



Age Group Organization

Director: Claudio Reyna

Author: Dr. Javier Perez



AGE GROUP ORGANIZATION

Index

1. Introduction.....	37
2. Player Stages.....	38
3. Principles of Age Appropriate Development.....	39
4. Season Plan by Age.....	41
Tactical	41
Technical	42
Physical	43
Psychosocial	44
5. Season Plan by Age Group.....	45
INITIAL STAGE	
1. U6	45
2. U7	46
3. U8	47
BASIC STAGE	
4. U9	48
5. U10	49
6. U11	50
7. U12	51
INTERMEDIATE STAGE	
8. U13	52
9. U14	53
ADVANCED STAGE	
10. U15	54
11. U16	55
12. U17	56
13. U18	57



INTRODUCTION

Organization of player development by age and stage



Children do not learn in the same way as adults, especially when the learning process involves both intellectual and physical activity.

Age conditions the way a person perceives and interacts with the world and with others.

In any learning process, age is the key component in selecting appropriate content and methodology. Soccer is no different. For this reason we must not train 6 year old players the same way as 13 years old players. Training sessions must be adapted to the age of the players. Taking into consideration the characteristics of human and player development, we have structured the curriculum into four age groups. The first two age groups are:

1. INITIAL STAGE – 5 TO 8 YEARS OLD

At this age children do not have the same capacity as adults to analyze the environment. They explore and have an egocentric conception of the world.

Children are still gathering the experience necessary to interact with their surroundings and with others. Also, empathy and the capacity to consider the thoughts and feelings of others is very low. In order to help children build their own experience, many exercises will be individual (e.g. each player will have a ball). The tactical component of the game will be reduced to small-sided games with basic explanations about space distribution. Training sessions will be treated more as physical education than specifically as soccer training.

2. BASIC STAGE – 9 TO 12 YEARS OLD

At this stage, the structure (but not the content) of the training sessions will be similar to that of older players. The main component of the training session will be technical. It is sensible at this age to develop technique and basic tactical understanding. Children's capacity to solve problems increases significantly. Therefore players will begin working on basic and dynamic tactical scenarios. At this stage, players are pre-pubescent and have important physical limitations in terms of strength and endurance.

3. INTERMEDIATE STAGE – 13 AND 14 YEARS OLD

Players at this age develop a good understanding of the game. However, these players are limited by their physical size and the significant changes, which arise with puberty. Safety should be the number one priority for the coach. The coach must be cautious to avoid overtraining should focus more on tactical and technical elements of the game and less on the physical aspects. Tactical training plays an important role at this age.

4. ADVANCED STAGE – 15 TO 18 YEARS OLD

Players at this age have completed most of their physical and mental development. All components of training can be combined and organized with the purpose of developing the highest potential of the player. The strength of the muscles helps to develop technique at high speed and this speed helps the player to react faster to tactical situations. This stage is crucial for combining all the components of soccer in order to increase the players' soccer knowledge.

These are some of the facts in terms of human development adapted to soccer. In this document these facts are used to develop the most appropriate training methodology for each age group.



