

Games vs Drills

Tom Turner, OYSAN Director of Coaching April 2009

Imagine..

If you hit seven irons, but never played on the golf course.

If you mixed ingredients, but never made cookies.

If you typed letters, but never wrote a sentence.

If you lifted your spoon, but never ate the food.

If you played scales, but never a song.

If you read words, but never a story.

Would you have fun?

Would you persevere?

Games vs Drills

Tom Turner, OYSAN Director of Coaching April 2009

Organized American sport is a drill-based culture.

Soccer's greatest players grew up in cultures where freedom of expression and creativity were inherent.

Soccer is a game of mistakes. Over time, players learn from mistakes.

Games vs Drills

Tom Turner, OYSAN Director of Coaching April 2009

With the demise of street (free) play, adults have organized soccer (sport) at increasingly younger ages.

There are now soccer programs for 3-year-olds and “leagues” for 4- and 5- year-olds. These children will not start to conceptualize soccer “space” for another 4-5 years!

Learning soccer is an untidy process that blossoms in the mid to late teens.

70% of American kids have quit soccer by age 13.

Games vs Drills

Tom Turner, OYSAN Director of Coaching April 2009

Most youth soccer coaches have never played soccer and rely on organized America (drills) for coaching inspiration.

Most young players don't understand soccer, but many would understand a lot more if they were simply allowed to learn the game by playing the game!



Games vs Drills

Tom Turner, OYSAN Director of Coaching April 2009

The pdf slides in this section of the OYSAN web site (*The Games Approach to Learning Soccer*) explain how coaches can organize training games to help more players enjoy and learn to play better soccer. There is no need to provide instruction, although that would be a welcome next step. Positive encouragement alone will suffice.



The games will do the rest!



Games vs Drills

Tom Turner, OYSAN Director of Coaching April 2009

Games		Drills
High	Replication of Street Soccer Learning	Low
Low	Coaching / Management	High
Player-Based	Decision-Making	Coach-Based
Significant	Transition Between Attack and Defense	Limited
Significant	Transfer to Matches	Limited
General	Technical Development	Skill-Specific
High	Tactical Development	Low
High	Soccer Fitness Development	Low
High	Player Motivation	Low
High	Player Enjoyment	Low