

## Dear Coach,

Its my pleasure to present you with our "foundation" development coaching manual. This manual is a sample of the work that is conducted in our "Foundation" programme. The programme is put in place to develop children in their local centres and give them a chance to progress to our academy at u9 age group.

The manual includes over 120 practices across a variety of coaching themes.

When planning a session, we aim to ensure that the practices are fun and game related. In addition, they should develop the players technically, physically, socially (interaction with other players, communication) and mentally (improve game awareness, decision making).
We hope this manual helps you in your role as a youth coach. If you should have any queries or feedback, please feel free to contact me directly on the numbers below.

## Best wishes

Michael Beale
Youth Development Officer
01932596122
07841460235
Michael.Beale@chelseafc.com

## Themes

1. Fun games and warm ups
2. Physical Development
3. Individual skill and ball control
4. Passing and receiving
5. 1v1 Practices
6. 2v1 Practices
7. 3v2 Practices
8. Random overload practices
9. Finishing practices
10. Defending practices
11. Possession games
12. 4v4 Games
13. Small sided games
14. Multi function pitch
15. Goalkeeping practices
16. Coaching tips
17. Session planning


Continuous heading game. The coach must alternate serves between the two teams. After heading at goal, the players must quickly become the keeper for the other teams header. The first team to 5 goals wins


One player works as the first defender. The other players must shield their ball from the defender. If the defender knocks a ball from the cones then the shielding player becomes the new defender. The game is continuous


The players work in pairs with one ball. The coach calls out body parts (head, toes, knees etc). The players must touch that area of their body. When the Coach calls "snatch" the first player to grab the ball wins


Handball game. The player in possession is not allowed to move with the ball. The other players must move to receive a thrown pass. When near the goal, the players can score by throwing (1pt) or Heading (2pts) into the goal


One player acts as the chaser, one player puts a bib In the back of their shorts and acts as the "driver" of the huddle. The players link arms and listen to the "driver" in order to move and stop the chaser grabbing the bib


Running handball game. The players are allowed to run with the ball and then make a thrown pass. The aim is to run through the opponents gates to score. Players are tackled if they are touched by a defender when holding the ball.


Two teams. Each team has one server whilst the rest of the players take turns to head the ball. The aim is to knock a ball off the cones. The first team to knock all three balls off the cones is the winner


Each player puts a bib in the back of their shorts. The aim of the game is to pull away the bib from another players shorts. The last player with a bib in their shorts is the Winner.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES



When looking to improve your players movement, speed and reactions skills its important that you try to get the balance between
1 - ensuring that the correct technique is used
2 - fun practices that include a ball or competitive edge.
Firstly it is massively important that the players use the correct techniques when running, turning, jumping and landing etc, therefore you cannot neglect these key factors.
However, you must not get bogged down in this area so that the practices become boring for the players.
The above diagrams show simple and exercises that can be used to develop quick feet by placing one foot in the space between the cones or by going sideways, forwards or backwards in a slalom motion.
If you could dedicate 10 minutes in each of your sessions to these practices then you can improve your players movement patterns, speed, agility and reactions times.
All these skills are vital when playing the game.


The players must react to the coaches call, touch the cone behind them and then steal the ball before the opponent


3 races. 1 - react to coaches whistle, 2 react to bounce of ball, 3 - coach stands behind players and touches shoulder


Players must react and then race to the number or the colour cone called by the coach


The player passes the ball to the coach and reacts to get the coaches ball and dribble through the gate

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One player is the leader and one is the chaser, the leader moves along the line and then quickly tries to run through a gate


The players perform different dribbling movements through the cones. The players should do four repetitions of best foot, weak foot, insides of both, outside of both, sole drags, toe touches on the ball etc


4 groups of players. the players must dribble to the cone and then perform a skill before joining the next group. The players perform 4 repetitions going to the right then four to the left. (e.g. right foot step over and join group on left)


Players must dribble across and outside of the area using the obstacle of their choice. 1 - through cones. 2 - skill on coach. 3 - turn in gate. 4 - slalom poles/cones. Players must choose a different obstacle on each turn


Each player has a ball and cone (imaginary defender).
The players must complete various skills of their choice
In order to get $1 / 2$ yard and dribble into space. (step over, drop shoulders etc)


4 groups of players. The players must dribble to the cone and then perform a turn of their choice. The coach should Show some examples but allow the players freedom of choice on the turn they use.


