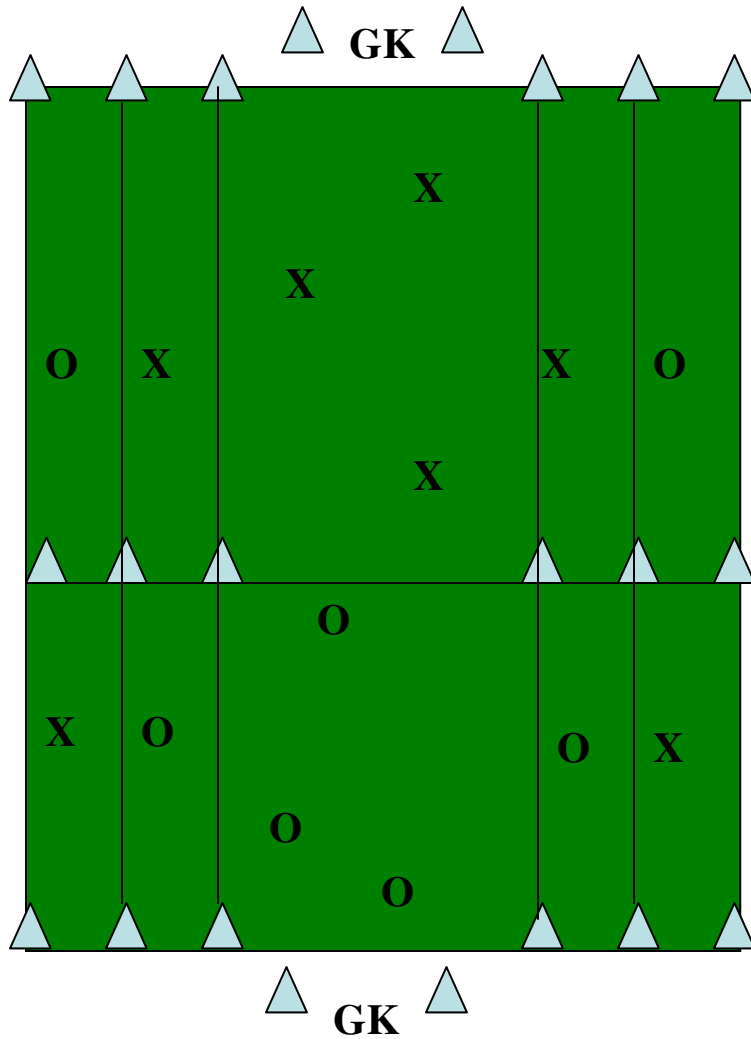
Progression

Add active defenders

Add more defenders (5 V 3)

Add balls

Running with the Ball (SSG30)



Comments

Organisation

Players are split into 5 zones - 3 V 3 in middle zone

- 1 in 4 outer zones per half

Normal game but players must stay in own zones

Key Factors

Ball out of feet

Head up

Use laces

Maximise running speed

Progression

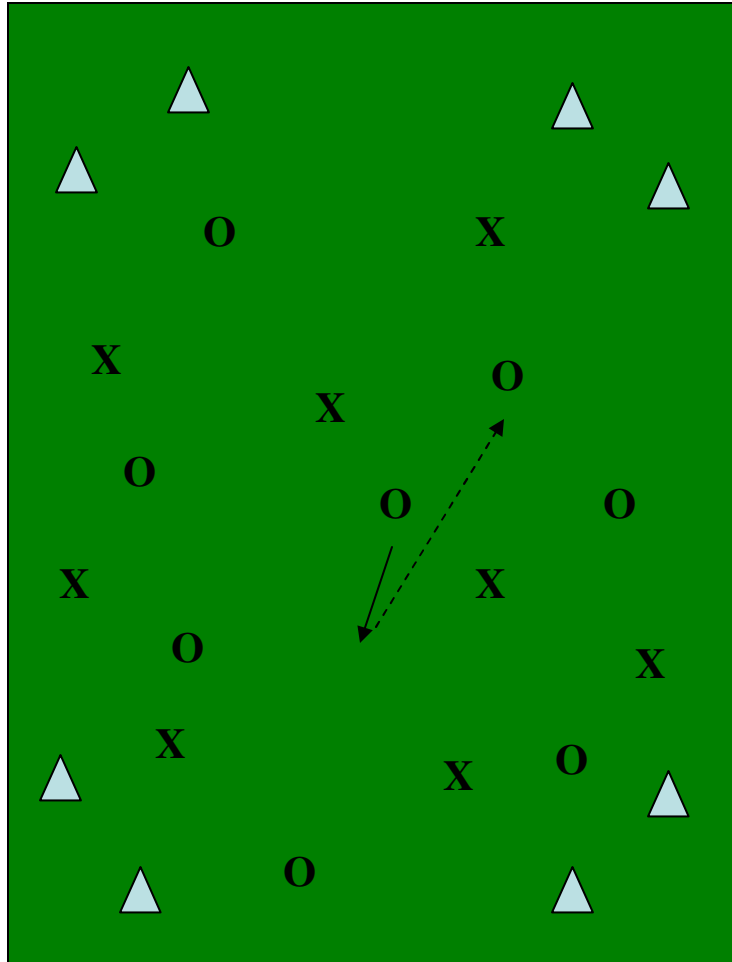
Players can enter zones that they have passed into.

Inner and outer zone players must link and run with ball when in receipt of ball

Every player must attack before passing.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Turning (SSG31)



Organisation

Players play 8 v 8 attacking and defending 2 goals on outside

Key Factors

Keep ball close

Head up

Bend knees

Change direction at pace

Progression

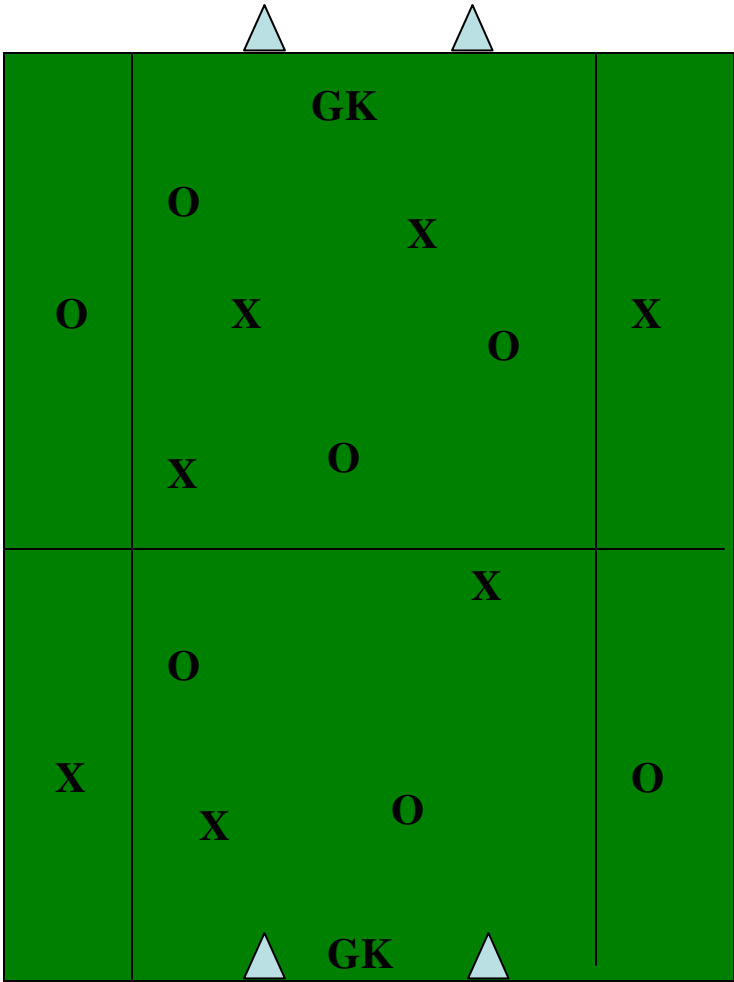
Attack any goal.

3 turns is equal to a goal

Comments

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Heading (SSG32)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into 2 teams of 8 with 5 in central area 2 outside.

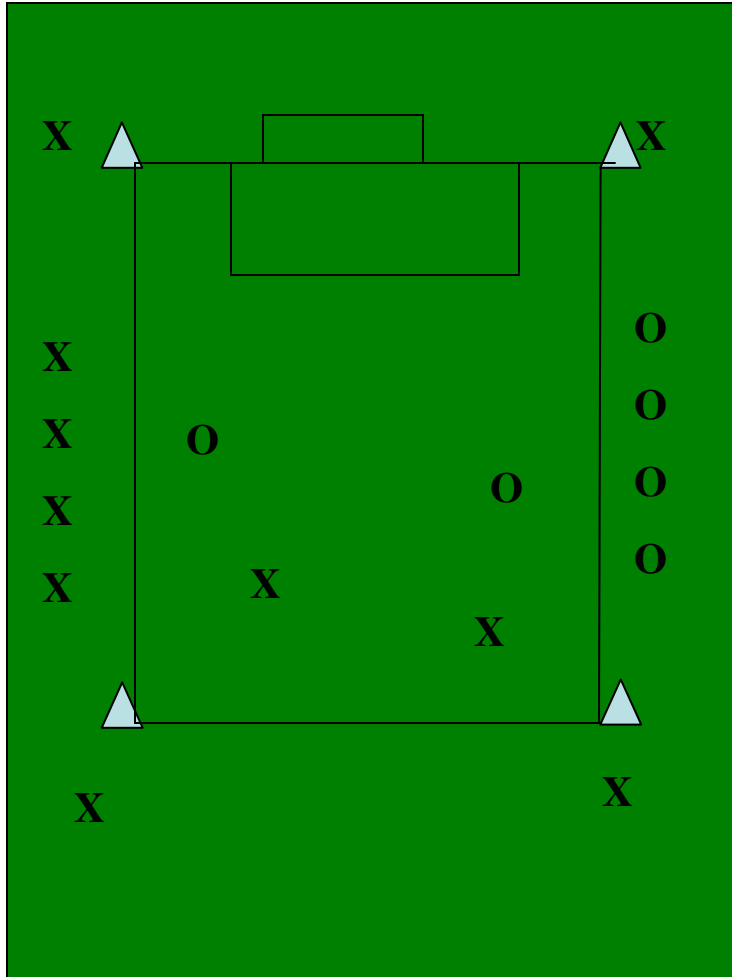
Key Factors

- Move in line with flight of ball
- Arms out for balance
- Eyes open, mouth closed
- Use forehead

Progression

- Split pitch into 2 halves 3 V 2 in each with 2 outside players
- Play normal ground - football with outside players crossing ball freely
- Players can move into any area, but must score with a header.

Shooting (SSG33)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into 4 groups of 4

4 of each on outsides, 2 of each in middle and outside facing goal.

Service to outside players begins game.

Players on middle play 2 V 2 and must attempt to shoot when appropriate using any outside players to pass to

Key Factors

Prepare first touch to provide 1/2 yard space

Angled approach

Non kicking foot beside ball

Strike through centre of ball

Head over ball

Strike across ball

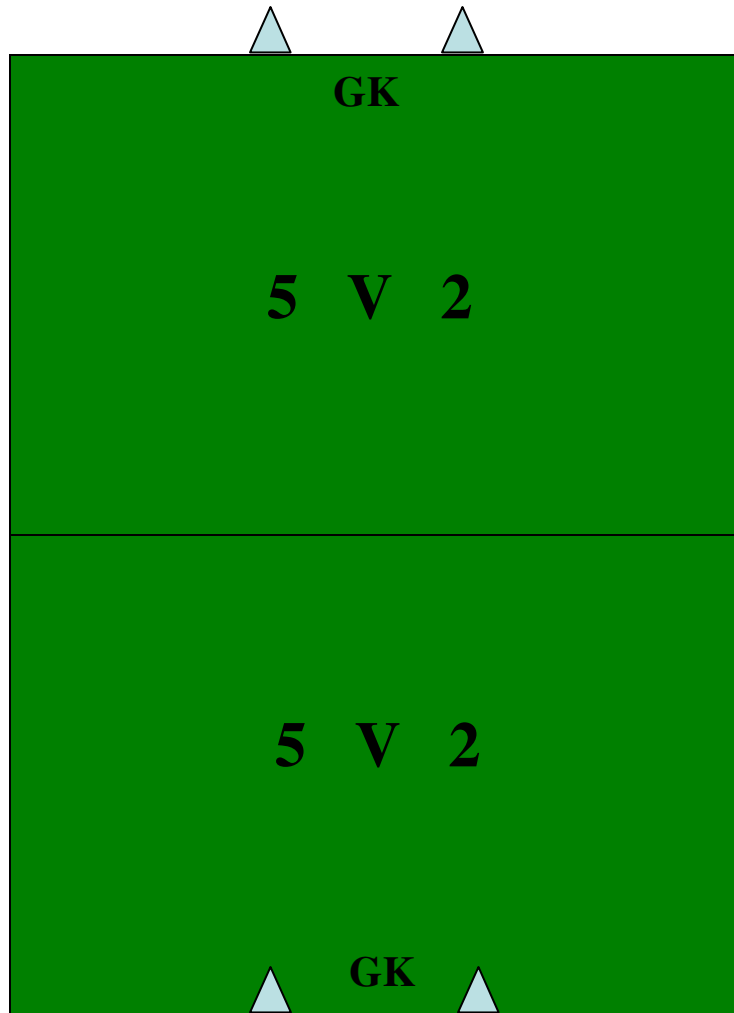
Progression

Add more players inside area (l.e 3 V 2, 4 V 4 etc)

Players must shoot after 3 passes

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Shooting (SSG34)



Comments

Organisation

Players are organised into 5 V 2 in 2 halves

Players have to stay within own area passing and creating scoring opportunities

Key Factors

Create 1/2 yard

Non kicking foot beside ball

Strike through centre of ball with laces

Head over ball

Run across goal

Keep ball low

Progression

Must shoot after 3 passes

All 2 touch

Play 4 v 3 in each area

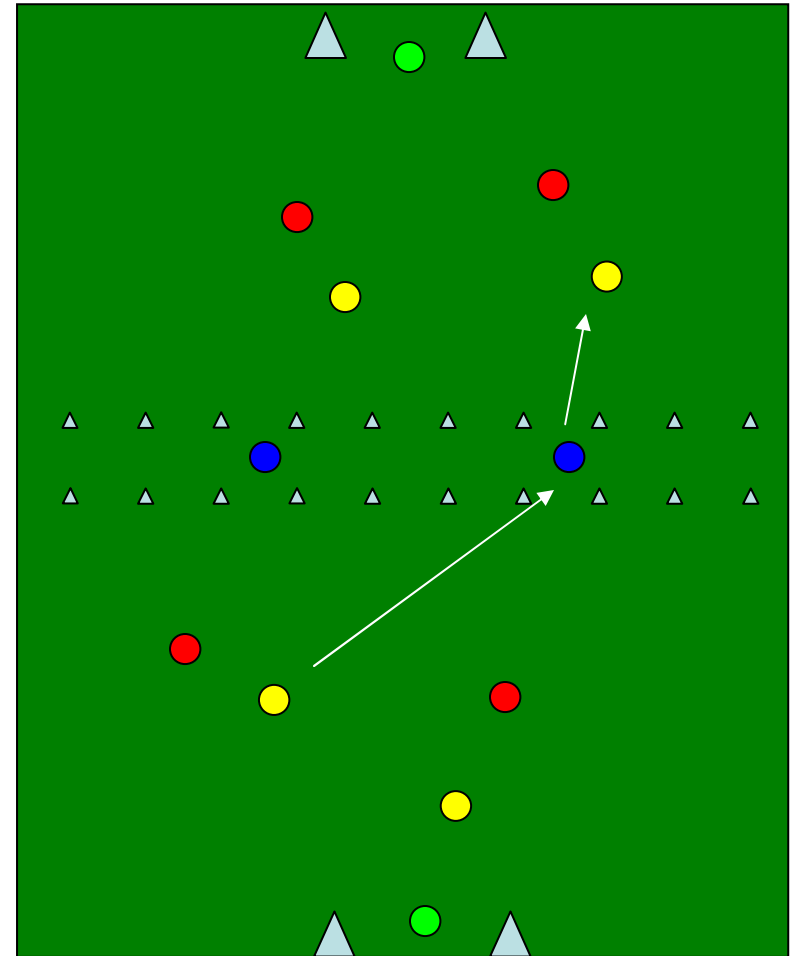
Must pass across line for players to shoot

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small Sided Game

Possession & support and Defending / Pressing (SSG35)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating 16-20 players.
- 2 Vs 2 with 2 transfer players in mid zone.
- Other players resting / ready to come into practice.
- Width = 5yds either side of 6yard box
- Length = 45 yards inc 5 yard central zone.
- **Recommendations;**
- Possession play in one zone to score goals or to transfer the ball across the free zone to team mates who attempt to score at the other end.
- Neutral players play with the team in possession and focus on ball transfer.
- **Key Factors;**
- Creating space as a team / A & D of support.
- Pass forward & control the ball forward wherever possible.
- Pass & receive using the least amount of touches possible.
- Bright and creative play.
- **Options;**
- Mid Players can play back into the zone the ball came from to catch defenders off guard.
- Passing player can support in central zone but must then return to original zone.
- Passer swaps zones with receiving player.

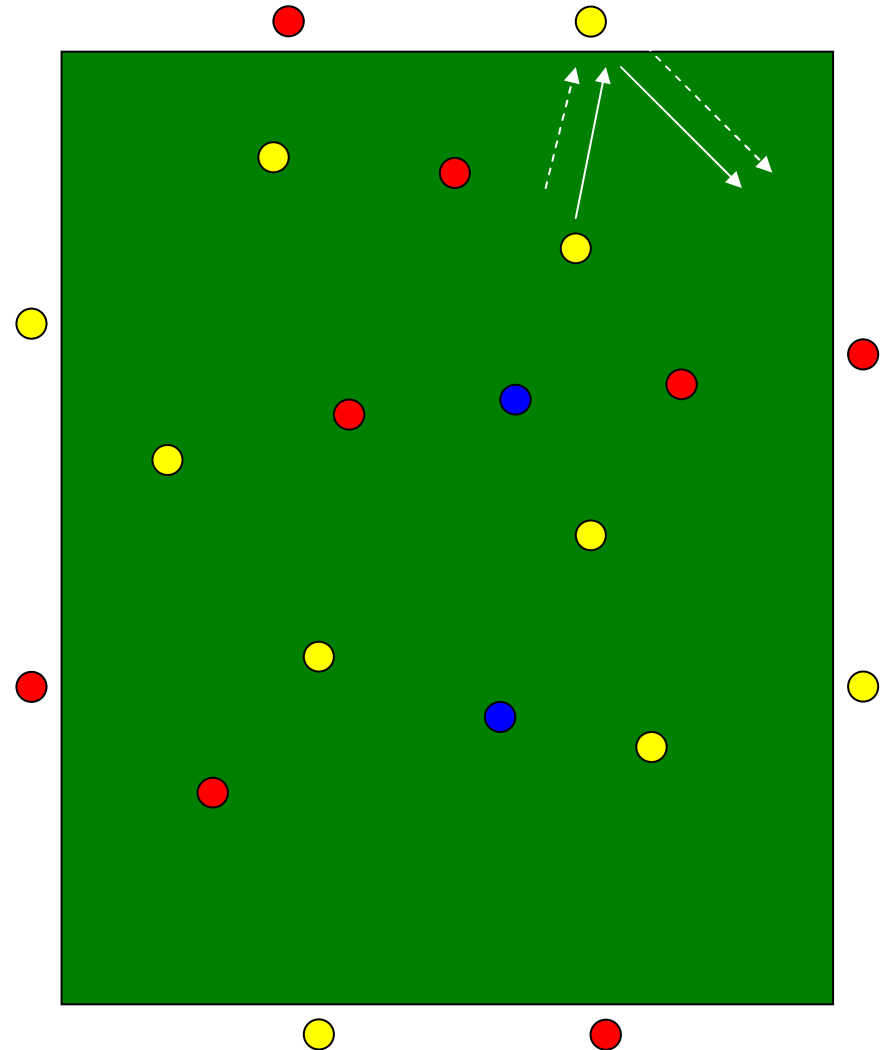


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small sided game

Movement related practice (SSG11)

- **Organisation**
- 2 teams organised within a 30 x 30 / 40 x 40 area;
- Number of players from 16 – 22 players;
- Two floating players that play for the side in possession;
- Players must make 8 passes to score a goal;
-
- **Progressions:**
- Players interchange from outside to in when a pass is made;
- Floating players must be in opposite sides of the field;
- Make play directional by organising players between 18yd box to 18 yd box and adding GK's for each team – No goals.
- A goal is scored when the ball is transferred via players from one GK to another;
- Successful transfer allows the team to keep possession and attempt to transfer the ball back;
- Reduce the number of floaters;
- Restrict the size of the area based on the play of the opposition eg, small if the opposition will press via high tempo etc;
- All passes must be played on the ground;
- The ball must be played forward following a pass backwards etc.
-
- Key factors;
- Create space as a Team;
- Switch play to keep possession by moving the ball into areas where there is greater space;
- Quality of touch, Passing;
- Angle and distance of support;
- Turning / Shielding the ball;
- Body position to receive / move the ball;
- Forward runs as practice is developed



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

“Lippi” Possession (SSG37)

- **Organisation:**

- Maximum of 24 players
- Players are organised into 2 teams.
- Area size 30 x 40 to ensure a physical training effect
- Players can move anywhere in the pitch;
- A goal is scored by passing the ball into the end player / goalkeeper;
- End player / goalkeeper can move along the line.

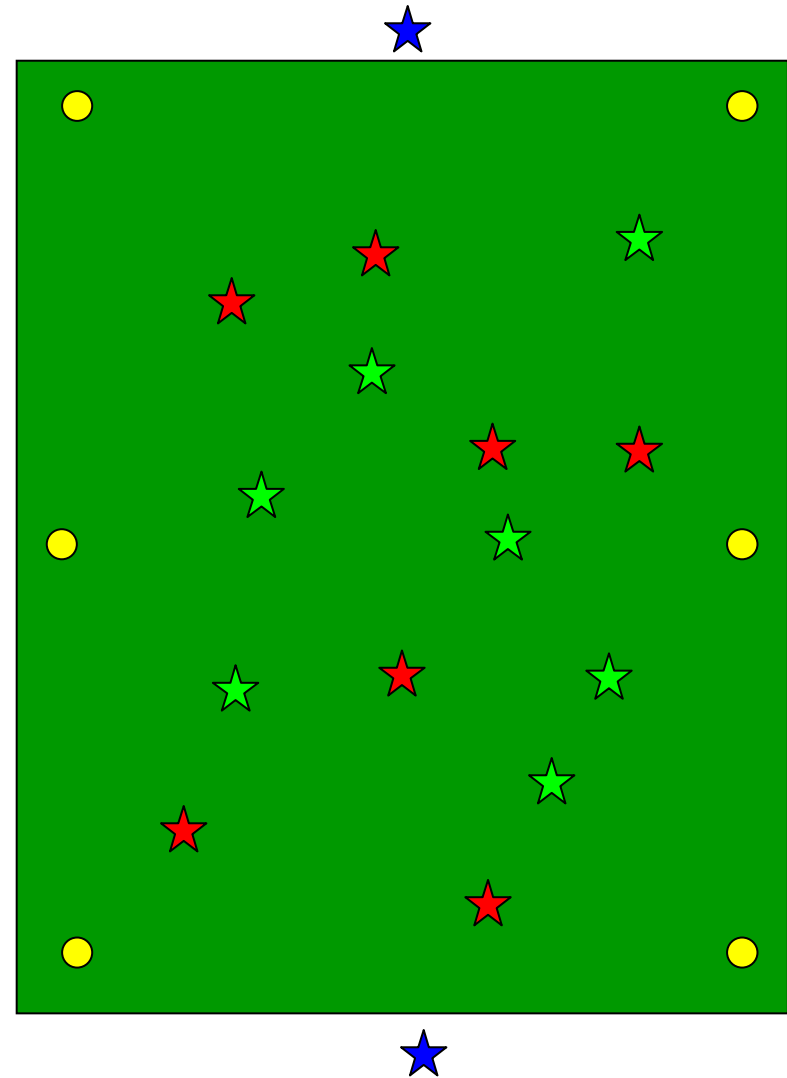
- **Recommendations:**

- Encourage players to play and move forwards as much as possible.
- Ensure players recognise if it can't be played forwards then play is switched as quickly as possible.
- Ensure players defend and attack as a team – quick transition.
- Players must make forward runs to develop play when ever possible.

- **Progressions;**

- **Limit the number of touches per player;**
- **Players retain possession after scoring a goal and attack the opposite end;**
- **Play a floating player that can't be tackled;**
- **Pass into the end player / Goalkeeper must be in the air;**
- **Ball can be passed into the goalkeeper as a safety “net”**

- **Physical**
- **Moderate type activity / To be used as part of an aerobic based session. Higher intensity can be gained through less intervention.**



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

“Star Wars” / Small numbers game (SSG38)

- **Organisation:**

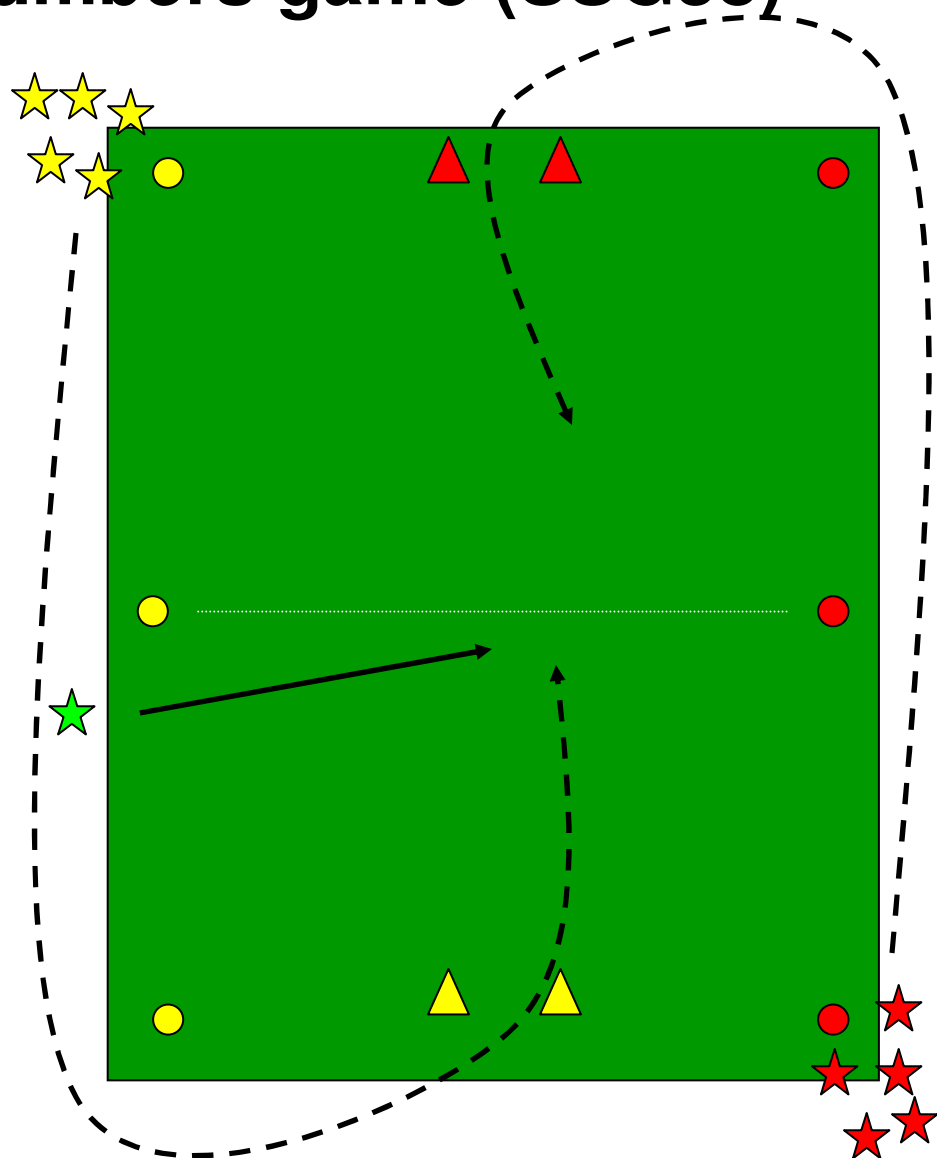
- 14 Players maximum
- Players are organised into 2 teams and positioned at the far corners of the area.
- Area size 22 x 25 / Goals 2 yards apart (Poles)
- Each player is given a number and runs around the outside of the area and through the goal on the coach's command. The coach then serves a ball into the area.
- The 1 Vs 1 game finishes when a goal is scored or the ball leaves play.