PLAYER STAGES

Age groups organized by stage

PLAYER STAGES

1. INITIAL STAGE

- U6
- U7
- U8

2. BASIC STAGE

- U9
- U10
- U11
- U12

3. INTERMEDIATE STAGE

- U13
- U14

4. ADVANCED STAGE

- U15
- U16
- U17
- U18

5. SPECIFIC STAGE

- U19
- U20

6. PERFORMANCE

- Senior



PRINCIPLES OF AGE APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT

Training characteristics based on human development

STAGES	AGE GROUPS	CHARACTERISTICS
INITIAL	U6	Very young players from 5 to 8 years of age love to play. Therefore, all practices should be based on fun games.
	U7	Players must spend the maximum time possible in contact with the ball and experiment by themselves.
	U8	For the first time the player has to build a relationship with other players. Give different responsibilities to the players in order to develop a sense of team.
BASIC	U9	Basic motor skills like walking, running or jumping have to be combined with ball handling and ball control.
	U10	Pre-pubescent players from age 9 to 12 years have a special ability to learn. Therefore, this is the right age to work on specific soccer techniques and skills. Developing good technique is essential at this age.
	U11	1v1 and 2v1 attacking and defending situations are important to develop individual skills as well as the passing techniques to develop the necessary team game.
	U12	Use small-sided games to develop basic attacking and defensive principles. Other important aspects of tactical training are possession, combination play, transition and finishing in the final third, as well as zonal defending. Players will rotate in two or three different positions to avoid early specialization.
INTERMEDIATE	U13	Speed, coordination, balance and agility are the main physical aspects to improve at this stage.
	U14	At this stage, training sessions are orientated more toward tactics and the player will practice in bigger spaces. Players must practice all different types of techniques at this stage.
		Strength and endurance should be part of the fitness training. Coaching methods have to consider and preserve players' health since they will be experiencing many changes due to puberty at this stage. Warm-ups and cool downs are essential as is dynamic flexibility.
		Players must develop discipline at this stage by following the instructions of the coach both during and outside training sessions.



PRINCIPLES OF AGE APPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT

Training characteristics based on human development

STAGES	AGE GROUPS	CHARACTERISTICS
ADVANCED	U15	Tactical training and small-sided games are an essential part of the training at this stage. Attacking and defending principles must be part of all games. Important aspects of the tactical training are speed of play, quick transition, counter attacking and finishing in the final third, as well as pressing.
	U16	Technique will focus on speed and accuracy. Passing and finishing are two of the main techniques emphasized at this stage. Part of the technical training will be position-specific (e.g. defender: passing, center midfield players: receiving to turn and strikers: finishing).
	U17	The physical aspect of the game is key at this stage: endurance, strength and speed will be part of the weekly training routine.
	U18	Players should be expected to show commitment to the team, concentration in training sessions and competitiveness during the game.
SPECIFIC	U19	All tactical aspects of the game must be covered. Strategy and set pieces are now a major part of the training sessions.
	U20	The technical and physical work is based on explosive actions.
PERFORMANCE	SENIOR	Training methods will be adapted to the type of players and level of competition.



CONTENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE: TACTICAL

STAGE AND AGE GROUP																	
TACTICAL		INITIAL			BASIC			INTERMEDIATE			ADVANCED			SPECIFIC			
		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	U20	Senior
1. Attacking Principles					3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4
2. Possession					2	3	4	5	→								
3. Transition					1	2	3	4	5	→							
4. Combination Play					2	3	4	5	→								
5. Switching Play					1	1	2	3	3	4	→						
6. Counter Attacking							1	1	2	3	4	4	5	→			
7. Playing out from the back					3	3	4	4	5	→							
8. Finishing- Final Third					1	2	3	4	5	→							
1. Defending Principles					2	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	3	2
2. Zonal Defending					2	3	3	4	4	5	5	4	4	3	3	→	
3. Pressing					1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	→			
4. Retreat & Recovery					2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	→	
5. Compactness					1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	→	
WORKLOAD KEY											1= VERY LOW	2= LOW	3= MID	4= HIGH	5= VERY HIGH		

CONTENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE: TECHNICAL

STAGE AND AGE GROUP												SPECIFIC				
TECHNICAL	INITIAL			BASIC			INTERMEDIATE			ADVANCED			U19	U20	Senior	
	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17				
1. Passing and Receiving	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
2. Running with the Ball	2	3	3	4	5	4	3	2	1	→						
3. Dribbling	5	5	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	→			
4. Turning	1	2	3	4	5	5	4	→								
5. Shooting	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
6. Ball Control	2	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	3	→					
7. Heading		1	1	2	3	4	4	4	5	4	3	→				
8. 1v1 Attacking	2	3	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	2	→		
9. Shielding the Ball	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	→							
10. Receiving to Turn	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	5	5	4	→				
11. Crossing and Finishing		1	2	2	3	3	3	4	→							
12. 1v1 Defending		1	2	2	3	4	5	4	4	4	3	→				
WORKLOAD KEY												1= VERY LOW	2= LOW	3= MID	4= HIGH	5= VERY HIGH

CONTENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE: PHYSICAL

STAGE AND AGE GROUP												SPECIFIC			Senior		
PHYSICAL		INITIAL			BASIC			INTERMEDIATE			ADVANCED						
STRENGTH	STRENDGTH	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	U20	
Strength Endurance									1	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	→
Explosive Strength			1	1	2	2		3	3	4	4	5	5	5			
Maximal Strength									1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	→
Aerobic Capacity		1	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			
Aerobic Power				1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	→
Anaerobic Lactic								1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	→
Anaerobic Alactic		1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	→
Reaction		1	2	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	→
Acceleration		1	2	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	→
Maximal Speed			1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	1
Speed Endurance					1	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	→
Acyclic Speed		1	2	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Flexibility & Mobility		1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	→
Coordination & Balance		2	3	3	4	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	→
Agility		3	3	4	4	5	5	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Basic Motor Skills		5	5	5	4	3	2	1									
Perception & Awareness		5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
WORKLOAD KEY												1= VERY LOW	2= LOW	3= MID	4= HIGH	5= VERY HIGH	

CONTENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE: PSYCHOSOCIAL

STAGE AND AGE GROUP																
PSYCHOSOCIAL	INITIAL			BASIC			INTERMEDIATE			ADVANCED			SPECIFIC			
	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	U20	Senior
Motivation	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Self Confidence	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Cooperation	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Decision/Determination	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Competitiveness	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
Concentration								1	2	3	3	4	4	4	5	5
Commitment				1	2	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Self Control				1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
Communication				1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Respect & Discipline	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
WORKLOAD KEY											1= VERY LOW	2= LOW	3= MID	4= HIGH	5= VERY HIGH	

Season Plan by Age

INITIAL STAGE (U6-U8)

CURRICULUM – U6 – SEASON PLAN						
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION		
	SESSION STRUCTURE	ASPECTS TO CONSIDER		SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS	TECHNIQUE
SCRIMMAGE: Take up good positions during the game TECHNICAL: Improve basic individual technique PHYSICAL: Develop coordination and basic motor skills with and without the ball PSYCHOSOCIAL: Feel comfortable and confident with the ball	Sessions per week Players per team	2 12	Session time Game time	60' 30'	INITIAL STAGE	
By the end of the season the player must be capable of: 1. Handling the ball with at least one foot and both hands 2. Occupying the original position during the game once an action is finished 3. Running, jumping and stopping with and without the ball	Warm-up Physical Technique Scrimmage Cool Down & Debrief	10' 15' 20' 20' 5'	- Size of the practice - Time of the practice - Intensity of the practice - Rules - Number of players - Time of contact with the ball			
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual games are essential for the player at this age to experiment with the ball. Match: We strongly recommend 3v3 or 4v4 games. 		35%	0%	35%	30%
CONTENT						
TACTICAL	TECHNICAL		PHYSICAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL		
ATTACKING	1. Attacking Principles 2. Possession 3. Transition 4. Combination Play 5. Switching Play 6. Counter Attacking 7. Playing Out From the Back 8. Finishing in the Final Third	1. Passing and Receiving 2. Running With the Ball 3. Dribbling 4. Turning 5. Shooting 6. Ball Control 7. Heading 8. 1V1 Attacking	5 2 5 1 5 2 1 2	Strength Endurance Explosive Strength Maximal Strength Aerobic Capacity Aerobic Power Anaerobic Lactic Anaerobic Alactic Reaction	1. Motivation 2. Self confidence 3. Cooperation 4. Decision/Determination 5. Competitiveness 6. Concentration 7. Commitment 8. Self Control	
DEFENDING	1. Defending Principles 2. Zonal Defending 3. Pressing 4. Retreat & Recovery 5. Compactness	9. Shielding the Ball 10. Receiving to Turn 11. Crossing and Finishing 12. 1V1 Defending	1 1 1 1	Maximal Speed Speed Endurance Acyclic Speed Acceleration	1. Communication 2. Coordination & Balance 3. Agility 4. Basic Motor Skills 5. Perception & Awareness	
U.S. SOCCER CURRICULUM > Age Group Organization						



