
Season Plan by Age

BASIC STAGE (U9-U12)

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		STAGE AND AGE GROUP								SPECIFIC				
		INITIAL		BASIC		INTERMEDIATE		ADVANCED		U19		U20		
		U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18
ATTACKING	1. Attacking Principles			3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	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	5	→
	7. Playing out from the back			3	3	4	4	5	→					
	8. Finishing- Final Third			1	2	3	4	5	→					
DEFENDING	1. Defending Principles			2	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	3
	2. Zonal Defending			2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	4	4	3
	3. Pressing			1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	→
	4. Retreat & Recovery			2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	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

TECHNICAL	INITIAL						BASIC			INTERMEDIATE			ADVANCED			SPECIFIC		
	U6	U7	U8	U9	U10	U11	U12	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17	U18	U19	U20	Senior		
1. Passing and Receiving	5	5	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	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	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	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	4	→					
11. Crossing and Finishing			1	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	3	→				
12. 1v1 Defending			1	2	2	3	4	5	4	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

PHYSICAL		INITIAL					BASIC			INTERMEDIATE			ADVANCED			SPECIFIC		
STRENGTH	STRATEGY	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	2	3	3	4	4	4	5	5			
Maximal Strength										1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	→
Aerobic Capacity		1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4			
Aerobic Power				1	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	→
Anaerobic Lactic										1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	→
Anaerobic Alactic		1	1	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2			
Reaction		1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	2	2	→
Acceleration		1	2	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	→
Maximal speed			1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	1	→
Speed Endurance						1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	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	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	→
Coordination & Balance		2	3	3	4	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	→
Agility		3	3	4	4	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	
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	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			
Motivation	BASIC	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Self Confidence	BASIC	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Cooperation	ADVANCED	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Decision/Determination	ADVANCED	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	
Competitiveness	ADVANCED	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	
Concentration	ADVANCED	1	2	3	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Commitment	ADVANCED	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	
Self Control	SOCIAL	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	
Communication	SOCIAL	1	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Respect & Discipline	SOCIAL	5	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

CURRICULUM – U9 – SEASON PLAN					
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION	
	SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS	TECHNIQUE	PHYSICAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL
SCRIMMAGE: Efficiently occupy the spaces on the field. TACTICAL: Creating space to receive the ball and keep possession.	Players per team	Sessions per week	3	Session time	90'
TECHNICAL: Improve individual and collective basic soccer techniques PHYSICAL: Develop speed, coordination and balance with and without the ball PSYCHOSOCIAL: Positive interaction with teammates during the game	SESSION STRUCTURE	Game time	14	50'	BASIC STAGE
	ASPECTS TO CONSIDER				
	Warm-up	10'	- Size of the practice		
	Physical	15'	- Time of the practice		
	Technique	20'	- Intensity of the practice		
	Tactics	15'	- Rules		
	Scrimmage	25'	- Number of players		
	Cool Down & Debrief	5'	- Teammates – opposition		
By the end of the season the player must be capable of:	Comments				
1. Basic skills in 1v1 situations. 2. Balance in relation to the ball (forward, backwards and side to side) 3. Basic coordinated movements with and without the ball	<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	
ATTACKING	1. Attacking Principles	3	1. Passing and Receiving	5	Strength Endurance
	2. Possession	2	2. Running With the Ball	4	Explosive Strength
	3. Transition	1	3. Dribbling	4	Maximal Strength
	4. Combination Play	2	4. Turning	4	Aerobic Capacity
	5. Switching Play	1	5. Shooting	5	Aerobic Power
	6. Counter Attacking		6. Ball Control	5	Anaerobic Lactic
	7. Playing Out From the Back	3	7. Heading	1	Anaerobic Alactic
	8. Finishing in the Final Third	1	8. 1v1 Attacking	5	Reaction
DEFENDING	1. Defending Principles	2	9. Shielding the Ball	2	Acceleration
	2. Zonal Defending	2	10. Receiving to Turn	2	Maximal Speed
	3. Pressing	1	11. Crossing and Finishing	2	Speed Endurance
	4. Retreat & Recovery	2	12. 1v1 Defending	1	Acyclic Speed
	5. Compactness	1			

CURRICULUM – U10 – SEASON PLAN														
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION										
	SESSION STRUCTURE	ASPECTS TO CONSIDER		SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS	TECHNIQUE	PHYSICAL							
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 Players per team	Sessions per week 14	3 Game time	Session time 90'	50'	BASIC STAGE								
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. 													
TACTICAL		TECHNICAL	PHYSICAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL			CONTENT							
ATTACKING	1. Attacking Principles	3	1. Passing and Receiving	5	Strength Endurance		1. Motivation	5						
	2. Possession	3	2. Running With the Ball	5	Explosive Strength		2. Self confidence	4						
	3. Transition	2	3. Dribbling	3	Maximal Strength		3. Cooperation	2						
	4. Combination Play	3	4. Turning	5	Aerobic Capacity	2	4. Decision/Determination	1						
	5. Switching Play	1	5. Shooting	5	Aerobic Power		5. Competitiveness	2						
	6. Counter Attacking		6. Ball Control	5	Anaerobic Lactic		6. Concentration							
	7. Playing Out From the Back	3	7. Heading	2	Anaerobic Alactic	1	7. Commitment	2						
	8. Finishing in the Final Third	2	8. 1v1 Attacking	5	Reaction	4	8. Self Control	1						
	9. Defending Principles	3	9. Shielding the Ball	2	Acceleration	5	9. Communication	2						
DEFENDING	2. Zonal Defending	2	10. Receiving to Turn	2	Maximal Speed	1	10. Respect & Discipline	5						
	3. Pressing	1	11. Crossing and Finishing	2	Speed Endurance	2								
	4. Retreat & Recovery	2	12. 1v1 Defending	2	Acyclic Speed	5								
	5. Compactness	1			4. Flexibility & Mobility	2								
					5. Coordination & Balance	5								
U.S. SOCCER CURRICULUM > Age Group Organization														
														

