#### **Organized Spontaneity**

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 A discussion of ideas on the evolution of street soccer and giving the game to the player(s). How can coaches create and incorporate organized spontaneity within a training session to allow the game of soccer to be more of a teaching mechanism and less a game of restrictions.



### What is "organized spontaneity"?

 A structured environment that provides for actions that are natural self-acting impulses that occur without effort or premeditation.



# Ways to incorporate organized spontaneity with your team:

- Street Soccer
- Free Play
- Play days
- Pick up games
- More unrestricted scrimmage/game time



### STREET SOCCER/PLAY DAY









#### Street Soccer

- Street Soccer provides the possibility of mixing playing levels, genders and age groups.
- It can be used to assist with player development, player identification and player selection.
- Can sandlot/pick-up soccer evolve from this environment? Players choose teams, resolve problems and set up the field!

#### Street Soccer

Here is an example of how to run some street soccer events:

- 4-8 minute match, depending on numbers
- 4 matches
- 4 vs. 4 w/o keepers
- use cones for corners of the field
- use flags for goals
- have bibs at each field
- each player is given a number
- reset teams after each match
- players control subs



#### Play Day Example

#### **Divisions**

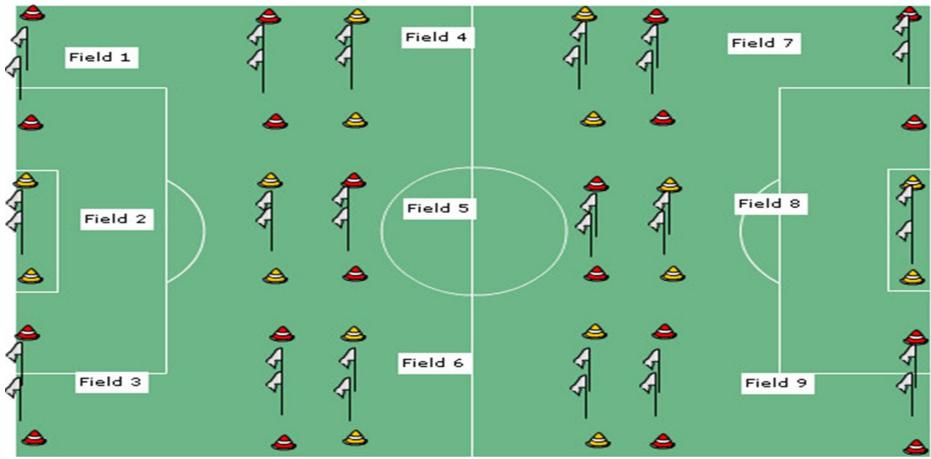
Start by identifying the number of players in each age. The U6's should play together, as should the U8's, but there are times to mix up the age groups.

Boys and girls should play together, but accommodations can also be made for girls who want to play with other girls.

#### **Playing Numbers**

The playing numbers are 3 vs. 3 for U6's and 4 vs. 4 for U8's. The actual playing numbers should remain flexible to ensure that every child plays all the time.

### Play Day - Sample Field Set-Up





The 1990 World Cup winner has often commented on the importance of free play.

"Soccer, in my opinion, is self-teaching. The more you play, the better you get. You don't see kids play in the park these days. It's only in an organized environment. Certain things are not teachable."

A year ago, Klinsmann told SI.com's Grant Wahl, "You have the fact that [in the USA] it's mostly organized soccer, when we know that the best players in the world come out of unorganized events."



The topic came up again in Klinsmann's first press conference as U.S. national team coach.

"What is really missing compared to the leading soccer nations around the world, the top 10-12 nations around the world, is the amount of time kids play the game," he said.

"If you have a kid who plays in Mexico 20 hours a week, and maybe four hours of organized soccer but 16 hours of unorganized soccer just banging the ball around in the neighborhood, but if he gets up to 20 hours it doesn't matter how he plays it, with his dad or with his buddies in the street."

"This will show later on with his technical abilities, with his passing, with his instinct on the field and all those things, and I think that's certainly an area where a lot of work is ahead of us."



### Where there's a Will there's a Way!



#### **Organized Spontaneity**

"Negative comments or over-coaching only discourage children from continuing to play soccer. The more our young soccer players enjoy themselves, the greater the likelihood that they will remain in the game."

Steve Sampson, Former Men's National Team Coach, June 1998.

#### Conclusion

 Remember to really give the game back to the players we have to let them set up the field, make their own rules and pick their own teams.

 So give organized spontaneity a try and let the kids play!



### Any Questions?

