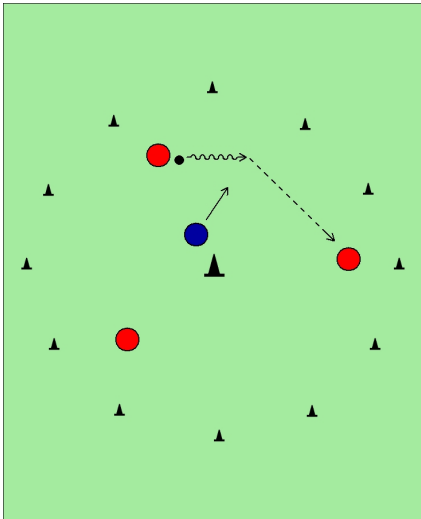




Umbrella game



Why the Umbrella game you may ask? Well I came up with this game when I took a U11 school team to an outdoor 5-a-side soccer tournament. The start was delayed and all I had was a ball and an umbrella. We found a spare area of grass, stuck my umbrella in the ground and we played 4 v 2 possession and then a 3 v 3 small-sided game, with no coned playing area, trying to hit the umbrella. The kids loved it and I've used it ever since.

How it works

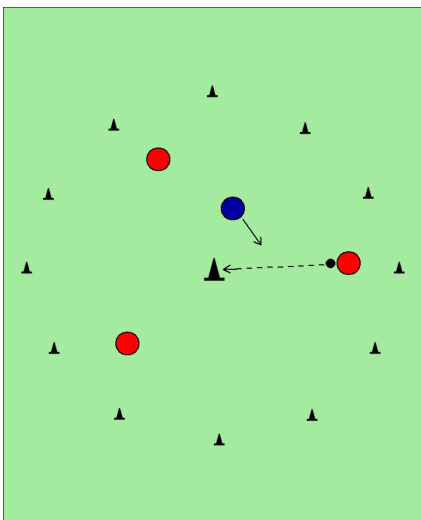
Three red players try to keep possession of the ball against one blue player. They can dribble or pass anywhere within the circular playing area.

If the blue player wins the ball or kicks it out of the playing area then they swap with the red player who made the mistake.

The red players score by passing the ball to hit a taller cone in the centre of the circle. If they achieve this the blue player stays as the defender.

If the red players score three times then swap the defender.

Set up a small, coned circular exclusion zone around the central cone if the defender insists on standing next to the cone all the time.



Possible changes

Play 4 v 1 or 5 v 2 depending on the age and ability of the group.

Play 3 v 3 as a small-sided game - if a team hits the central cone they keep

possession and restart anywhere around the edge of the circle.