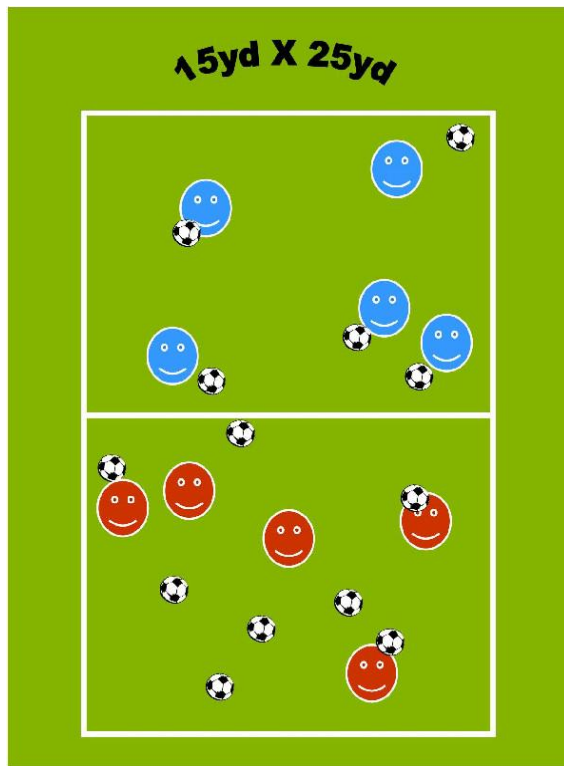


Clean The Yard (U6 and Up)



Create a large playing area that you can easily divide in half, and place a team on each half. Every player should have a ball. On the coach's command, players should attempt to get all of the balls on their opponents half of the field, but the players are not allowed to cross the center line. In other words, players must kick their ball onto their opponents' half. The team that has the least number of balls on their half after a designed amount of time (I usually use a minute) wins!

Variations:

1. Strictly enforce keeping the balls within the boundaries of the opponents' side. At the close of the match, don't count balls that are outside of the designated field.
2. Have a huge playing area with only a center line the players can't cross. In other words, don't provide boundaries so that players can work on striking a ball hard and far.
3. Limit players to a particular type of strike - laces, in-step etc.

Focus: Coaches should be sure to focus on players' technique. Be sure that the players are accurately striking the ball. Emphasis should also be placed on properly weighting their passes so that the ball travels the desired distance.