The players must try to get across the area as quickly as possible. 1 - the players dribble with best foot. 2 players dribble with weak foot. 3 players complete a skill on the way. 4 - players complete a turn on the way


Players dribble around the zig zag course performing various skills with both feet. 1 - best foot. 2 - weak foot 3 - alternate feet. 4 - step over at cones. 5 - sole drags at cones. 6 drag back and flick behind leg


The players complete different dribbling exercises. if they are at the bottom of the pitch then they dribble diagonally through the crazy cones. When at the top of the pitch they dribble down the side and slalom through the poles.

## PASSING AND RECEIVING



The players must pass take a touch to the outside of the cones before passing the ball back through the centre of their opponents cones. The game works continuously on first touch and passing skills.


Now three players start in the central area. The starting player passes a ball into the three players who must quickly combine to pass the ball out to the opposite end. All three players must touch the ball before its played out.


The players take turns to pass into the middle and then go into the gate to perform turns from a pass. 1 - player opens out using back foot 2 - players turns using inside of foot 3 - player turns using outside of foot


In this practice the coach is used as a setting player. On receiving a pass the central player can play a quick one-two with the coach or pass and complete an overlap. Therefore the player is always moving after their initial pass.


In this practice the passer must instruct the receiving player by using communication. The passer can call "turn" or "set". The player receiving must then react to turn and dribble out or set the passer who plays out


Both central players make a movement to receive a pass. The player receiving must pass back to the original passer who now plays a pass into space for the non receiving player to dribble out


2 groups of players \& 2 balls working a the same time. The player passing into the centre comes in and the player passing out goes out. The aim is to receive the ball with your back to play, quickly turn and dribble out


Continuous passing \& communicating. The players have a choice of the centre player or coaches. When passing to the centre player you call "turn" and take their place. When passing to the coaches you call "one/two" or "overlap"


The coach passes a ball between the 2 players. The players run and fight for possession. The player who wins the ball becomes the attacker and tries to turn and pass into the 2 gates.


The 2 players start inside the $10 \times 10 \mathrm{yd}$ area. The attacker attempts to beat the defender and get out of the zone to have a free run and shot at goal. If the defender tackles the attacker then he can break out of the zone to shoot.


Two teams. One keeper. The teams take turns to dribble and attack 1 v 1 . After attacking you must quickly react and defend against the next player. The first team to five goals is the winner


The 2 players start inside the $10 \times 10 y d$ area. The attacker attempts to beat the defender and get out of the zone to go 1 v 1 with the $2^{\text {nd }}$ defender to score. If the defender tackles the attacker then he can break out of the zone to attack.


The defender passes to the attacker and then races to defend. The attacker must use disguise to beat the defender and pass into one of the target goals


The teams attack one goal and defend the other goal. This practice is continuous attack and then defend. The $1^{\text {st }}$ team to five goals is the winner.


Player A passes the ball out to Player B and runs to defend 1 v 1 . once this ball is complete, the coach passes a 2nd ball to Player A, now Player C runs out to stop Player A from turning to


Continuous 1v1 game. The attacker chooses which goal to attack. If the attacker scores then they return to collect a 2 nd ball and attack a different goal. If the defender stops the attacker scoring, the roles are reversed

## 2V1 PRACTICES



The coach passes a ball between the 2 players. The player getting to the ball $1^{\text {st }}$ becomes the attacker. The attacker must shield the ball and then pass to the neutral who enters the pitch to make a 2 v 1 to score in the gates


The two attackers have to make their way through the two zones in order to score a goal. They must work together
to beat the defenders in a 2 v 1
situation. The defenders can only tackle and play inside their own zone.


The middle player has the ball and makes a pass to the team mate of their choice. The other player must react and defend 2 v 1 against the passer and their team mate. The defender becomes the middle player for the next game


The first attacker passes to his team mate and then makes an overlapping run. The defender runs out to defend. The game continues until the ball eaves the pitch


The middle player has the ball and makes a pass to the team mate of their choice. The other player must react and defend 2 v 1 against the passer and their team mate. The defender becomes the middle player for the next game


The two attackers receive a pass from the coach and attack the top goal in a 2 v 1 situation. Immediately after this ball has been played the players receive a $2^{\text {nd }}$ ball from the coach to attack the bottom goal in a 2 v 1 situation.


2 v 1 attack and defend. The two wide players attack 2 v 1 against the central player. Then the wide players must defend 2 v 1 against a new central player who dribbles into the pitch. The game continues with team alternating attacks


The goalkeeper controls this practice by calling out the name of the attacker to enter the pitch. The two defenders mus react to the call and run to tackle the attacker and then try to score in the opponents goal.

