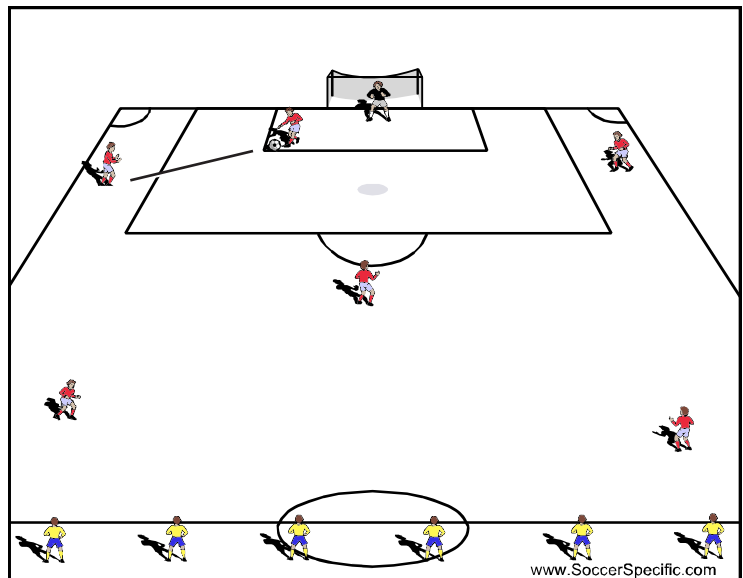


Purpose:

Players in this age group and level typically lack the strength and technique to advance the ball past the opposing team who sit around the goal box area. This results in a goal kick being a detriment rather than a benefit. It also sets up a scenario where stronger teams will continually win the ball at the top of the box and score easy goals. The rule change below will be more developmentally appropriate for the U9-U10 age group players, allowing them success with the goal kick so teams are playing out of the back with purpose. It will also force stronger teams to have to score through the run of play rather than sitting at the top of the box to pounce on a weak goal kick and score easy goals.

Rule:

On goal kicks, the opposing team will retreat to their own half and cannot be positioned past the half way line. The team in possession can set up anywhere on the field. Once the ball has been played by the team in possession, the defending team can enter over the half way line.

**Coaching Points for Team in Possession:**

1. Use the space of the field and spread out. "Make the field big."
2. Player taking the kick should pass to a teammate.
3. Pass needs to be firm.
4. Player receiving the ball should turn quickly to face up the field and either dribble or pass.

Coaching Points for Team Defending:

1. Coordinate with your teammates on which player you will cover.
2. Don't chase the ball. Instead find a player to cover.