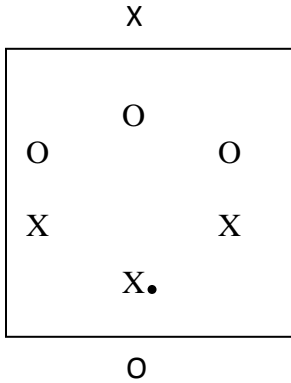


## Combination Play– Unlocking the Defense

Presented by Jeremy Driver, St. Olaf College Soccer Head Coach

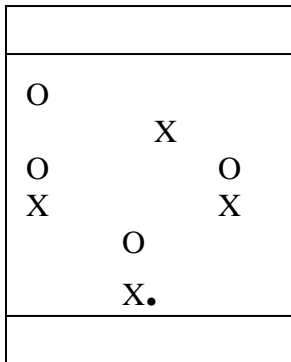


### **Exercise #1: 3v3 to targets**

- Maintain possession to pass ball into target player
  - Player that passes into target player exchanges positions with target
  - Progress to getting a short 1-2 touch support pass from target after long ball
  - Always keep score!
- Scoring:* Pass connected to target player / Drop pass connected to target player

#### **Coaching Points:**

1. Use possession to break pressure
2. Look long first, "can I play the target?"
3. Visual cues for support

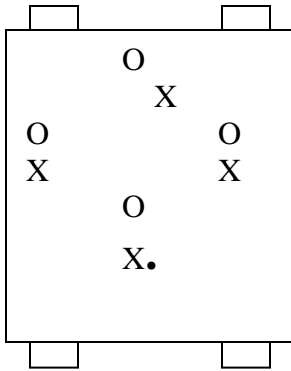


### **Exercise #2: 4v4 to end zones**

- Maintain possession to pass or dribble ball into end zone
  - Attackers must enter end zone at same time or after ball is played (offsides line)
  - Always keep score!
- Scoring:* Dribbling ball into end zone under control or receiving a pass in end zone

#### **Coaching Points:**

1. Team shape
2. Find forward's feet
3. Two & three player combinations

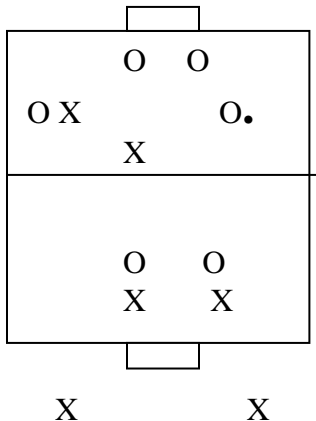


### **Exercise #3: 4v4 to gates**

- Maintain possession to dribble ball through gate
  - Each team attacks two gates and defends two gates
  - Number off 1-4, upon winning the ball, attacking player calls out a number
  - Defending team player with corresponding number must take a knee until possession is won back
  - Progress to adding a flank player on each side, flank players cannot defend each other
  - When ball is played to flank player, the passer must overlap and flank player dribbles into field and creates a 2v1
  - Always keep score!
- Scoring:* Dribbling ball under control through either attacking gate

#### **Coaching Points:**

1. Transition
2. Speed of play
3. Change point of attack



### **Exercise #4: 4v2+2v2 to goal**

- Each team has four players in defending half of field and two players in attacking half
  - When team is in possession, they play 4v2 in defending half and must connect with forwards before joining attacking half
  - Defending team drops two of their back four off end of field to play 2v2 in defending half
  - In transition, two defenders rejoin and two opposing defenders drop out
  - Player that passes to forwards joins in to create 3v2
  - Always keep score!
- Scoring:* Scoring a goal

#### **Coaching Points:**

1. Use possession to break pressure
2. Look long first, "can I play the forward?"
3. Cues for combination play