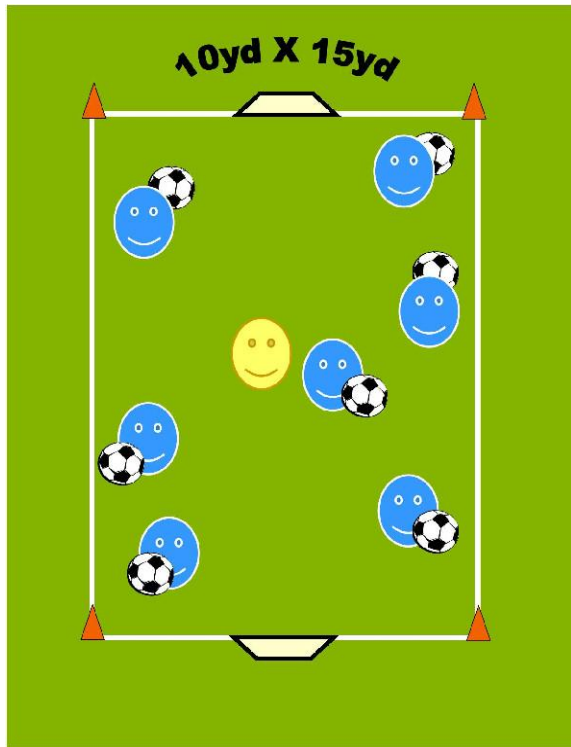


Pirates of the Pugg (All Ages, but great for U6 & U8)



Create a soccer-shaped grid and place two pugg nets on either end. These nets are the pirate's "treasure chest." Designate one player to be the pirate and give all the other players a ball. Each player's ball is her booty. The pirate is to steal each player's ball and shoot it in one of the 'treasure chests.' Players are allowed to try to regain possession of their ball if stolen, but if the ball has been successfully shot the player who lost their ball now becomes a pirate too. The last player to retain their ball becomes the pirate in the next game.

Variation:

1. Place a pinnie on the pirates head to set her apart – young players love this.
2. Play the game with one net or two. I typically play with two to give the pirates an opportunity to practice decision making.
3. Downplay the pirate part with older players.

Focus:

Use this to focus on defending or on player possession. Defenders should work on proper body positioning. Players with the ball should focus on keeping their body between the pirate and the ball. Tactically, this starts to develop defenders' ability to consider options when they have the ball - they have to determine which net is more accessible upon winning the ball.