

JOHNSTON UNITED SOCCER ASSOCIATION
COACHES EDUCATION MATCH ANALYSIS – DEFENSIVE TACTICS
10/13/07

Pick a team to observe during the scrimmage. Write down your observations for this team only. Do not worry about the other team.

1. Do your players appear to play good 1v1 defense? Are their eyes focused on the ball and not what the player is doing with their body? Do they tackle the ball correctly? Do they win the majority of the tackles? Do they keep the offensive player's head down? Give examples of what happens when they do these things and what happens when they don't do this.

2. When playing 1v1 defense, does the player look for opportunities to channel the offensive player into the small space on the field (an out of bounds line)? What happens when they do?

3. When playing 1v1 defense, does the player look for opportunities to channel the offensive player to their weak foot? What happens when they do?

4. When playing 1v1 defense, does the player look for opportunities to channel the offensive player to another defensive player? What happens when they do?

5. When playing 1v1 defense, does the player limit the space between himself and the offensive player before the offensive player gets the ball? Does he get inside the player's numbers? Can your player step around the offensive player to win the ball?

6. When one of your players that is in possession of the ball has a turnover to the other team in a 1v1 situation, does the player play defense until one of these things happen? Player wins ball back? Offensive player makes a pass to a teammate? Offensive Player scores a goal? Or does he just drop his head and not attempt to track back at all?

7. Does it appear that your team is committed to team defense from all 11 players? Does your team's defense appear to start with the forwards? What are the results of this?

8. Does your team appear to play a zone defense or a man marking system? Or a combination of both?

9. Do your team members stay ball side and goal side when playing defense?

10. Does your team step their defense up well as a team? When the ball is traveling laterally across the pitch? When the ball is traveling negatively? Who orchestrates this team step?

11. Does your team win the ball in the air consistently? Do they know when to win the ball with their head and when to win it with their feet? Do they tend to win the ball and bring it to their feet? When they do win the ball, what do they do with it? Do they just dump it or look to connect with a teammate?

12. Does your team appear to keep their shape as a defense? Do they quickly reorganize this shape when the ball is turned over to the other team?

13. Does your team work in small groups to defend? Do they communicate with each other?

14. On set pieces, does your team set up a wall? Do they appear to have pre-set positions on defense for these situations? What happens when the team does not appear to set their defense properly.

15. Does your team listen to their goalkeeper on defense when he calls for the ball?

16. If you were coaching this team, what type of training sessions would you develop to help your players with the topics listed above?

17. Can you build a training session from today's scrimmage that will give your players enough repetition in a match like setting to improve these essential attacking principles? List ways you can do this.