



TINY TIGERS Philosophy and Coaching Tips

- 1. Make it fun & be funny. Whether your players continue to play soccer will depend on whether it is fun.** Keep up the joy and allow them to achieve what they need: score goals and master that silly rounded thing.
- 2. Lots of touches!** It is especially important that **every player at practice has a ball and is using it for most of the time** (as opposed to watching, listening to instructions, or standing in line).
- 3. See the attached Games and exercises.** All are written exactly for needs of 4- and 5-year-old players.
- 4. Don't let anyone get hurt - physically or mentally.** Punching and abusing don't belong to football.
- 5. Teach the basic idea of football and its rules.**
 - A. Not using hands,** holding, pushing or hitting other players (it is good to "fight" for the ball, but not to use hands to hit or push).
 - B. The concept of a "field"** that has lines (or is outlined by cones) that you should stay inside.
 - C. The concept of "score there and don't let them score here"** aka which is your goal?
 - D. DO NOT EXPLAIN any defending or attacking.** Simply, do you have the ball? Can you score? No? Go get the ball and score.
 - E. DO NOT EXPLAIN any positioning and do not separate for defenders and attackers.** "If you don't have the ball, how can you score?" is your defending principal explained. "You have the ball, go and score" is your attacking principal. Positions require reason, 4 and 5-year-olds require action!
- 6. Stop the game if they run out of the field and restart from the sideline (kick-in), no corners.**
- 7. Kicking the ball with any part of foot is ok.** Toe kicks are natural first attempts (no problem with that), best one for them to learn for future is straight lace kick.
- 8. Emphasize on dribbling and kicking the ball. Being "selfish" is normal, do not discourage that.** For young players it's natural to run with the ball and they don't really understand the passing concept. Explain "**passing**" as "Can you score? No? Can he/she score? Pass them the ball to do so"
- 9. Occasionally being on the floor due to contact is normal, do not stop the game after every contact.** Explain what is and is not allowed.
- 10. Facilitate the learning and fun time through minigames and games. 4 games/exercises in a session are plenty.** Think of your sessions as a child. What do you want to do? **Shoot and score!**