CURRICULUM – U7 – SEASON PLAN							
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION			
	SESSION STRUCTURE	ASPECTS TO CONSIDER		SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS	TECHNIQUE	PHYSICAL
SCRIMMAGE: Take up good positions during the game TECHNICAL: Improve basic individual technique PHYSICAL: Develop coordination and basic motor skills with and without the ball PSYCHOSOCIAL: Increase confidence with the ball	Sessions per week Players per team	2 12	Session time Game time	75' 40'	INITIAL STAGE		
ASPECTS TO CONSIDER							
Warm-up Physical Technique Scrimmage Cool Down & Debrief		15' 15' 25' 25' 5'	- Size of the practice - Time of the practice - Intensity of the practice - Rules - Number of players - Time of contact with the ball				
By the end of the season the player must be capable of: 1. Handling the ball with both feet and both hands 2. Occupying the original position during the game once an action is finished 3. Basic coordinated movements with and without the ball		Comments ▶ Individual and collective games are essential for the player at this age to experiment with the ball. ▶ Match: We strongly recommend 4v4 games.		35%	0%	35%	30%
CONTENT							
TACTICAL		TECHNICAL	PHYSICAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL			
ATTACKING 1. Attacking Principles 2. Possession 3. Transition 4. Combination Play 5. Switching Play 6. Counter Attacking 7. Playing Out From the Back 8. Finishing in the Final Third		1. Passing and Receiving 2. Running With the Ball 3. Dribbling 4. Turning 5. Shooting 6. Ball Control 7. Heading 8. 1V1 Attacking	5 3 5 2 5 3 7 3	STRENGTH Strength Endurance Explosive Strength Maximal Strength	BASIC 1. Motivation 2. Self confidence 3. Cooperation		
DEFENDING 1. Defending Principles 2. Zonal Defending 3. Pressing 4. Retreat & Recovery 5. Compactness		9. Shielding the Ball 10. Receiving to Turn 11. Crossing and Finishing 12. 1V1 Defending	1 1 1 1	ENDURANCE Aerobic Capacity Aerobic Power Anaerobic Lactic Anaerobic Alactic Reaction Acceleration Maximal Speed Speed Endurance Acyclic Speed	ADVANCED 4. Decision/Determination 5. Competitiveness 6. Concentration 7. Commitment 8. Self Control		
				SOCIAL 9. Communication 10. Respect & Discipline			
 U.S. SOCCER CURRICULUM > Age Group Organization							

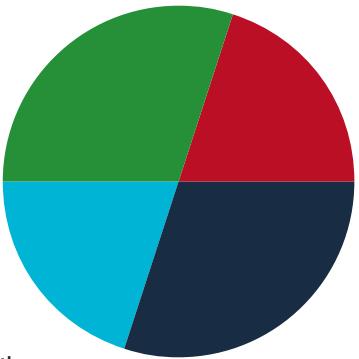
CURRICULUM – U8 – SEASON PLAN								
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION				
	SESSION STRUCTURE	ASPECTS TO CONSIDER		SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS	TECHNIQUE	PHYSICAL	
SCRIMMAGE: Balance in relation to the ball and teammates during the game	Sessions per week	2	Session time	75'	INITIAL STAGE			
Players per team	12	Game time	40'					
TECHNICAL: Individual and collective basic soccer techniques								
PHYSICAL: Develop speed, coordination and basic motor skills with and without the ball	Warm-up	15'	- Size of the practice					
	Physical	15'	- Time of the practice					
	Technique	25'	- Intensity of the practice					
PSYCHOSOCIAL: Interact with teammates during the training session	Scrimmage	25'	- Rules					
	Cool Down & Debrief	5'	- Number of players					
			- Time of contact with the ball					
By the end of the season the player must be capable of:								
1. Stopping and running with the ball at speed			Comments					
2. Moving forward when attacking and retreating when defending			► Collective games are essential for the player to start interacting with teammates.					
3. Basic quick movements with and without the ball			► Match: We strongly recommend 7v7 games.					
CONTENT						PSYCHOSOCIAL		
	TACTICAL		TECHNICAL		PHYSICAL		PHYSICAL	
ATTACKING	1. Attacking Principles	1. Passing and Receiving	5	STRENGTH	Strength Endurance		1. Motivation	5
	2. Possession	2. Running With the Ball	3		Explosive Strength		2. Self confidence	5
	3. Transition	3. Dribbling	4		Maximal Strength		3. Cooperation	1
	4. Combination Play	4. Turning	3	ENDURANCE	Aerobic Capacity		4. Decision/Determination	1
	5. Switching Play	5. Shooting	5		Aerobic Power		5. Competitiveness	1
	6. Counter Attacking	6. Ball Control	4		Anaerobic Lactic		6. Concentration	
	7. Playing Out From the Back	7. Heading	1		Anaerobic Alactic		7. Commitment	
	8. Finishing in the Final Third	8. 1V1 Attacking	4		Reaction	3	8. Self Control	
	9. Defending Principles	9. Shielding the Ball	2	SPED	Acceleration	3	9. Communication	
	10. Zonal Defending	10. Receiving to Turn	1		Maximal Speed	1	10. Respect & Discipline	5
DEFENDING	11. Pressing	11. Crossing and Finishing	1		Speed Endurance			
	12. 1V1 Defending	12. 1V1 Defending			Acyclic Speed	3		
	13. Compactness				4. Flexibility & Mobility	1		
					5. Coordination & Balance	3		
					6. Agility	4		
 U.S. SOCCER CURRICULUM > Age Group Organization						5		