- **Progressions;**

- The coach shouts more than one number;
- The number of players in your team represents the number of passes you must make before scoring a goal;
- Perform a skill eg, tip taps etc to score a goal;
- Players can run straight into the area from there corner;
- Play for an allocated time to gain a training effect;
- Limit the number of touches per player;
- An extra attacking player can join in at any given time;
- An extra attacking player can join in at any time – A defending player can react to this by joining in;

- **Physical;**

- High intensity type activity / Use as part of a physically demanding session (Higher numbers = More of a moderate intensity)

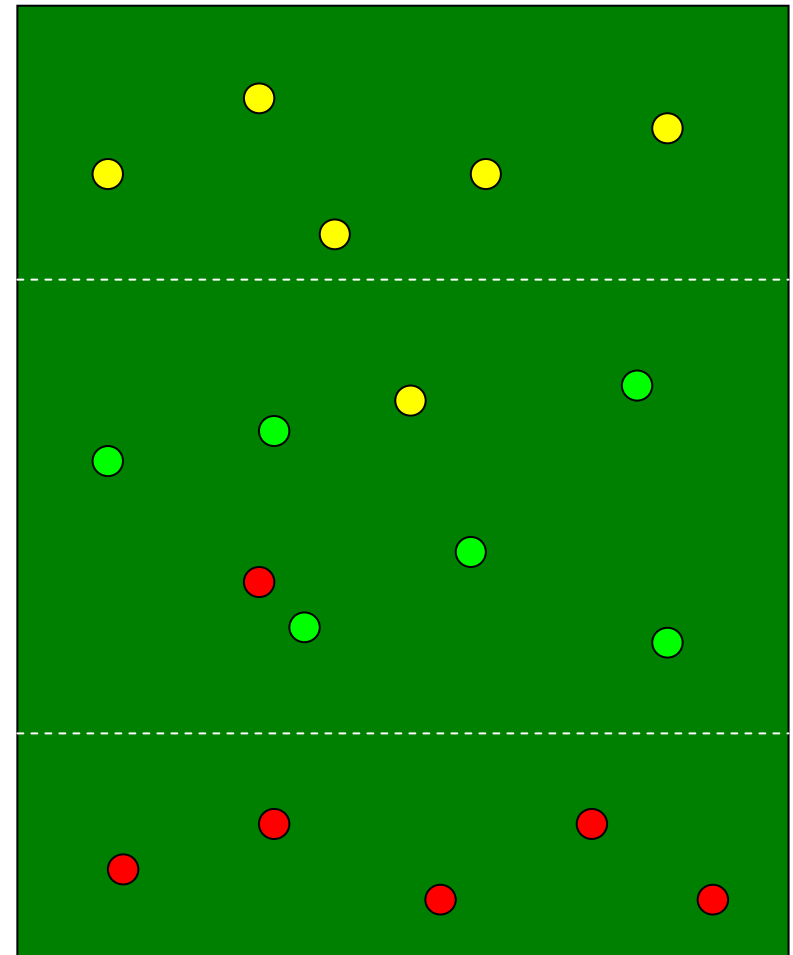


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Transition Practice (SSG40)

Possession and switching play game &/or Defending as a team

- **Organisation**
- Split the players into three teams organised within a 30 x 40 yard area
- Position one team in each zone as shown;
- Teams in the end zones have to transfer the ball across the middle zone that is defended by one team.
- The two attacking teams can send one player into the central zone to support / link the transfer.
- Play for a set period of time or turnover roles of the teams when the ball is given away.
- **Progressions:**
- Play 1/2/3 touch.
- The ball must be passed into the central area before it is transferred to the other zone.
- Rotate the players entering the central zone.
- **Focus on:**
- Pressure on the ball / Compactness of the team / reorganisation when the ball has been transferred / positioning to make the long pass difficult / marking of central players.
- Moving the ball quickly / type of pass / Link play in midfield / Body position / angle & distance of support / movement to receive etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small sided game

Big possession / Small Possession (SSG41)

- **Organisation**

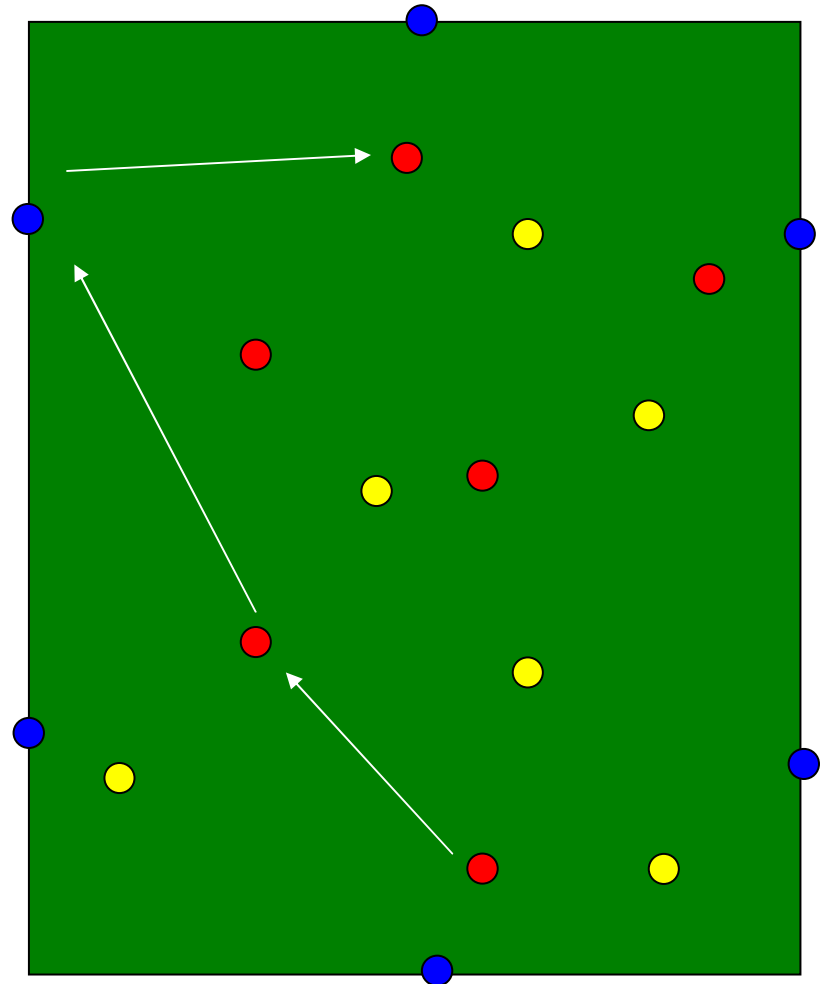
- Squad practice incorporating (16 - 24 Players)
- 6 Vs 6 with 6 side players in an area of;
- 30 x 30 Yards followed by the same practice in an area 50 x 50 yards.
- Resting players operate along the sides of the area.
- The Team in possession + outside players play against the defending team.
- Neutral players must pass back into the central area.
- If the defending team gain possession they can use the neutral players to create an overload.
- Set up small box to ensure smooth transition from one practice to the other.

- **Recommendations;**

- 8 passes to score a goal.
- Make it directional by allowing the players in possession to play up/down the pitch to score.
- Team in possession can only use certain neutral players.

- **Key information;**

- Decision / A & D of support / Acc & Qual of pass.
- Quality of movement on / off the ball.
- Supporting long pass of neutral players.
- Quick combination play.
- Defending as a group / Compactness.
- Collective pressure / Communication / Positioning.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Play : Conditioned game (SSG42)

Organisation;

To develop pressing as a Team

To develop Maintaining possession as a Team

To develop counterattacking through transitional play

2 teams of equal number conditioned in the following way;

Team One must win back possession as quickly as possible and score as many goals as they can in the allocated time.

Team Two must keep possession of the ball using the full area as well as the Goalkeepers

Duration – 26 mins (2 x 12 minutes + 2 minutes rest)

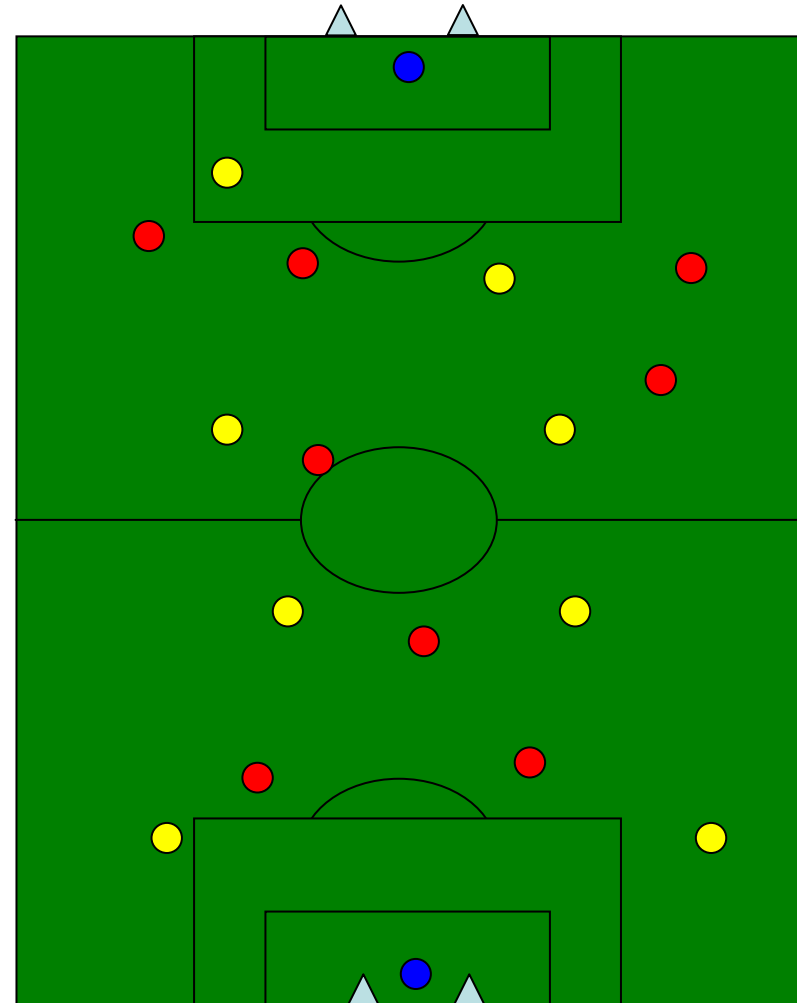
Teams change roles at half time

Key factors;

The pressing team need to do so in a coordinated fashion ensuring that they make it difficult for the opposing team to transfer the ball effectively. On winning possession they must be direct in their route to goal using a variety of methods.

The build up team must use the whole space provided to secure possession for as long as possible with players moving into supporting positions to allow quick transfer of the ball.

Concentration, turnover speed and effective movement are key elements in the practice.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Defending practice inc small group work /shape play (SSG43)

Organisation;

2 groups of attackers on either side of each goal;
2 groups of defenders on the side of the pitch;
To start 2 defenders enter the centre of the pitch, the GK serves for the defenders to head clear, 2 attackers latch onto this clearance and open play begins;
The defending pair defend an attack from both goals and are then replaced by another defending group

Progressions;

Start 2 v 2 / 3 v 3 / 4 v 4
Build up to a back four with 2 holding MF's with an overload against it.
When playing small groups against each other cone off along the penalty box. Open out to full width when working 4 defenders.
When working with a back four start to only work one way with all attackers behind one goal. It might be a consideration to condition some of the attackers to ensure realistic play eg, MF's stay behind the ball.

Key factors;

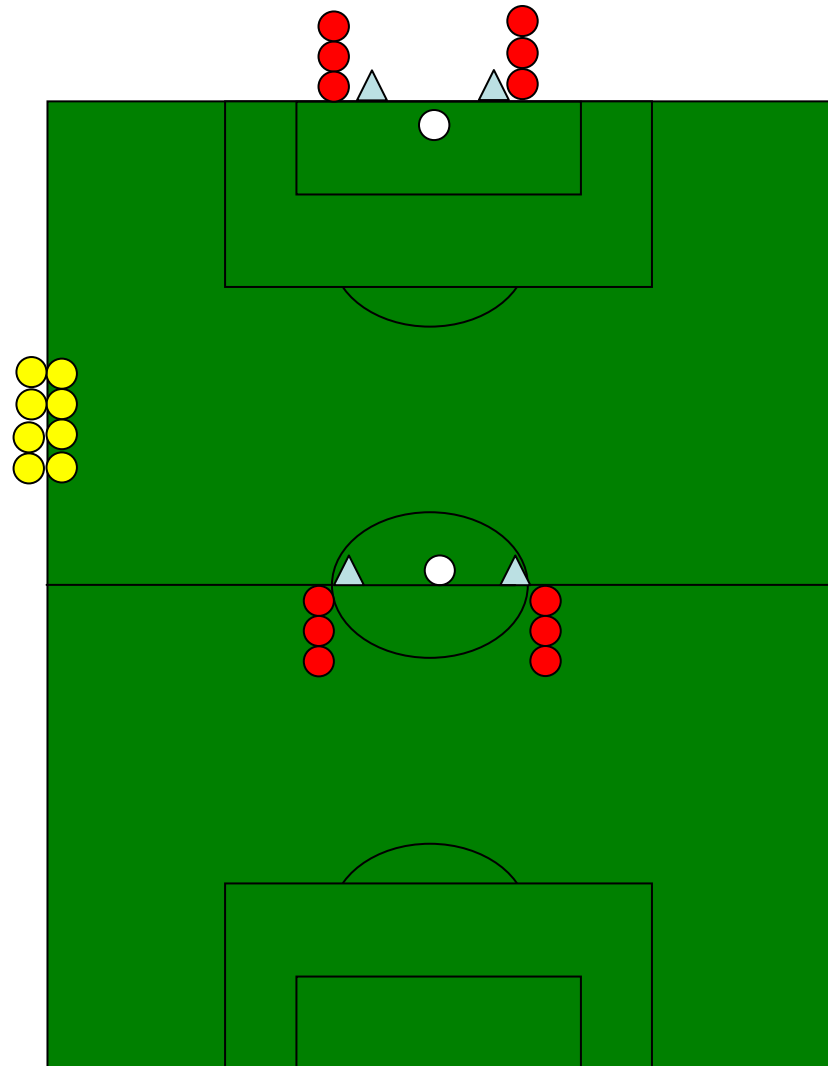
Pressure on the ball;

Cover & Support;

Communication / Balance / Recovery runs / Tracking;

When / When not to pop out to press;

Movement up and down the pitch / Across the pitch etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Possession and switching play game (SSG44)

- **Organisation**

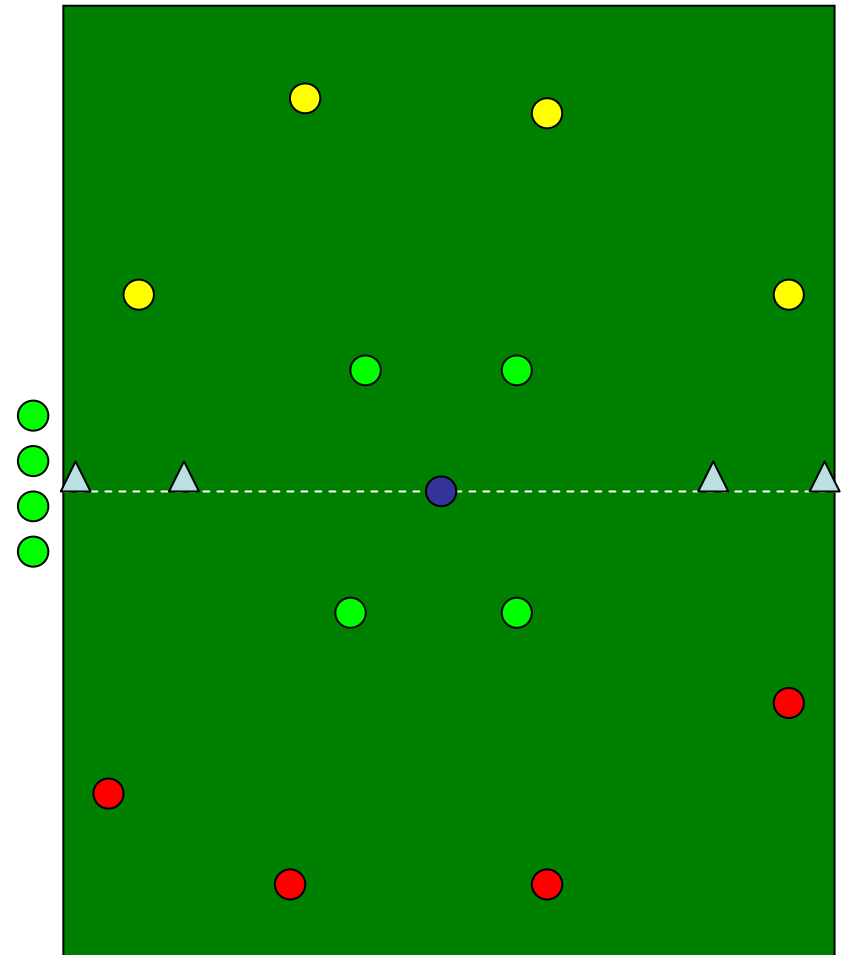
- Split the players into two teams organised within a 60 x 40 yard area
- Position one team in each half of the field as shown;
- One team plays 4 v 2 in one half of the area with the blue player acting as the link to support the transfer of the ball.
- One team attempts to transfer the ball through the coned area to the opposite team.
- Once the ball has been transferred the red team play 4 v 2 with the help of the link player to support transfer.
- Switch the defending players once the ball has been transferred twice.

- **Progressions:**

- Play 2/3 touch.
- Add additional defenders to make transfer more difficult.
- Rotate the defending team / Link Player
- Add extra link player to support transfer.

- **Focus on:**

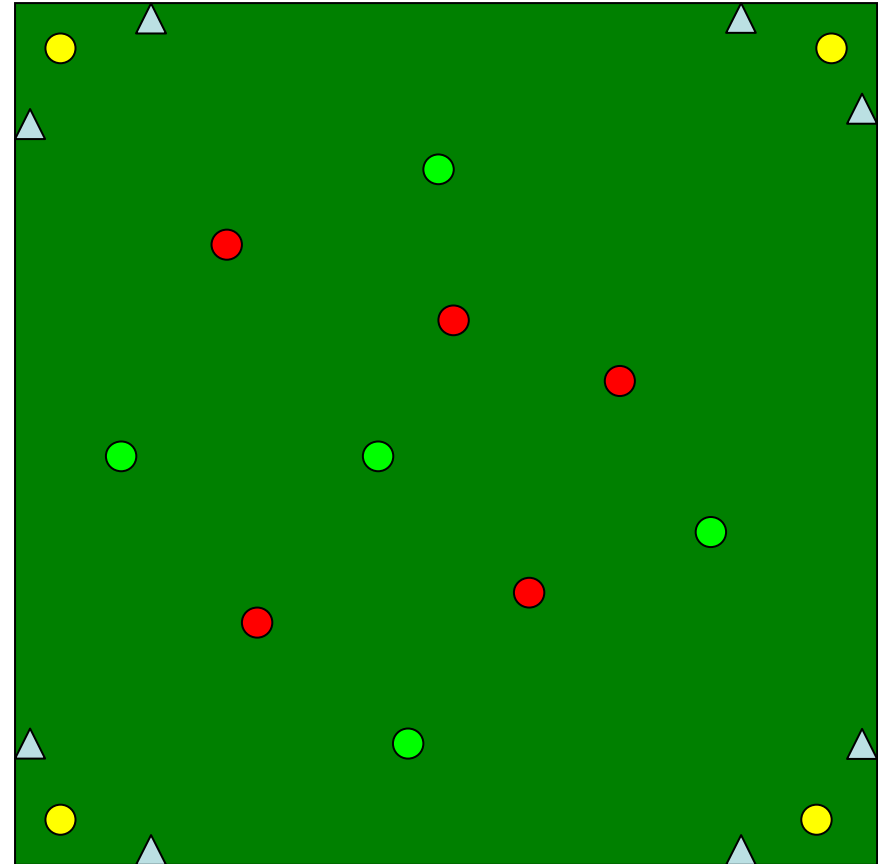
- Angle & distance of support to allow safe transfer of the ball.
 - Shape / Dish of Back four to create abovementioned A & D.
 - Body position of link play to help move the ball.
 - Full back breaking out to attack / Narrow 3 shape behind.
-
- Also work on other positions, for example;
 - WM linking with CF / CM Switching play / CF dropping off to link play etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Possession game (SSG45)

- **Organisation**
 - Split the players into three teams organised within a 30 x 30 yard area approximately.
 - 4 target players occupy the corner zones.
 - Team with the ball keeps possession scoring a point each time the ball is transferred via a corner player.
 - Alternatively 2 teams but instead of target players team scores as above
- **Progressions:**
 - The player who plays the ball into the target player cannot receive it directly back.
 - Ball cannot go back to the same server straight away.
 - Place two players for each team in each zone. The player who plays the ball in swaps positions with the player in the zone.
 - Once the ball is played into a zone player this player is released to create an overload.
- **Focus on:**
 - Angle & distance of support to allow safe transfer of the ball.
 - Quality of passing / control / link play.
 - Body position to receive the ball.
 - When to pass the ball and when to keep the ball.
 - Moving with and without the ball.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Play

Three zone conditioned game (SSG46)

Organisation

Two teams organised into two areas.

Play starts with the GK who plays into one of his team mates. Both teams can only play in the defensive and mid 1/3 of the pitch.

The attacking team must look to play a team mate into the final 1/3 of the pitch for a 1 v 1 with the GK. If the defending team win possession they attack in the other direction.

The defending team must hold a high line, playing in the higher 2/3's of the pitch creating the same situation for the attacking team.

Playing Area; 3 x zones @ 25 yards.

Progressions

Players can run ball into the final 1/3 themselves.

Allow a recovery defender.

Allow two attacking players to enter final 1/3.

Key factors

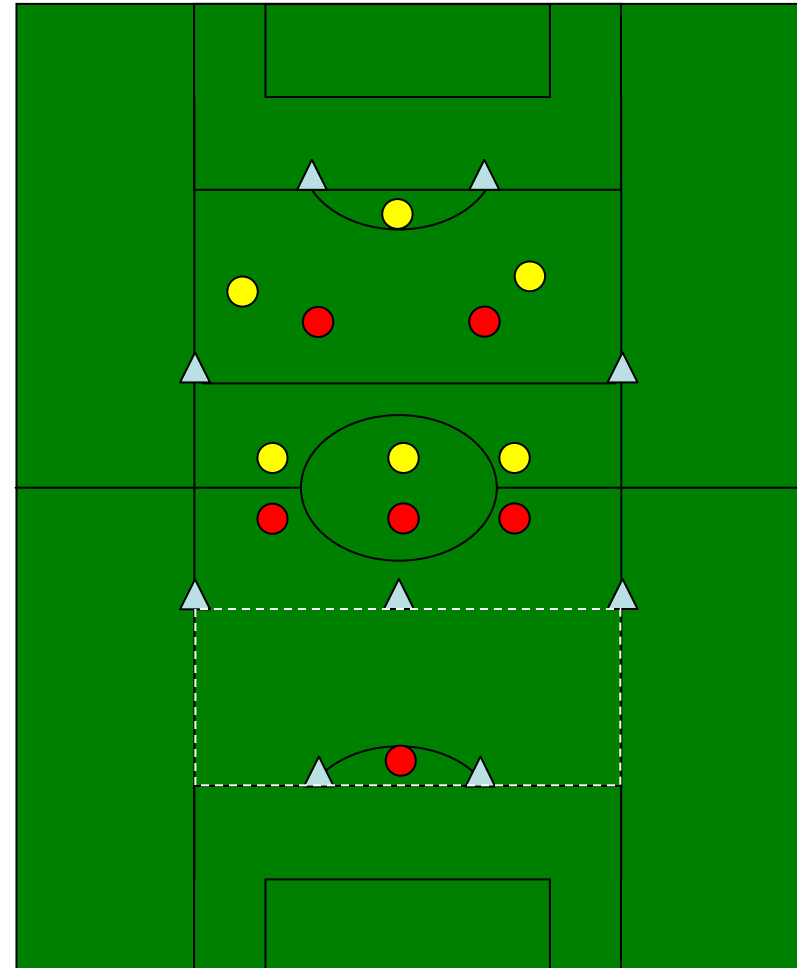
Retain possession.

Identify opportunities to penetrate to gain entry into the final 1/3.

Clever runs & timing of movements.

Combination and link up play.

End product.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

UEFA Counter attacking / Defending: 2v2 / 3v3 (SSG 47)

Organisation:

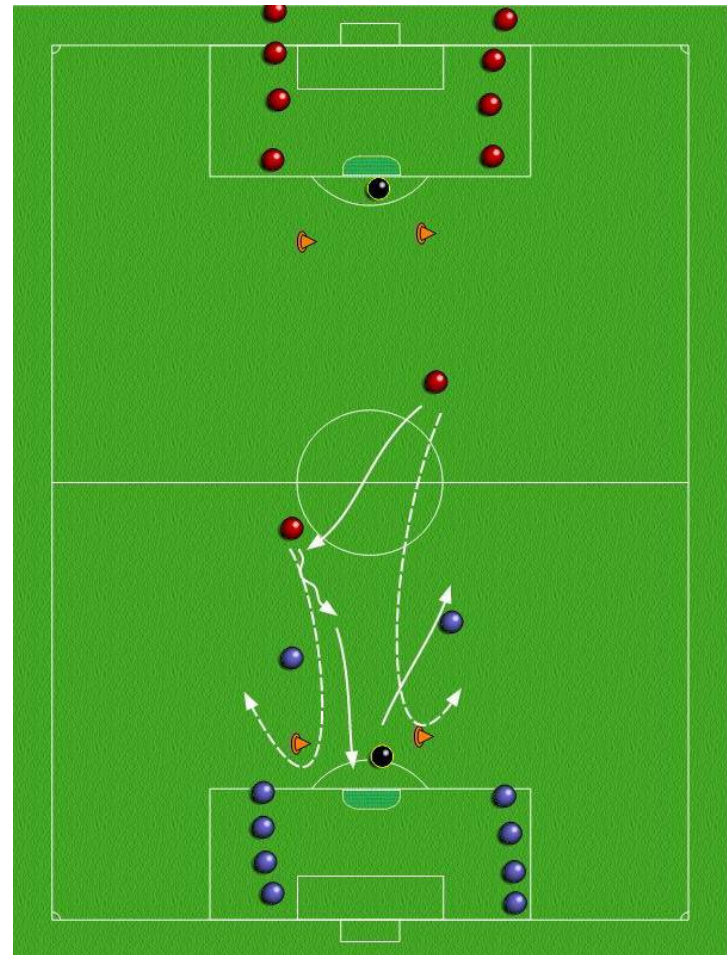
- Playing area width of box to half way line.
- 2v2 on pitch with other players resting
- Team after shot have to recover around cone, GK delivers ball to next two in opposite team to attack. Players need to recover to defend after they have run around cone

Progression:

- 1 player has to run around cone and recover following shot
- 3v3 – one player runs around cone and recovers
- Two players run around cones

Key Factors:

- Break / recover quickly
- Exploit / reorganise disorganised defence
- Compact defending
- Counters quick and direct
- Type of support for strikers / quick combinations



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

UEFA Counter attacking / Defending: 3 team game (SSG 48)

Organisation:

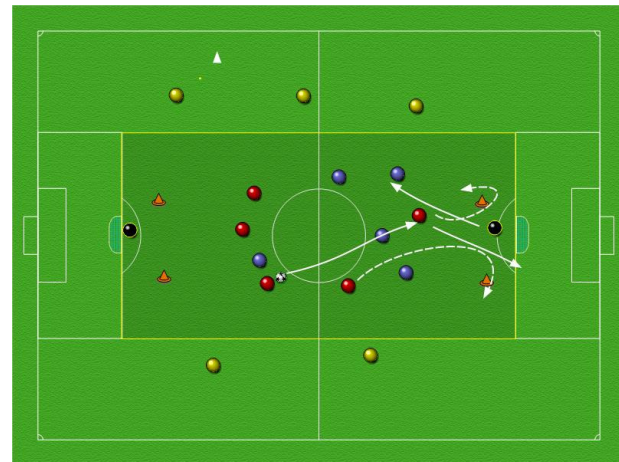
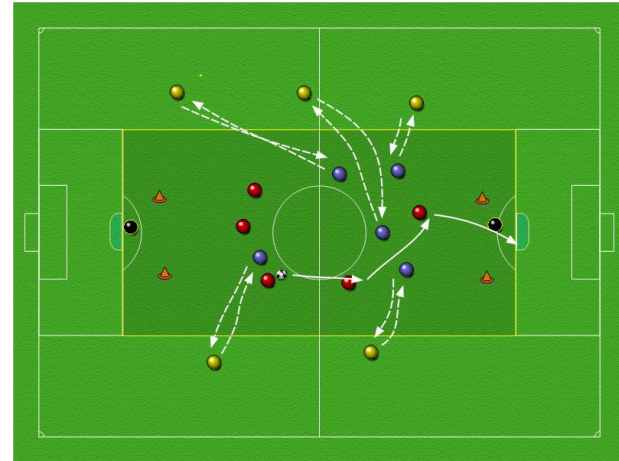
- Playing area 70 x 45
- 5v5+2 GKs with 5 common players
- Common players 1 or two touches
- Team who scores retains possession and attack opposite goal. Losing team are replaced by third team
- If the team shoot and miss, two player have to run around cone and recover before they can tackle.

Progression:

- Scoring team have to retain possession and can only score after 10 passes

Key Factors

- Break / recover quickly
- Exploit / reorganise disorganised defence
- Compact defending
- Counters quick and direct
- Type of support for strikers / quick combinations



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Pitch in squares SSG

(SSG 49)

Organisation :

Players organised into two teams to play a small sided game / 11v11

Playing Area :

Pitch divided into thirds up and across 70 x 40 or full pitch into quarters up and across

Key Points

Can't pass the ball in the same square

Can't have two people in the same square.

Can't pass straight (if you do must be at opposite sides of square).

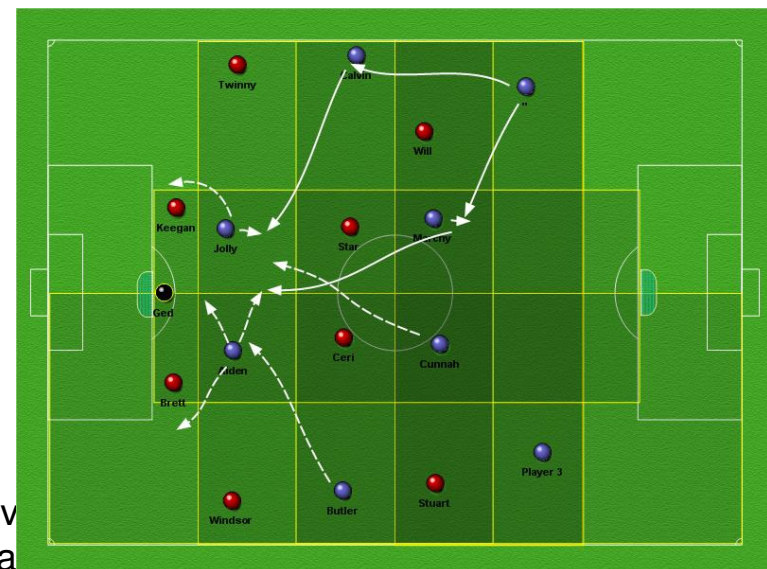
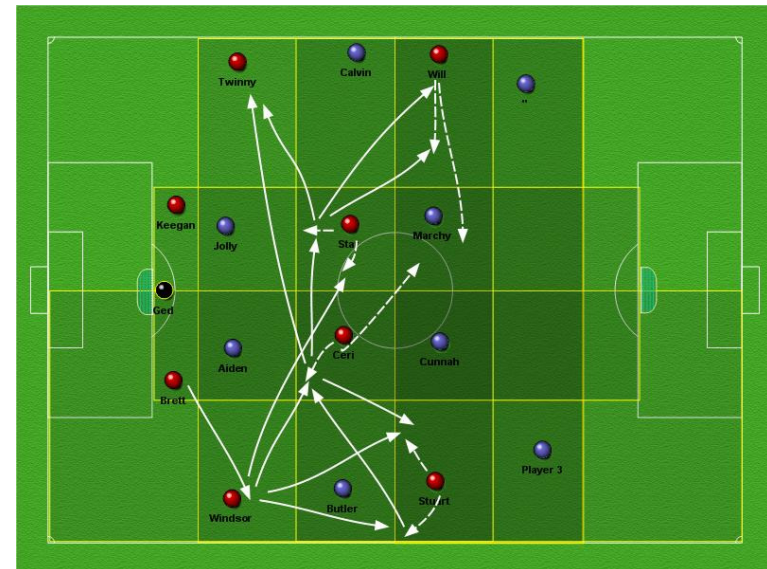
Can't stand still to receive ball.

