

What you need to know about this presentation/workshop



This presentation
and workshop is
meant to create
discussion

I hope to generate
as many questions
as answers

It's supposed to
make you think
and reflect on your
daily best practice

A diagram of a soccer field with a green background. The field is divided into three horizontal sections by a central white line. The top and bottom sections are light green, and the middle section is a darker green. A white circle is drawn around the center point of the field.

Freedom to play
anywhere on the
field

Look at this slide

Discuss with one of your
neighbors

- 1) What does it mean?
- 2) Which one do you like?
- 3) Why?

A diagram of a soccer field with a green background. The field is divided into three horizontal sections by a central white line. The top and bottom sections are light green, and the middle section is a darker green. A white circle is drawn around the center point of the field.

Freedom to play

Minimal risk

No Risk

Defensive half



Developing difference makers/adaptable players *through.....*

Freedom to play!!

“Allowing players to play out of difficult situations”

“Decision making in training, let the game be the teacher”



**Reflect on
this for a
couple of
minutes**

**Then, share
with two or
three of your
neighbors**



A different way of looking at stages of soccer development

- Love for the ball
- Street soccer
- Experimenting and taking risk
 - Players are in control
- Being competitively creative
 - Always playing to win
 - Never compromising creativity, trying things
- Me and my team mate
 - Dribbling to pass
- Team game
 - Dribble, pass and move





**Are we, as coaches, sufficiently
nurturing this love affair with the ball?**



Discuss!



Introducing

Soccer for the brave
players, parents and, especially, coaches



What does this picture mean to you?
Discuss!



Environment

“recreating street soccer”

Ultimate freedom to play!!