Season Plan by Age

BASIC STAGE (U9-U12)

CURRICULUM – U9 – SEASON PLAN



CURRICULUM – U10 – SEASON PLAN							
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION			
	SESSION STRUCTURE	ASPECTS TO CONSIDER		SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS 20%	TECHNIQUE 30%	PHYSICAL 20%
SCRIMMAGE: Efficiently occupy space in relation to the ball and to teammates TACTICAL: Creating space and applying basic principles TECHNICAL: Accuracy in individual soccer techniques PHYSICAL: Develop speed, agility, coordination and balance PSYCHOSOCIAL: Interact positively and feel confident within the group	Players per team Sessions per week Players per team	3 14 14	Session time Game time	90' 50'			
By the end of the season the player must be capable of: 1. Being efficient in 1v1 situations 2. Application of basic attacking principles 3. Coordinated movements at speed	Warm-up Physical Technique Tactics Scrimmage Cool Down & Debrief	10' 15' 20' 15' 25' 5'	- Size of the practice - Time of the practice - Intensity of the practice - Rules - Number of players - Teammates – opposition				
Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► The player will keep maximum contact with the ball in individual practices and less touches in collective practices. ► Match: We strongly recommend 8v8 and 9v9 games. ► Formations: 3-2-3 in 9-a-side. 					
CONTENT							
TACTICAL		TECHNICAL	PHYSICAL		PSYCHOSOCIAL		
ATTACKING	1. Attacking Principles	3	1. Passing and Receiving	5	Strength Endurance	1. Motivation	
	2. Possession	3	2. Running With the Ball	5	Explosive Strength	2. Self confidence	
	3. Transition	2	3. Dribbling	3	Maximal Strength	3. Cooperation	
	4. Combination Play	3	4. Turning	5	Aerobic Capacity	2	
	5. Switching Play	1	5. Shooting	5	Aerobic Power	4. Decision/Determination	
	6. Counter Attacking		6. Ball Control	5	Anaerobic Lactic	5. Competitiveness	
	7. Playing Out From the Back	3	7. Heading	2	Anaerobic Alactic	6. Concentration	
	8. Finishing in the Final Third	2	8. 1V1 Attacking	5	Reaction	7. Commitment	
DEFENDING		3	9. Shielding the Ball	2	Acceleration	8. Self Control	
DEFENDING	1. Defending Principles	3	10. Receiving to Turn	2	Maximal Speed	9. Communication	
	2. Zonal Defending	2	11. Crossing and Finishing	2	Speed Endurance	10. Respect & Discipline	
	3. Pressing	1	12. 1V1 Defending	2	Acyclic Speed		
	4. Retreat & Recovery	2			5		
	5. Compactness	1					
4. Flexibility & Mobility 5. Coordination & Balance 6. Agility 7. Basic Motor Skills 8. Perception & Awareness							