Functional:

Movement of players

Variations and alternatives

Decision making



Developed by Kev
Academy Ma

Directional Possession + 2 per team + GK (SSG50)

- **Organisation:**

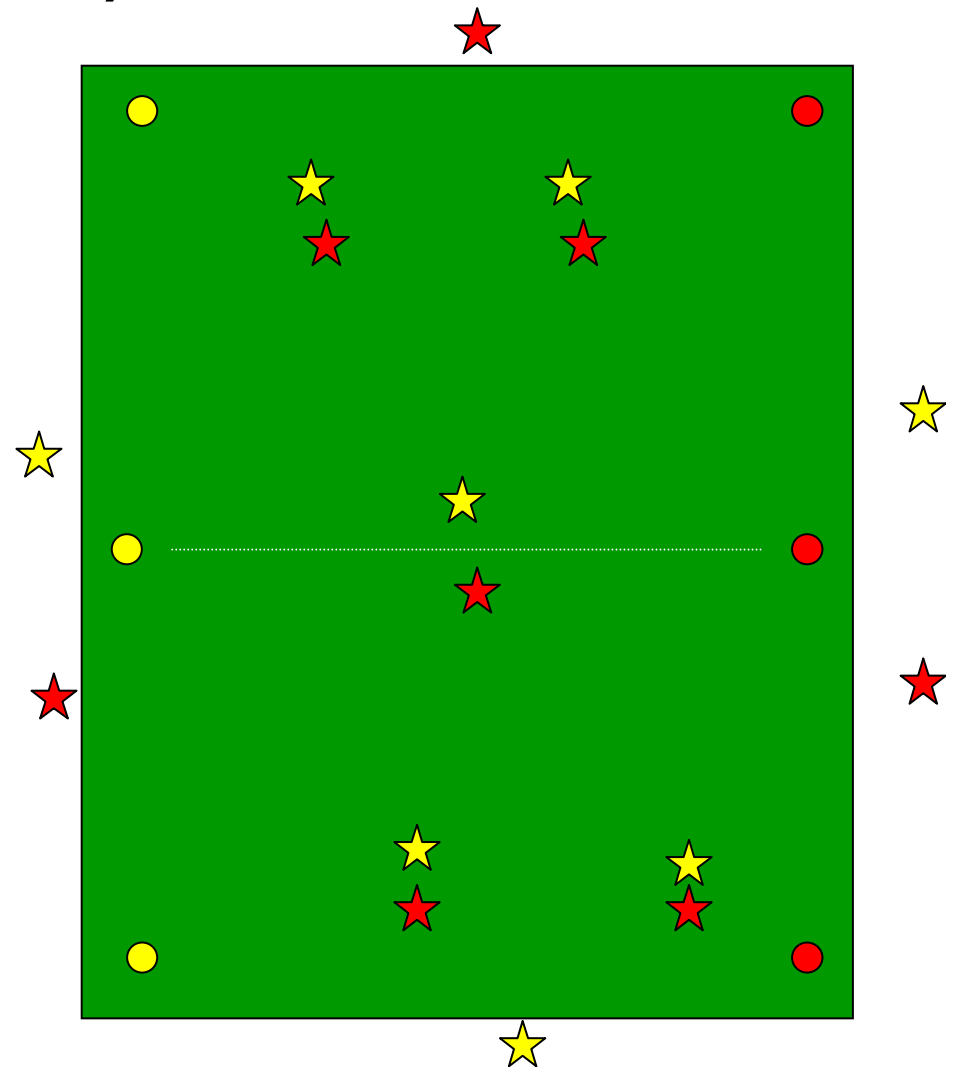
- 16 Players maximum
- Players are organised into 2 teams 5v5+2 in own half +GK
- Area size 50 x 30 / Goals – get the ball into the GK hands at end
- 5 v 5 + 2 in own half
- Midfield player joins in opposite half to make 3v3. 2 attackers and 2 v2 in opposite half

- **Progressions;**

- 1 attacker drops into opposite half. Midfield player breaks forward into other half so 2v2 remains.
- GK can't play straight into side players.
- Ball into side players inside swaps with outside player 1 touch or two touch)

- **Key factors:**

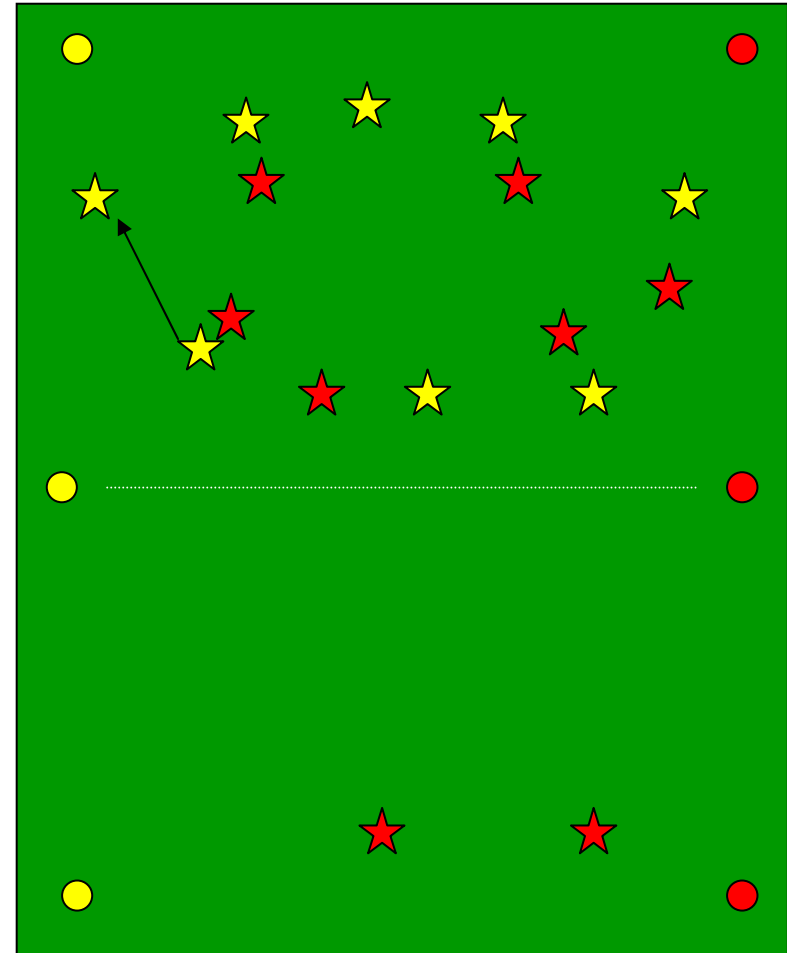
- Attacking shape of defenders.
- Midfield player linking and support
- Timing of movement
- Angles and distances of support
- Body shape
- Combinations



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Transfer and Press 8 v 6 + 2 (SSG51)

- **Organisation:**
- 16 Players
- 60 x 40 pitch divided in halves
- Players are organised into 2 teams 8 v 6 in one half with two in opposite half
- 6 players have to win back the ball from the 8 and transfer the ball to the other half. All six go across to make and the other team must press and win the ball and transfer it back the other way.
- Alternative
- 3 team rotation with outside players
- Key factors:
 - Attackers movement
 - Angles and distances of support
 - Body shape
 - Combinations
 - Transition from attack to defence and vice versa
 - Press the ball
 - Make play predictable
 - Make play compact
 - Timing of movement



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Small Sided Game

Possession & support and Defending / Pressing (SSG52)

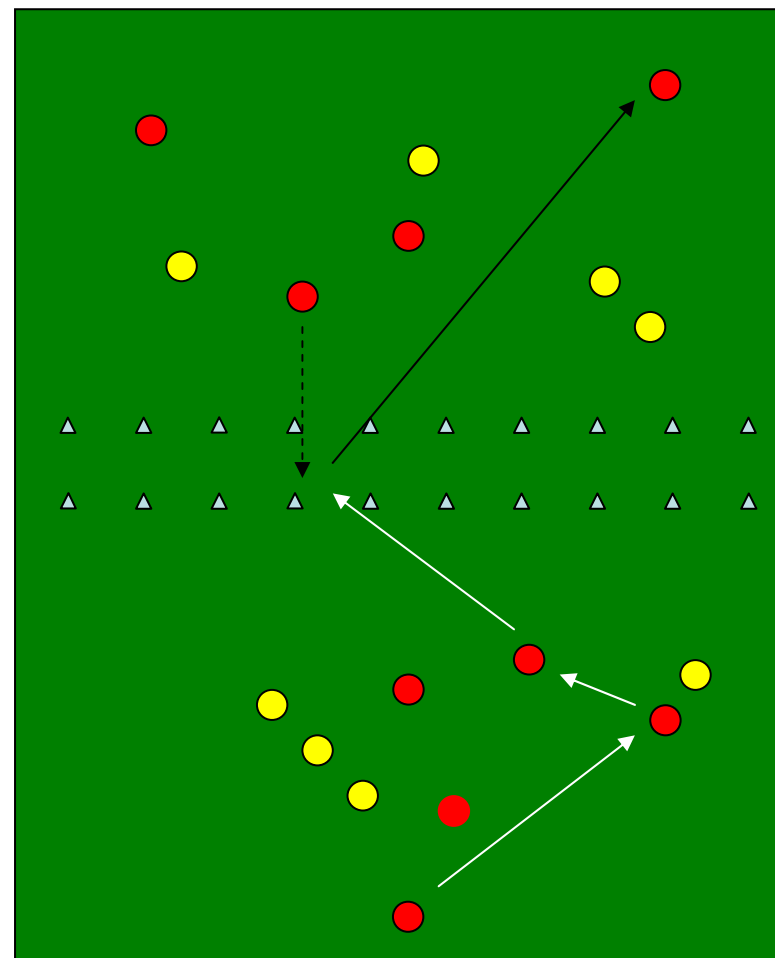
- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating 16 players.
- 4 Vs 4 in each half
- Player from opposite half enters middle zone to receive.
- 60 x 40 area with separating zone of 10 yards.

- **Recommendations;**
- Possession play in one zone to pass the ball across the free zone to team mates who attempt to pass to the mobile target player, they receive possession from him in order to play back across the zone.

- **Key Factors;**
- Creating space as a team / A & D of support.
- Pass forward & control the ball forward wherever possible.
- Pass & receive using the least amount of touches possible.

- **Options;**
- Make 6 passes before transferring the ball.
- Passing player can support in central zone but must then return to original zone.
- Passer swaps zones with receiving player.
- Neutral players can / cannot transfer across zones.
- Target players swap places with passer of ball.

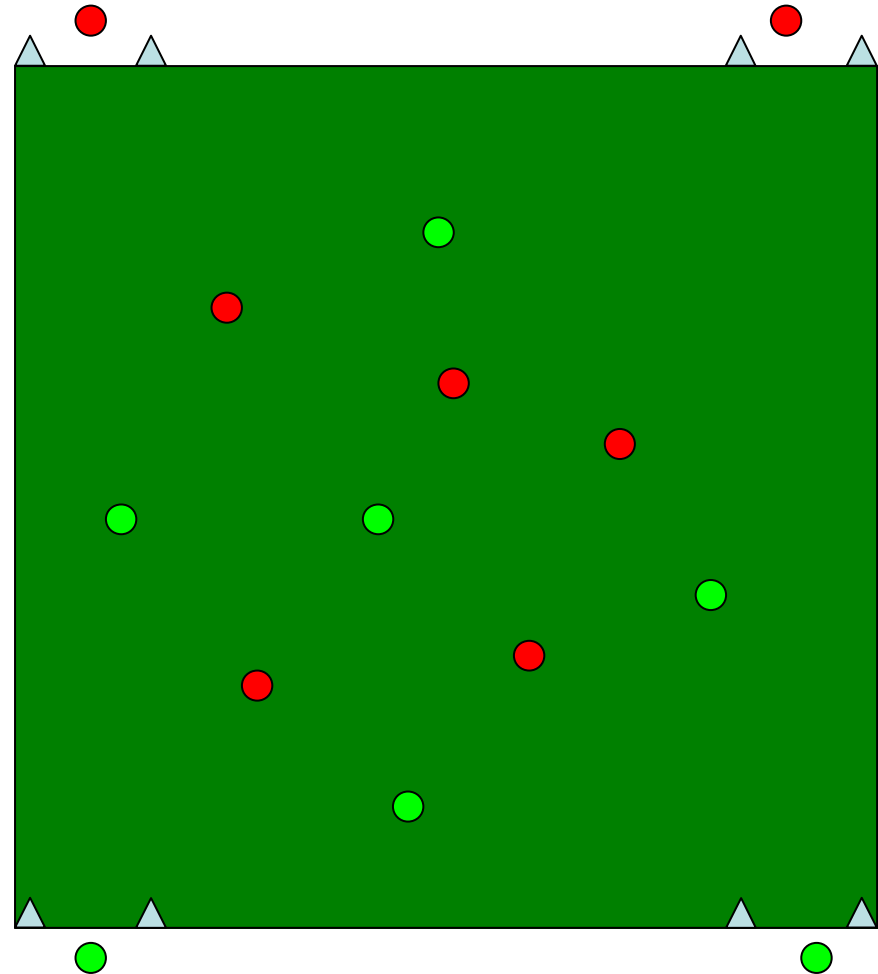
- **Physical**
- Moderate intensity type activity / Use as part of a moderate session



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Directional 4 corner game (SSG53)

- **Organisation**
 - Split the players into two teams organised within a 30 x 30 yard area approximately.
 - 4 target players occupy the corner zones.
 - Team with the ball keeps possession scoring a point each time the ball is transferred via a corner player.
 - Alternatively 2 teams but instead of target players team scores as above
- **Progressions:**
 - The player who plays the ball into the target player cannot receive it directly back. Must bounce pass and change positions
 - Ball cannot go back to the same server straight away.
- **Alternative**
 - No goals just target players
 - Target players to combine before ball is played back into area
- **Focus on:**
 - Pressure on the ball / movement
 - Balance and cover/ angles and distance
 - Recovery runs/ quality of passing
 - Track runners
 - Make play predictable



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Lennie Lawrence Defending Practice (SSG 54)

Organisation

Play starts via a service from the coach to one of three attackers. One of the attackers serves the ball into the central striker who lays the ball off to another to start the attack.

The Central striker does not join the attack, although the defenders must still react to the ball being played to him to ensure a realistic start position

Linesman to judge offside

Defenders become alive from the ball into the striker.

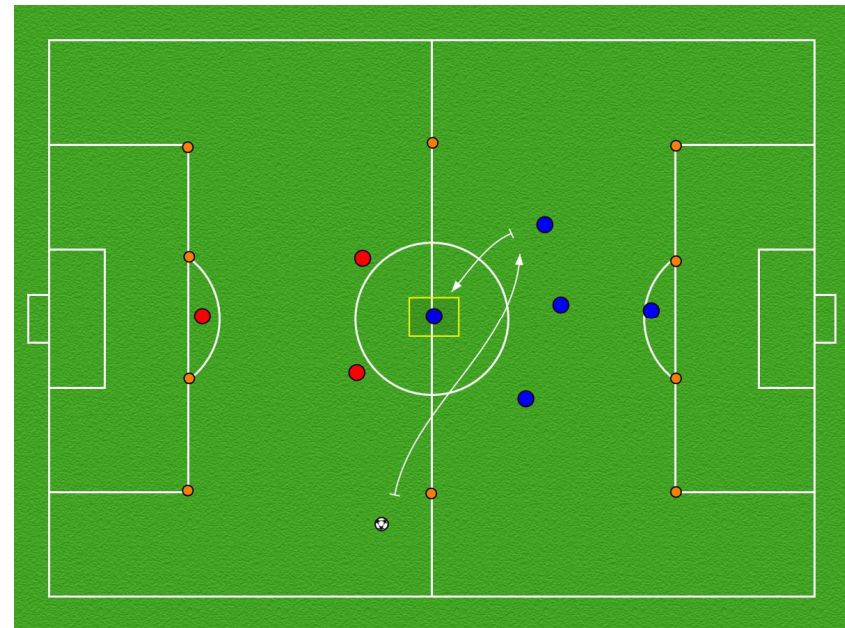
Key information;

One defender to close ball

Press together and attempt to stay level

When and when not to press

Attempt to make play predictable by making them play sideways



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

3 Goal Possession game (SSG55)

- **Organisation**

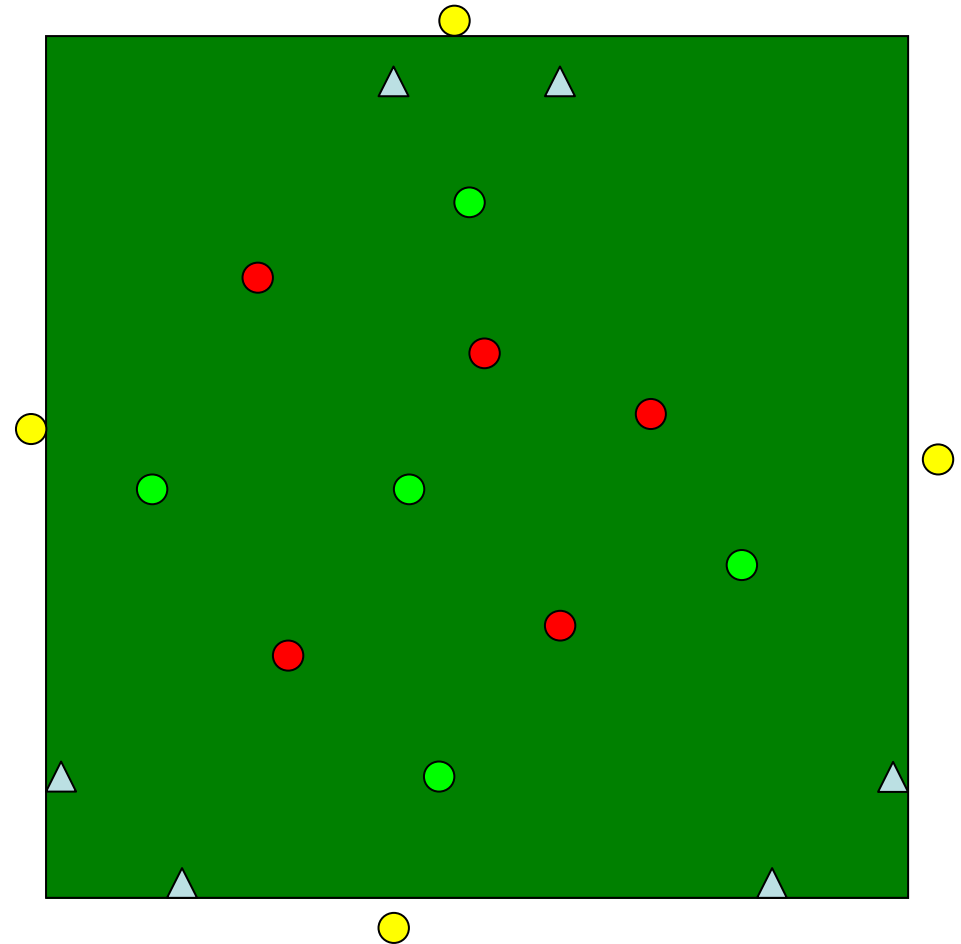
- Split the players into three teams organised within a 30 x 30 yard area approximately.
- 4 players play as outside players
- Team with the ball keeps possession scoring a point each time the ball is transferred through one of the three goals

- **Progressions:**

- The player who plays the ball into the target player cannot receive it directly back.
- Ball cannot go back to the same server straight away.
- The ball can be run through the goal
- 10 passes = a goal

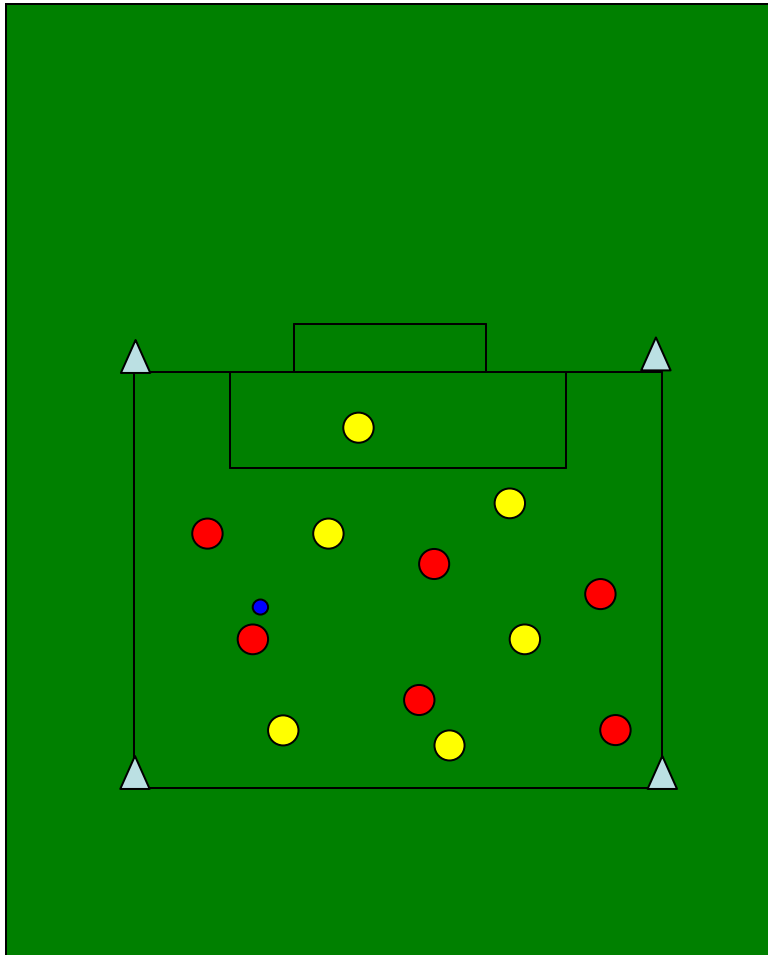
- **Focus on:**

- Angle & distance of support to allow safe transfer of the ball.
- Quality of passing / control / link play.
- Body position to receive the ball.
- When to pass the ball and when to keep the ball.
- Moving with and without the ball.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Penalty box Possession (SSG56)

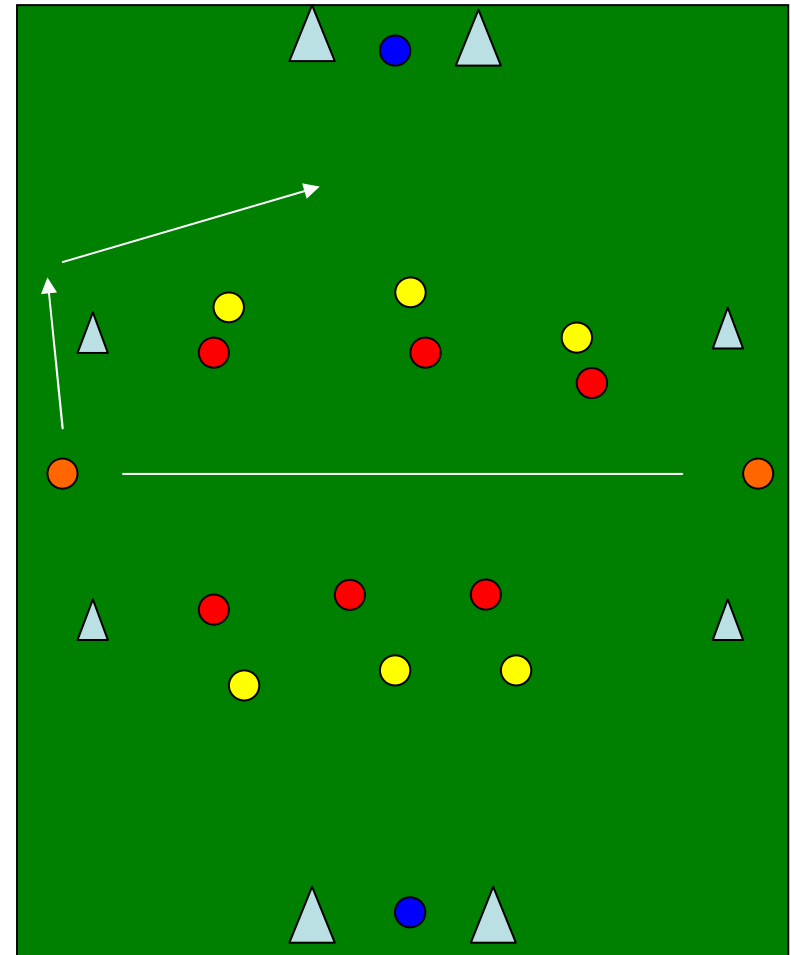


- **Organisation**
 - 7 v 7 + Floater (Maximum)
 - Organised within the 18 yard box
 - Simple possession practice with teams having to achieve 25 passes to win
 - Losing team perform a forfeit
- **Progression**
 - Vary conditions to develop play to include;
 - 25 passes to score a goal;
 - Only 1 touch passes count;
 - Only 1-2's will score;
 - All players must touch ball to score.

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Jeff Tipping Crossing & Finishing Practice (SSG57)

- **Organisation**
 - 3 v 3 in each half;
 - 2 wide players for each team unopposed;
 - When defenders win the ball play to the wide players;
 - Defenders can only drop past the cone when wide player reaches that point;
 - Work one half of the pitch and then the other;
-
- **Options;**
 - Add central players to link play from a central area to the wide area;
 - Play three attackers versus two defenders
 - Allow the defenders to play into their forwards;
 - Wide players can swap places with one of the attackers.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

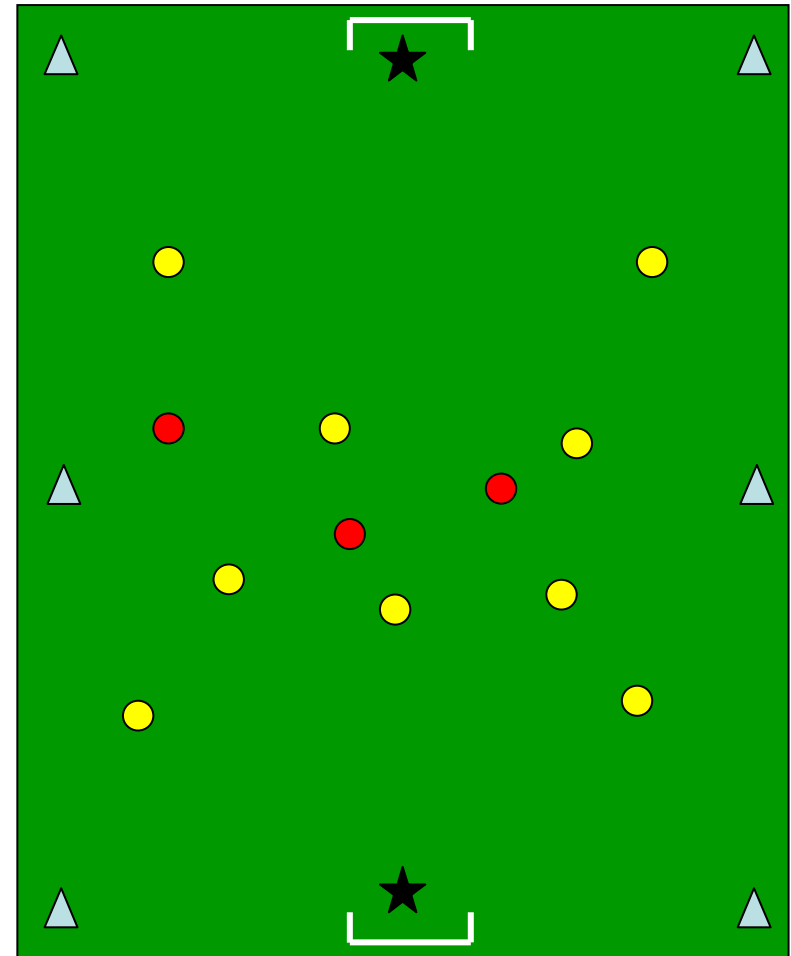
Dries Kroos – Small Sided Practice (4) (SSG 58)

- **Organisation:**

- Players are organised as shown in diagram – 2 gk's, 8 yellows and 3 reds.
- Size of area is 15 yards from goal to goal and 25 yards wide (Tight area used for practice)
- Yellows have to remain in possession, while the reds are trying to regain possession and score in any goal.
- If a goal is scored by the reds, they keep the ball and try to score again.

- **Recommendations:**

- Rotate the players round every two minutes
- Limit the players with the amount of touches allowed
- Look for the players to recreate the 'pass-set-pass' move from the technical practices
- Ensure a high work rate by the players
- In possession use the area
- (Area used was slightly bigger than one penalty box in the sports hall).