2V2 GAMES


Three teams of players. The teams constantly attack, defend and then rest in a wave motion. For instance the Blue team attack the Reds, then the Reds attack the Whites and then the White attack the Blues etc.


The GK throws the ball out to the two attackers. The defenders quickly run to defend 2 v 2 with the attackers facing the goal. once this ball is completed a $2^{\text {nd }}$ ball is played in by the coach for a 2 v 2 facing away from the goal


Two teams of players. The teams attack the goal they are facing and then defend their own goal from the opponents attack. Therefore the practice works continuously with teams attacking then reacting to defend


2 v 2 four goal game. Each team attacks two goals and defends two goals. Encourage the players to use one-two's and overlaps in order to gain a chance to score a goal.


3 teams of four players and 3 keepers. The teams attack the goal they are facing and then immediately react to defend their own goal. The game works like a continuous carousel with teams attacking, defending then resting


2v2 four goal game with two neutral wide players. The two teams can use the neutral players for quick one-twos or for a player to pass and run forward leaving space for his team mate to receive the next pass.


Simple 2v2 practice. The GK throws the ball out to the two attackers. If the attackers score a goal then the defenders must defend for a $2^{\text {nd }}$ attack. If the attackers don't score then they become the new defenders.


2v2 four goal game with 2 neutral players. When in possession of the ball you can use the two neutrals to play the ball back too in order to retain possession or to pass forward too and run to get a lay off for a shot

## 3V2 PRACTICES



Three teams of three players. when defending one player drops back and rests. The middle team attack 3v2, if they score, then they collect a $2 n d$ ball and attack the opposite end. If they don't score, then the roles are reversed


Three teams of three players. when defending one player drops back as the keeper. The middle team attack 3 v 2 , if they score, then they collect a 2nd ball and attack the opposite end. If they don't score the roles are reversed


Two teams. Two players from each team are nominated to continuously work as attackers and defenders. The other players take turns to dribble into the pitch to make a 3 v 2 situation. The teams must alternate attacks.


The coach passes into the forward. Immediately the two wide players run to make a 3 v 2 against the defenders. The three attackers try to score in the big goal. The two defenders can score in the mini target goals.


The red team attack 3 v 2 in the top zone, Whilst this happens the blue team must send one or two players into the central "free zone". Once the red attack is completed, the blue players attack the bottom zone in a 3 v 2 situation


The midfielder passes into one of the attackers and runs to make a 3 v 2 situation. The attackers now try to score in one of the three mini target goals.


The goalkeeper controls the practice by calling out the name of the attacker to dribble into the pitch and make a 3 v 2 situation. Therefore the attacks can come from a central, left or right wing position.

## RANDOM OVERLOAD PRACTICES



One team attacks whilst one team defends. The game starts with lots of 1v1's but as balls decrease It becomes a random of $1 \mathrm{v} 1,2 \mathrm{v} 1,3 \mathrm{v} 3$, 2 v 2 etc. once all balls have been played, count the goals and then reverse roles


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2 \text { players play } 1 \mathrm{v} 1 \text { in the central zone. }
$$ The aim is to break out to create a 3 v 2 . when 1 player breaks out, the other stays in the zone. If the team with the 3 v 2 don't score then the losing player receives a $2^{\text {nd }}$ ball to attack the opposite goal 3 v 2 .



The two attackers must make their way through the two zones in order to score a goal. The defenders can only play in their own zone. Therefore the attackers must complete a 2 v 1 then a 2 v 2 to score a goal.


The $1^{\text {st }}$ team attack 2 v 1 and defend 2 v 3 . the $2^{\text {nd }}$ team defend 1 v 2 and attack 3v2. the game starts in the small zone with a $2 v 1$, after this ball is played the defender breaks out to receive a ball from the coach and attack 3 v 2 .


Three teams of 4 players. one team defend. The other teams take turns to attack 4 v 2 . if your team score then you stay on the pitch for another ball. if you miss then the other team come into the game. play for 5 mins and rotate


2 teams take turns to attack. The blue team attacks 3 v 2 against two red defenders. Once this ball is played the coach passes the ball to the two waiting red players who enter the pitch to make a 4 v 3 for the red team.


The three attackers play for 3 balls 1- the attackers build up to score unopposed. 2 - the attackers turn to receive a pass from the defender to play 3 v 1 . 3 - the attackers receive a pass from 2 defenders to attack 3 v 2


2 teams. The first player dribbles and shoots at goal. Two players come in to make 2 v 1 . Then two team mates make 3v2. This continues until all players are in the pitch and all balls have been played.

