

MODERN GAME POSSESSION (Field session)

Learning Objective: The coach attending this session will learn and develop an understanding of how to teach players to play quickly in possession and to develop the inherent skills and cognitive faculties to do so.

The game evolves continuously and at the highest levels is both a quicker and more technical spectacle. The capability of players and teams to retain possession and convert that possession into scoring opportunities and goals has always been at the root for the development of attacking football. In the present game both at International and at the highest levels of domestic competition, the ability to master the different genres of passing is a distinct necessity to operate at the higher echelons of the game. Counter attacking play requires both a different mentality and skill set than trying to break down a compact, entrenched deep defence and possessing the ability to play at varying tempos as required or selected is the hallmark of successful teams and players.

This session intends to examine and promote an insight into the different types of passing and play that will serve players well on their journey and residence in the game at the highest levels. It will seek to develop an understanding of how to play quickly in possession and the inherent skills and cognitive faculties to do so. It will also seek to teach the players how and why to reduce the tempo at which they operate and again how to do so. The session will demonstrate different usage of what may be familiar practice situations to some coaches but the emphasis and technical detail will be re-aligned with the intended outcomes from the session.

Whilst every facet of passing and possession skills that are required in the modern game cannot be covered the session will seek to emphasise the necessities to operate in what may be considered congested playing areas and also where players have a degree of both space and therefore time to generate a momentum to the passing and to attack fluently at speed. It is both applicable to International youth players, all star level players and those that show “promise” of the ability to play at the aforementioned levels. However it is valuable also for those coaches who have the responsibility to develop young players as they progress to play at representative and club level – in short the session will use the observations of the highest level teams and players and so offer to all coaches, important aspects of attacking possession that must be developed in players if their intent is to optimize their abilities to play at the top! ,