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager



Patterns of play

Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club Academy Technical Programme

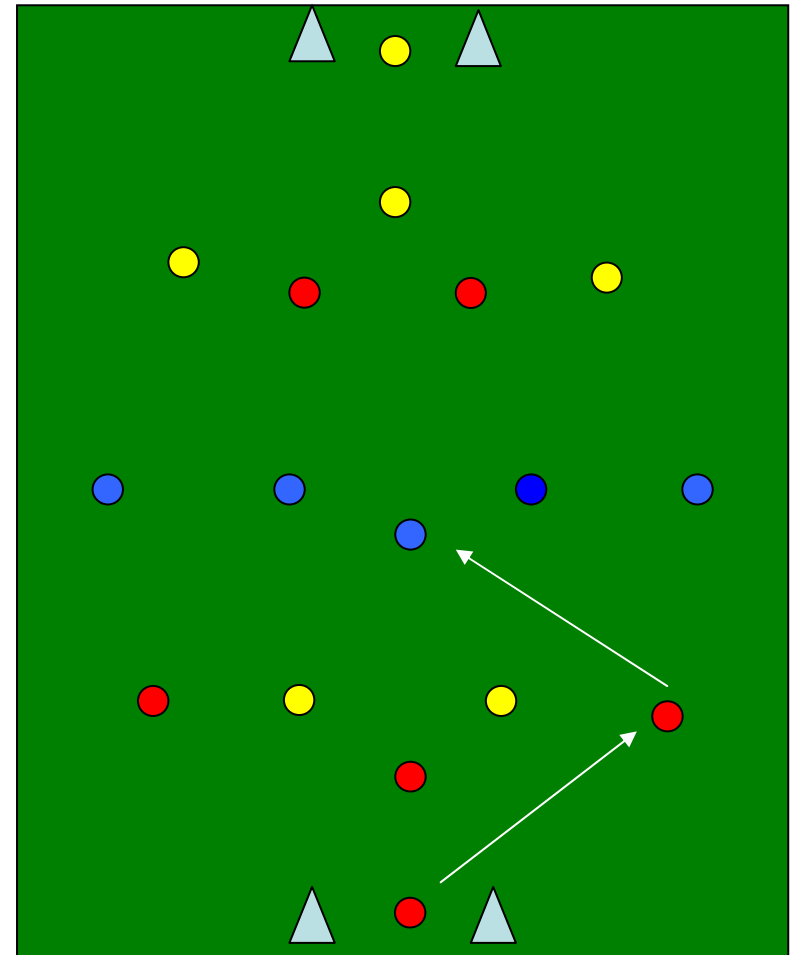
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Pattern of Play / Small Sided Game (PP01)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice incorporating 17 players.
- 2 teams (GK/Back 3/ 2 attackers)
- 5 Neutral midfield players who play for the team in possession.
- 18 yard box to 18 yard box.
- The GK feeds the ball to any of the Back 3 who attempt to play to the midfield.
- Midfield combines before feeding the attackers. MF's then support the attack from behind.

- **Recommendations;**
- Back 3 focus on creating space.
- Midfield 5 created space both wide & long.
- Deep lying CM backward of square.
- 2 CM's in advance but narrow so ball can still be played into CF's.

- **Options;**
- Wide CB can play into deep lying MF.
- Wide CB plays into CF & supported in front / behind CF.
- Ball from wide CB into WM, in behind for running CF / Inside CM.
- Wing Backs to cover 1st 2 1/3's of Pitch / Inside CM's last 2 1/3's.

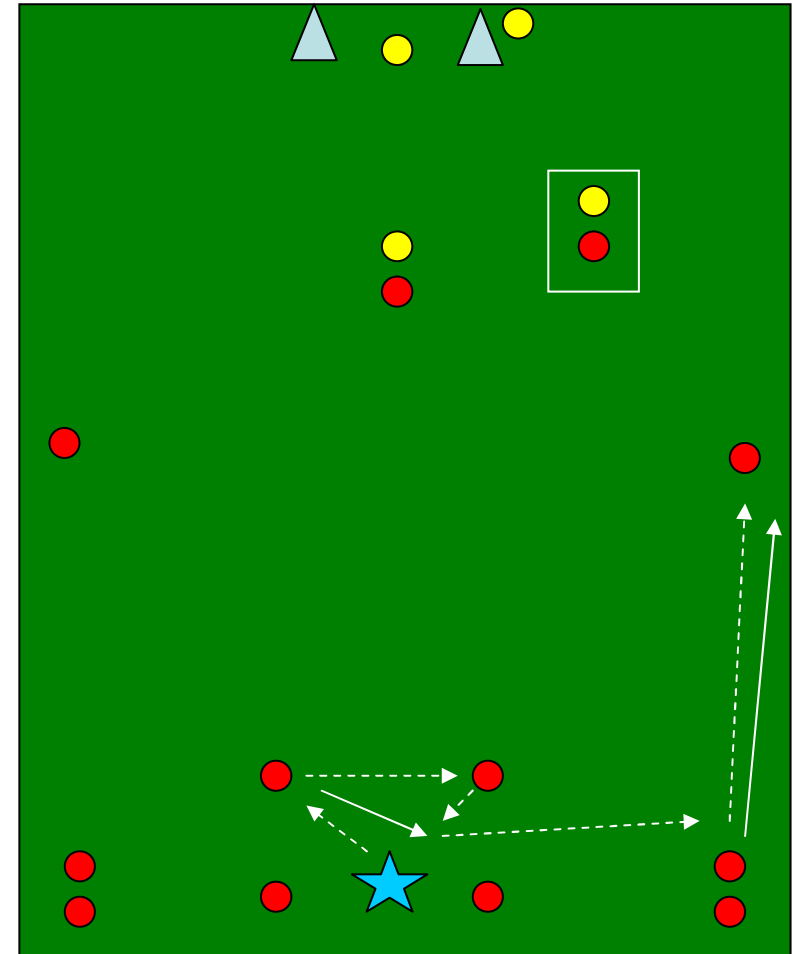


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Pattern of Play

Half pitch practice (PP02)

- **Organisation**
- 14 Players & 2 goalkeepers utilising one half of the pitch the red team develop attacking patterns of play with limited opposition.
- To begin, the coach passes the ball to one of the midfielders, a 1-2 is played and the ball is transferred to a wide area to the waiting full back.
- Players then perform various combinations to develop the attacking movements.
- The wide midfielder jogs back to the full back position once play has been completed on that side of the pitch. His position is taken by the supporting full back.
- The players in the box represent the resting defender and centre forward who replace the current players after intervals.
- **Recommendations:**
- Team to create space wide and long
- Full backs to open body position and play into forwards/wide mf/central mf's.
- Angle & distance of support.
- Work on creating space to gain possession by supporting players.
- Timing of movements
- Type of movement to receive
- Decisions when in possession.
- Movements in & around the box
- Wide player on opposite side to support box and/or takeover "Kenny Lunt" position during build up.
- Combinations
- WM Crosses
- WM sets back for full back to cross
- Full back overlaps
- CM's play into CF who comes off Centre Back at an angle, CM receives the ball back and sets the ball into a wide area.

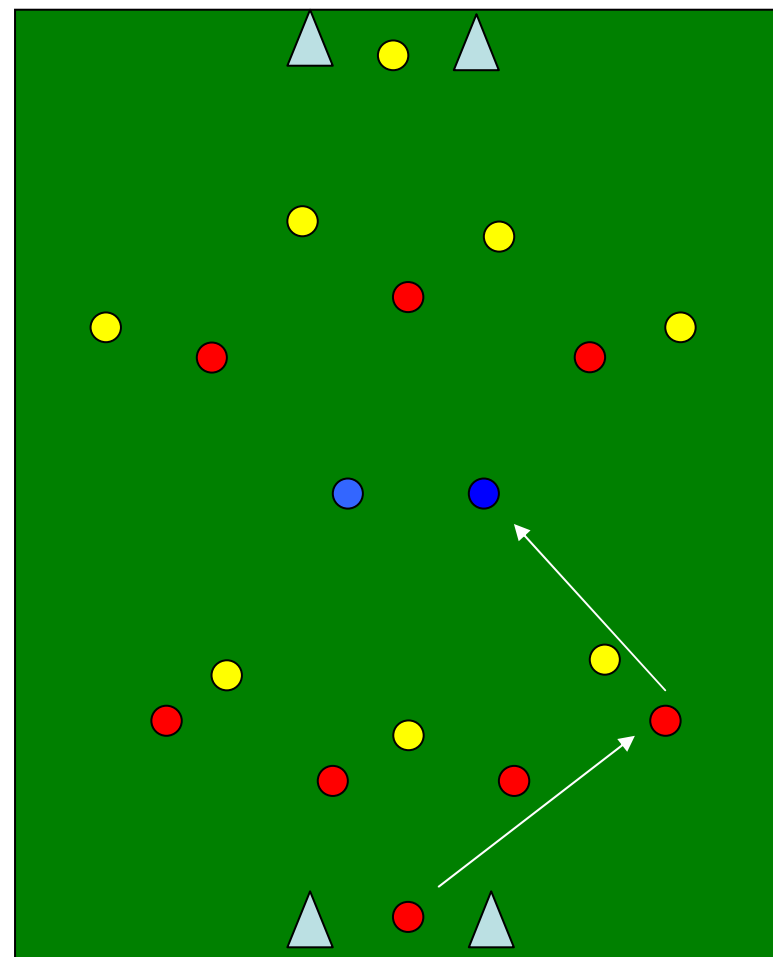


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Pattern of Play

Zonal Back Four (PP03)

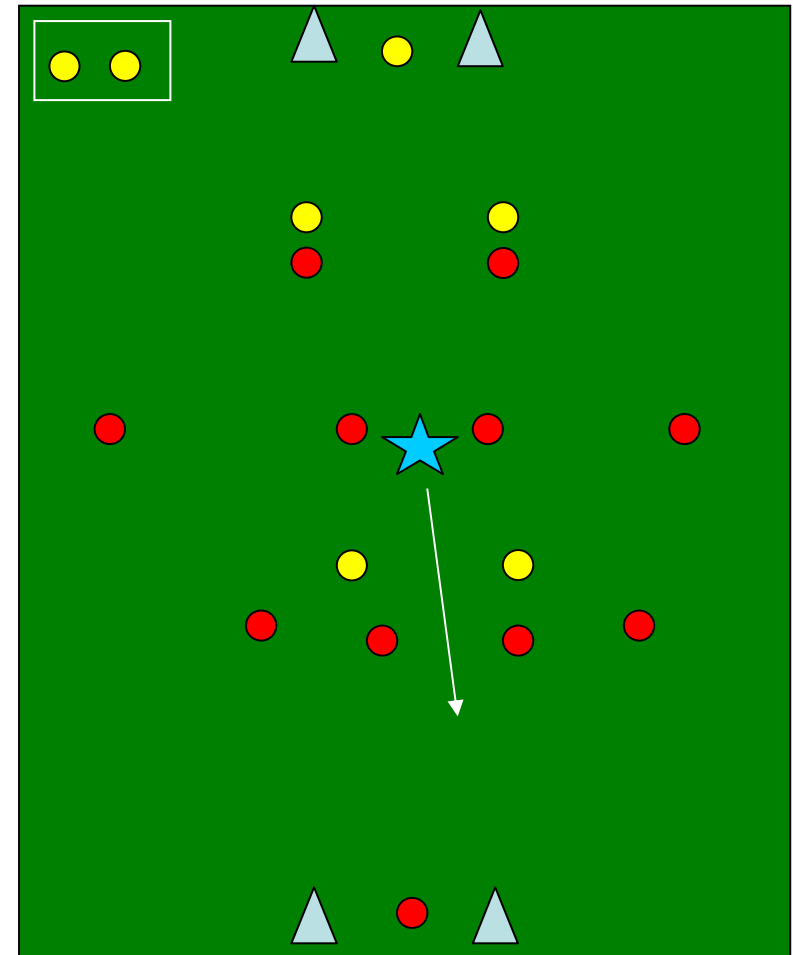
- **Organisation**
- To train the zonal back four (18 Players)
- 2 teams (GK/Back 4/ 3 attackers)
- 2 Neutral midfield players who play for the team in possession.
- Full pitch
- The GK feeds the ball to any of the Back 4 who attempt to play to the midfield.
- Midfield combines before feeding the attackers. MF's then support the attack from behind.
- **Recommendations;**
- Back 4 focus on distance from the half way line when opposition GK has the ball.
- Distance between GK & Back 4.
- Distance from each other when MF has the ball.
- Flowing as a unit across the field in response to the movement of the ball.
- Distance & shape of back line as attack is built (Middle/Wide)
- Defending in the last third against central & wide attacks.
- **Options;**
- MF can run at the back four with the ball
- Defenders & MF's can combine & change roles.
- Full backs can overlap and support the attack.
- An extra forward can be added to each team.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Pattern of Play (PP04)

- **Organisation**
- To train the zonal back four (16 Players + 2 Full Back's to be added as practice develops)
- Starting 11 Versus 2CB's, 2CM's.
- Coach starts the practice by serving behind the back four for them to recover and play into GK.
- Once the team has altered to take up realistic defending positions the GK serves to the back four to develop an attacking pattern of play
- Full pitch
- The coach holds a ball and serves to the MF's / Defence plays 1-2's etc to allow multiple attacks to take place. This keeps the session flowing.
- The coach must play an active role in service etc
- Midfield combines before feeding the attackers.
- MF's then support the attack from behind.
- **Recommendations;**
- Add in full backs as practice develops.
- Work through various combinations of attack based on passing priorities.
- This should include in central midfield, wide areas, in attacking situations.
- Ensure realistic play via continual ball service etc.
- **Key information;**
- Create space – width, length, depth
- Open body position
- Passing priorities
- Decision
- Angle & distance of support
- Timing of movement on/off the ball
- Quality/type of pass depending on decision
- **Physical**
- Light intensity session / Perfect for day before match
- Ensure key players are rotated so that they are not overworked eg, Strikers



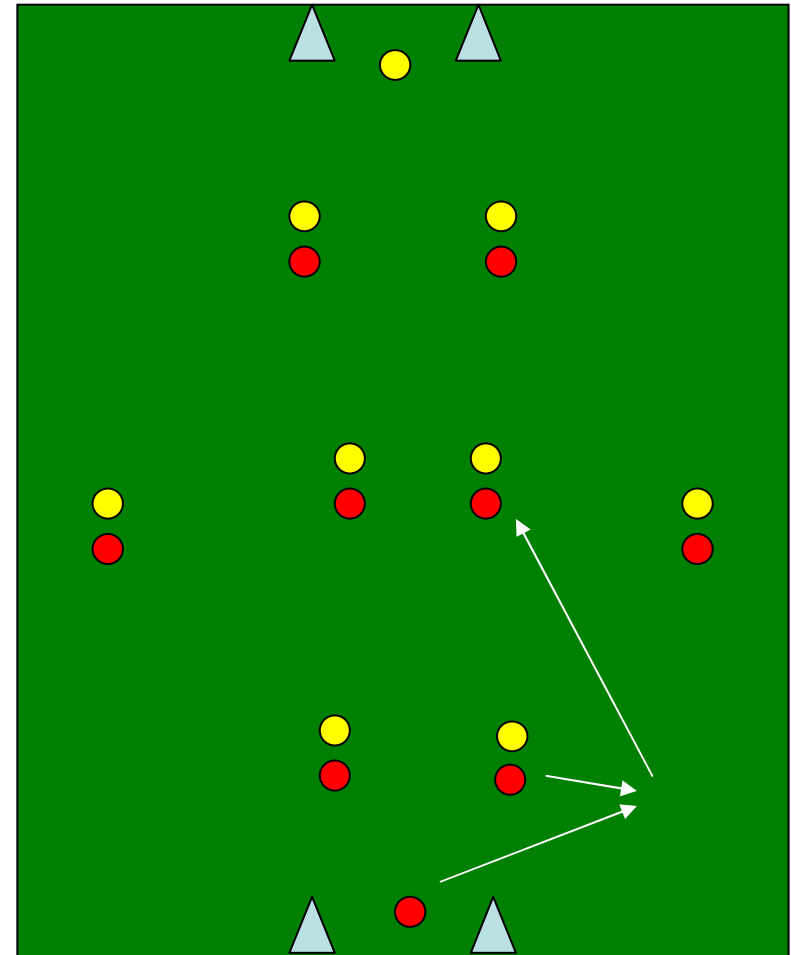
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Pattern of Play (PP05)

- **Organisation**
- Squad practice to develop an attacking pattern of play (18 Players)
- 2 teams (GK/Back 2/ 4 Midfielders/ 2 attackers)
- 2 Defenders act as full backs when in possession.
- Full pitch
- The GK feeds the ball to either of the Back 2 who attempt to play to the midfield.
- Midfield combines before feeding the attackers. MF's then support the attack from behind.

- **Recommendations;**
- To begin each team attacks without pressure. One team attacks the other rests & vice versa.
- Allow the defending team to “intercept” passes but no tackling.
- Allow all MF & attackers to have open play. Still allow the defence to bring the ball out without pressure otherwise play may not develop.

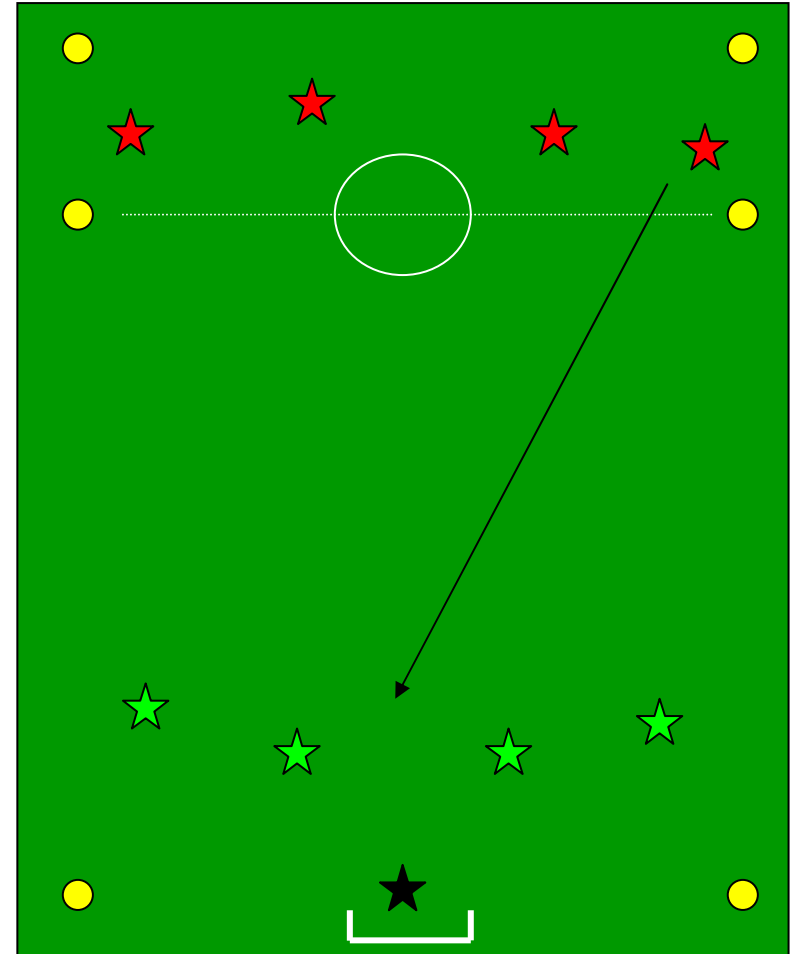
- **Key information;**
- Create space – width, length, depth
- Open body position
- Passing priorities
- Decision
- Angle & distance of support
- Timing of movement on/off the ball
- Quality/type of pass depending on decision



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Unit work: Defence (PP06)

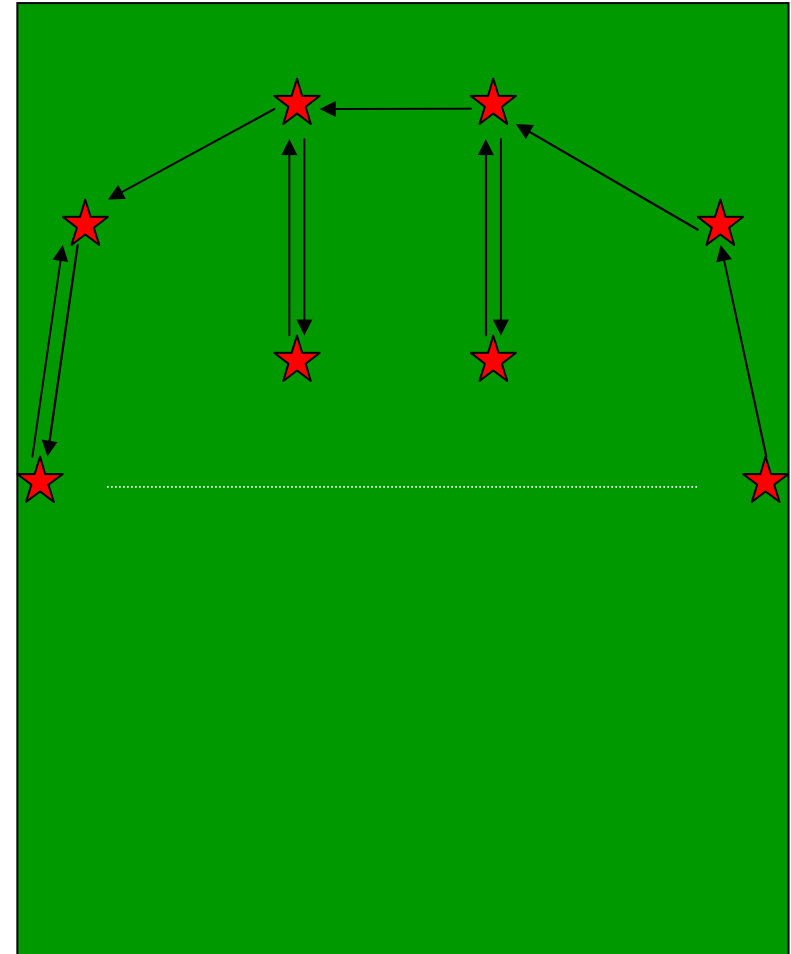
- **Organisation;**
 - 8 Players + 2 Gk's using the whole of the pitch or 18 yard box to 18 yard box;
 - 4 defenders positioned over half way line with GK in relevant position behind them (Not shown);
 - GK and back 4 positioned 15 yards apart outside penalty area;
 - GK and back 4 serve a variation of high balls from different angles and distances for Red defence to defend against (clear/head/volley) / deal with via control;
 - When the ball is cleared via the defence (Directly or via control) the green back four transfer via the GK and serve again;
 - On the coaches command switch roles with the red team dropping off to the edge of their box and the green team moving forward to the ½ way line;
- **Progressions;**
 - Add midfielders to support the transfer of the ball; Such players can play for both teams or have 2 for each team;
 - Add Centre forwards to pressure 1 or the other or both teams;
- **Key Focus;**
 - Distance between the units;
 - Distance from the ball;
 - When to hold ground / when to move forwards;
 - Decision; To control or to clear;
 - Cover & Support;
 - Communication
- Creating space / Body position / A & D of support
- 1st Touch / Quality of pass / Dropping off / developing compactness.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Functional Practice; Switching Play (PP07)

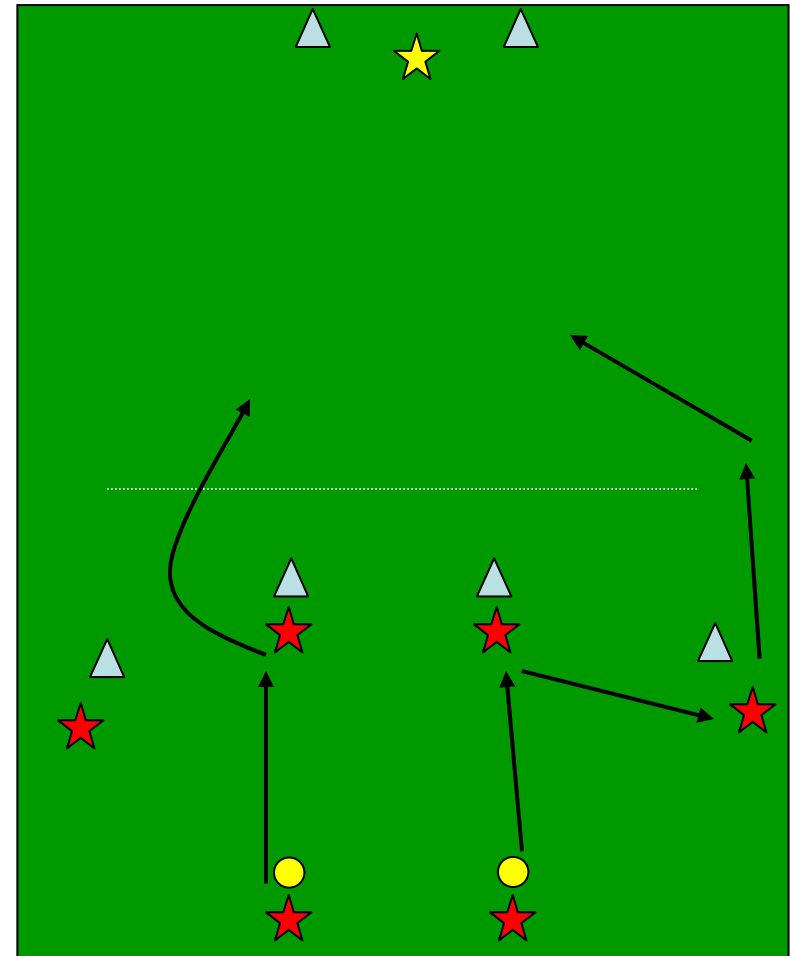
- **Organisation:**
- 8 Players
- Players are organised across the pitch
- Utilise one half of the pitch
- Players are organised into their set positions.
- **Recommendations:**
- Players transfer the ball across the field using a maximum of two touches;
- Players move in relation to the ball at all times;
- Central midfielders on receiving the ball are instructed to turn and move up the field and then to turn back and pass to the respective Centre back.
- Centre backs not only push up when the CM moves the ball forward but also drop off quickly and allow the ball to run across them when the CM passes the ball back;
- Continue by transferring the ball across and up and down the field.
- **Progressions;**
- Players must take two touches! Get them to get hold of the ball quickly and move it quickly;
- Players may vary who they pass to;
- Back players must always pass diagonally to a midfielder hence missing out the defender stood next to them;
- One touch wherever possible.
- **Physical**
- Moderate type activity / To be used as part of an aerobic development based session



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Functional Practice; Finishing (PP08)

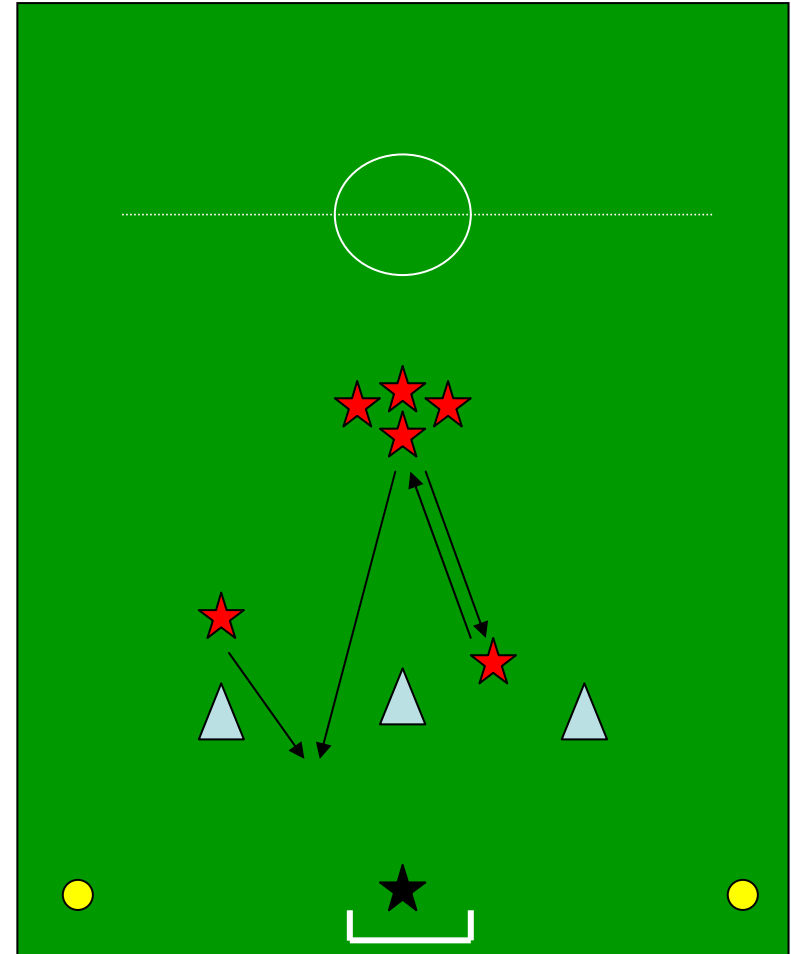
- **Organisation:**
- **Players organised into groups of four around the edge of the box (Mannequins approx 7 yards from edge of box)**
- Two players act as strikers / two as wide players;
- Waiting players for the next group act as servers to the strikers;
- Striker one receives a pass off a central server & spins around the outside of the mannequin to shoot at goal. Striker two follows in for rebounds.
- Both strikers recover immediately and striker one is served another pass that is controlled and passed to the wide midfielder to control and cross for both strikers to attack;
- The above sequence is repeated with the same players but with striker two now receiving the ball.
- **Recommendations:**
- Players must move to receive / protect the ball. Either make an angle or move and stick backside out to protect;
- Finish must be sharp and quick, as must be the support from striker two / recovery for next attempt;
- Timing of movement into box for cross / attack specific areas / run straight and then angle off;
- Crossing into space for attackers to strike.
- **Progressions;**
- Strikers can spin inside as well as outside of the mannequin;
- Strikers can set the ball back to central server for a ball to be played in the air to 2nd striker moving off shoulder of mannequin;
- Strikers determine the order of attack;
- Strikers play to opposite server for cross over & shot;
- Strikers play to opposite server for ball down side of defender;
- Strikers play to opposite wide man & spin back into box to support / strike.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Functional work: Attackers (PP09)

- **Organisation;**
 - Attacking players organised 15 yards outside of the 18 yard box in pairs;
 - Three mannequins organised on the edge of the 18 yard box approximately 10 yards apart;
 - Players perform various movements to allow them to perform shots on goal; To include;
 - 1-2 with server & play in 2nd striker;
 - Cross over following 1-2;
 - Set & spin to receive behind mannequins;
 - Player into 1st CF who performs a take with 2nd CF;
 - Serving group start slightly wider & get in line to perform yorke / Cole combos etc
- **Progressions;**
 - Work on only one striker through a variety of singular movements;
 - Add Wide players to cross for CF's to score. Move the mannequins in and around penalty spot.
 - Vary cross; pass down line and deliver, 1 touch and deliver; Dead ball; 1-2 and deliver etc
- **Key Focus;**
 - Creating space / Body position / A & D of support
 - 1st Touch / Quality of pass / Spinning off / end product
 - Type of movement of CF;
 - "One run for the defender / one run for you";
 - Run straight & then change direction towards the ball very quickly;
 - Movement across the face of the defenders / mannequins.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Pattern / Shadow Play (PP10)

Organisation;

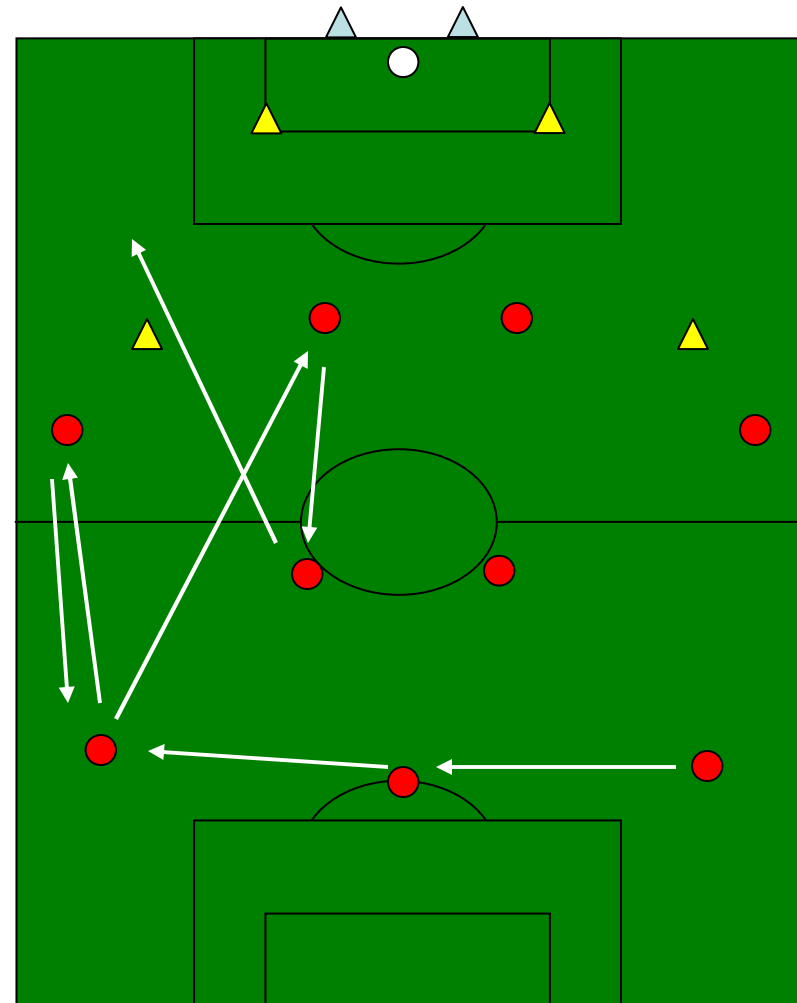
9 Players organised into a 3-4-2 formation;
Pattern starts at one side of pitch with full back with ball being transferred across the back three;
Balls situated on the touchlines opposite the starting position of the full backs;
Mannequins placed on the corners of the 6 yard box (Facing the touchline) / 13 steps from 18 yard box & 5 steps outside width of 18 yard box;
Cones placed as start positions for all players but must only be used as a guide;
Players complete a specific pattern of play and walk back to start point;
Work pattern down both sides allowing all players to have 2/3 attempts.

