



Combination play

"Creating and Combining with Teammates"

The Importance of Combination Play

Training combination play is essential in Soccer and to all coaches as it helps in creating an effective and successful attack and penetration in a match, especially in the attacking third of the field. There are three most common types of passes that constitute a combination play, they are; Wall Passes, takeovers and overlaps. Combination play allows for the attacking team to create numbers up, leading to mismatches, unmarked players and a more effective attacking scheme in the attacking third.

Successful Combination play requires:

1. Vision
2. Awareness
3. Passing accuracy and firmness
4. Opportunity
5. Technique
6. Courage (Players willingness to attack with speed and agility without fear of injury)
7. A positive attitude (players believing they can make combination plays when the opportunity presents itself)

Teaching the wall pass, overlap and takeover

Purpose:

By the end of this session the players will understand what the wall pass, also known as a 1-2, an overlap and a takeover is. They should be able to execute one with precision and skill depending on age level and the coach should look for incorporation into actual games. The emphasis should be on *when* to execute combination play as opposed to when to create with a long pass or when to go one v one.

It is difficult to incorporate this into game play without forcing it so the emphasis must be on the game and when the opportunity presents itself introduce the concept of combination play and how and when to use it in a game.

Required Equipment:

Cones, pennies, balls and Players

Progression:

Building players Vision, Passing accuracy and firmness and awareness of surrounding from the beginning is crucial as the fundamentals of combination play are essential to success in a game. Build from this by focusing on the player's technique, Courage, and positive attitude. As you progress, the combination play opportunities will presents itself.

Match Related:

Add to the technique, by focusing on movement off the ball. By focusing on off the ball movement, the players will learn how to move and where to be which allows for proper movement towards the ball. Once the players understand position then coaching movement and combination play becomes easy.

Match Condition:

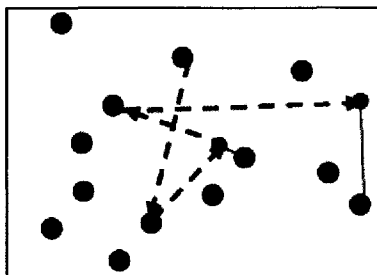
During the match, focusing on the game is crucial. As play progresses in natural play instruct the players will put together combination play. When the opportunity presents itself, show and encourage players how to try using wall pass, or trying overlap to encourage getting the ball in open space. Again be sure to focus on the game and add to it, combination play only when it is appropriate.

Coaching Points:

- Create length and width first, then show into the space
- Work towards the defender cutting down the angle to make the pass easier
- Use the overlap to create numbers up in the attack
- Use “hold hold” as the ball is knocked in on the overlapping player
- Be deceptive, use all surfaces of the foot, add a fake, to keep defenders guessing if you will play a combination pass or simply take it yourself.
- After the pass, make a run into space
- If its not there, fake it, then take it yourself (Can you use non-verbal cues to communicate with your team mate)
- Use two speeds, slow down then accelerate past the defender/s

THE SESSION

PASS AND MOVE



SET UP

- Play in a 40x40 yard grid.
- Half of players in Red, half in Blue Pinnies.
- All players jugs around in different directions for 2-3 min. changing pace as they change directions

SEQUENCE AND ROTATION:

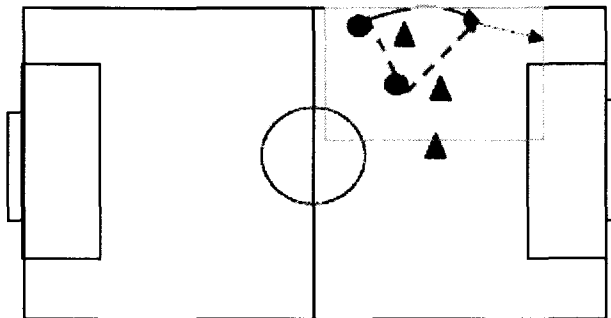
- Coach start by playing a ball in for players to pass around with two (2) touches for 2-3 minutes.
- Coach stops the drill, give 60 seconds rest while the players stretches
- Coach re-start the drill with one ball, this time Red Pinnies will find a Blue pinnie and wall pass
- Coach add balls to increase players vision, ability to look before passing, reflex and holding of ball
- Switch - Blue-pinnies find a Red and wall pass and repeat previous step for 2-3 minutes.
- Red Pinnies find Blue pinnie make a pass and make a move, then get it back on a wall pass
- Switch - Blue-pinnies find a Red and wall pass and repeat previous step for 2-3 minutes
- Red Player make a pass to Blue player, after wall pass, passers find a line, touch it, then find someone else

COACHING POINTS:

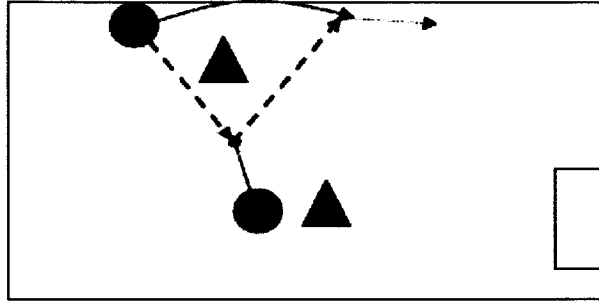
- Receiving and first touch
- Eye on the Ball
- See ball see player
- Body positioning and movement
- Passing accuracy and firmness

Wall Pass

Wall passes, also known as combination passing or a 1-2 pass is used to quickly and efficiently penetrate defense with quick passing. The wall pass is most effective when space is tight and there is not enough time for an extra touch. The wall pass allows the player in possession to get by the defender without having to beat him off the dribble.



The outside midfielder●, in possession, plays the ball to the center midfielder who immediately returns the ball. The outside midfielder continues his run down the line with the ball for a serve on frame



It can be seen, more clearly, in the condensed view that the central midfielder must show to the ball moving directly towards the defender. This closes space between the second attacker and the as well as makes space between the central midfielder and his mark.

SET UP

- Play in a 20x30 yard grid
- 2 Blue Pinnie players and Three Red Pinnie players
- On overlap communicate “hold hold hold”

SEQUENCE

- 1st Blue Pinnie player passes the ball to 2nd blue pinnie player, makes an overlapping run behind the defenders
- On overlapping blue player communicate “hold hold hold” to 2nd blue
- Gets the ball back from 2nd blue player when he/she says NOW!
- Receive on wall pass; use vision knowing where to distribute before reception
- Use outside of foot if possible as to not give away pass
- Inside of foot is a HUGE giveaway however great for creating other options such as taking away

COACHING POINTS:

- Receive at 45 degrees
- On overlap communicate “hold hold hold”
- Use outside of foot if possible as to not give away pass.
- Receive on wall pass; use vision knowing where to distribute before reception.