

Practice Plan

011/013 - 6

Time	Drill	Pg.	Coaching Tips
00 to :10	Dodging, scooping and taking shots	-	Loosen up and work on shot
:10 to :15	Full body stretch	-	Shoulders, legs, groin, and lower back
:15 to :25	Jog around the field, maybe some sprints	-	Limbering up and preparing for drills
:25 to :35	Three zone shooting	22	Quick shots are key
:35 to :38	Water break	-	-
:38 to :45	Midfield dodge and shot	25	Good dodge and quick shot
:45 to 1:00	Perimeter pass and shoot	25	Quick passes to stretch the defense
1:00 to 1:10	Attack the ball	8	Charging the ball
1:10 to 1:20	Slide stack drill	32	Players need to know where to go
1:20 to 1:30	Four corner slide	33	Need to communicate
1:30 to 1:35	Water break	-	-
1:35 to 1:45	Scrimmage		Work on the different tactics
1:45 to 1:55			
1:55 to 2:00	Cool down	-	Stretching, and taking a few shots



Inside out with defender

Similar to the drill in the last skill section, but this one has the added element of a defender.

What you need – Set up an area about 20 yards by 20 yards. Have 5 players on the outside, with 8 players on the inside. 5 players on the inside will be pass receivers, while three will be defenders.

How this drill works – There is going to be a lot more action in this drill, so it is important that players learn to keep their heads up and keep their minds in the action.

The three defenders will provide half resistance and will be more bothersome than anything else to start this drill. But, as players become more comfortable with the drill, then defenders should start to put increasing pressure on pass receivers and pass makers to come up with good moves and to use shielding techniques.

Each time a pass is made to the outside the players switch spots and then outside player (who is now inside) tries to do the same thing – pass it to a player on the outside.

Result – This drill will help players develop the skill to pass, carry and receive under defensive pressure.



Three zone shooting

Players should get used to shooting from more than just the slot area.

What you need – Set up three cones, each about 10 to 15 yards from the net. You can have players at all three cones, with a couple of balls at each cone. You can have a goalie for this drill if you like.

How this drill works – This is a basic drill, but it is extremely valuable in the development of the player – especially the attackers. At each pylon players will scoop up the ball and take a shot. Once they take a shot at one area, they will rotate to another area.

If you have two goalies, you can set up two groups to provide for more repetition for the player.

Result – Increased shooting skills.



Midfield dodge and shot

This is similar to an earlier drill, only it is performed from the mid-field area.

What you need – Set up three pylons at the restraining line, where the midfielders might penetrate. At each pylon are a midfielder and a defender. You will need a goalie in the cage for this drill.

How this drill works – It is very similar to the above drill when the attackers would use the dodge technique to get in position to take a shot. Only this time, the midfielders have 5 seconds to take execute a maneuver and then take a shot.

The goalie will call out which side – left, center, right – starts first, and then the corresponding stations will follow.

Result – This is another dodge and shoot drill that will be very effective for you midfield players.



Perimeter pass and shoot

Quick passing to set up an open lane to shoot is crucial to gain good scoring opportunities.

What you need – Set up three attackers and three defenders in the offensive zone, with a goalie in the net. There is one ball in this drill.

How this drill works – Perimeter passing can help to open up holes in the defense to take a quick shot at the net.

In this drill, the three attacking players will stay on the perimeter and they will pass it quickly back and forth between one another while staying on the perimeter. The key to this drill is to make quick, accurate passes so the attackers can make the defenders stretch to the point they can open up a seam to make a quick dodge and take a shot.

Coaches should watch that the players are using proper technique in passes, catches and using good dodging techniques before taking the shot. The offense has 10 seconds to try and stretch the defense to the point where they are able to get a good shot on net. One point for a shot on net or a goal, or one point for a defensive play preventing a shot or goal.

Result – This is good one on one work for players, and it also work on a variety of other skills.



Attack the ball

One of the skills that should be taught is 'attacking' a loose ball or pass.