CURRICULUM – U11 – SEASON PLAN								
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION				
	SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS	TECHNIQUE	PHYSICAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL			
SCRIMMAGE: Match focus is on possession and transition. TACTICAL: Improve attacking principles and basic defending TECHNICAL: Accuracy and speed in individual and collective techniques PHYSICAL: Improve speed, agility, coordination and balance PSYCHOSOCIAL: Cooperate with teammates in collective tasks	Players per team	14	Session time	90'	BASIC STAGE			
	Game time			60'				
SESSION STRUCTURE		ASPECTS TO CONSIDER						
Warm-up	10'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Size of the practice 						
Physical	15'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time of the practice - Intensity of the practice 						
Technique	20'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rules 						
Tactics	15'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of players 						
Scrimmage	25'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teammates – opposition 						
Cool Down & Debrief	5'							
Comments		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Prepare collective practices with the ball to develop the technical and tactical intelligence of the player. ▶ Match: We strongly recommend 9v9 games. ▶ Formations: 3-2-3 in 9-a-side and 4-3-3 in 11-a-side. 						
CONTENT								
TACTICAL		TECHNICAL		PHYSICAL				
1. Attacking Principles	4	1. Passing and Receiving	5	STRENGTH	Strength Endurance	1. Motivation		
2. Possession	4	2. Running With the Ball	4	EXPLOSIVE	Explosive Strength	2. Self confidence		
3. Transition	3	3. Dribbling	3	MAXIMAL	Maximal Strength	3. Cooperation		
4. Combination Play	4	4. Turning	5	ENDURANCE	Aerobic Capacity	4. Decision/Determination		
5. Switching Play	2	5. Shooting	5	AEROBIC	Aerobic Power	5. Competitiveness		
6. Counter Attacking	1	6. Ball Control	5	ANAEROBIC	Anaerobic Lactic	6. Concentration		
7. Playing Out From the Back	4	7. Heading	3	ALACTIC	Anaerobic Alactic	7. Commitment		
8. Finishing in the Final Third	3	8. 1v1 Attacking	4	REACTION	Reaction	8. Self Control		
1. Defending Principles	4	9. Shielding the Ball	3	SPEED	Acceleration	9. Communication		
2. Zonal Defending	3	10. Receiving to Turn	3	MAXIMAL	Maximal Speed	10. Respect & Discipline		
3. Pressing	2	11. Crossing and Finishing	3	SPED	Speed Endurance			
4. Retreat & Recovery	3	12. 1v1 Defending	2	ACYCLIC	Acyclic Speed			
5. Compactness	1			ACYCLIC	Flexibility & Mobility	3		
				ACYCLIC	Coordination & Balance	5		
				ACYCLIC	Agility	5		
				ACYCLIC	Basic Motor Skills	2		
				ACYCLIC	Perception & Awareness	5		

CURRICULUM – U12 – SEASON PLAN

Season Plan by Age

INTERMEDIATE STAGE (U13-U14)

CURRICULUM – U13 – SEASON PLAN						
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Sessions per week	3	Session time	90'	INTERMEDIATE STAGE	
SCRIMMAGE: Coordinate possession, transition and finishing TACTICAL: Improve attacking coordinated movements and zonal defending TECHNICAL: Focus on quality of passing and receiving technique and ball control in small spaces PHYSICAL: Basic development of speed, endurance and strength PSYCHOSOCIAL: Commitment to the team and focus in training	SESSION STRUCTURE			ASPECTS TO CONSIDER		
Warm-up	10'	- Size of the practice				
Physical	15'	- Time of the practice				
Technique	15'	- Intensity of the practice				
Tactics	20'	- Rules				
Scrimmage	25'	- Number of players				
Cool Down & Debrief	5'	- Teammates, opposition and support players				
By the end of the season the player must be capable of:	Comments					
1. Passing the ball at speed in reduced spaces 2. Combination play and communication with teammates 3. Combine endurance and speed during the game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Use the contrast of small spaces for possession practices and bigger spaces for transition practices ► Match: 11v11 games. ► Formations: 4-3-3 			SCRIMMAGE 30% TACTICS 25% TECHNIQUE 20% PHYSICAL 25%		
CONTENT						
TACTICAL		TECHNICAL	PHYSICAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL		
1. Attacking Principles	5	1. Passing and Receiving	5	Strength Endurance	1	1. Motivation
2. Possession	5	2. Running With the Ball	2	Explosive Strength	3	2. Self confidence
3. Transition	5	3. Dribbling	2	Maximal Strength	1	3. Cooperation
4. Combination Play	5	4. Turning	4	Aerobic Capacity	3	4. Decision/Determination
5. Switching Play	3	5. Shooting	5	Aerobic Power	3	5. Competitiveness
6. Counter Attacking	2	6. Ball Control	4	Anaerobic Lactic	1	6. Concentration
7. Playing Out From the Back	5	7. Heading	4	Anaerobic Alactic	3	7. Commitment
8. Finishing in the Final Third	5	8. 1V1 Attacking	4	Reaction	5	8. Self Control
1. Defending Principles	5	9. Shielding the Ball	2	Acceleration	5	9. Communication
2. Zonal Defending	4	10. Receiving to Turn	4	Maximal Speed	2	10. Respect & Discipline
3. Pressing	3	11. Crossing and Finishing	3	Speed Endurance	3	
4. Retreat & Recovery	4	12. 1V1 Defending	4	Acyclic Speed	5	
5. Compactness	2					
				4. Flexibility & Mobility	4	
				5. Coordination & Balance	3	
				6. Agility	4	
				7. Basic Motor Skills		
				8. Perception & Awareness	5	