Patterns can include;

FB plays a 1-2 with the WM, FB into CF who lays ball off for CM to play into running WM (As shown);
FB passes to WM who plays inside to CM, Closest CF1 shows and makes a diagonal run towards his partner, CF2 comes short to receive a pass from CM and transfers out to running WM
Etc.

Key factors;

Purpose & tempo in transferring the ball quickly across the back four;
Timing of movement to receive;
Angle & distance of support;
Receiving the ball safe side / type of pass;
Quality of passing / Movement etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Pattern / Shadow Play (PP11)

Organisation;

Squad practice incorporating 12 – 18 players;
Pattern starts in the centre of the pitch with the centre back who transfers the ball to the left back and right back alternately;
Balls situated behind the position of the Centre Back;
Mannequins placed in key positions to provide an element of realism;
Cones placed as start positions for all back players;
Players complete a specific pattern of play and walk back to start point;
Play then begins on the opposite side of the pitch to allow players to recover;
At least 2 players in key positions to allow fluency in the practice.

Patterns can include;

FB takes touch, WM comes off the line to receive the ball, ball is played into the channel for running forward (As shown);

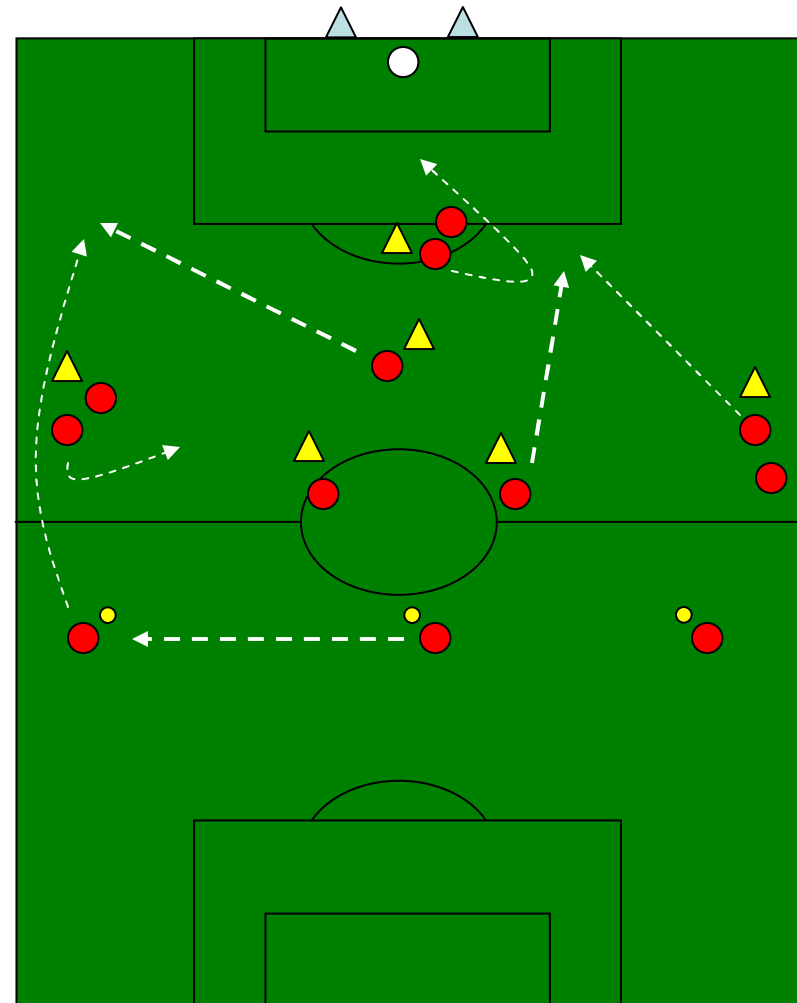
FB plays a 1-2 with WM and then transfers the ball into the deep lying centre forward who turns and plays wide / forward;

FB into WM who plays round the corner into Deep lying forward or into CM who opens up and plays into Deep lying forward. Etc

To Progress; Add a back four to provide realism.

Key factors;

Purpose & tempo in transferring the ball quickly across the back four;
Timing of movement to receive;
Angle & distance of support;
Receiving the ball safe side / type of pass;
Quality of passing / Movement etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Pattern / Shadow / Japan WC 2002a (PP12)

Organisation;

GK serves ball to defending back four behind $\frac{1}{2}$ way line;
Back four defend first ball and transfer to attacking players;
Ball eventually delivered into CF's to score;
Mannequins placed in and around the box;
Groups of Attackers / Defenders / Midfield all colour coded either as; Groups or as 2 teams – 1 attacks / 1 recovers etc
Cones placed as start positions for all players but must only be used as a guide;
Players complete a specific pattern of play and walk back to start point;
Work pattern down both sides allowing all players to have 2/3 attempts.
To maintain tempo GK can serve next ball even if current group have not finished attacking. Vary service.

Patterns can include;

FB plays a 1-2 with the WM, FB into CF who lays ball off for CM to play into running WM;

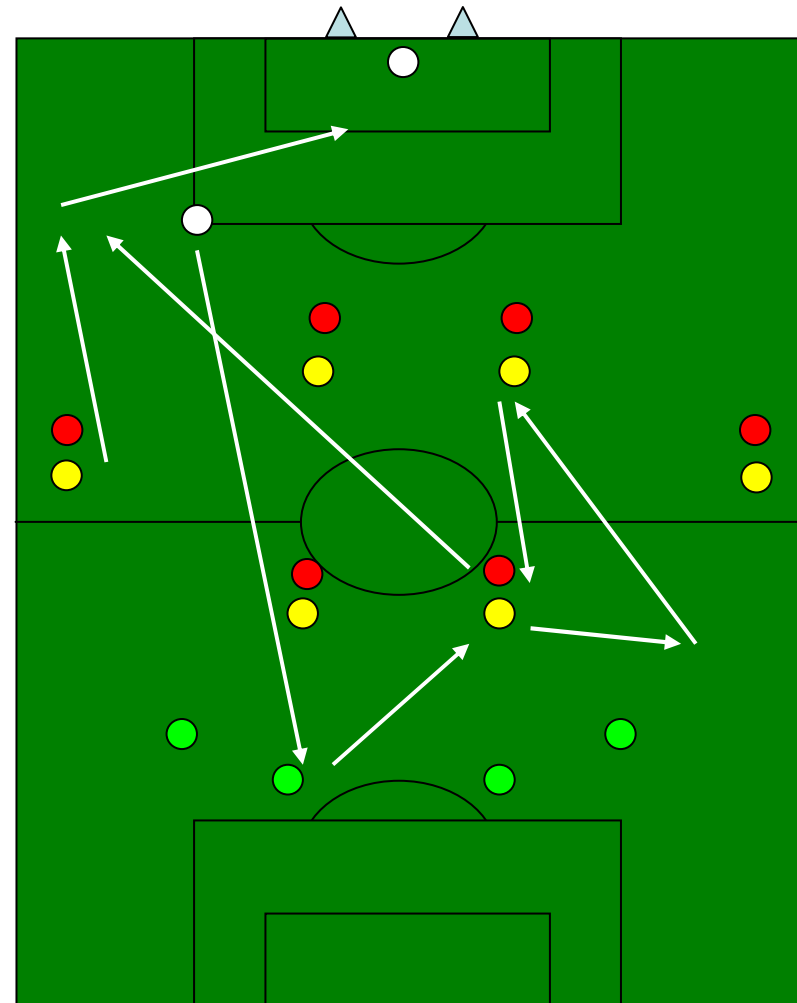
FB passes to WM who plays inside to CM, Closest CF1 shows and makes a diagonal run towards his partner, CF2 comes short to receive a pass from CM and transfers out to running WM

FB to WM who returns pass, WM travels inside with ball being played down the channel for running CF ETC.

Etc.

Key factors;

Purpose & tempo in transferring the ball quickly across the back four;
Timing of movement to receive;
Angle & distance of support;
Receiving the ball safe side / type of pass;
Quality of passing / Movement etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking & Defending Functional (PP13)

•Organisation;

- Attacking Players are organised in groups of three at the half way line and take it in turns to attack.
- 2 x wide players are organised in wide areas.
- 3 x defenders are organised in the central areas of the pitch with one defender positioned in the 18 yard box.

•The play begins with one attacker on the half way line passing to one of his group. Live play continues from this point. Two defenders play against the three attackers with the third defender joining in when all players enter the centrally zoned area.

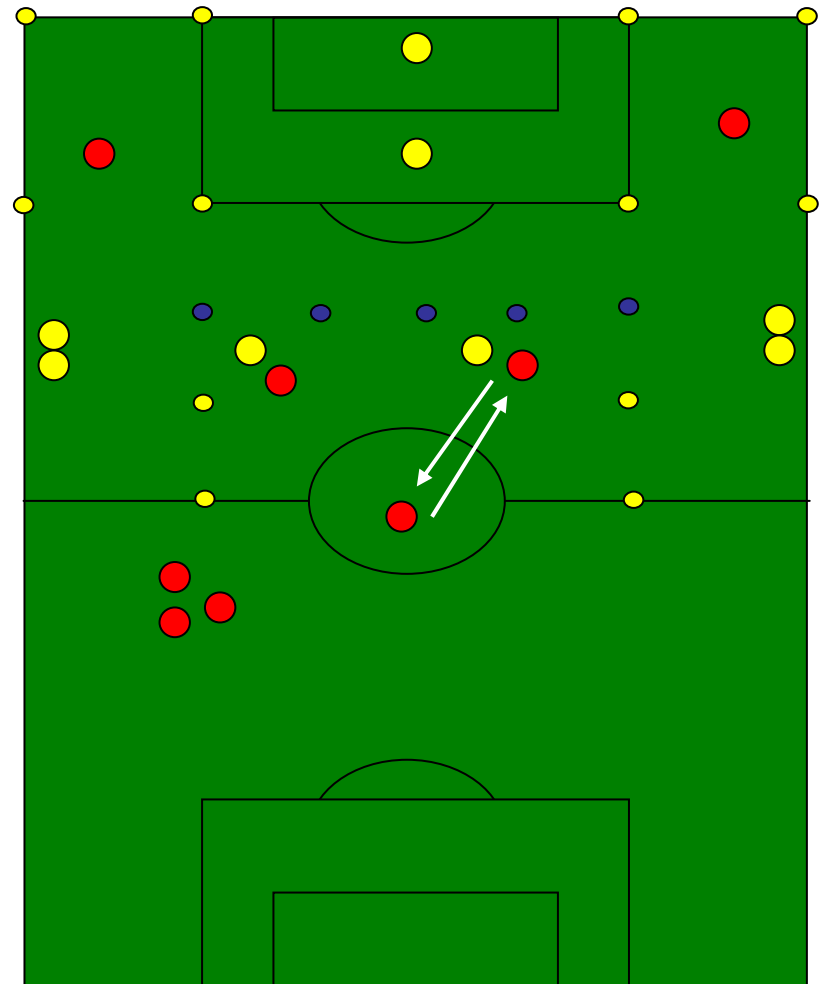
- The attackers can only play into a wide player when they get past the blue line
- Once the ball is in the area both wide players become live and are able to access any area.

•Progressions

- Add a defender in the wide area to play against the wide player receiving the ball.

•Key Factors

- Focus can be placed on the development of attacking or defending play.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Attacking Pattern of Play / Aize (PP14)

Organisation;

Squad practice incorporating 18 - 22 players;
GK throws to full back who plays forward into strikers feet.
Once the striker takes a touch all play is live.
Both full backs join in to create a 5 Vs 3 scenario to attack in one half of the field.
If the defending team win possession they must play to a full back to begin with a pattern of play.

To Progress;

Add in additional players to progress to 11 Vs 11

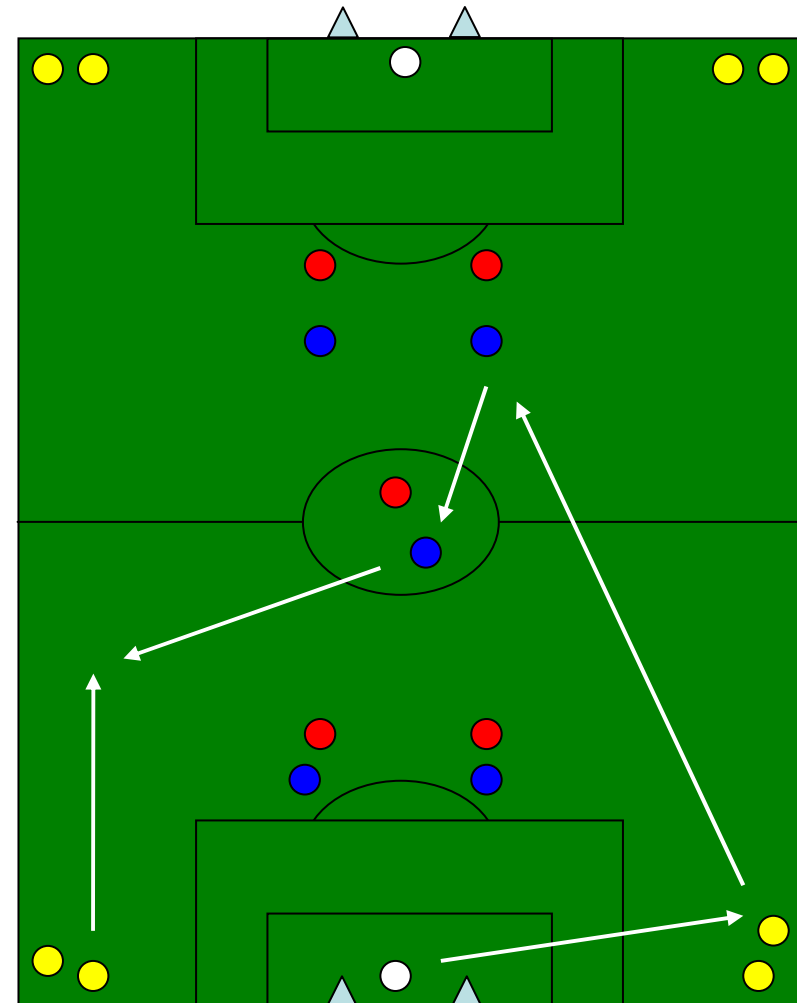
Key factors;

Create space

Body position

Decision

Purpose & tempo in transferring the ball quickly
Timing of movement to receive;
Angle & distance of support;
Receiving the ball safe side / type of pass;
Quality of passing / Movement etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Defending team practice (PP15)

Organisation;

Full half pitch + 20 yards;

GK in the small area serves into either defender who has to transfer the ball into the sitting MF;

The sitting MF plays into the yellow team to attack the red defence;

If the red defence win possession they play into the sitting MF who passes to one of the 2 attackers in the small area and joins in to make a 3 v 2 attack to score.

Wherever possible the sitting MF must stay behind the play to support transfer and allow a 4 v 4 situation to be developed.

Rotate the sitting MF once a small attack has been completed at the top of the pitch.

Progressions;

Build up the practice towards 11 v 11 if more players are available.

Good squad practice when numbers are low.

Key Focus;

Pressure / Cover & Support / Recovery runs / Tracking Players;

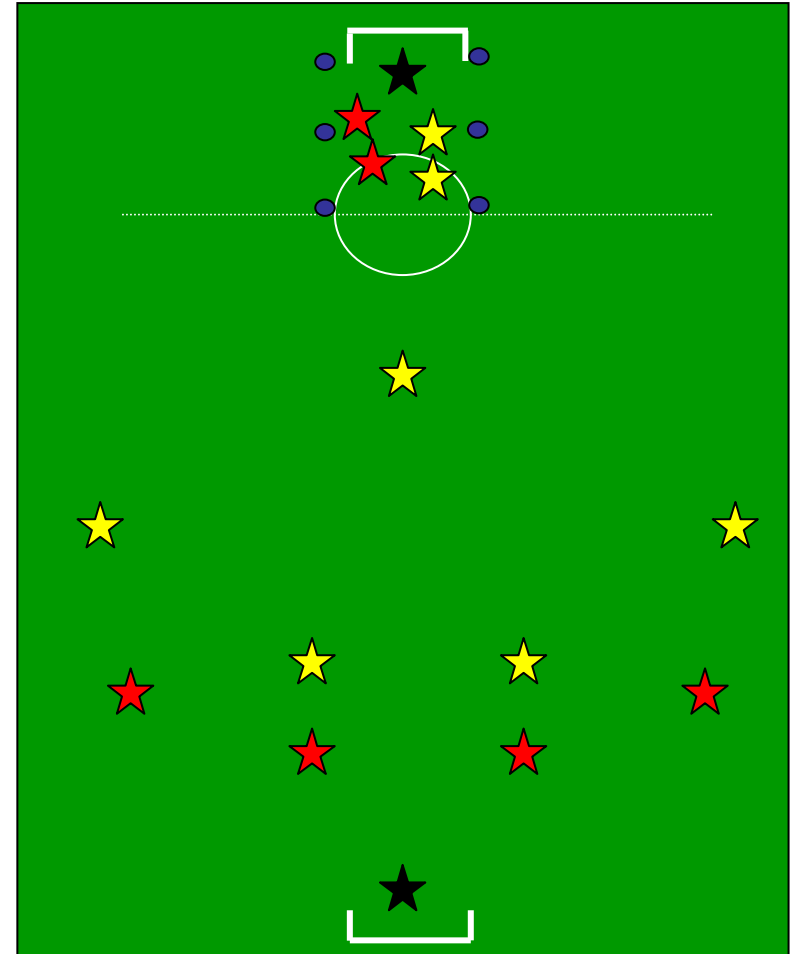
Communication / Body position / Angle & Distance of support;

When / When not to pop out / Marking ball side or far side;

Full backs popping out;

Position of furthest full back;

Compactness as a team.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager



Advanced Phases / Practices

Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club Academy Technical Programme

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Coach a team to play through Central Midfield (AD01)

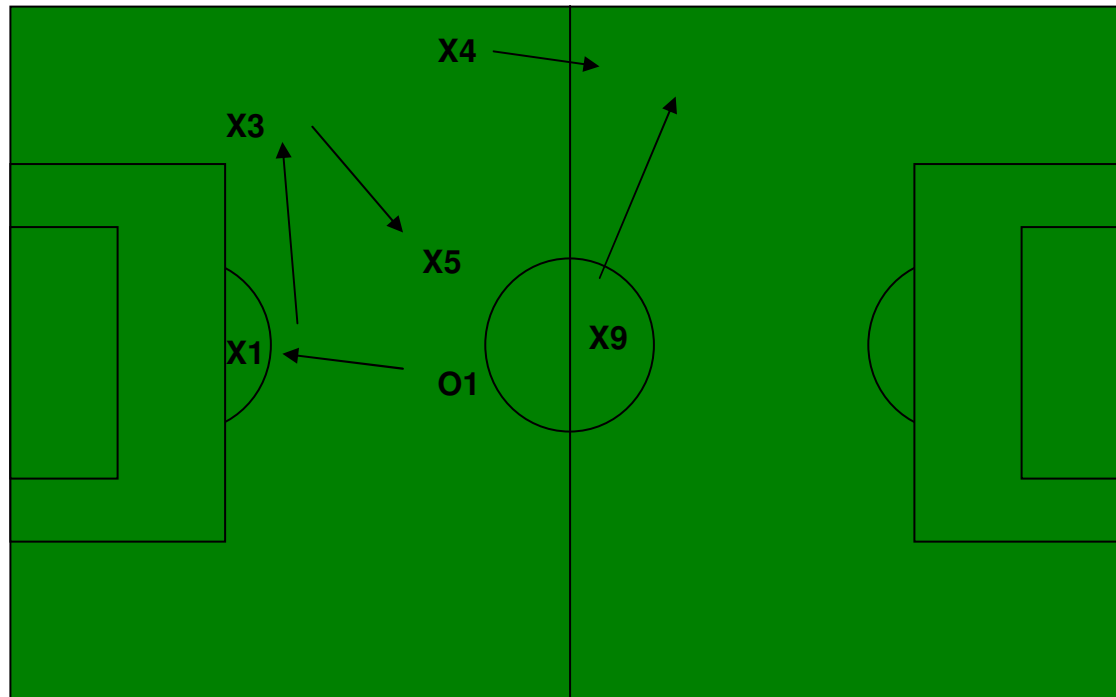
- Organisation : Pattern of Play involving 6 Players building to 11 Vs 11
- Playing Area : Quarter of the field with no markers

O1 passes to X1 who delivers to X3.

X3 has the option to play into X5.

Build up play by adding players and by focusing on the specific roles of players.

Key factors : Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, M'ment on & off the ball, Decision of Central midfielder



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Coach a Team to play through Central Midfield (AD02)

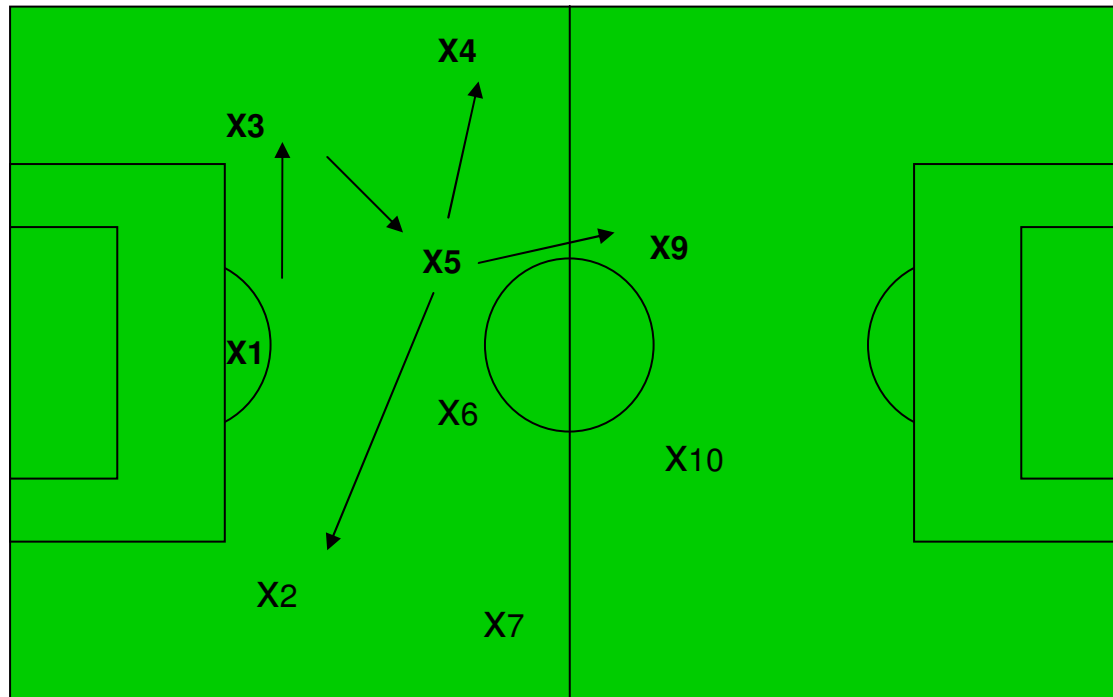
- Organisation : Pattern of Play involving 9 Players building to 11 Vs 11
- Playing Area : Central area of the field with no markers

X1 passes to X5 who transfers to preferred option.

X3 has the option to play into supporting midfielders.

Build up play by adding players and by focusing on the specific roles of players.

Key factors : Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, Movement on & off the ball



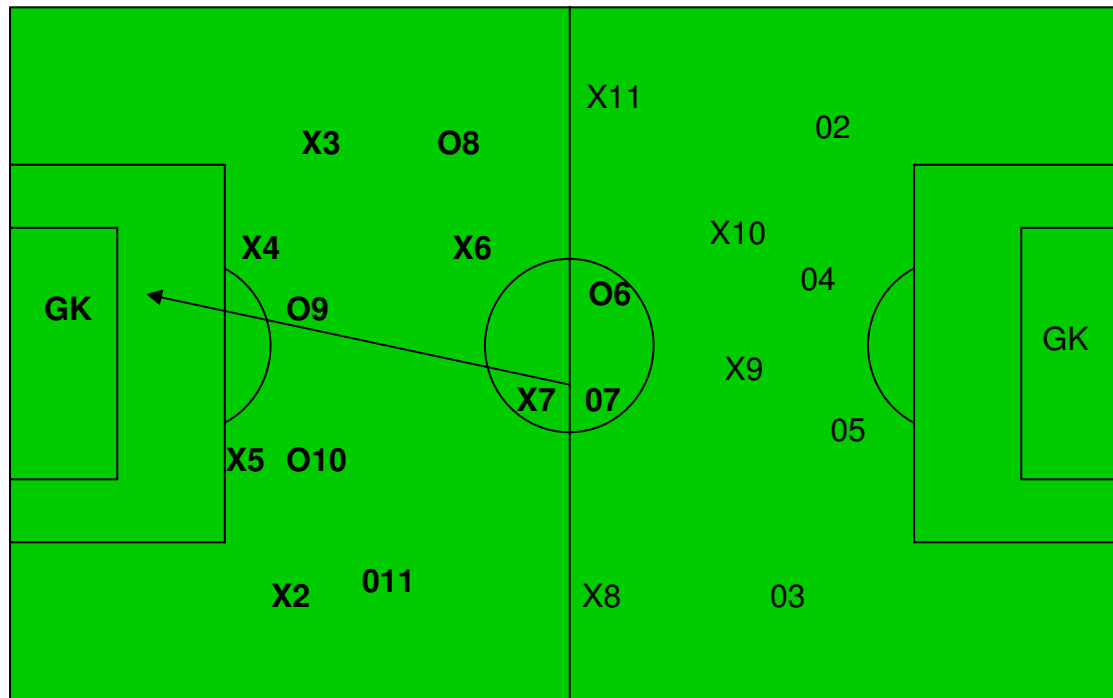
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Coach a Team to play through Central Midfield (AD03)

- Organisation : Coaching within a game focusing on 11 Vs 11.
- Initial start point involves O7 playing into O9
- Vary starting position to focus on attacking play.