What you need – Line up players in two lines, with a pylon about 5 to 7 yards in front of them. Coaches will be about 10 yards away, preparing to roll the ball to the players.

How this drill works – The object of the drill is to teach players to attack the ball when it is being passed to them, or if it is a loose ball. In order to do this, they must understand how to attack the ball.

With the coach directly opposite, the ball is rolled towards the player and the player must charge forward and receive the ball before it crosses the line where the 5-yard pylon is.

You can vary this drill by placing the pylon to the right or left, forcing players to alter their footwork to get to the ball and to reinforce their pass reception and ball control skills.

Result – Attacking the ball is important, especially in game situations when players are fighting for control of the ball. This repetition will ingrain in players the need to move towards the ball to ensure that they secure a pass or a loose ball.



Alternate triangle

This involves attacking, rolling a pass and scooping for control.

What you need – You need to set up a triangle area, with each pylon about 10 to 15 yards apart. Each cone will have two players at it, and there will be two ball put into play.

How this drill works – Attacking, scooping, moving and then passing are important skills to learn. This drill works on all of those areas by making a continuous pattern of it around the triangle.

Below is a diagram of how the drill works. Player A rolls the ball to a charging B, who then peels off around his or her cone and then rolls it to a charging C, who peels around behind his or her cone and then continues on. This drill is continuous.



Around the world

This is a quick passing drill that illustrates the importance of good movement off of a basic offensive situation.

What you need – The set up for this drill is as follows: one attacker behind the net, one on each side, and three midfielders across the restraining line.

How this drill works – The play begins with the first midfielder on the left. The middle midfielder moves forward in front of the net, and the drill begins with a pass from the left midfielder to the right midfielder.

Then, it is down to the right attacker, to behind the net, to the left attacker. After the first midfielder makes the first pass, he goes to set a screen for the far right midfielder, who uses it to cut through the middle to receive the final pass from the left attacker (after it has gone 'around the world'). The midfielder takes the shot, using the center midfielder (in front of the net) as a screen.

Result – Your players will understand and appreciate the need to move the ball quickly, and they get the experience of using a formation to create offense.



Slide stack drill

This helps defenders work together to put pressure on attackers that outnumber them.

What you need – Create a 10-yard by 10-yard square with two defenders in the middle and four attackers on each of the outside corners.

How this drill works – It starts with a single pass from one attacker to the other. At this point, the first defender takes up a position to pressure the attacker, while the other defender stays in the middle to protect against the pass across.

Then the pass goes down to the next corner and the roles are switched. The middle defender goes to the corner and the other defender shifts to the middle. The next pass goes and the defenders switch again.

To make it more difficult on the offense, you can add in a third defender.

Result – Quick passing and good defensive communication is created with work in this drill.



Four corner slide

This is another communication drill for defensive players

What you need – Create a 30-yard by 30-yard square area, with an attacker and defender at each one of the pylons outlining the area. You can have a goalie in this situation if you want to add in shots later.

How this drill works – Each offensive player has a ball to start, but only one offensive player moves to start this drill.

The offensive player makes a quick move to attack the goal. The first attacker provide a little bit of resistance, but the drill is more intended for the other defenders that are to communicate their sliding over to help their fellow defender.

The defenders should protect passing lanes, but also try to provide resistance against shots on net. The defenders must try to prevent passes or shot – and this drill continues until any shot, goal, save or steal takes place.

Result – It gives defenders an opportunity to learn to communicate with one another.



Off-side screen pass

This is a basic tactic that a team will incorporate into many offensive plays.

What you need – This can be set up as a three on two for the offense, with three attackers and two defenders.

How this drill works – This is a simple screen play. One attacker brings the ball into the offensive zone on the right or left side of the field. A defender will typically engage this first attacker, so then a screen is set by one attacker, for the other (without the ball), and then the pass is made for the shot.

Defenders should try to fight through the screens and provide resistance to the attackers. This can be a good drill for both sides as it gives each side the opportunities to face real game-like situations.

Result – The more game-situations you put your players in, the better their chance of being successful in those situations.