CURRICULUM – U14 – SEASON PLAN

Season Plan by Age

ADVANCED STAGE (U15-U18)

CURRICULUM – U15 – SEASON PLAN					
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION	
	Sessions per week	4	Session time	90' 80'	ADVANCED STAGE
SCRIMMAGE: Development of possession of the ball at speed and quick organisation of zonal defending TACTICAL: Application of attacking and defending principles in SSG TECHNICAL: Focus on speed of passing and receiving technique, ball controlling in small spaces PHYSICAL: Basic development of aerobic power, acyclic speed and explosive strength PSYCHOSOCIAL: Commitment to the team	SESSION STRUCTURE			ASPECTS TO CONSIDER	
By the end of the season the player must be capable of: 1. Playing short passes at speed in small spaces. 2. Coordination of tactical principles with teammates. 3. Show good fitness in mid/high demanding aerobic power practices	Players per team	18	Game time	10' 20' 10' 20' 20' 25' 5'	Size of the practice Time of the practice Intensity of the practice Rules Number of players Teammates, opposition and support players
Comments			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Use small spaces to develop technique and big spaces to develop tactical concepts ▶ Match: 11v11 games. ▶ Formations: 4-3-3 & 4-4-2 		
TACTICAL		TECHNICAL	PHYSICAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL	
1. Attacking Principles	5	1. Passing and Receiving	5	Strength Endurance	3
2. Possession	5	2. Running With the Ball	1	Explosive Strength	4
3. Transition	5	3. Dribbling	2	Maximal Strength	1
4. Combination Play	5	4. Turning	4	Aerobic Capacity	4
5. Switching Play	4	5. Shooting	5	Aerobic Power	5
6. Counter Attacking	4	6. Ball Control	3	Anaerobic Lactic	2
7. Playing Out From the Back	4	7. Heading	4	Anaerobic Alactic	2
8. Finishing in the Final Third	5	8. 1V1 Attacking	3	Reaction	4
1. Defending Principles	5	9. Shielding the Ball	2	Acceleration	4
2. Zonal Defending	5	10. Receiving to Turn	5	Maximal Speed	3
3. Pressing	4	11. Crossing and Finishing	4	Speed Endurance	2
4. Retreat & Recovery	5	12. 1V1 Defending	4	Acyclic Speed	5
5. Compactness	3			4. Flexibility & Mobility	3
				5. Coordination & Balance	2
				6. Agility	4
				7. Basic Motor Skills	5
				8. Perception & Awareness	5

