

Cunning corners

In professional soccer almost 50% of goals are scored from set pieces (corners and free kicks). So organisation and efficiency in set-piece attacking and defending is crucial to the success of your team. This session focuses on corners.



What you tell your players the session is about

1. Attacking corners in order to score goals
2. Learning how to read hand signals
3. Adopting different routines for near post, far post and short corners.

Session planner

Warm up 10 mins	Session 15 mins	Developments 10 mins	Game 20 mins	Warm down 5 mins
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Activity	Kit	Outcome
Warm up	One cone or flag goal, balls	Two team attacking heading game, from <i>The Ultimate Warm-Ups Manual</i> , exercise 52
The session	One goal, balls, bibs cones	The players react to the hand signal for a near or far post corner
Development	One goal, balls, bibs cones	The players try to utilise a short corner routine
Game	Two goals, balls, bibs, cones	The team take advantage of the corner and score a goal
Warm down	n/a	Gentle jogging and stretching exercises



Where it fits

Individual skills: Set piece taking, crossing, passing, shooting, jumping, heading, movements to receive,

Team skills: Communication, movements to receive, team work

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What to think about

- Heading technique needs improvement and identifying the best headers of the ball within your team is crucial.
- In the English Premier League and the Spanish La Liga the average number of corners per games is six.
- 1) The simpler the routine the better, the penalty box has three main areas to areas to attack which are the near post, centre of goal and far post. Nominating a player to run into each area is essential.
- 2) A player inside the six-yard box will pick up any deflections in order to score.
- 3) A player or two on the edge of the 18-yard box will give shooting opportunities from knockdowns or weak clearances.





Set-up

Use half a pitch for the session and development, and add a goal at each end for the game.



What you get your players to do

Near post – the corner taker raises one arm to signal the delivery will be aimed to the near post. One attacker is placed on the corner of the six-yard box, one in front of the keeper, three on the edge of the box who will run to the near post, centre and far post, and there are two players outside the box waiting for knock downs.

The player on the edge of the six-yard box runs towards the corner taker to create space. The taker curls the ball into this space and attackers run into their zones to head the ball to score.

Far post – the corner taker raises both arms to signify a far post corner. This time the player on the six-yard box joins the attackers on the edge of the box. The attackers all run to the near post and allow one of the players outside the box to run from deep and to the far post.

Progress by introducing a goalkeeper and defenders.



What to call out

- “React to the hand signal”
- “Deliver the ball with quality”
- “Attack the ball”



Development

This is how to develop a short corner routine. A player on the six-yard box turns and runs into the area in front of the goalkeeper.

A striker in this area runs towards the taker and receives a pass. The striker can pass back for a cross or he can turn and cross the ball. Three attackers on the edge of the 18-yard box head for the near post, centre and far post.

Progress by adding a goalkeeper and defenders.



Game situation

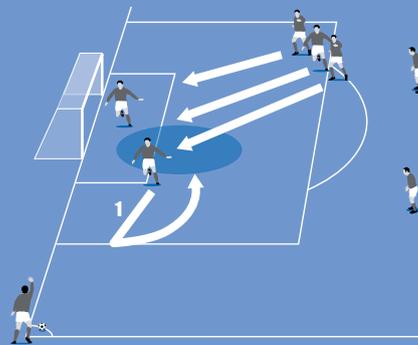
Play a small-sided game but place two balls in each corner of the pitch. Corners are earned during the game in the normal way but, in addition, you can randomly award a corner. This gives teams experience of trying corner routines and are awarded two goals if one is scored from a corner.

Cunning corners

direction of run \Rightarrow pass $\square\square\square\Rightarrow$



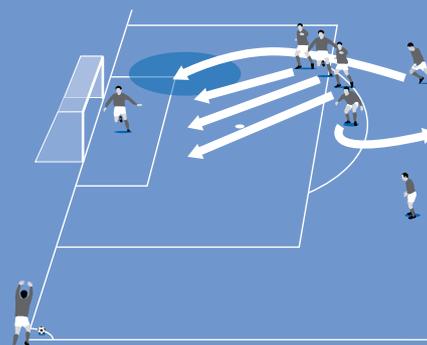
Near post



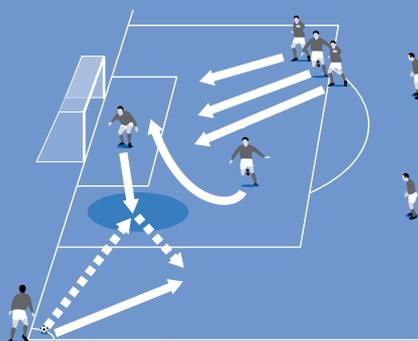
The forward runs out to create the space at the near post area which is the cue for the corner to be taken.



Far post



Attackers run to the near post as a disguise to allow another player to target the far post. He is likely to be against a lone defender this way.



No hand signals – a short corner routine is used where the forward runs to receive and play a one-two.