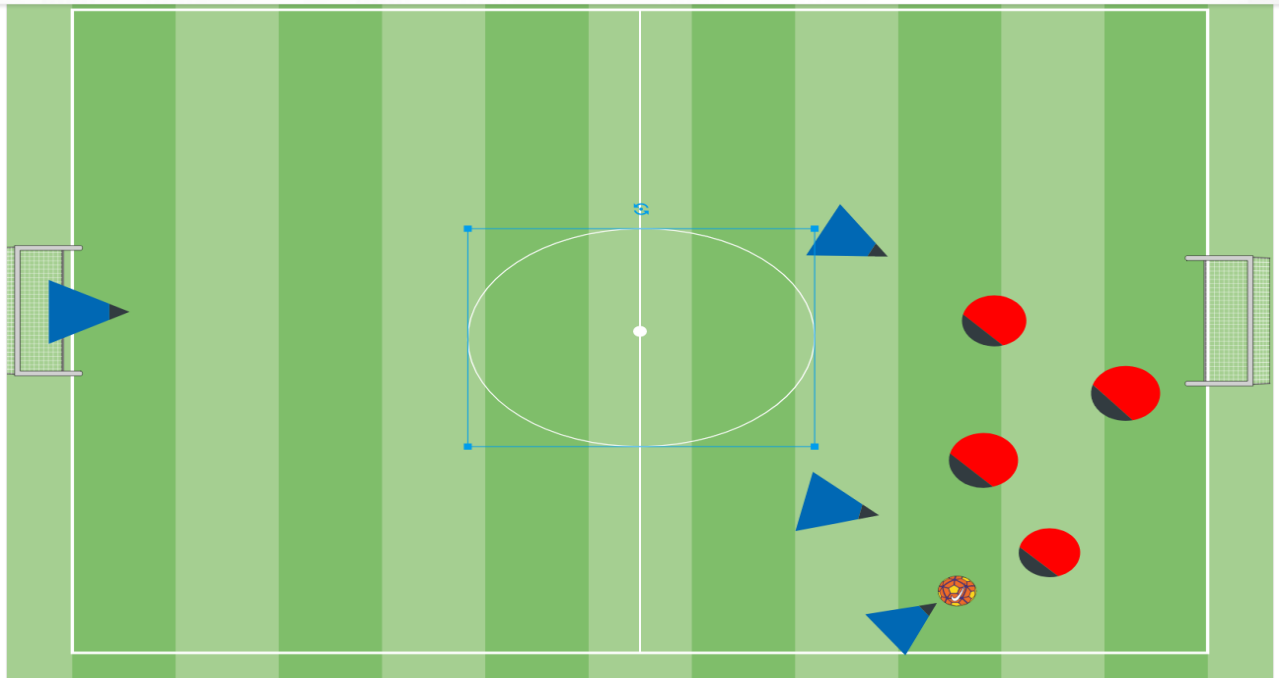


4v4 – Laws of the Game – No goalkeeper

In the 4v4 game, there are no goalkeepers. No player can deliberately touch the ball with their hand anywhere on the field. Goalkeepers will start in the 7v7 game. In the 7v7 game, goalkeepers can use their hands to stop any shots in their penalty box surrounding their goal.

In the 4v4 game, players are allowed anywhere on the field. However, it is suggested (not a rule/law) that all players attack and defend together and not keep a player back in their own goal.



In the example above, the blue team is attacking in the opponent's half and keeping a player back in their defending goal. The player in the blue goal is not connected to the play, is not involved in the play, and is not touching the ball. In the short term, they might save/block shots with their body when the red team wins the ball and attack, but they aren't learning a lot of player actions at this age if coaches have them stand in the goal like this.

However, as the blue team is in the red team's defending half, the red team is defending together and protecting their goal. Stealing the ball and protecting the goal are two key player actions/coaching phrases you can say to the red team. Where the ball is on the field determines how teams attack and defend. The red team needs to be closer to their goal as the ball is close to their goal.

The example below is the "suggested" way players should set up. Having a player act as the last defender or sweeper is suggested, not a rule/law, but suggested. The last defender is still connected to the play, is still protecting the goal, and will touch the ball if it is played close to them or can steal it in a 1v1 situation. Connecting a last defender or sweeper to the play will help the player improve their skills.