“



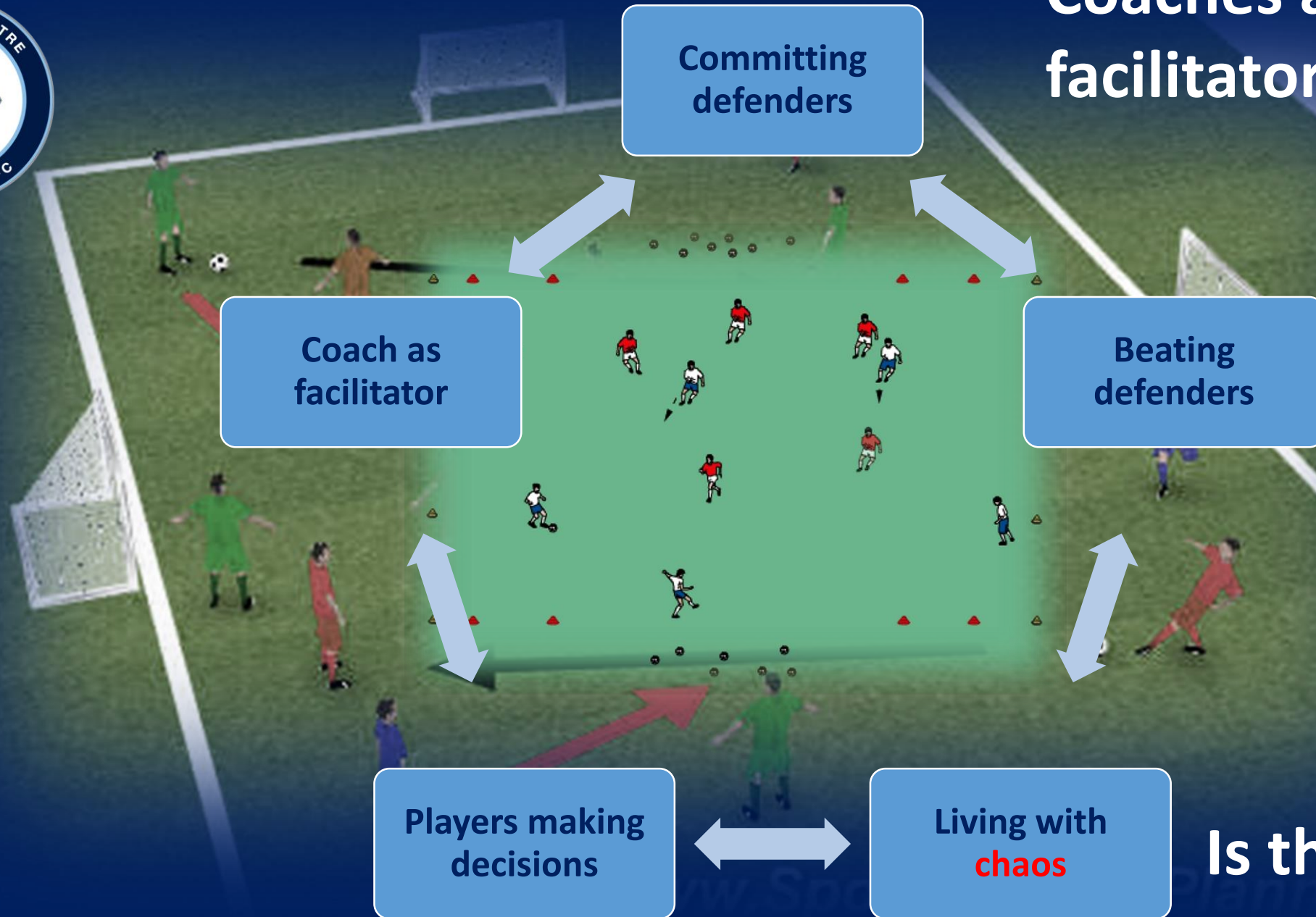
Training inspired by street soccer



Key elements!



Coaches as facilitators of chaos



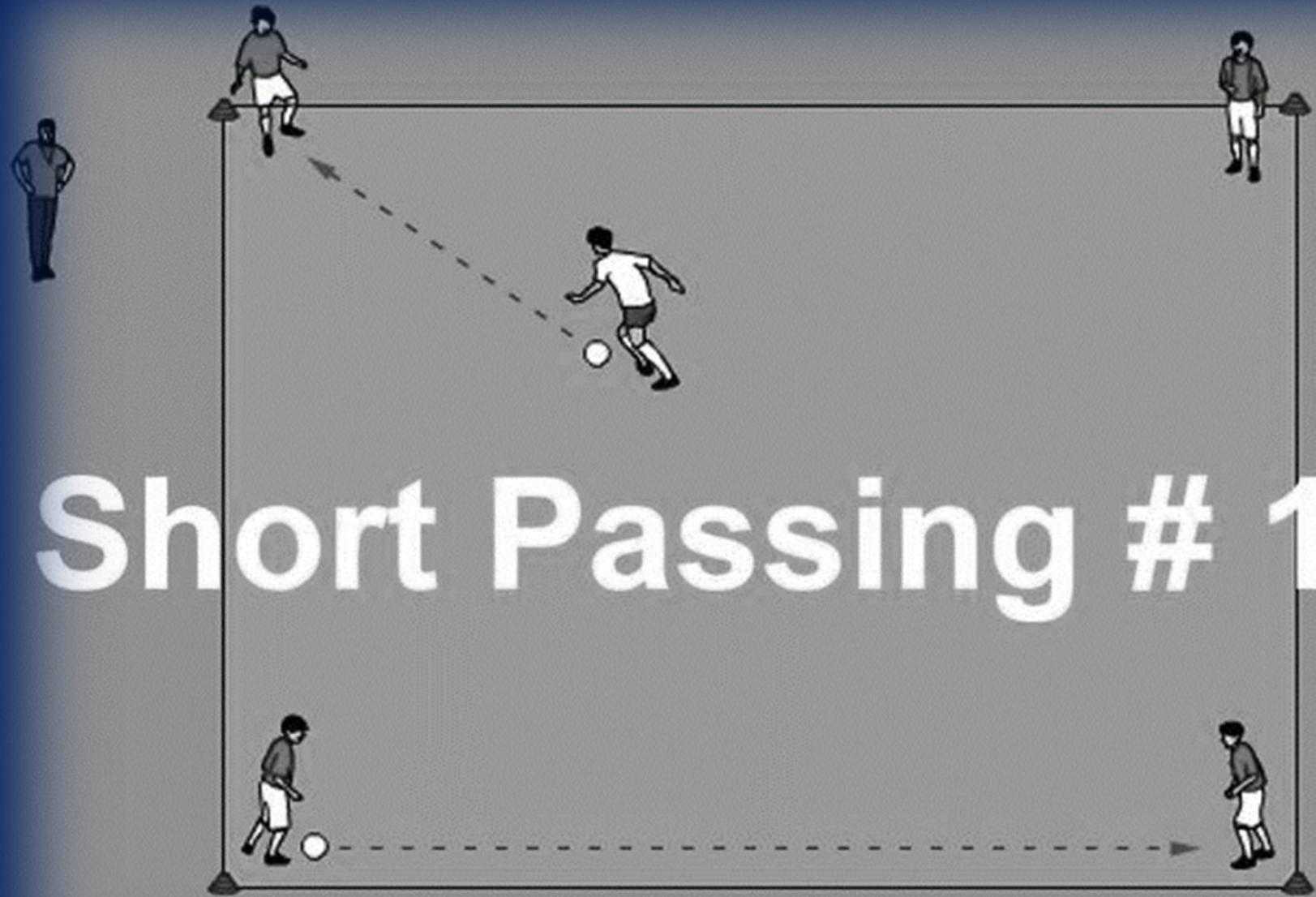
Is that OK



Is a well organized
looking practice the
same as a very
effective practice?

