

Topic: **Team Defending**

Organization	Variations	Diagram	Coaching Points
In pairs, one ball between two passing and moving. Two pairs defending without a ball (20 x 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. 	X• X O O X•	 ✓ "Hunting" in pairs – must defend together, not as individuals ✓ Immediate pressure to the ball ✓ Make play predictable ✓ Force the ball to cover ✓ Verbal and visual communication and direction
Restricted 3 v 3 + 2 (20 x 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. 	30 yds. X	 ✓ Pressure, cover and balance responsibilities ✓ Proper defensive shape and balance ✓ Focus on defending collectively ✓ Visual cues from the attacking team ✓ Defend with patience



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