## FINISHING PRACTICES



Two lines of players.
The $1^{\text {st }}$ player dribbles and shoots at goal. The player must then react to receive a pass from the $2^{\text {nd }}$ player in order to set him up for a shot at goal


A - Dribbles and shoots at goal B - Plays a one/two with A and shoots at goal
C - Dribbles and plays 1 v 1 against $B$


The starting player passes the ball to the furthest forward. The forward receives the ball and dribbles across the box. The deep forward must make a crossover run to receive a back heeled pass in order to shoot at goal.


Player 1 passes the ball to player 2, Player 2 quickly passes a ball into player 3 who sets the ball inside for player 2 to dribble into the box at pace and then shoot at goal. The players move up a position for the next turn


## A - Dribbles and shoots

B - Dribbles and plays 1v1 against A C - Dribbles and plays 2v1 with $A$ against $B$


Player 1 passes the ball to player 2, Player 2 quickly passes a ball into player 3 who sets the ball inside for player 2 to make a through pass for player 4 to shoot at goal. The players move up a position for the next turn.


A - dribbles and shoots
B - plays one/two with $A$ and shoots $C$ - Passes to $A$ and $B$ who combine. Player C makes a $3^{\text {rd }}$ man run and receive a through pass to shoot or cross


Player 1 passes the ball to player 2, Player 2 quickly passes a ball into player 3 who sets the ball outside for player 2 to dribble down the wing and cross the ball for player 4. The players move up a position for the next turn

## DEFENDING PRACTICES



Players work in pairs. One player dribbles forward using all their skills \& tricks. The other player must be a passive defender and jockey backwards whilst keeping their eyes on the ball. Rotate the players after $20 / 30$ seconds.


Two games
1 - each player has a turn as the defender and must see how long it takes to win all 4 balls.
2 - The player tackled becomes the new defender and the game continues.


The GK controls the practice by throwing the ball out to the attacker. The GK must then call a number. The number called must run to defend 1 v 1 . therefore the defenders come from various angles to pressure the attacker


The defender passes to the attacker and runs to defend 1 v 1 . the attacker tries to get past the defender and into the end zone. Encourage the waiting defenders to give communication support to their team mate


The blues must stop the red team from scoring. The $1^{\text {st }}$ ball is 1 v 3 to the defenders, then 2 players come into the pitch with a ball each. Finally three players come in with a ball each for three 1 v 1 s at the same time.

## POSSESSION GAMES



Two defending players must run into the zone and defend 4 v 2 . The players must complete three passes before they can transfer the ball into the other teams zone. Now two new defender must run to defend 4 v 2


The red team are trying to score in any of the four mini target goals. The blue team are trying to transfer the ball across the pitch and out to the target players. If a blue player passes out to a team mate then they rotate positions


Two teams of four players. The coach passes the ball into one teams half and then calls the name of the defender to run and defend 4 v 1 . After each set of 5 successful passes a new defender goes into the half to make $4 \mathrm{v} 2,4 \mathrm{v} 3,4 \mathrm{v} 4$ etc


3 teams. The white team start as the defenders. 1 white player goes to defend $3 v 1$ against the reds. The reds have to make 4 passes and then transfer the ball to the blues. If the whites win possession then they change places with that team.


2 teams of players. Each team nominate
3 players to go into the pitch. The remaining players go on the outside.
The aim of this game is to pass out to a team mate and then go out with the team mate now dribbling into the game


Two teams play a possession game inside the pitch. However one team has four extra players on the outside of the pitch that they can use to help them retain possession. The outside players are restricted to two touches


The blues and GK keep possession of the ball. The red team try to win the ball back. When possession is lost, the red player now in possession plays 1 v 1 against the blue player who lost the ball. All other players must freeze.

## 4V4 GAMES



Each team attack three gates and defend three gates. The pitch is short in length but is very wide to encourage quick switching of play, one-two's and overlaps in order to disrupt the opponents defence.


2 teams of players. one team starts with 2 balls. The other team start with 1 ball. The coaches whistle starts the game. The teams must decide who attacks \& defends. The coach plays additional balls into the game to keep It going


Two teams.
The aim of this game is to dribble the ball into your opponents end zone in order to score a goal


Two teams of players. A number of gates laid out across the pitch. Game 1 - score by dribbling through gates. Game 2 score by passing. Game 3 - one team dribble, one team pass. game 4 - choice of dribble or pass


Two teams. The aim of this game is to defend two small goals and attack two small goals. The players score by passing the ball into the goals


Three teams of players rotate from resting, attacking the big goal and attacking the three small target goals. Each game last until 1 goal is scored. Each team must keep their own score.


