

Developing the 5 Cs in Training:

Top Tips for Coaches

Confidence

- Use first name when giving praise and specific feedback on individual accomplishments
- Work with players to apply individual goals where possible. Progressively build success using 'personal bests' and self-set targets that all players respect, value and strive to achieve
- Challenge players to train like 'the confident player', encouraging them to make brave decisions and show a positive physical presence. Reinforce players when they copy their confident role model
- Offer players the chance to do their 'feel good' drills which give them the opportunity to practice and hone their strengths

Can you 'psych up' your practices to encourage mental development during a normal training session?

Commitment

- Reward a player's efforts, attitude and intentions beyond merely the execution or outcome
- Give skill-specific feedback and personalised recognition when earned. Encourage the use of individually chosen goals and targets
- Encourage persistence after mistakes and create a 'no limits' environment
- Offer positive reinforcement and recognition when extra effort led to a positive outcome
- Ask players to review and rate their commitment levels (out of 10). 'Can the squad raise it 1 notch in the next 5 minutes?'

Control

- Show players the difference between negative and positive emotional reactions – illustrate the effects of anger, self-criticism, poor body language, and negative thinking on pitch
- Encourage players to detach themselves from mistakes/negativity by using immediate refocusing triggers (e.g. Deep breath, 'Back on it' or 'Next Effort'). Challenge players to recover the quickest!
- Use simulated pressure games/drills to train positive responses to adversity (e.g. Use bad officiating decisions, 1-0 down, time pressure etc). Administer consequences for poor self-control and discipline
- Reinforce the use of mental routines for pre-game, breaks in play, at set pieces. Ask how much are breathing, visualisation and positive affirmations used as mental weapons for the physical performance

How do you think players could improve their 5 C's between training sessions?

Concentration

- Highlight the correct cues that a player should be focusing on (when on and off the ball)
- Use trigger words to reinforce relevant concentration cues for a task or move (e.g. 'press', 'squeeze', 'drop')
- Employ practices that challenge players to scan and switch focus effectively - e.g. between ball, space, key players (check shoulder; control ball with peripheral vision, close eyes – 'where are your teammates?')
- Overload and stretch players' concentration spans and attention to tasks by adding irrelevant distractions or extending drills when fatigued/bored

Can you think of any individual 5C challenges for players to focus on in training?

Communication

- Develop a specific drill that highlights the role of communication (e.g. only 2 players can talk; swap every minute; silent soccer – non-verbal communication only)
- Include conditions in drills that develop communication (e.g. name on a pass; use of trigger words; encourage teammates; silent soccer)
- Recognise and reinforce when a player gives appropriate praise, acknowledgement, feedback, information, or instruction to a teammate