

UNDER 6 SMALL SIDED DUAL FIELD FORMAT GAMES

What is the "dual field" method? Amelia Island Youth Soccer has adopted the small sided, "dual field" method for all U6 3v3 soccer games as recommended by both the US Youth Soccer and Florida Youth Soccer associations. That is two fields, side by side or end to end with the coaches and substitutes in between. Players rotate from the bench and to either field or from Field "A" to Field "B" to substitute. Using this method maximizes player participation.

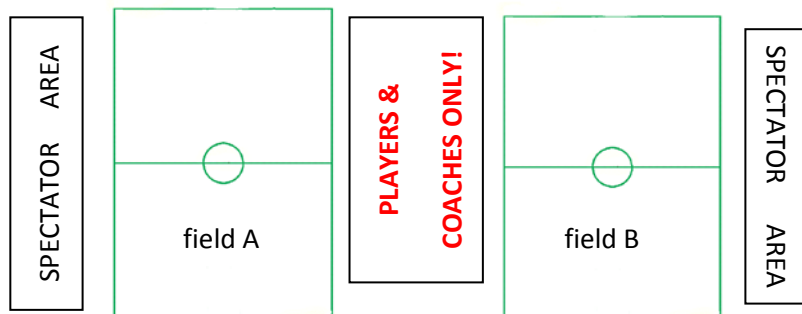
How to coach two fields at once? That's the beauty of two fields- you can't! Instead of coaches "joy-sticking" the players we let the kids run and play! Practices are the coaches time, games are for the players. We all need to remember that U6 players don't play soccer, they play at soccer. They have not developed physically and psychologically enough to play the traditional adult version of soccer. The "home" coach should monitor one field while the "visiting" coach monitors the other. An assistant coach, "team mom" or other responsible adult can ride herd over the players remaining on the bench. No other adults, (including parents) or children, (including siblings) are permitted in the players and coaches area. This rule is usually harder for Moms and Dads to follow than the players.

How many players on a roster? When playing 3v3 without using dual fields we would be limited to no more than six. Every player must be provided the opportunity to play at least 50% of each game and hopefully more. Player participation is a top priority. However, finding volunteers willing to attend Level G and Level F coaching clinics can often be very difficult, so we have adopted the dual field method. Playing "dual field" allows us to support as many as nine or ten on a U6 3v3 roster. This ensures appropriate play time and maximizes touches on the ball for all players.

What if we don't have at least 6 players on game day? That's easily remedied by mixing the home team with the visitors and allowing them to "play on". Players at this age really do not fully grasp the team concept yet, nor should it be pushed on them. It should always be more about "me and the ball" at U6 than "we and the ball". It's okay and often necessary to change shirts and trade sides so everyone gets more play time, more touches and most importantly more chances to score! You can trade out helper players to the opposing team as often as you like.

How big are the goals and are there goalkeepers? There are no keepers and the goals are two large rubber sports cones spaced 18 feet apart. Traditional goals are not used as they present a considerable net tangling and climbing safety hazard for our smaller players. Big bright goal markers without a goalkeeper should also mean a few more goals for kids whose shooting technique is primitive along with their eye-foot coordination. Let's give them the broad side of the barn at which to shoot, the more goals the merrier. Finally the shooting odds for the U6 player is one versus five (three opponents and my two teammates), so let's give them a chance by providing a larger target.

How are the fields set up? The fields can be set up to play "side by side" or "end to end" depending on how the field is laid out and where the spectators prefer to congregate.



SIDE BY SIDE FORMAT FOR U6 GAMES



END to END FORMAT FOR U6 GAMES

If you have any questions concerning U6 3v3 / dual format games or small sided games in general please get in touch with the U6/U8 Director at Large, the Director of Coaching or any Board Member.