

# Appendix C

## U12 & 13\* Retreat Line (\*as of 2016/17 season)

The retreat line initiative is designed to encourage and foster improvements in the following areas of small-sided soccer:

- Elimination of deliberate high press defensive tactics
- Constructive and technical build-up starting in the defensive third of the field
- Building confidence in our U12 & U13 players by allowing them more time and space when receiving a goal kick
- Goalkeepers taking the goal kicks. Note – Any player is allowed to take a goal kick however we want to encourage our goalkeepers to take as many as possible.
- This initiative is for GOAL KICKS ONLY.
- U12 & U13 - the retreat line/offside line is the line marking the attacking 1/3 (see diagrams below).

Below is information pertaining to the implementation of the retreat line into the U12 small-sided soccer game format.

### Retreat Line Procedure:

The Retreat line comes into play when the ball has gone out of play for a goal kick. All opposing players will retreat back behind the offside line/retreat line on the field. The opposing players may not pressure the ball until:

1. The player taking the goal kick has successfully put the ball into play and it is touched by their teammate (on their side of the offside line/retreat line). See diagram 1 below

OR

The ball is played beyond the offside line/retreat line into the middle third of the field. See diagram #2 below

OR

2. The ball leaves the field of play.

If a team decides to take the goal kick quickly, they are allowed to and the ball will be in play once it leaves the penalty area. The opposition's position on the field will not come into effect.

### Encroachment of retreat line:

If the defending team encroaches across the retreat line before an opposition player touches the ball then the referee blows the play stopped and issues a re-take of the goal kick.

If the opposing team repeatedly infringes the retreat line, an indirect free kick shall be awarded from the place where the offence occurred for non-respect of the restart.

Making the Right Decision:

At times, the correct pass is a long one, players need to recognize the positions of the opposing team and act accordingly. If there is an opportunity to play quickly to create a counter attack, it should be encouraged.

This supports the development of decision making for young players and the speed of their distribution.

Diagram #1

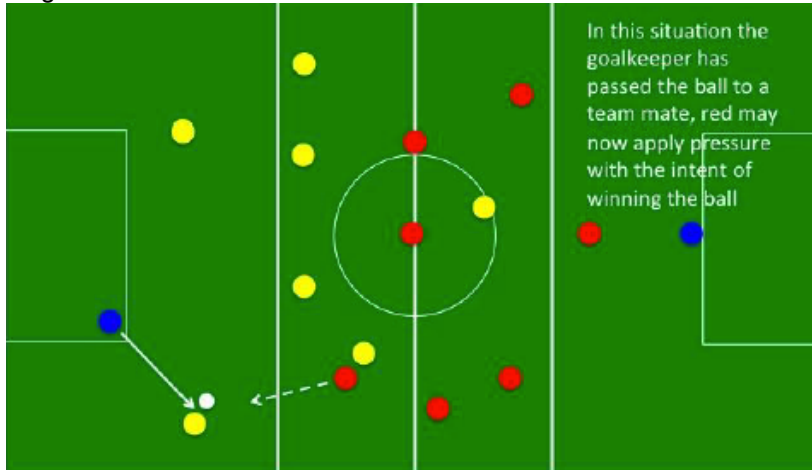


Diagram #2

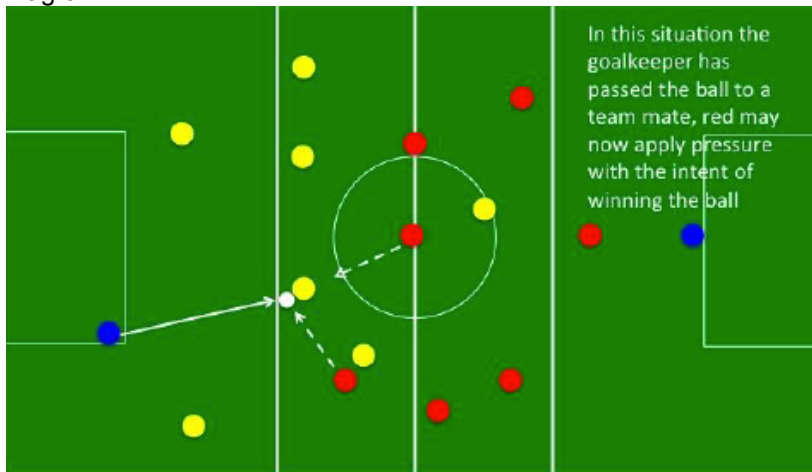


Diagram #3