Discuss in small
groups

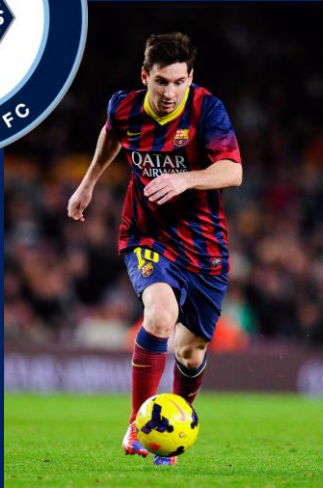
What may be missing in this
exercise?



Short Passing # 10



"I feel that the offense should not be so stereotyped that the players are forced to follow such a set pattern that their individual initiative and freedom of movement are limited too severely. There should be enough options and freedom of movement to eliminate any possibility of the defense or you yourself knowing exactly what each player is going to do. As any offense that becomes too mechanical can invariably be more easily defended, flexibility is essential." Coach Wooden



Difference makers



Characteristics

- Highly skilled
 - under pressure
- Love for the ball/game
- Passionate
- Unpredictable
- Creative
- Confident
- Excited to try things
- Not afraid to make mistakes



Developing difference makers



Consequences for
training & games



Random versus Blocked (practice)

- Outcome is unknown
- Unpredictable
- Always with opposition
- Decision making is constant
- Will look like chaos more often than not
- Practice resembles game
- Transfer to game is imminent
- Chaos is very random

- Outcome is pre-set
- Everything is predictable
- No (or very little) opposition
- No decision making required
- Will look like very organized and will move from A to B to C
- No resemblance with game
- Transfer to game is minimal
- Passing patterns are very blocked



Risk/reward theory and how it pertains to soccer and soccer development

Some food for soccer thought in following slide

High
Risk



This is normal

High
Return



Low
Risk



This is normal

Low
Return





High risk

Playing with risk and creativity
Allowing players to play free
Letting players play (& dribble) out of difficult situations
Playing young high potential players with older teams
Taking players on all over the field



High reward

Players become confident
Produces skillful & creative players
Players learn to solve the most difficult problems
Focuses on the development of potential pros
Creates a dynamic game to play/watch



Low risk

No risk/creativity
No freedom
Winning comes first
Booting the ball out
Just passing/booting



Low reward

Tight & rigid players
Robotic players
Low adaptability
Little development
Boring game

High risk, high reward



Freedom to play
anywhere on the
field

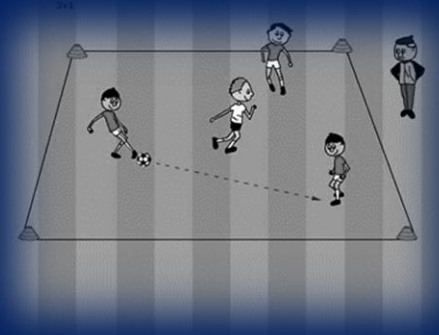
Low risk, low reward

Freedom to play

Minimal risk

No Risk

Defensive half



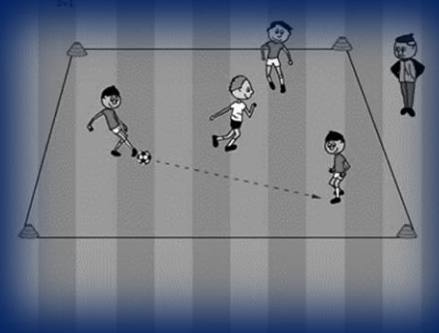
Possession Style

What does that mean?

Discuss!



Possession Style



Read and
reflect

The possession style of play is synonymous with teams like Barcelona, Ajax, Spanish national team, Manchester City.... First we need to understand what the possession style of play is and that it isn't "pass, pass, pass" like many think.

The possession style is when a team tries to take control of the match by having more possession than the opposition, both in offensive & defensive phases of play. When you set out to play this style, you want to have more possession than the opposition, but it's not possession for the sake of it. The intention is to keep the ball while you set up your tactical plans or positional attacks, rather than surrender the ball to the opposition. When we see a team like Barcelona playing short passes back & forth in the midfield it's not just to attain great pass completion stats; but to move the opposition, either to create space for a pass (or dribble!) or to expose a tactical weakness to exploit.

When using this style of play it doesn't mean we pass over all options. The first thought is to run forward or dribble with the ball if we can and not to tell our player to pass every time they have the ball.



QUESTIONS

