



STAYING CONNECTED IN THE ATTACK LAKEVILLE SOCCER CLUB U9-U10 TRAVEL & IN-HOUSE



A common issue within the U9-U10 age-group is a team becoming disconnected in the attack. Players that have been identified/labeled as Defenders may stay behind the play and not get involved in the attack. This situation creates two problems that can be seen in the first diagram:

- 1) The Red team is outnumbered in the attack.
- 2) The two Red Defenders are not in a good position to delay a counter-attack if the Blue team gains possession.

The scenario in the second diagram shows the two Defenders in a better position to provide support (it is okay to pass the ball backwards if there is no penetrating option) and in a better position to change the point-of-attack. If Blue does gain possession, Red is in a better position to apply immediate pressure (delay) in order to prevent a counter-attack. A long ball played by the Blue team over the top of the Red Defenders can be dealt with by the goalkeeper who has taken up a starting position at the top of the penalty box. Reinforcing principles-of-play at the youngest age-groups is important for the long-term development of the players.