CURRICULUM – U16 – SEASON PLAN

OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION		
	Sessions per week	4	Session time	90'	80'	ADVANCED STAGE
	Players per team	18	Game time			
SESSION STRUCTURE	ASPECTS TO CONSIDER					
SCRIMMAGE: Development possession and transition of the ball at speed and quick organisation for zonal defending retreat & recovery TACTICAL: Application of attacking and defending principles at speed	Warm-up	10'	- Size of the practice			
TECHNICAL: Focus on speed of passing and receiving technique as well as ball control in small and big spaces PHYSICAL: Development of aerobic power, acyclic speed and explosive strength PSYCHOSOCIAL: Commitment to teammates in accomplishing specific tasks	Physical	20'	- Time of the practice			
	Technique	10'	- Intensity of the practice			
	Tactics	20'	- Rules			
	Scrimmage	25'	- Number of players			
	Cool Down & Debrief	5'	- Teammates, opposition and support players			
Comments						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Use small spaces to develop technique and big spaces to develop tactical concepts ► Match: 1v11 games. ► Formations: 4-3-3 & 4-4-2 			SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS 30%	TECHNIQUE 15%
				PHYSICAL 25%		
CONTENT						
TACTICAL	TECHNICAL			PHYSICAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL	
1. Attacking Principles	5	1. Passing and Receiving	5	STRENGTH	1. Motivation	
2. Possession	5	2. Running With the Ball	1	Explosive Strength	2. Self confidence	
3. Transition	5	3. Dribbling	2	Maximal Strength	3. Cooperation	
4. Combination Play	5	4. Turning	4	AEROBIC CAPACITY	4. Decision/Determination	
5. Switching Play	4	5. Shooting	5	Aerobic Power	5. Competitiveness	
6. Counter Attacking	4	6. Ball Control	3	Anaerobic Lactic	6. Concentration	
7. Playing Out From the Back	5	7. Heading	3	Anaerobic Alactic	7. Commitment	
8. Finishing in the Final Third	5	8. 1V1 Attacking	3	REACTION	8. Self Control	
				ACCELERATION	9. Communication	
1. Defending Principles	5	9. Shielding the Ball	2	MAXIMAL SPEED	10. Respect & Discipline	
2. Zonal Defending	5	10. Receiving to Turn	4	SPED		
3. Pressing	4	11. Crossing and Finishing	4	Speed Endurance		
4. Retreat & Recovery	5	12. 1V1 Defending	4	Acyclic Speed		
5. Compactness	3			Flexibility & Mobility		
				Coordination & Balance		
				Agility		
				Basic Motor Skills		
				Perception & Awareness		



CURRICULUM – U17 – SEASON PLAN											
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION							
	SESSION STRUCTURE	ASPECTS TO CONSIDER		SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS 30%	TECHNIQUE 15%	PHYSICAL 25%				
SCRIMMAGE: Develop transition and finishing at speed as well as organization for pressing, retreat & recovery	Sessions per week	4/5	Session time	120'	ADVANCED STAGE						
TACTICAL: Improvement of quick transitions, attacking in the final third and pressing	Players per team	18	Game time	90'							
TECHNICAL: Focus on perception and quick execution of passing, ball controlling and finishing at speed in the game	WARM-UP	10'	- Size of the practice								
PHYSICAL: Increase of aerobic power, acyclic speed and explosive strength	Physical	25'	- Time of the practice								
PSYCHOSOCIAL: Maintaining concentration in training sessions and games	Technique	20'	- Intensity of the practice								
	Tactics	30'	- Rules								
	Scrimmage	30'	- Number of players								
	Cool Down & Debrief	5'	- Teammates, opposition and support players								
Comments											
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Use intense practices using 1 or more of the thirds of the fields ► Match: 1v11 games. ► Formations: 4-3-3 & 4-4-2 											
CONTENT											
TACTICAL		TECHNICAL	PHYSICAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL							
ATTACKING	1. Attacking Principles	5	1. Passing and Receiving	5	Strength Endurance	3					
	2. Possession	5	2. Running With the Ball	1	Explosive Strength	5					
	3. Transition	5	3. Dribbling	1	Maximal Strength	2					
	4. Combination Play	5	4. Turning	4	Aerobic Capacity	4					
	5. Switching Play	4	5. Shooting	5	Aerobic Power	5					
	6. Counter Attacking	5	6. Ball Control	3	Anaerobic Lactic	3					
	7. Playing Out From the Back	5	7. Heading	3	Anaerobic Alactic	2					
	8. Finishing in the Final Third	5	8. 1V1 Attacking	2	Reaction	3					
	9. Defending Principles	4	9. Shielding the Ball	2	Acceleration	4					
DEFENDING	10. Receiving to Turn	4	SPEED	Maximal Speed	2	Speed Endurance					
	11. Crossing and Finishing	4		Acyclic Speed	5	Flexibility & Mobility					
	12. 1V1 Defending	3		4. Flexibility & Mobility	3	Coordination & Balance					
	4. Retreat & Recovery	5	SKILL	5. Coordination & Balance	2	Agility					
	5. Compactness	4		6. Basic Motor Skills	4	Perception & Awareness					
U.S. SOCCER CURRICULUM > Age Group Organization											



CURRICULUM – U18 – SEASON PLAN