Key factors

Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, Movement on & off the ball



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Coach Attackers as First Line of Defence (AD04)

- Organisation 30yds x 15yds
- Playing Area : Pitch is organised in a central position of the field to aid transfer to 11 v 11
- 4 defenders attempt to move the ball to far end of the line and score by breaking through centrally
- 2 attackers work together to regain possession
- Allow attackers to score by forcing defenders outside of box
- Allow attackers to shoot at goal if possession is regained

Focus on :

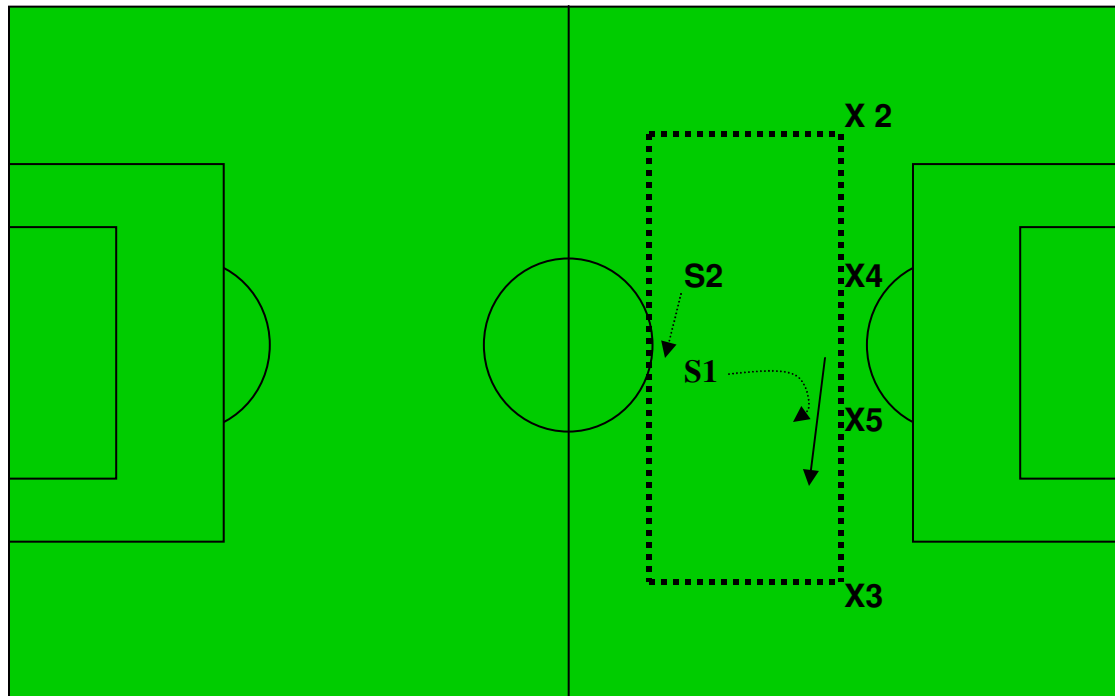
Starting position

Pressure on the ball

Angle and distance of support

Body position

Decision



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Defensive Phase of Play (AD05)

- Organisation Half Pitch
- Playing Area : Pitch is organised in a central position of the field to aid transfer to 11 v 11
- 4 defenders & 4 midfield attempt to move the ball to far end of the line and score in gates
- 2 attackers work together to regain possession or force ball wide
- Defending wide mid field to press full back
- inside midfield player to cover and pressures ball
- Win ball and counter quickly

Focus on :

Starting position

Pressure on the ball

Angle and distance of support

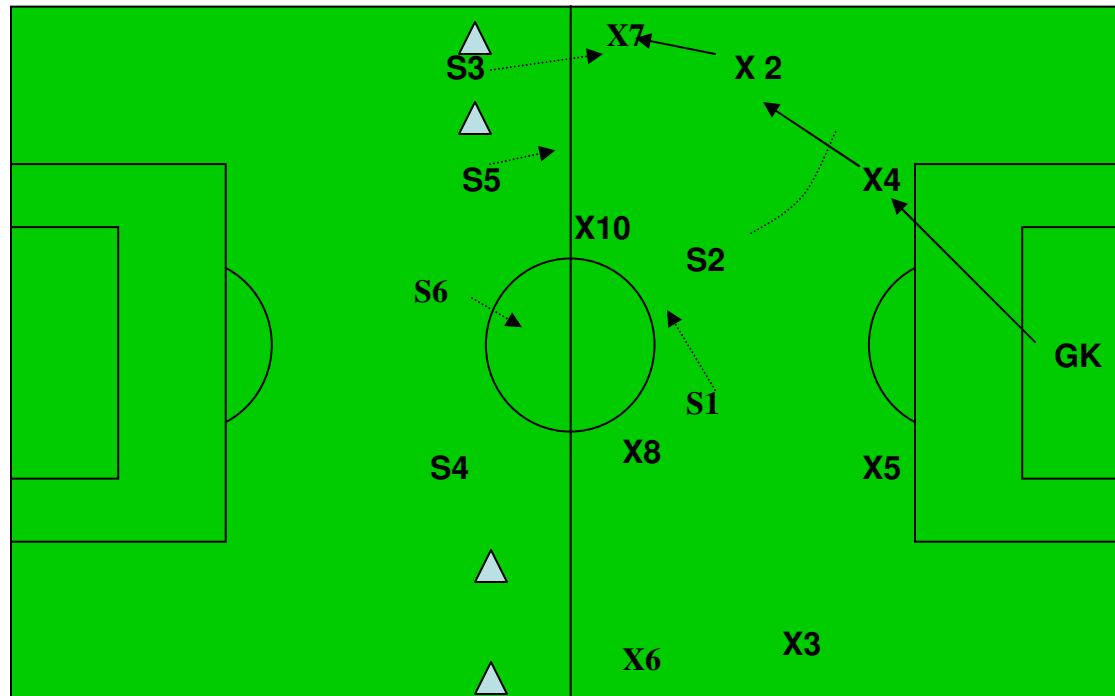
Body position

Decision

Role of wide mid field players

Role of central midfield players

Role of opposite wide midfield player



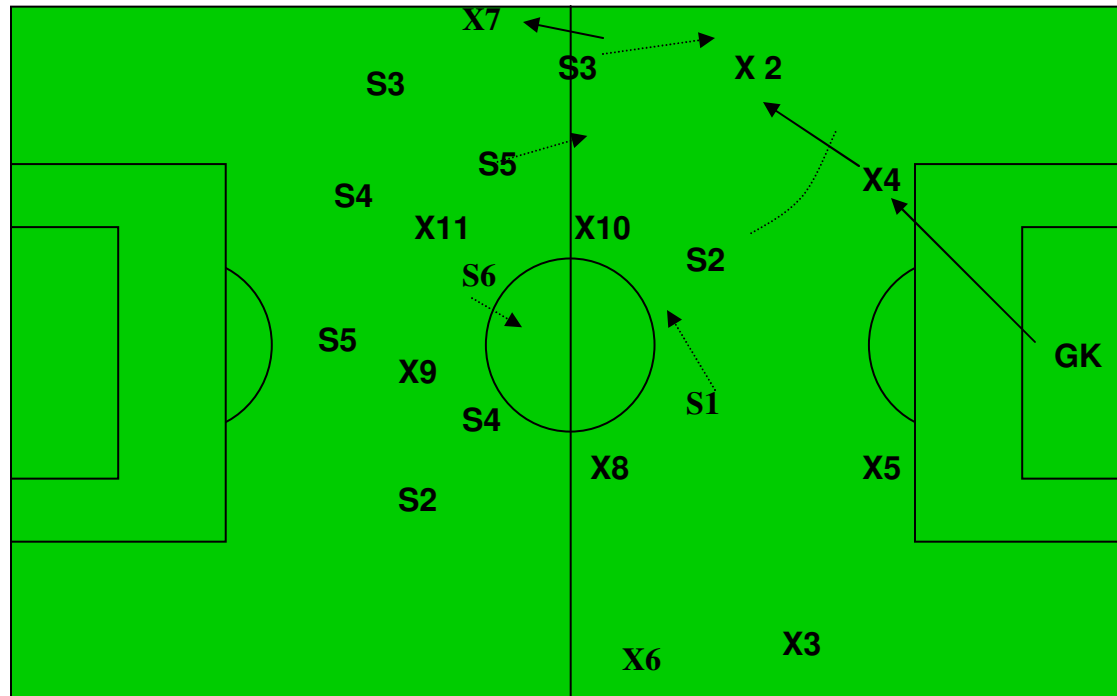
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Coach Attackers as First Line of Defence (AD06)

- Organisation Full pitch 11 v 11
- Playing Area : Full Pitch
- Strategy to force ball wide to show inside
- How and where to pressure the ball
- When and when to pressure of the front
- When to show outside
- Countering off deep lying striker

Focus on :

- Team Strategy
- Pressure on the ball
- Angle and distance of support
- Defending in other areas
- Dealing with alternatives



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Winger and Full Back to combine (AD07)

- Organisation :
- Players are organised into an open area – no markers.
- The ball is played from the full back to the winger who attempt to combine to get behind the opposing full back

Focus on :

Create space

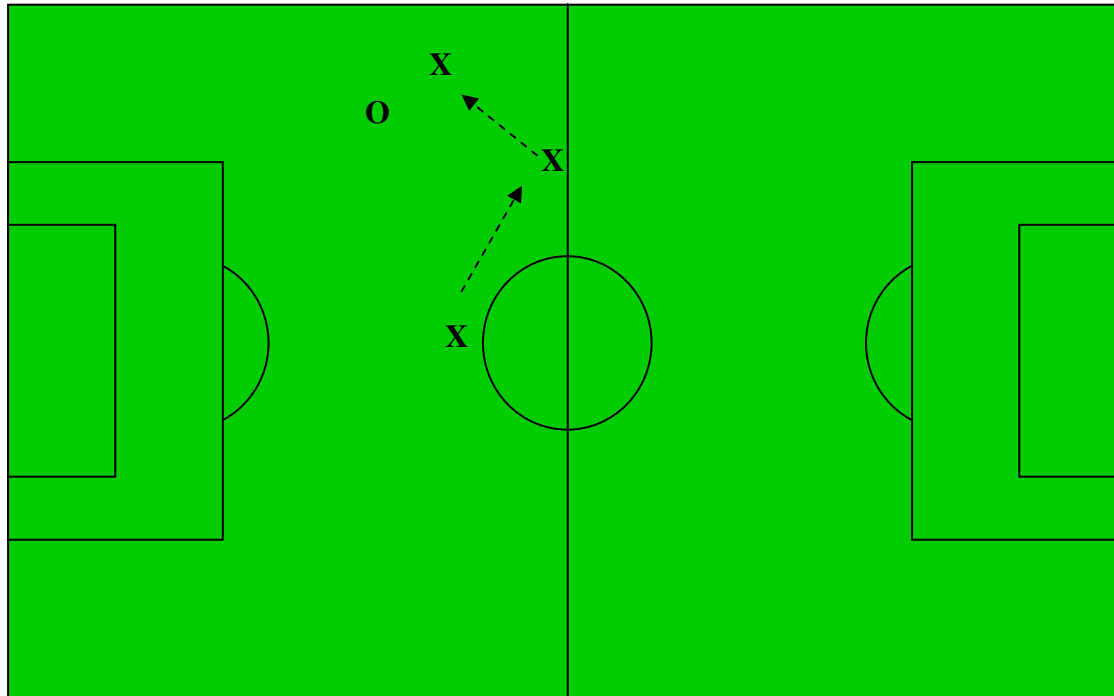
Body position

Quality of pass

Creating personal space

Decision

End product



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Winger and Full Back to combine (AD08)

- Organisation :
- To progress add players to build towards
- 11 Vs 11.
- As shown

Focus on :

Create space

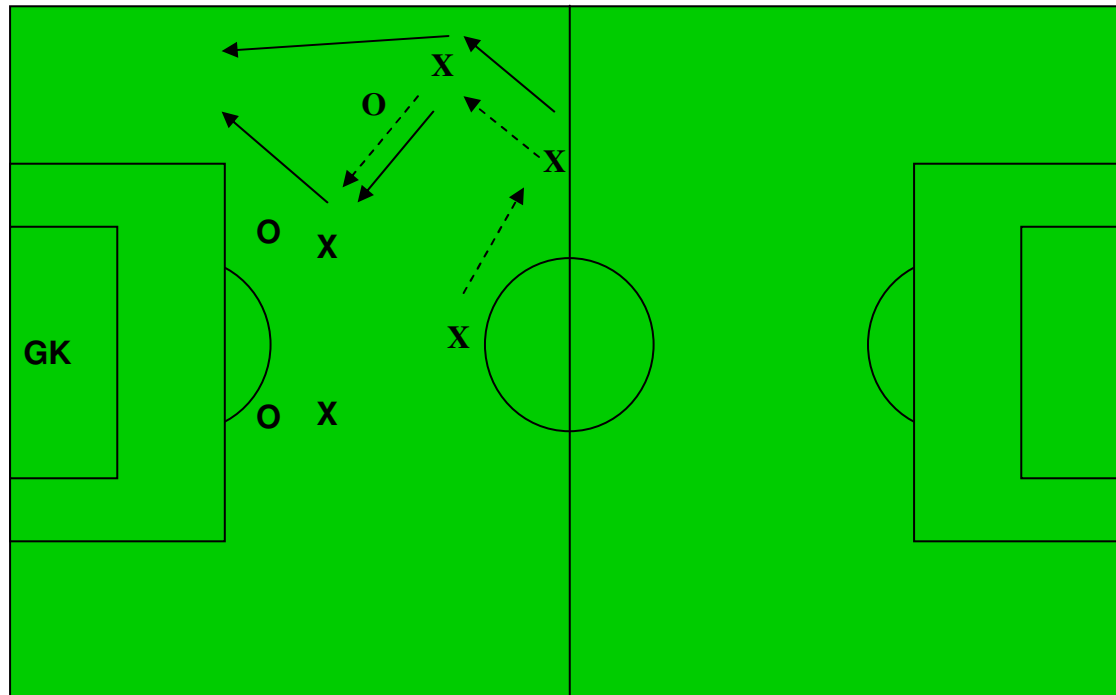
Body position

Quality of pass

Creating personal space

Decision

End product



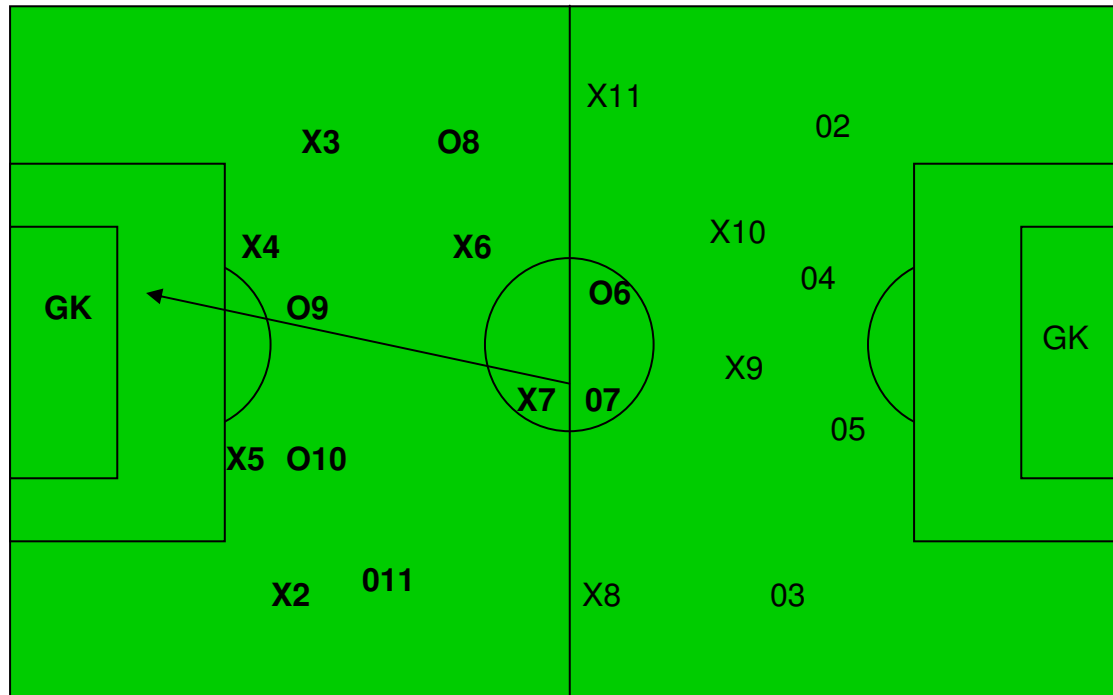
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Winger and full back to combine (AD09)

- Organisation : Coaching within a game focusing on 11 Vs 11.
- Initial start point involves O7 playing into O9
- Vary starting position to focus on attacking play.

Key factors

Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, Movement on & off the ball, Decision.



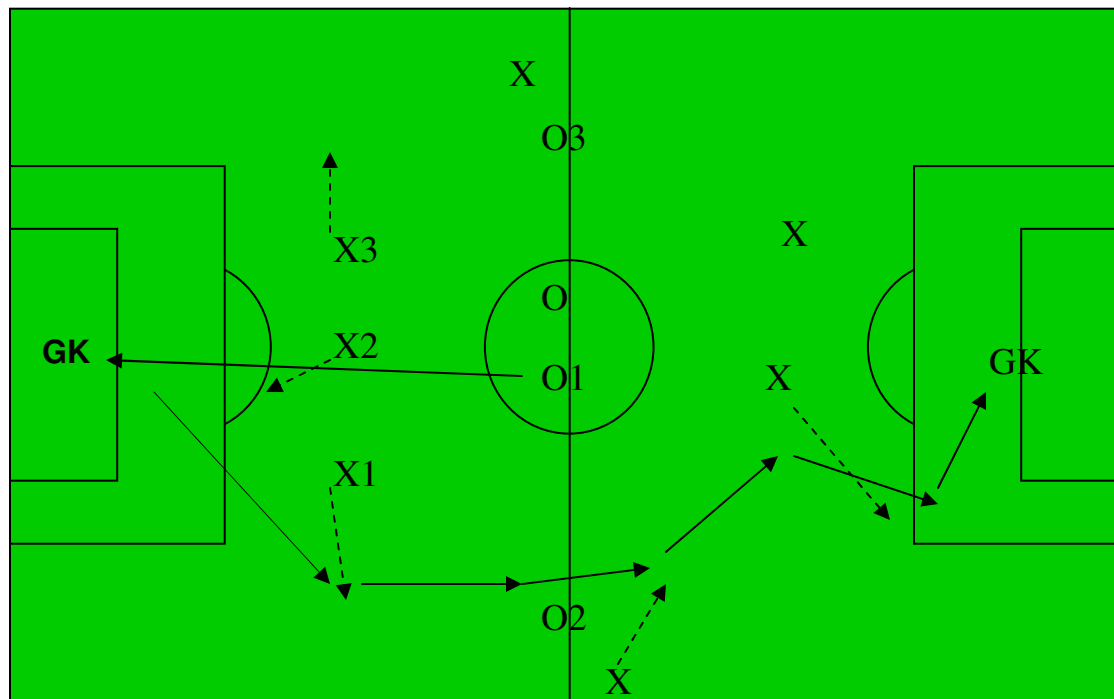
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Running with the Ball (AD10)

- Organisation : Full Pitch 2 xGK 7 v 4.
- Playing Area : Full pitch
- Gk receive the ball from O1. GK then delivers the ball to X1 or X2, who runs the ball to O2 or O3 (passive defender) passes the ball to the wide player. Who runs towards CF and passes ball to CF who chips ball to GK practice starts again on the opposite side

Focus on :

- Movement and body position of defenders
- Quality of the goalkeepers distribution
- How and where to run with the ball
- Attack Space
- Movement of wide players



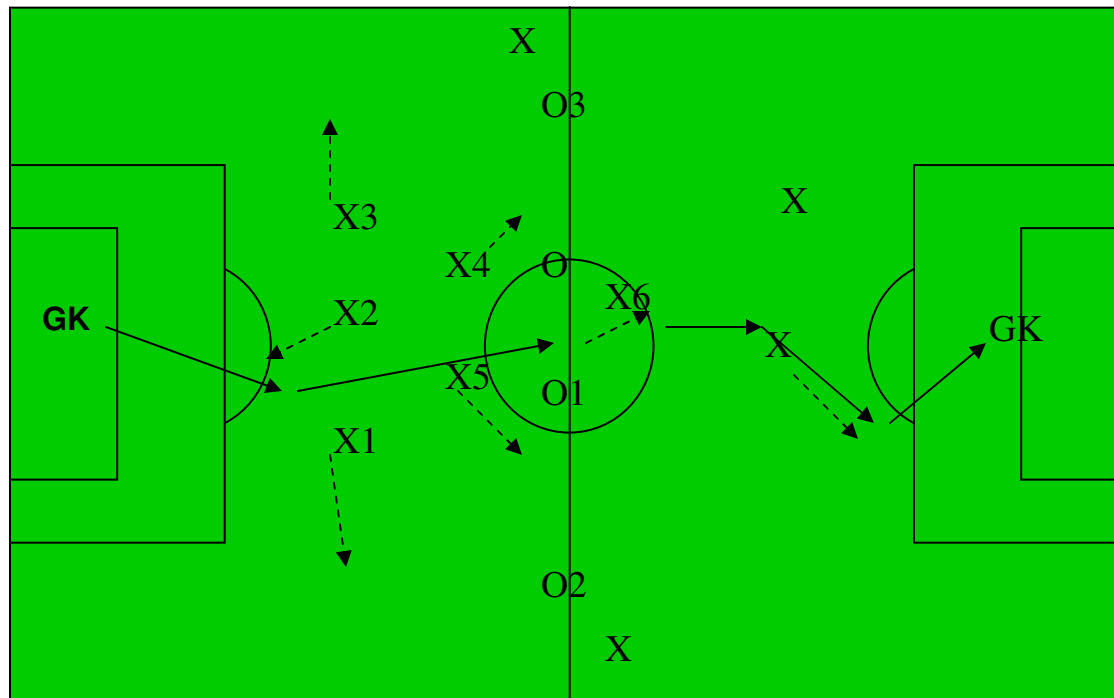
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Running with the Ball (AD11)

- Organisation : Full Pitch 2 xGK 10 v 7.
- Playing Area : Full pitch
- X2 receives the ball and runs the ball forward and passes to X6, who runs the ball forward to feed centre forward who chips it in to the GKs hands
- Progression: 11v11

Focus on :

- Movement and body position of defenders
- Quality of the goalkeepers distribution
- How and where to run with the ball
- Attack space
- Movement off ball to create space to run with ball
- Decision - when to run and when to pass
- Angle and distance of support



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Improve Build Up Play within a Team (AD12)

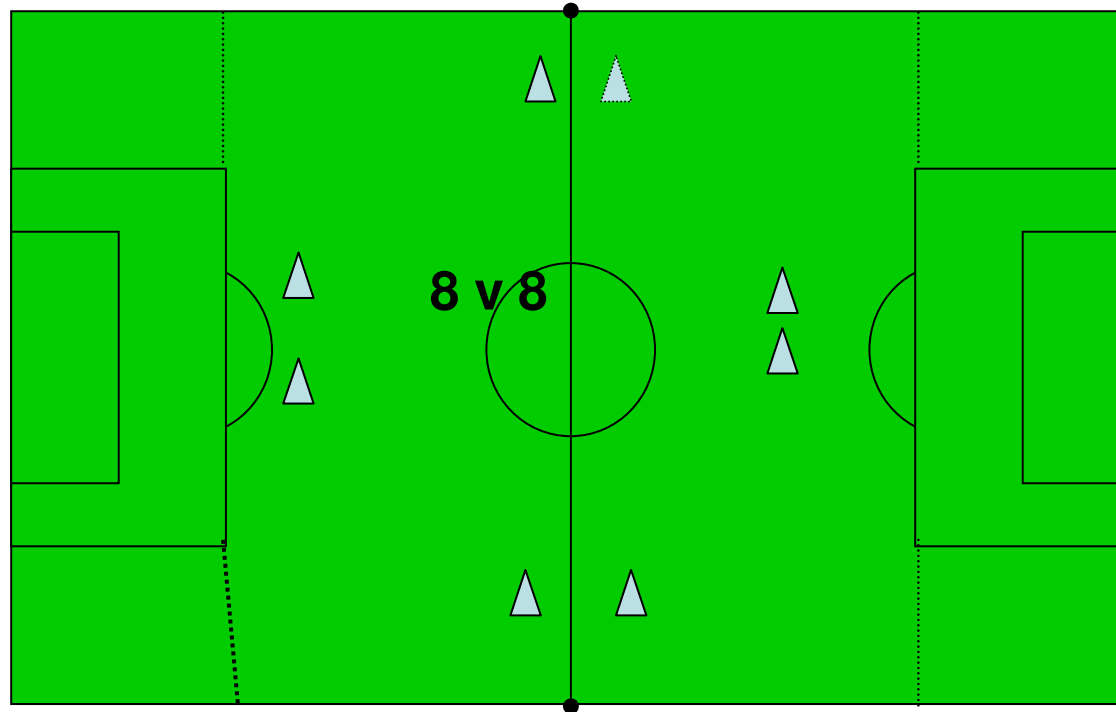
- Organisation : 18 – 18 yard box
- 8 v 8
- 4 - goal - game

Focus on :

Possession

Identify opportunities to score goals

Decision making



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Improve Build Up Play within a Team (AD13)

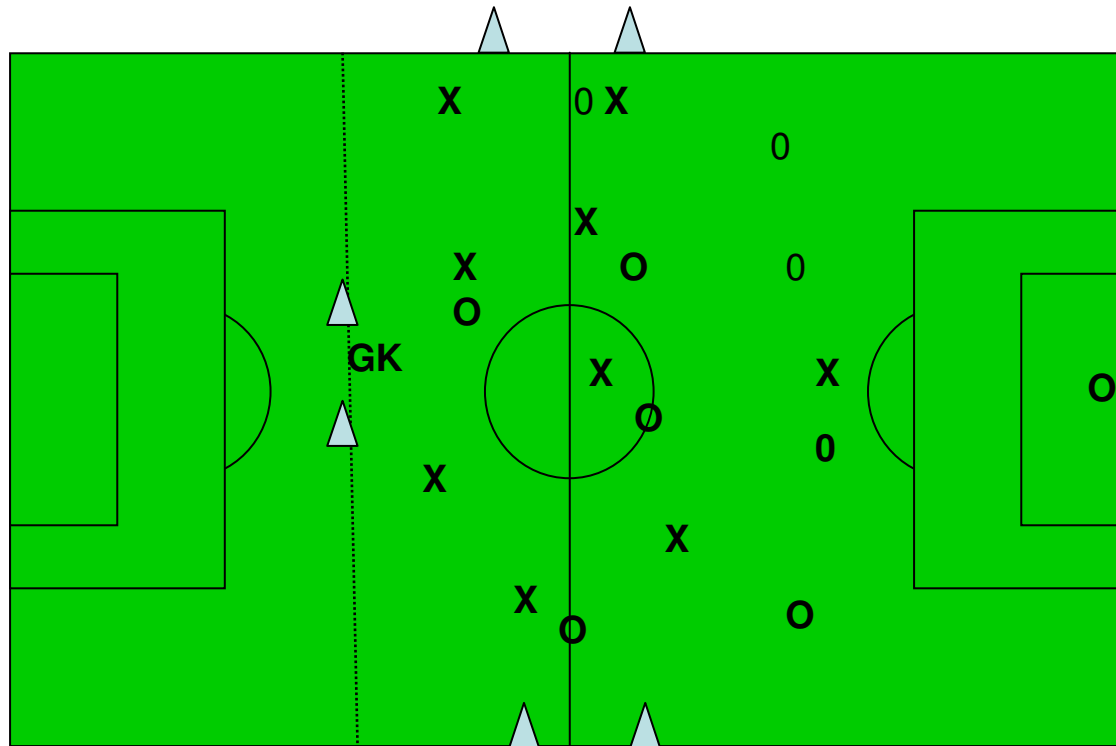
- Organisation : Practice involving 10 V 10
- Playing Area : Half Pitch
- Score in either end goal or side goal

Focus on :

Keeping possession

When to forward / when to go sideways / back wards

Width / depth



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

In a 4-4-2 coach a team to support & change places to advantage (AD14)

- Organisation : 8 v 8 + two common players develop practice into an 11 v 11
- Playing Area : Penalty box to penalty box

Focus on :

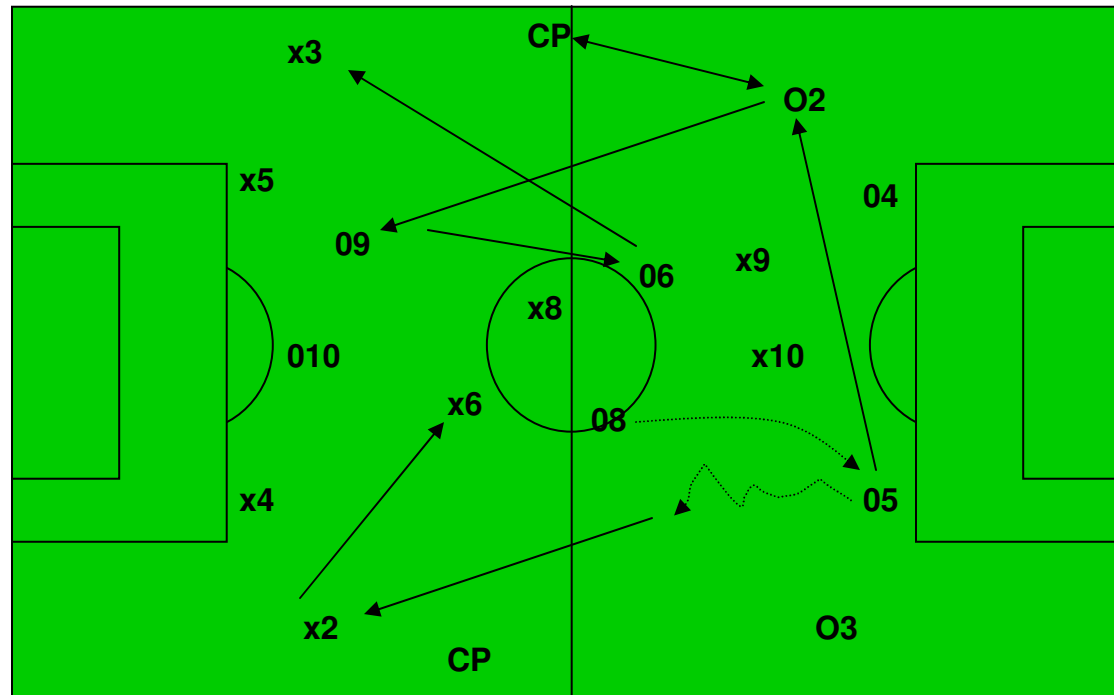
Angles & distance of support

Support of forward pass – how far? when?

