

11 - Attacking Combinations - wall pass, overlap run, cross-over etc.

Watching junior games will reveal very few attempts at passing combinations other than predictable through passes. We can improve the number and quality of our team's attacks by coaching some simple ways attackers can combine to beat opposition defences.

For the youngest players football is an individual game and there is little chance of success at coaching unselfish running off the ball. As children get older try to create a training environment where players are encouraged to see things from the point of view of opposition defenders, "**how can we make play unpredictable?**" Always praise any attempt to do something creative especially if involves quick thinking and movement off the ball.

Having walked payers through simple patterns of play and practiced unopposed, develop training into small sided games and reward teams for attempted combinations.

Coaching Points - Observe the following details:

- ✓ Are supporting attackers making runs that opposition defenders would find difficult to predict and cover?
- ✓ Look for diagonal runs in front of and behind the ball from central to wide areas and vice-versa
- ✓ Do attackers attempt to move defenders by running off the ball to create 1 v 1 for team-mate to dribble?
- ✓ Look at opportunities for, and quality of, specific passing combinations;

Wall pass Supporting attacker should come short and show for pass in an open body position
Pass off outside of foot when just out of defender's reach - accelerate past defender
Wall-player, take ball on back foot and pass first time into path of run

Overlap Team-mate is faced up and being held up by opposition defender
Communicate loudly to tell team-mate you are making run "**hold the ball**"
Player calls for ball as they get level and pass is made into path of runner
By continuing run past defender and behind him ball can be passed on blind-side of defender

Cross-over Supporting attacker calls to player on the ball and runs towards him
Player on the ball should leave it for supporting attacker to take on foot away from defender
Supporting attacker may also step over ball as a decoy run leaving it for 1st attacker
Important that they communicate - "**put a name on the ball**"

- ✓ Do they continue the momentum of the attack, ensure it results in an end product - shot, cross or effective pass

Useful Drills

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