TRAINING ACTIVITIES
14-19U Technical/Tactical Functional Training for Defenders Mike Haas, US Youth Soccer Region IV Head Boy's ODP Coach

| Activity | Description | Diagram | Purpose/Points |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Warm-up } \\ & (28 \times 40) \end{aligned}$ | - 4 v $4 v 4$ <br> - Different colors for each team of 4 <br> - Two teams play against the other team. <br> - Team defending must win the ball. <br> - Once a team loses the ball on attack it becomes the defending team. |  | - Defensive Shape (Pressure, Cover, Balance) <br> - Interceptions <br> - Passing <br> - Receiving <br> - Transition |
| Exercise \#1 ( $60 \times 70$ ) | - Two 8 yd. counter goals and one full size goal. <br> - GK and 6 defenders <br> - 5 attackers go to goal and defend counter goals. <br> - 6 defenders attack counter goal and defend large goal |  | - Starting positions <br> - Aggressiveness <br> - Compactness/Reading <br> Game <br> - Passing/Receiving-short service <br> - Running with the ball <br> - Zonal/Man <br> Responsibilities <br> - Progress to giving a goal to the defense for offside |
| Exercise \#2 (75 x 70) | - One goal and 2 target players <br> - GK+8 defenders go to targets, defend large goal. <br> - 8 attackers attack goal and defend two targets. <br> - Targets give the ball back to attackers. |  | - Starting positions <br> - Shifting and sliding <br> - Compactness <br> - Connection with MF <br> - Passing-long service <br> - Zonal/Man responsibilities <br> - Passing on of players <br> - Transition <br> - Receiving |
| Final Game (full field) | - $\quad 11$ v 11 (if possible) <br> - Playing forms can vary depending upon coaches preference |  | - All of the above. <br> - Add defenders getting into the attack, i.e. dribbling, crossing. |

