

Aggressiveness Under 8 Through Under 12

This is a simple game suggested by Jeff Benjamin of the soccer coach e mail list to help "train" aggressiveness in sometimes too passive teams.

Mark a small rectangular field based on the number of players - we used about a 60x30 yard area for 12 players but it probably should have been a bit shorter. Have players pair off by size. One of each pair has a pinnie; all the pinnies are on the same team going one direction, the other players go the other way.

Each pair of players (one from each team) link arms and must stay linked throughout the game. If they are not linked, they may not play the ball. Pairs are allowed to use the linked arms to push, pull, impede and otherwise keep their "partner" from getting the ball. A point is scored by kicking the ball across the end line. If the ball goes out over the sideline be ready to throw a new ball in to keep play moving.

The next step in the progression was to play a more normal game, but allow any foul above the waist and below the neck (elbows excepted) - in other words, pushing, grabbing, holding okay.