CURRICULUM – U11 – SEASON PLAN							
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION			
	SESSION STRUCTURE	ASPECTS TO CONSIDER		SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS	TECHNIQUE	PHYSICAL
SCRIMMAGE: Match focus is on possession and transition.	Players per team	Sessions per week	3	Session time	90'	60'	BASIC STAGE
TACTICAL: Improve attacking principles and basic defending	Warm-up	10'	- Size of the practice				
TECHNICAL: Accuracy and speed in individual and collective techniques	Physical	15'	- Time of the practice				
PHYSICAL: Improve speed, agility, coordination and balance	Technique	20'	- Intensity of the practice				
PSYCHOSOCIAL: Cooperate with teammates in collective tasks	Tactics	15'	- Rules				
	Scrimmage	25'	- Number of players				
	Cool Down & Debrief	5'	- Teammates – opposition				
By the end of the season the player must be capable of:	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. 				
TACTICAL		TECHNICAL	PHYSICAL	PSYCHOSOCIAL			CONTENT
ATTACKING	1. Attacking Principles	4	1. Passing and Receiving	5	Strength Endurance		1. Motivation
	2. Possession	4	2. Running With the Ball	4	Explosive Strength		2. Self confidence
	3. Transition	3	3. Dribbling	3	Maximal Strength		3. Cooperation
	4. Combination Play	4	4. Turning	5	Aerobic Capacity	2	4. Decision/Determination
	5. Switching Play	2	5. Shooting	5	Aerobic Power	1	5. Competitiveness
	6. Counter Attacking	1	6. Ball Control	5	Anaerobic Lactic		6. Concentration
	7. Playing Out From the Back	4	7. Heading	3	Anaerobic Alactic	2	7. Commitment
	8. Finishing in the Final Third	3	8. 1v1 Attacking	4	Reaction	4	8. Self Control
DEFENDING	1. Defending Principles	4	9. Shielding the Ball	3	Acceleration	5	9. Communication
	2. Zonal Defending	3	10. Receiving to Turn	3	Maximal Speed	2	10. Respect & Discipline
	3. Pressing	2	11. Crossing and Finishing	3	Speed Endurance	2	
	4. Retreat & Recovery	3	12. 1v1 Defending	2	Acyclic Speed	5	
	5. Compactness	1			4. Flexibility & Mobility	3	
					5. Coordination & Balance	5	
					6. Agility	5	
					7. Basic Motor Skills	2	
					8. Perception & Awareness	5	

CURRICULUM – U12 – SEASON PLAN						
OBJECTIVES	ORGANIZATION			CONTENT DISTRIBUTION		
	SESSION STRUCTURE	ASPECTS TO CONSIDER		SCRIMMAGE	TACTICS	TECHNIQUE
SCRIMMAGE: Improve possession and transition as well as collective defending during the match	Players per team	Sessions per week	3	Session time	90'	BASIC STAGE
TACTICAL: Develop attacking/defending principles and combination play	Warm-up	10'	- Size of the practice			
TECHNICAL: Focus on quality of passing and receiving technique as well as ball control in game situations	Physical	15'	- Time of the practice			
PHYSICAL: Compete to increase speed, agility, coordination and balance in competitive games	Technique	20'	- Intensity of the practice			
PSYCHOSOCIAL: Increase collective self-confidence	Tactics	15'	- Rules			
	Scrimmage	25'	- Number of players			
	Cool Down & Debrief	5'	- Teammates, opposition and support players			
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	PSYCHOSOCIAL		
ATTACKING	1. Attacking Principles	4	1. Passing and Receiving	5	Strength Endurance	1. Motivation
	2. Possession	5	2. Running With the Ball	3	Explosive Strength	2. Self confidence
	3. Transition	4	3. Dribbling	2	Maximal Strength	3. Cooperation
	4. Combination Play	5	4. Turning	4	Aerobic Capacity	4. Decision/Determination
	5. Switching Play	3	5. Shooting	5	Aerobic Power	5. Competitiveness
	6. Counter Attacking	1	6. Ball Control	5	Anaerobic Lactic	6. Concentration
	7. Playing Out From the Back	4	7. Heading	4	Anaerobic Alactic	7. Commitment
	8. Finishing in the Final Third	4	8. 1v1 Attacking	4	Reaction	8. Self Control
DEFENDING	1. Defending Principles	4	9. Shielding the Ball	3	Acceleration	9. Communication
	2. Zonal Defending	3	10. Receiving to Turn	3	Maximal Speed	5
	3. Pressing	2	11. Crossing and Finishing	3	Speed Endurance	10. Respect & Discipline
	4. Retreat & Recovery	3	12. 1v1 Defending	3	Acyclic Speed	
	5. Compactness	1				
						