Body position

Roles of CM & CF's

Interchange between CM players and CB's



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

In a 4-4-2 coach a team to support & change places to advantage (AD15)

- Organisation : 9 v 9 + two common players develop practice into an 11 v 11
- Playing Area : Penalty box to penalty box

Focus on :

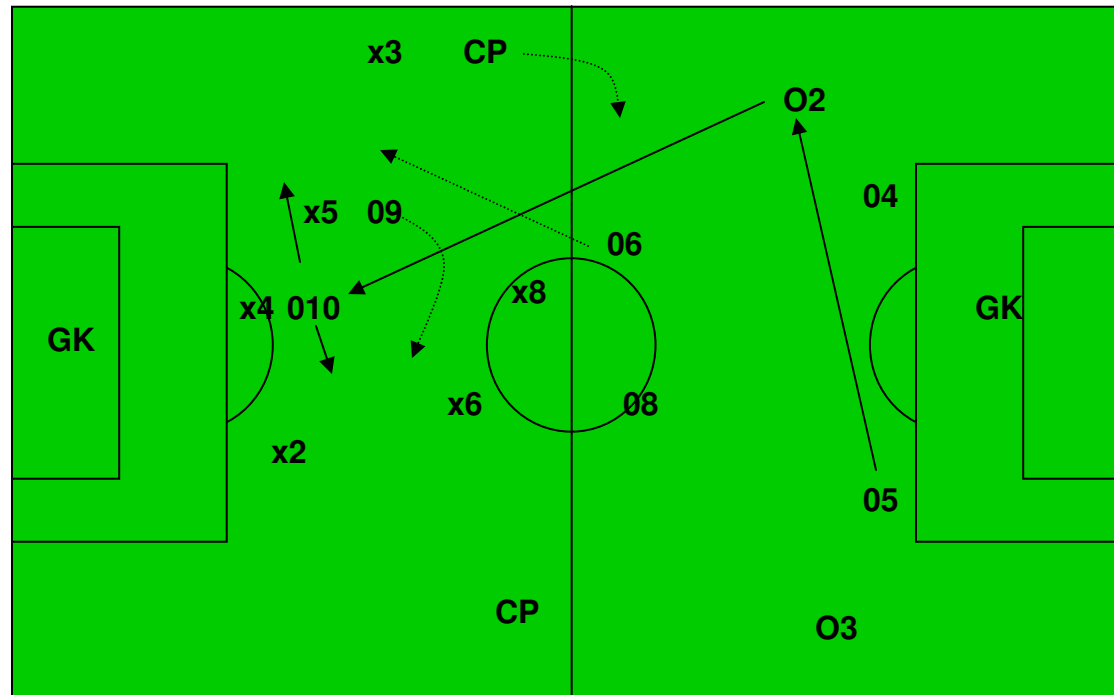
Angles & distance of support

Support of forward pass – how far? when?

Body position

Quality of passing - forward

Use of triggers



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

In a 4-4-2 coach a team to support & change places to advantage (AD16)

- Organisation : 9 v 9 + two common players develop practice into an 11 v 11
- Playing Area : Penalty box to penalty box

Focus on :

Angles & distance of support

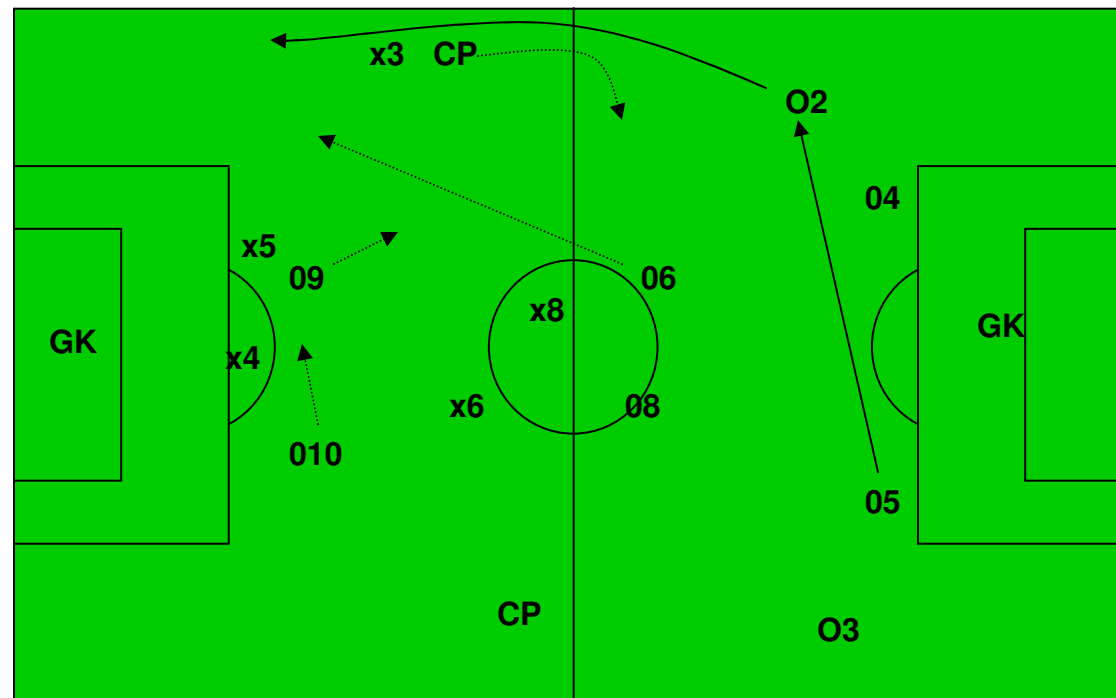
Support of forward pass – how far? when?

Body position

Roles of CM & CF's

Wide player needs to engage fullback

Timing of midfield run



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

In a 4-4-2 coach a team to support & change places to advantage (AD17)

- Organisation : 9 v 9 + two common players develop practice into an 11 v 11
- Playing Area : Penalty box to penalty box

Focus on :

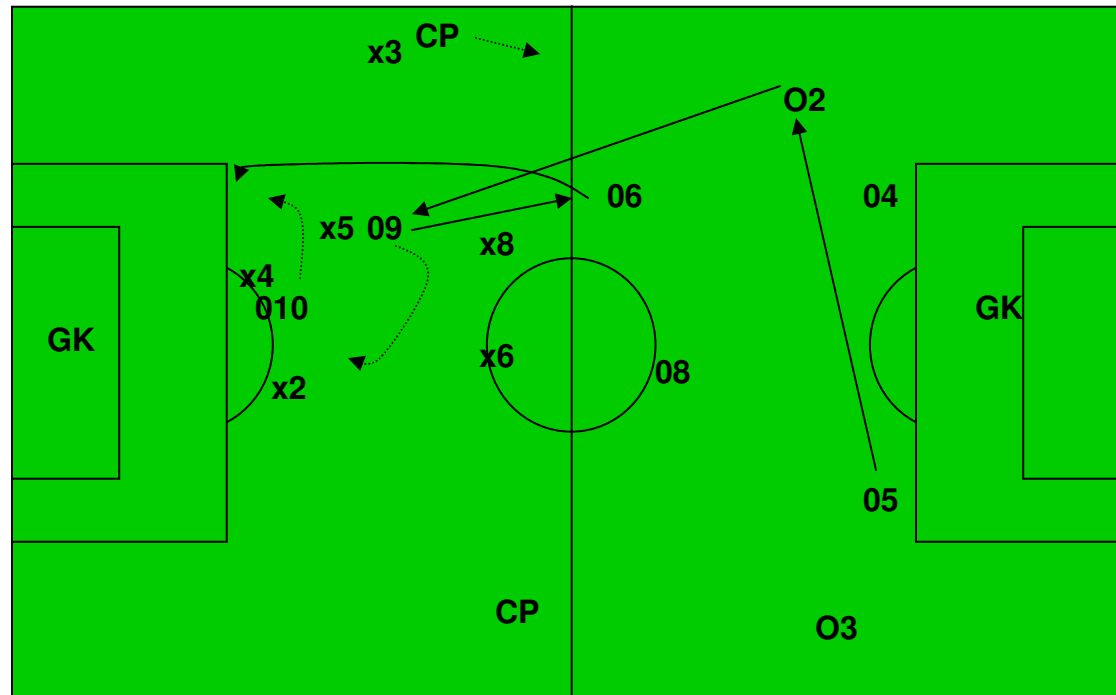
Angles & distance of support

Support of forward pass – how far? when?

Body position – Dynamic movement

Quality of passing - forward

Use of triggers



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Improve Direct Play within a Team (AD18)

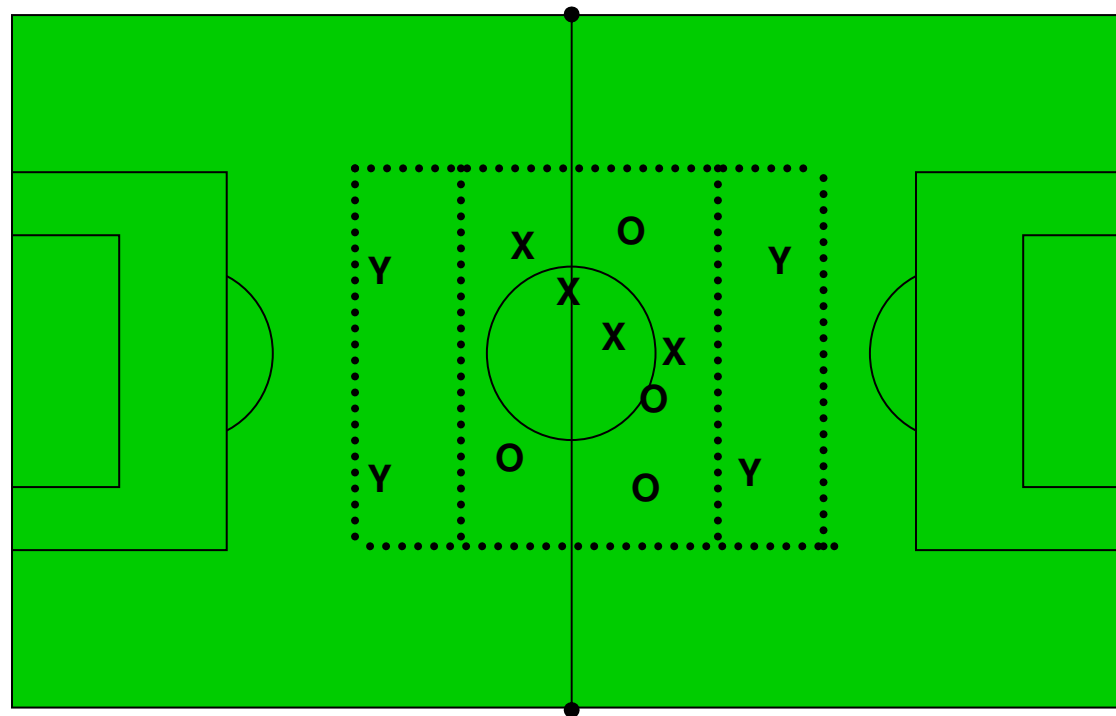
- Organisation : 4 v 4 in central zone, neutral players on ends
- Playing Area : 60 x 40 area split into 3 zones

Focus on :

Playing ball from one zone to another

Play direct

Body positions / mentality



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Improve Direct Play within a Team (AD19)

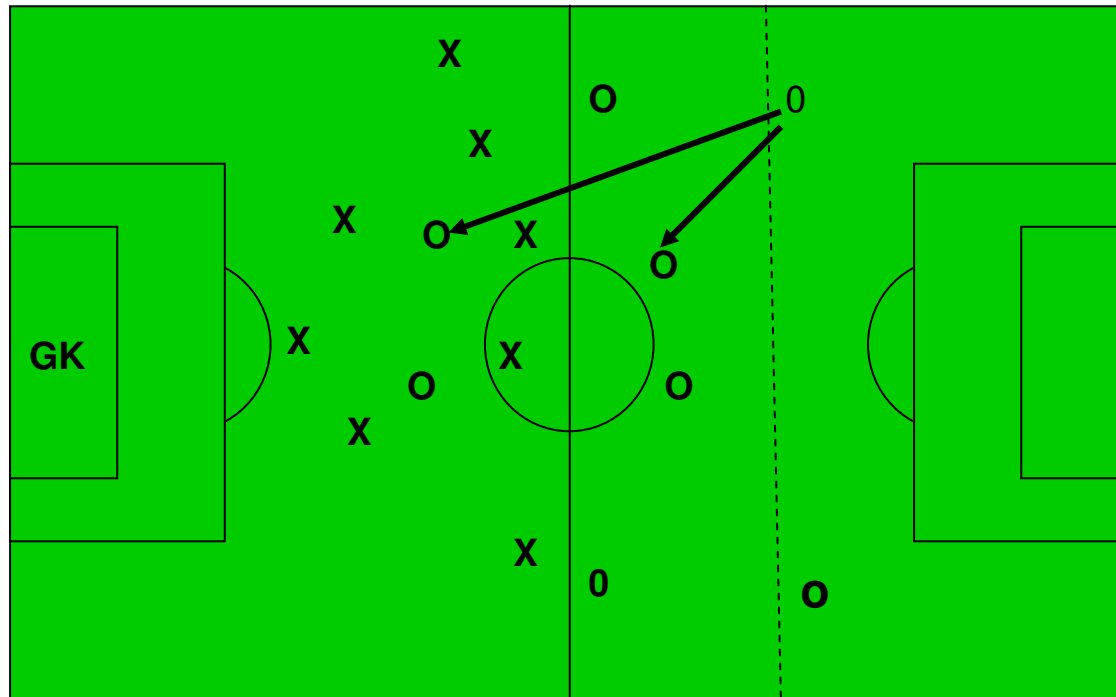
- Organisation : 2 / 3 Pitch Practice
- 9 v 8

Focus on :

Direct play

When to play short / long

Angles/ distance / support

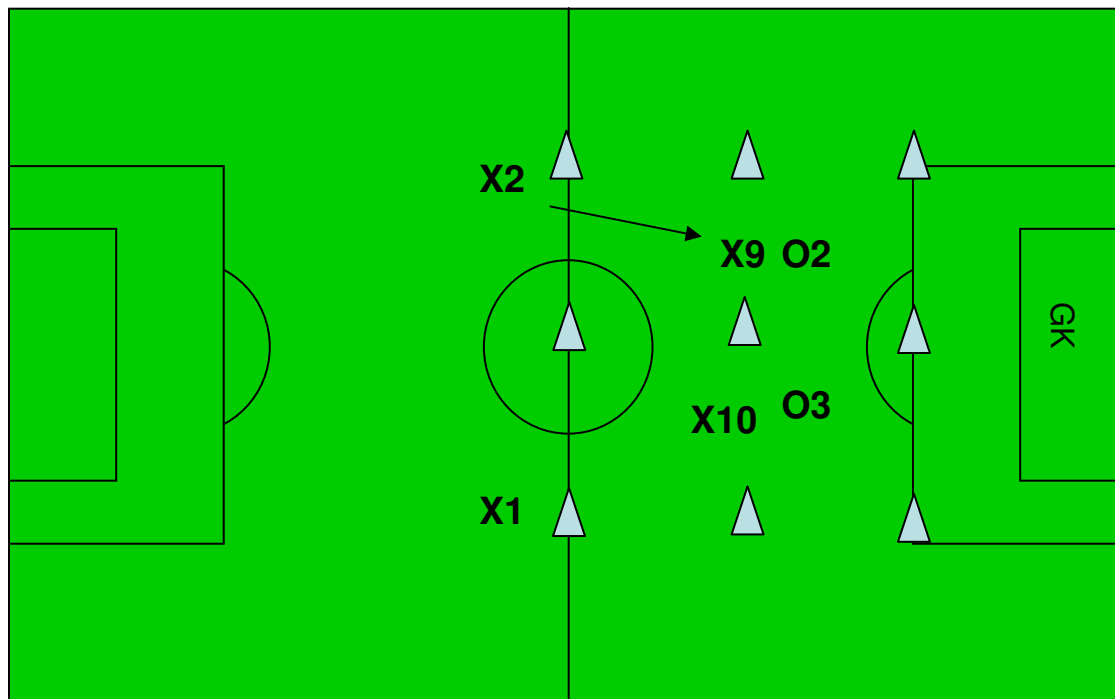


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Coach strikers to play for & with each other (AD20)

- Organisation : Functional Practice
- Players are organised into two areas to attack
- Play 1 Vs 1 and progress by removing central cones to play 2 Vs 2

- Focus on :
- Creation of space
 - Angle / timing of runs
 - Decision
 - Attitude to turn
 - Combination work



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Coach strikers to play for & with each other (AD21)

- Organisation : Functional Practice
- Remove central cones to play 2 Vs2
- Focus on combinations that can take place in this environment.

Focus on :

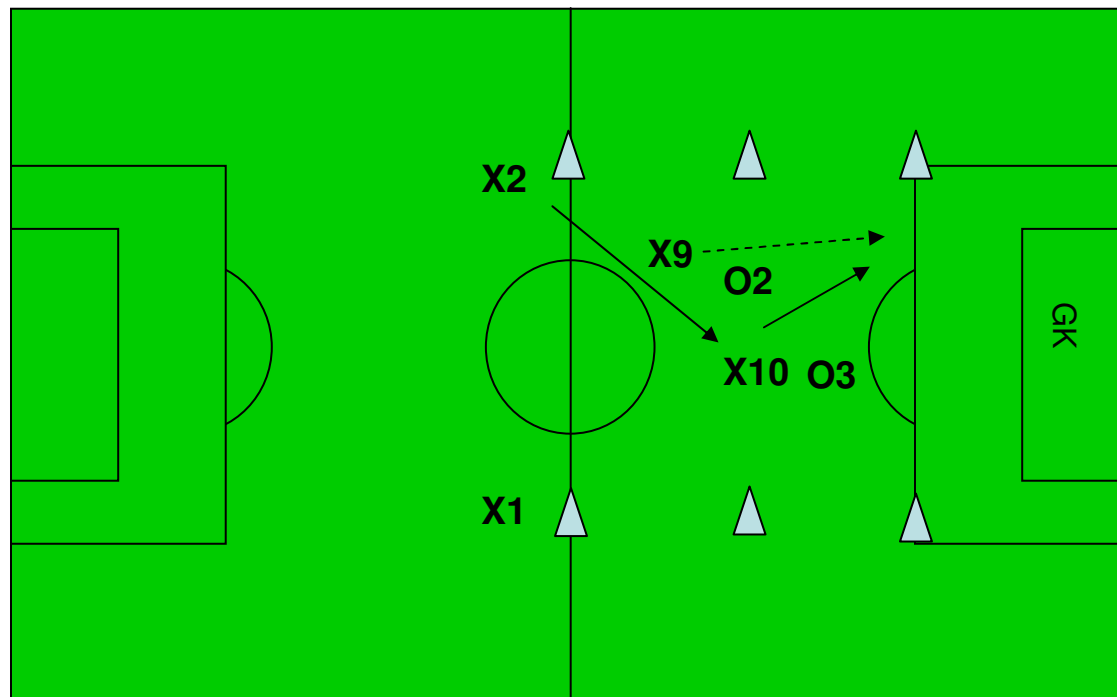
Creation of space

Angle / timing of runs

Decision

Attitude to turn

Combination work



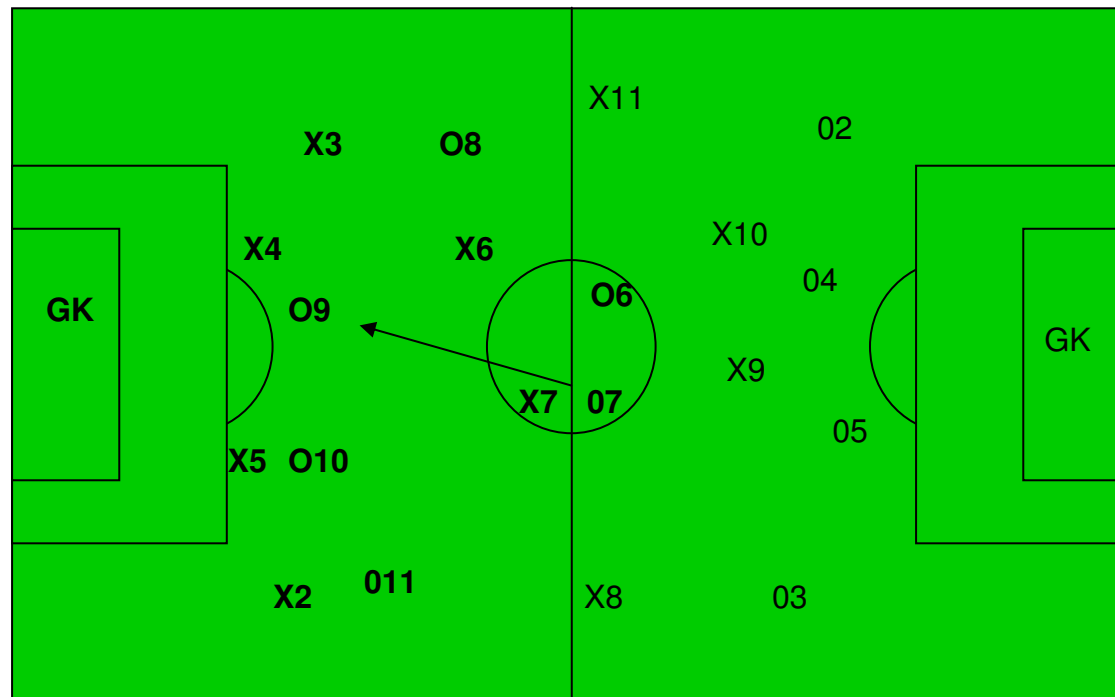
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Coach strikers to play for and with each other (AD22)

- Organisation : Coaching within a game focusing on 11 Vs 11.
- Initial start point involves O7 playing into O9
- Vary starting position to focus on attacking play.

Focus on :

Creation of space
Angle / timing of runs
Decision
Combination work
End Product



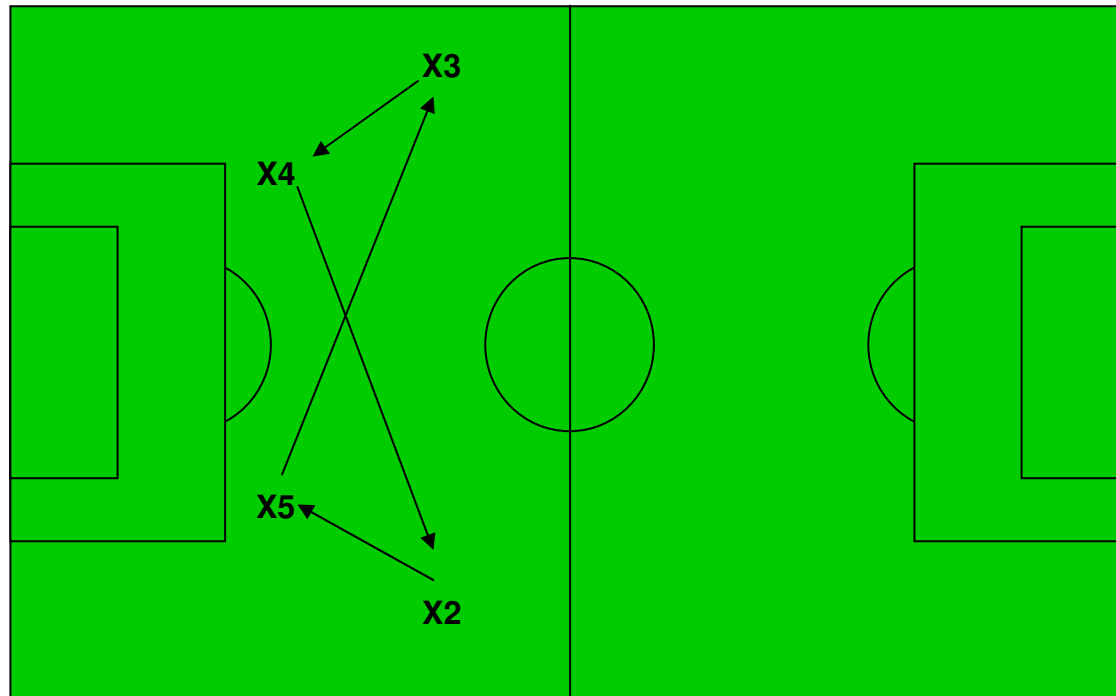
Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Coach Switching the Point of Attack (AD23)

- Organisation : Pattern of Play involving 4 Defenders switching play in the defensive third of the field
- Playing Area : Open area to provide the players the opportunity to discover realistic positioning.

X2 passes to X5, who delivers to X3. X3 sets for X4 who plays to X4.

Key factors : Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, M'ment on & off the ball.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

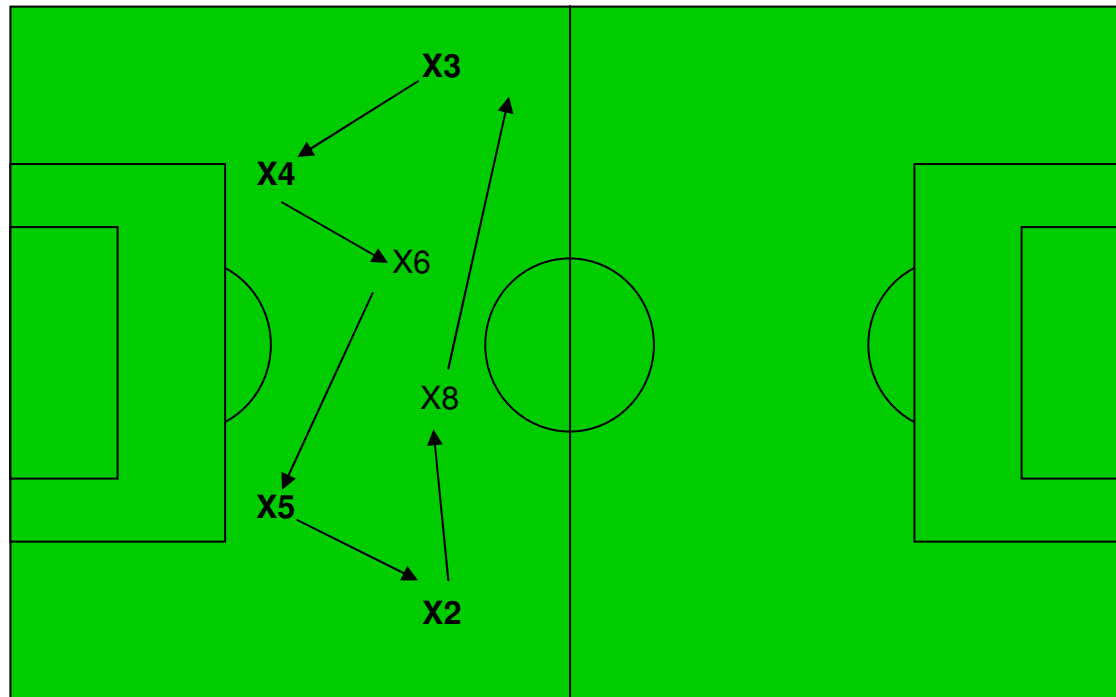
Coach Switching the Point of Attack (AD24)

•Organisation : Add two central midfielders to support the process of transfer.

•Playing Area : Open area to provide the players the opportunity to discover realistic positioning.

X2 passes to X5, who delivers to X3. X3 sets for X4 who plays to X4.

Key factors : Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, Movement on & off the ball, Decision.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

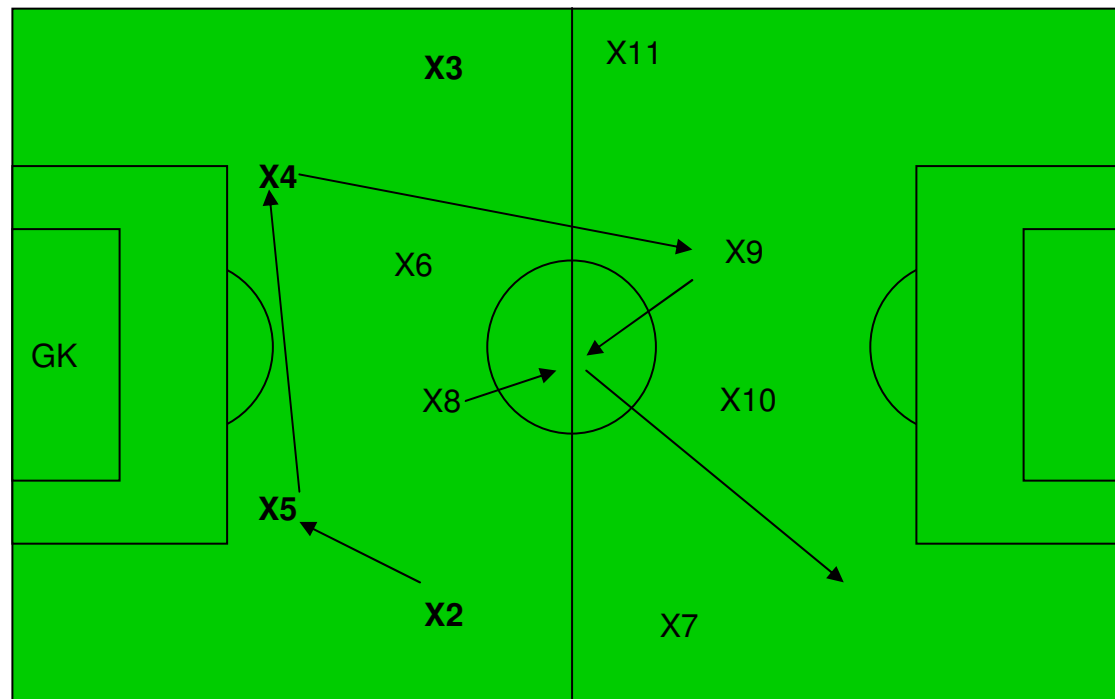
Coach Switching the Point of Attack (AD25)

- Organisation : Focus on a pattern of play establishing passing priorities.

- Playing Area : Open area to provide the players the opportunity to discover realistic positioning.

Progress to 11 Vs 11.

Key factors : Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, Movement on & off the ball, Decision.

