Topic: Team Defending

## Variations

Diagram

## Unrestricted

In pairs, one ball between two passing and moving. Two pairs defending without a ball ( $20 \times 30$ area or as needed). Stretch.

- Pairs work together the entire time.
- Wear or hold pinneys or bibs to differentiate the defending pairs.
- Pairs work to keep the ball away from the defending pairs. Once the ball is won by a defending pair, they keep the ball and the attacking pair immediately transitions to defend.
$\checkmark$ "Hunting" in pairs - must defend together, not as individuals
$\checkmark$ Immediate pressure to the ball
$\checkmark$ Make play predictable
$\checkmark$ Force the ball to cover
$\checkmark$ Verbal and visual communication and direction


## Restricted

3 v $3+2$ ( $20 \times 30$ area or as needed). Neutral players play for team in possession.

- Three defenders work together to channel or funnel the ball to defensive support.
- Once the defending team wins the ball, they immediately transition to attack.
- Progress to line soccer, adding direction to the exercise.
$\checkmark$ Pressure, cover and balance responsibilities
$\checkmark$ Proper defensive shape and balance
$\checkmark$ Focus on defending collectively
$\checkmark$ Visual cues from the attacking team
$\checkmark$ Defend with patience

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$\checkmark$ Defending shape and balance with movement of the ball
$\checkmark$ Correct starting positions with respect to the ball and goals
$\checkmark$ Defensive pressure from behind (forwards)
$\checkmark$ Organization of the back three with attackers running at them
$\checkmark$ Zonal defending

## Two Goals

| 7 v 7 with goalkeepers to two large goals ( 50 x 70 or as needed). | - Possible Formation 2:3:2 <br> - No restrictions. | 70 yds. | $8 \mathrm{v} 8$ <br> The GAME | $\checkmark$ Compactness of the field (limit attacking space and options) <br> $\checkmark$ Zonal defending <br> $\checkmark$ Counter attack <br> $\checkmark$ All of the above |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cool Down |  |  |  |  |
| Players jog (dynamic movements). Stretch. | - Focus on major muscle groups. |  |  | $\checkmark$ Reduce Heart Rate <br> $\checkmark$ Static Stretching <br> $\checkmark$ Review Session |

