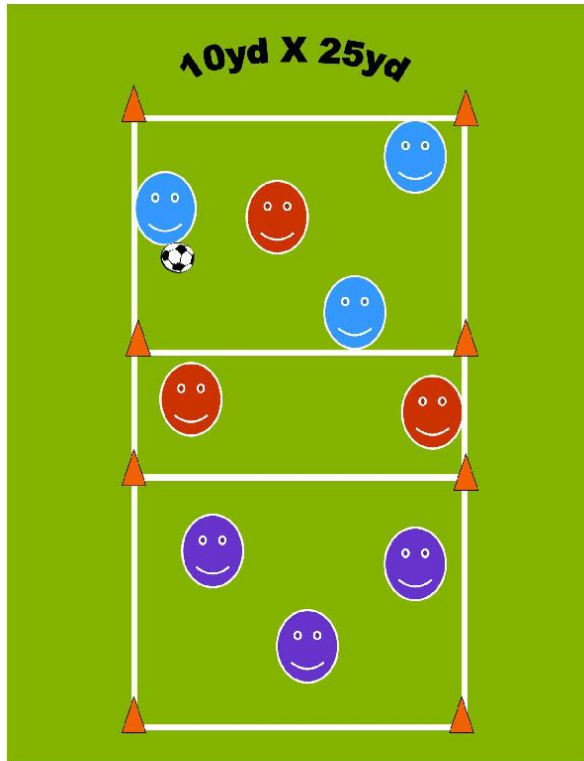


Monkey in the Middle



Create a large rectangular grid and divide it into three parts as shown above. Place a small team in each section. The team in the center (red) acts as the monkeys trying to get the ball by sending one player at a time into the possessing team's (blue) grid. The teams in the outer sections attempt to keep the ball away from the monkeys by passing the ball amongst their own team and then through (or over) the central section. If the monkeys win the ball, the team that lost possession becomes the monkeys and the ball immediately goes to the third team (purple) on the far end of the grid.

Variations:

1. Set a minimum number of passes that the possessing team (blue) must make before they can pass the ball to the opposite side of the grid (purple). For example, five passes must be made before blue may send the ball to purple.
2. Limit the number of control touches any single player can make. For example, limit the game to two-touch.
3. Increase the number of defenders allowed to enter the possessing team's grid.

Focus:

In addition to focusing on proper technique, players must anticipate where to place the pass in order to avoid the defender. Players should also be focusing on where they can go to receive a pass. Successful teams will spread out, use as much of the available space as possible and make properly weighted passes to open space.