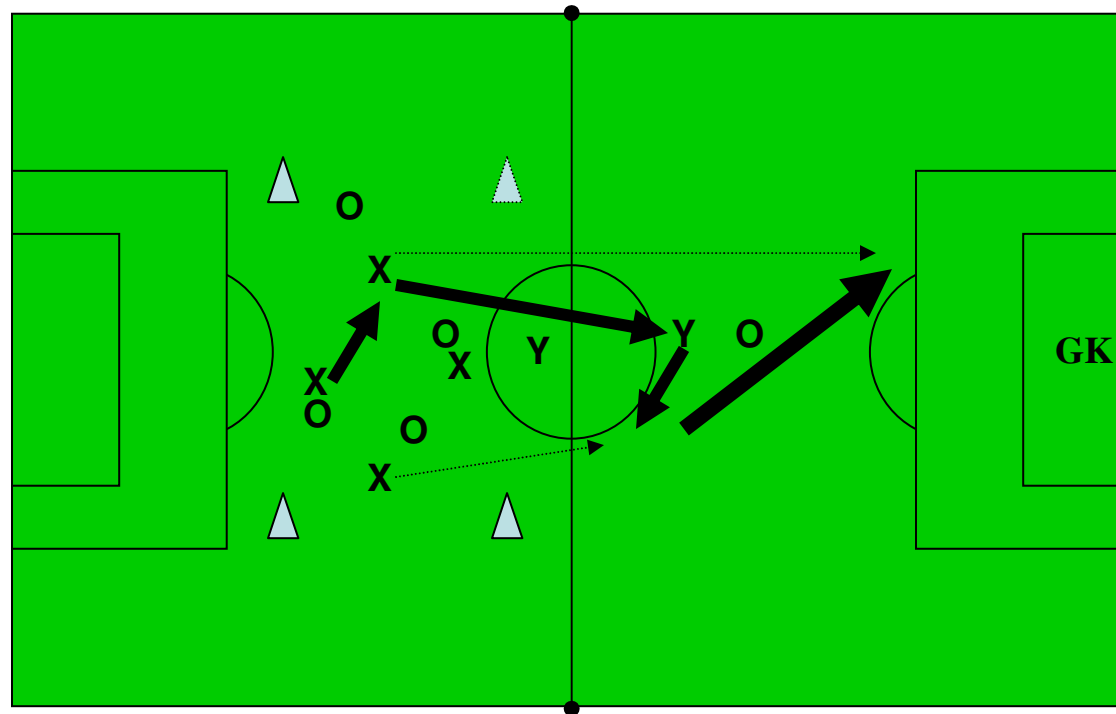


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Counter Attacking as a Team (AD26)

- Organisation : 4 V 4 + 1
- 30 X 30 AREA
- Score a goal on the break

Focus on :
Playing forward early
MF to break quickly



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Counter Attacking as a Team (AD27)

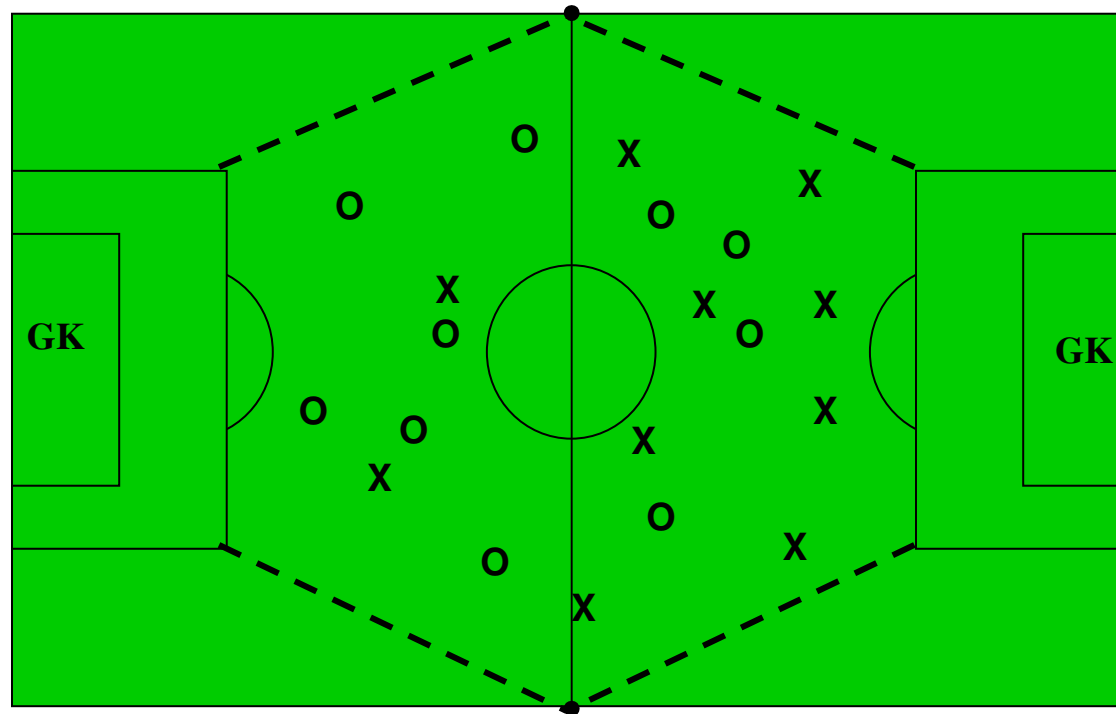
- Organisation : 11 v 11
- Full pitch with wide areas zoned off
- Score a goal on the break

Focus on :

Playing forward early

MF to break quickly

Show inside when defending

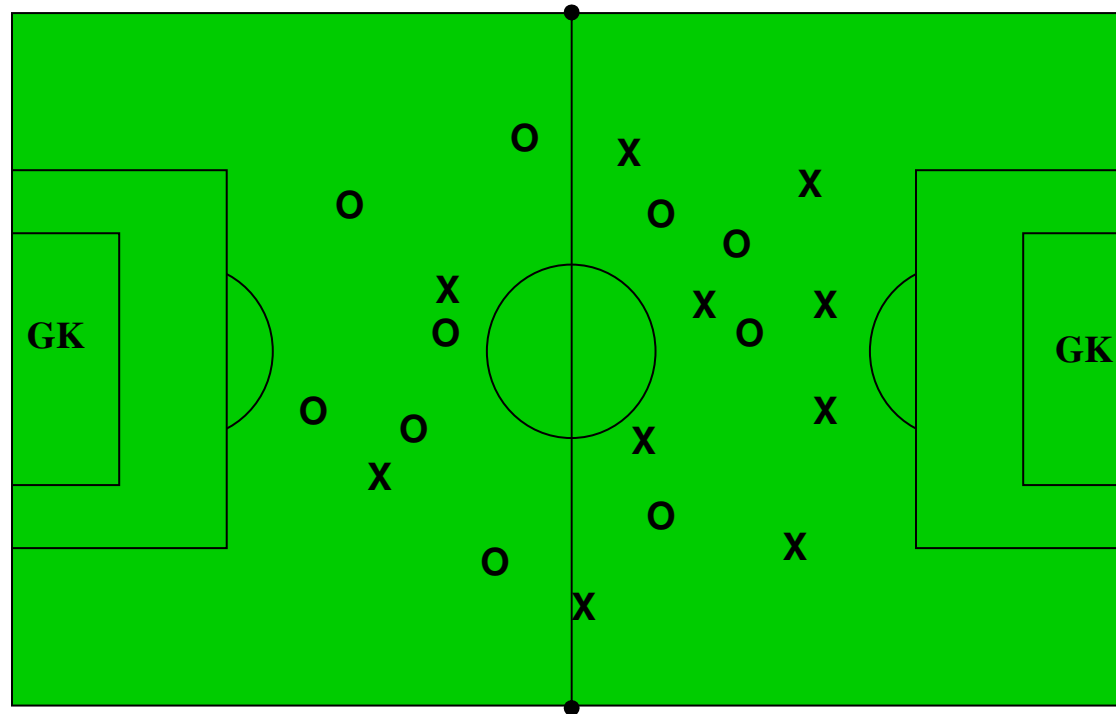


Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Counter Attacking as a Team (AD28)

- Organisation : 11 v 11
- Full pitch
- Score a goal on the break

Focus on :
Playing forward early
MF to break quickly
Show inside when defending



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Crossing & Finishing (AD29)

•Organisation :

•Functional practice focusing on wide and central areas.

•Players in wide positions work alternately to deliver the ball for pairs of central attackers.

•Option One : Winger runs & checks past the cone.

Focus on :

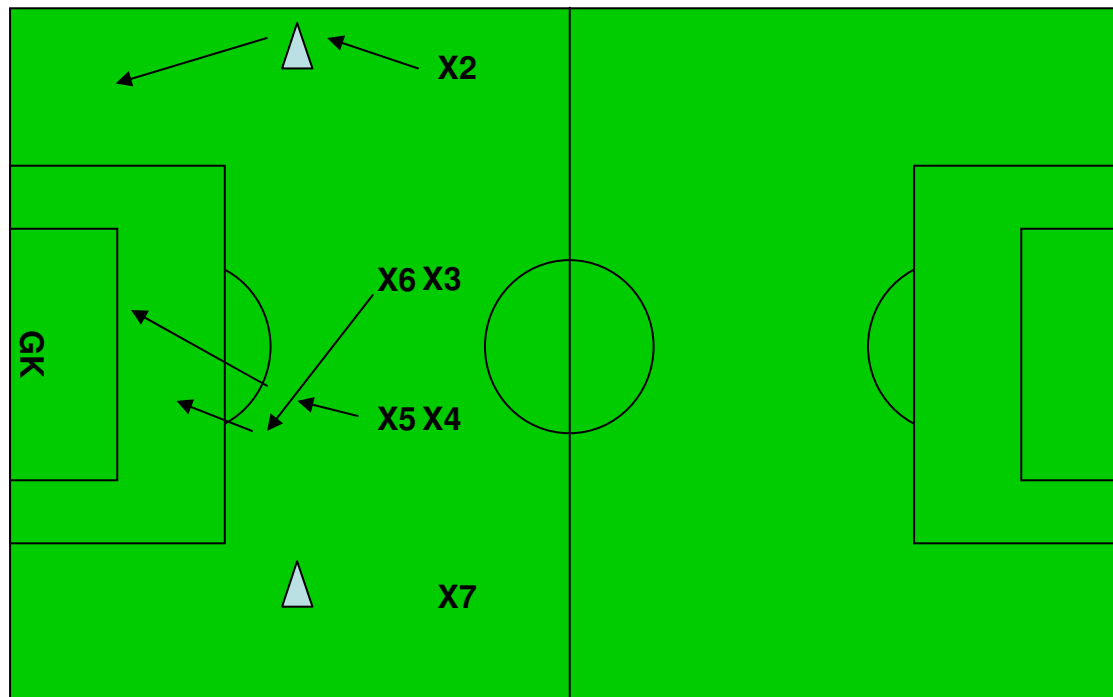
Quality of cross : Target area, type of delivery etc

Create space : Both wide & central

Body Position

Angle & timing of movement

End product



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Crossing & Finishing (AD30)

•Organisation :

•Functional practice focusing on wide and central areas.

Option Two : Add passive defender for winger to beat.

Option Three : Add player to allow 1-2 to be played in wide positions.

Focus on :

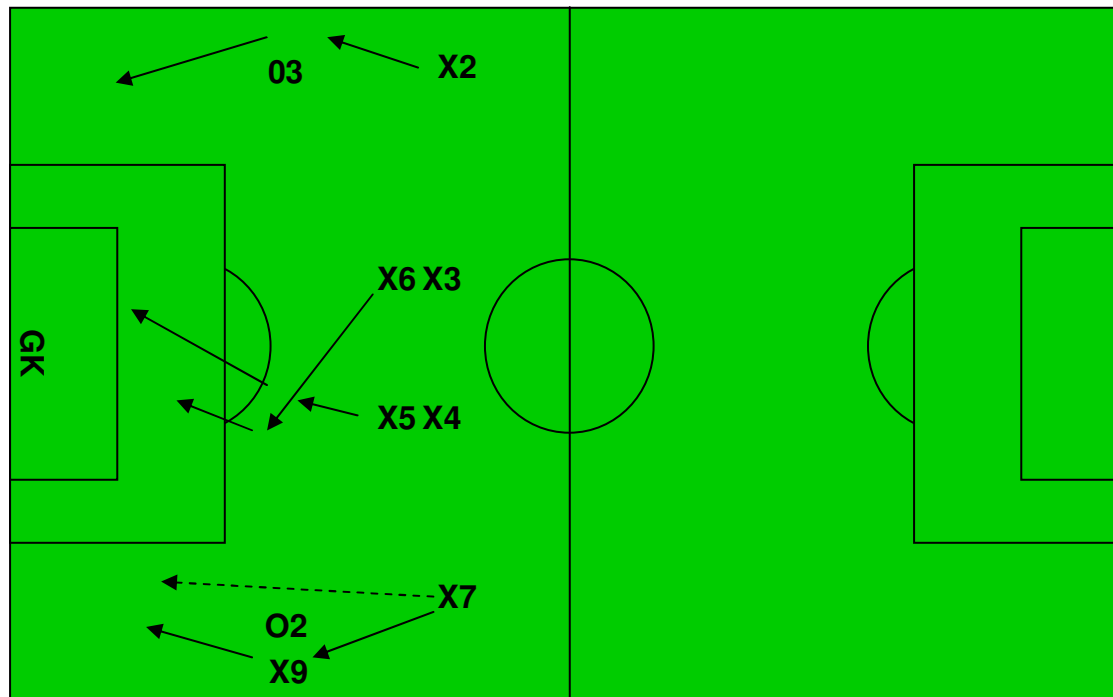
Quality of cross : Target area, type of delivery etc

Create space : Both wide & central

Body Position

Angle & timing of movement

End product



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Crossing & Finishing (AD31)

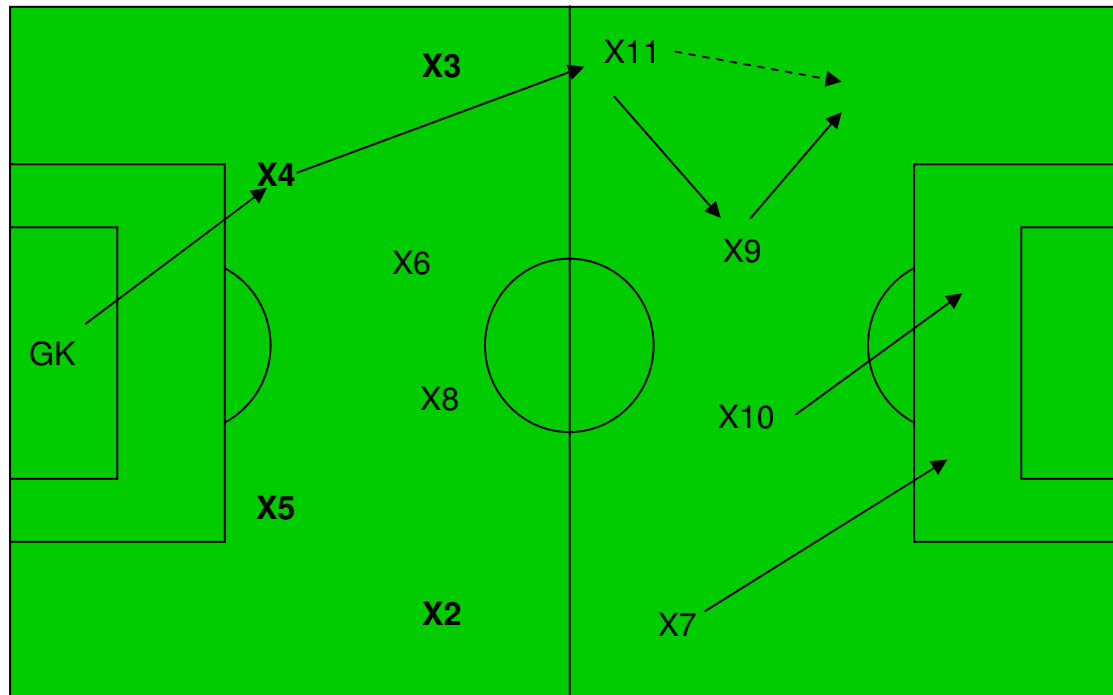
- Organisation : Focus on a pattern of play establishing passing priorities.

- Playing Area : Open area to provide the players the opportunity to discover realistic positioning.

Progress to 11 Vs 11.

Key factors : Create Space, Body Position, Type of pass, Angle & Distance of support, Movement on & off the ball, Decision.

Quality of cross : Target area, type of delivery etc



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

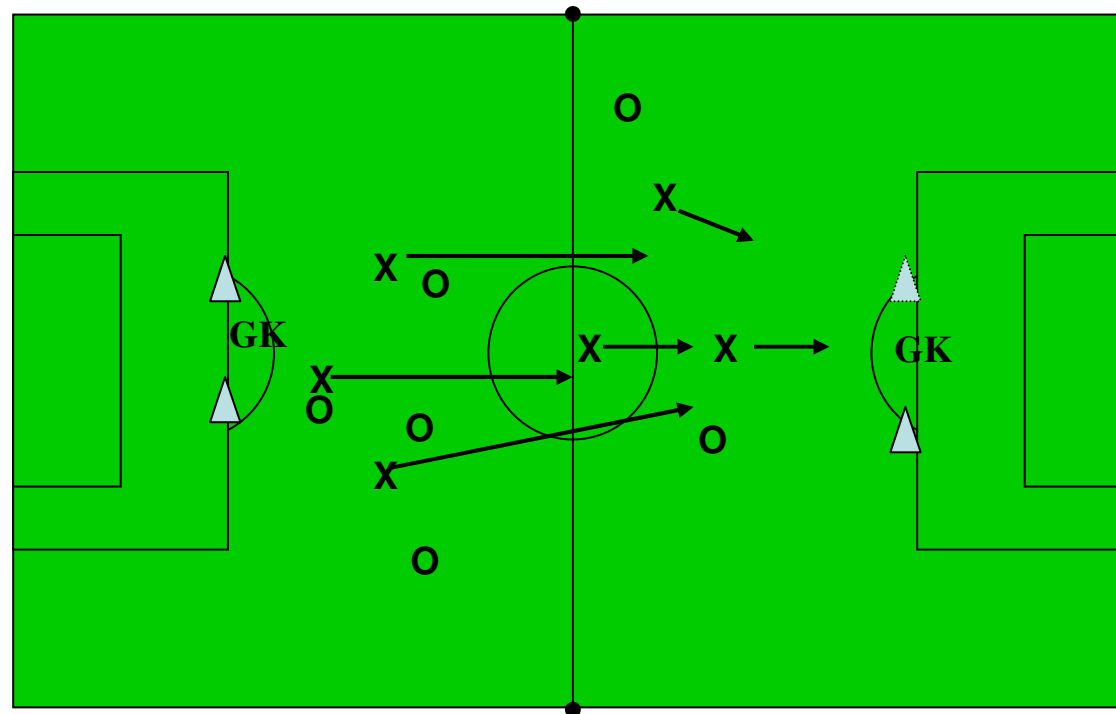
Regaining possession through a retreating defence (AD32)

- Organisation :18 – 18 yard box
- 7 v 7 game
- Cond. – Can only regain possession in own half

Focus on :

Retreating

Positions / roles in team



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Regaining possession through a retreating defence (AD33)

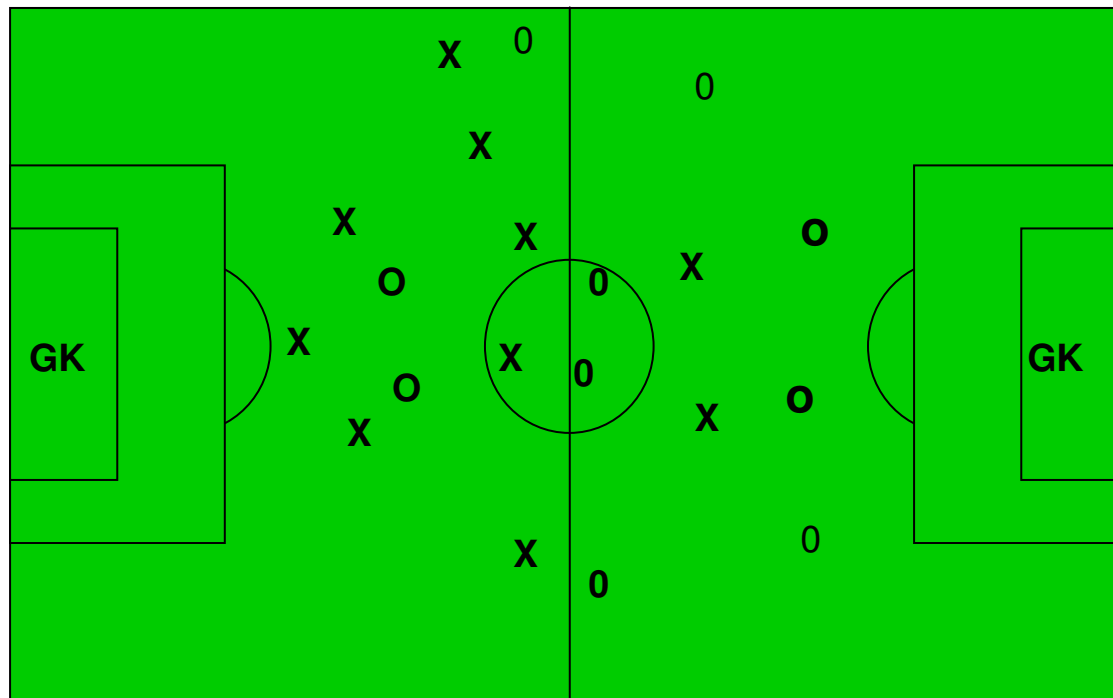
- Organisation : Full pitch
- 11 v 11
- Can only win the ball back in own half
- Progression

Focus on :

Retreating

Roles / responsibilities in own half

When to drop off / press



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Full backs defending (AD34)

Organisation : Full back (x) passes ball to wide player (x). As ball travels defending full back pressurises ball.

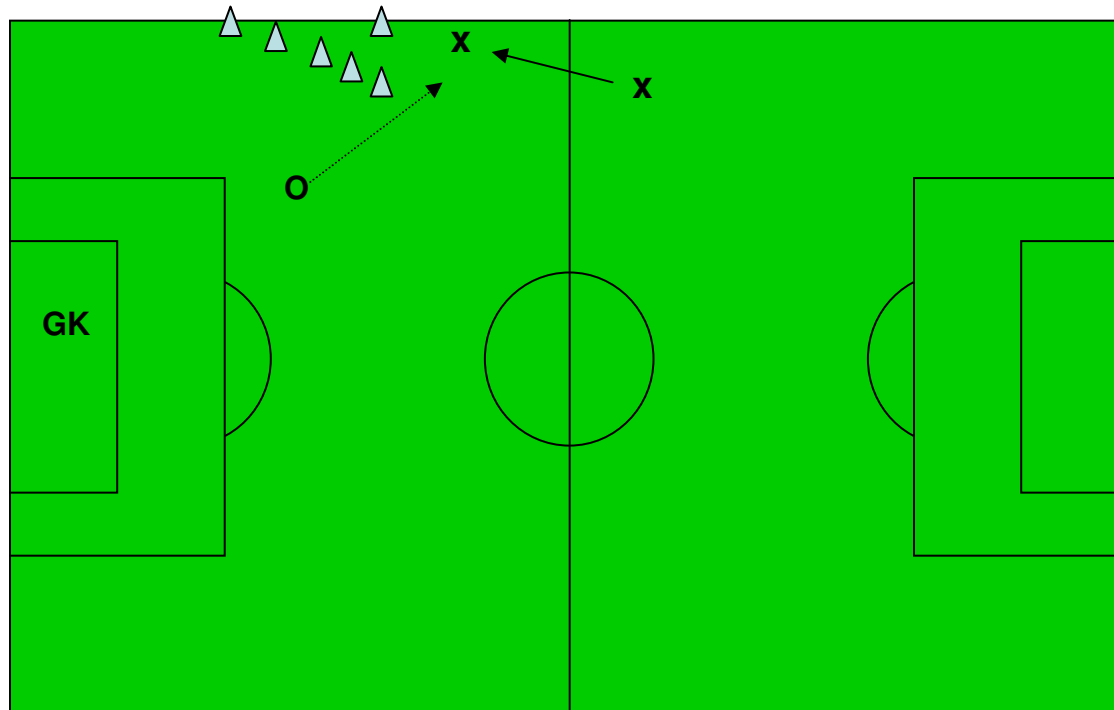
Playing Area : Serving full back serves ball from half way line. Defensive full back starts 10 yards outside of 18 yard box.

Focus on : Full back:

Close down wide player quickly cutting off the line preventing wide player getting into coned area.

Slow down within 2-3 yards to prevent wide player getting past, but close enough to prevent building up speed

Jockey and lead with nearest foot if ball can be won.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Full backs defending (progression) (AD35)

Organisation : Full back (x) passes ball to wide player (x). As ball travels defending full back (o) pressurises ball. Full back can now pass to centre forward or overlapping full back. Defending centre back and wide player are added

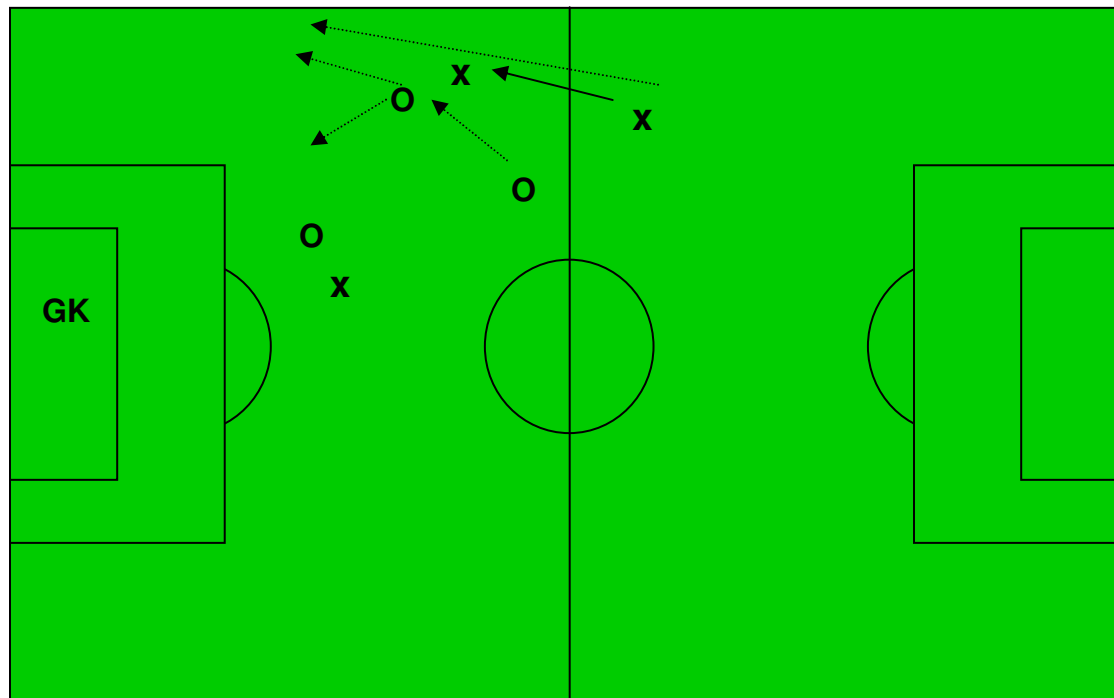
Playing Area : Serving full back serves ball from half way line. Defensive full back starts 10 yards outside of 18 yard box.

Full back: Having pressured wide player, if opposing full back overlaps, defensive full back tracks overlapping run.

If wide player passes or dribbles inside to centre forward full back “tucks” in close to centre back.

Wide player: If full back overlaps, wide player to pressurise opposing wide player and force ball down line.

Centre back: move within 10 yards of full back to remain “compact” whilst positioning ball side of centre forward.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager

Full backs defending in a 11 v 11 (AD36)

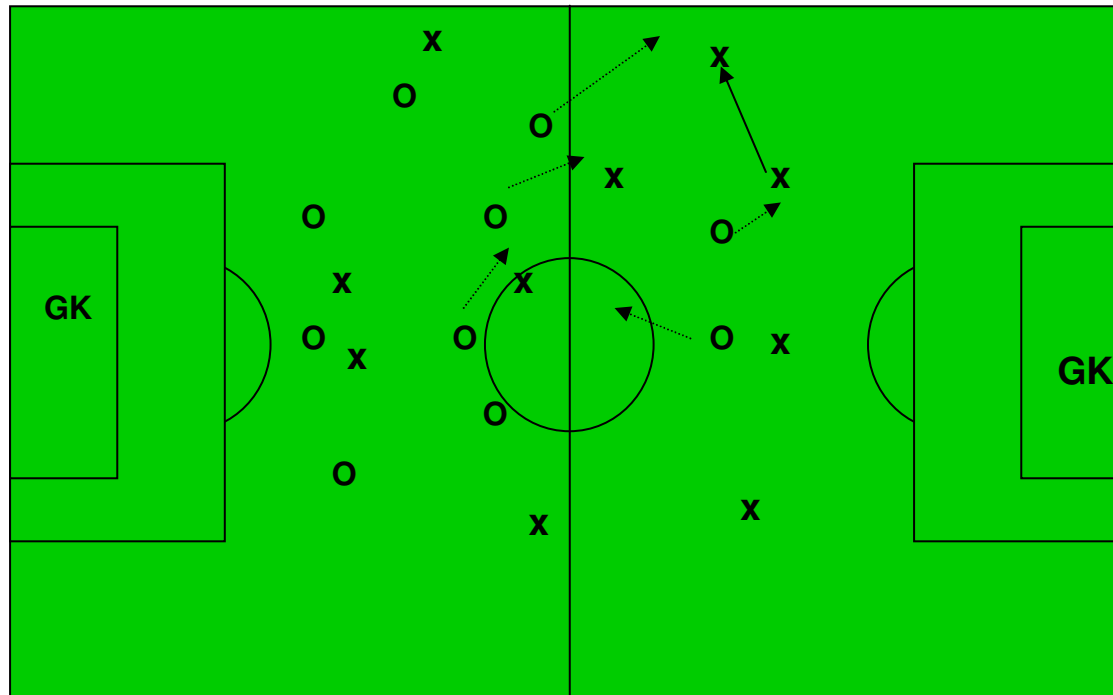
Organisation : Open play ensuring ball is started from wide and central areas of defensive, midfield and attacking zones.

Playing Area : Full pitch

Back 4: Within 10 yards of each other. When central play within width of 18 yard box. When wide, full back on opposite side be in advance of centre backs. Move forward as a unit when ball moves forward if there is pressure on ball (until ball stops)

Midfield Unit: When central force play wide. When wide pressure player on ball if overlap occurs. Keep within 10 yards and keep play in front.

Forwards: When central force play wide, and prevent play back to central defender. When wide force play inside for midfield to win ball ballside.



Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager



Practical Sessions

Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club Academy Technical Programme

Developed by Kevin Thelwell
Academy Manager