



THE PIRATE GAME - CURSE OF THE PUGG GOAL

Emphasis:

This is a good game to focus on many aspects of the game. For younger players, the primary focus should be on good dribbling technique in traffic which requires vision and awareness.

The coach can also focus on defending and attacking principles, as well as possession, vision, transition and support

Game Info:

This is for ages U8-U14. It is best run with at least 8 players but no more than 20 players. The game should be run approximately 20 minutes.

The coach will also make sure they have the following equipment: cones, goals, alternate jerseys.

Setup:

Build a circle approximately the size of the center circle with a Pugg, or other, goal in the middle of the circle. The actual size of the circle will vary depending on the age and skill level of the players.

With all players in the playing area, dedicate 9 players with the ball and 3 players without a ball will be the "Pirates".

Instructions:

Instruct the "Pirates" without the ball to defend the players with the balls. Once the Pirate wins the ball, they attempt to score on the Pugg net in the middle of the circle. If the Pirate scores the goal, that player too becomes a Pirate.

Play continues until the last player with the ball wins. If the pirates have a hard time getting started, the coach can help the pirates at first.

Progression:

- Multiple goals set up

Coaching Points:

- **Attacking:** Keep the ball close with head up so the players are aware of defenders and safety areas (space). If the ball is lost, recover quickly and fight to win it back.
- **Defending:** Transition quickly from defense to offense, stay focused once the ball is won and find the target.