2 teams. The team defending the big goal must send one player to be the keeper. The attacking team continue to attack the big goal until the defending team score in one of the mini goals. Then the roles are reversed


Two teams. The game is played 3 v 3 in the central zone. The aim of this game is for a player to dribble out of the central zone and into the attacking zone. When inside the attacking zone it's a 1 v 1 to score.

## SMALL SIDED GAMES



Two teams of players
Each team nominate two target players. The aim of this game is to pass the ball into a target player and then run to receive a lay off for a shot at goal.


Three teams of players. The rotation of teams is resting, defending, attacking. Each game last for one ball. The coach passes into the attacking team who are playing with their back to the three goals. Can they turn and score?


Two teams of players
Each team nominate two wide players. The aim of this game is to switch the ball out to a wide player and then get into the box to score from the resulting cross.


Red $v$ Blue team. The Red team receive a pass from the GK with the ball. This team can score in any of the other 3 goals. The Blue team are trying to win the ball from the reds to score against the starting GK.


Two teams of players
one team play with two target players while the other team play with two wide players. Therefore one team is looking to play forwards and one team is looking to play wide


3 teams of players and 2 GK's. The teams take turns to attack, defend \& rest. When attacking, if you score a goal, you continue to attack until you fail to score. When you fail to score you immediately become the new defending team.


2 teams of players and 1 team of neutrals. The neutrals work in pairs and come into the game to make a 5 v 3 situation. The team with the neutrals have 3 attacks of 5 v 3 . Then the neutral players switch teams for 3 attacks.


Two teams of players. The game is played 2 v 2 on the pitch with each team having two players on the outside of the pitch. The blue team has wide players and the red team has one high and one deep player

## Multi Function Pitch <br> ULTIMATE 4V4 GAME



Half field possession
Playing out of defence when playing
against 1,2,3 opponents


4 goal game
Switching play to get into wide areas


Each game represents a different tactic of game situation that your team will face Please see the diagrams to the right for each game and the relevant game situation

Normal game
Using the tactics learnt in previous games will make a normal game easier!


6 goal game
Playing against a deep defence


Random game
Which team can react quickest to the changes in the game?

## GOALKEEPING PRACTICES



The keeper passes the ball to the attacker and then must stop him making it to the shaded area of the alley. The keeper can do this by diving to save the ball or forcing the attacker outside of the alley


The keeper makes a save from the coaches serve and then must react to the coaches call of a colour. The Keeper then throws the balls through the coloured gate


Cones are placed on and around the 6 yard box. The coach shoots balls at the goal and the keeper attempts to save the shots whilst reacting to any deflections from the cones


The coach passes a ball towards the gate. The keeper must run and pick up the rolling ball before it goes
through the gate


The coach calls out the player to go first, when called the player must pass to the keeper and then run to place the keeper under pressure, the keeper must take one touch and then look to pass into on of the gates.


The keeper must catch balls from the first server. On the $2^{\text {nd }}$ servers call, the keeper must react and save The servers shot


The keeper must side step though the cones and then save a shot from the coach. The coach can shoot at anytime which will force the keeper to save the ball whilst on the move

## COACHING TIPS

Start and end the practice with fun
Ensure you have a ball to each player Simple organisation and lay out of the session Simple communication/rules of the practice No "bus queue" of players waiting to play/shoot No set playing positions
Develop individuals, not teams Lots of 1 v 1 practices with experiences of playing different types of player (skill, speed, strengths etc)
As much as possible try to attack and defend the goals Inspire players with the session, your personality, energy and enthusiasm Don't over coach, give the players "free" playing time in the session
Give the players questions to ask and choices in technique and decision making. Involving
them in this process accelerates learning and development.
From time to time give the players a homework task (skills to master etc)


Encourage attacking football
Encourage players to work hard

## SESSION PLANNING

This template enables you to plan a structured coaching programme that is fun, progressive and improves individual player development. Simply write the practice number into the category box and take full advantage of the range of practices in this booklet. Using this style of preparation and planning will ensure that you are covering a range of coaching topics and developing your team of players to the maximum possible.

| Session number | Fun Warm up | Physical Dev. | Skill <br> Ball control | Passing receiving | 1v1 practice | $\begin{gathered} 2 \mathrm{v} 1 \\ \text { practice } \end{gathered}$ | 2v2 practice | 3v2 practice | Random overload | Finishing practice | Defending practice | Possession practice | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 4v4 } \\ & \text { game } \end{aligned}$ | SSG | Gk practice |
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