



# Soccer Nova Scotia

Retreat Line



# Reality

-  We have a culture to win at all costs at the expense of development
-  Our developmental starting point at the older age groups is lower due to us not promoting the right things.



# What is the Retreat Line?

- Retreat line is a **coaching tool** rather than a new rule.
- The retreat line will come into play:
  - When the ball has gone out of play for a goal kick OR
  - When the goalkeeper has the ball in his/her arms.
- All opponents must be behind the retreat line and cannot cross the retreat line until:
  - the moment the keeper has played the ball from a goal kick OR,
  - has released the ball from their hands when in possession



# Why have the Retreat Line?

- Need to service the players and give them the appropriate tools to play the game for life.
- Game is evolving to more of a control technical philosophy rather than solely relying on athleticism.
- Need to promote players who are comfortable in possession.
- Need to promote players to make better decisions.
- Understand the importance of playing throughs thirds of the field.



# Four Corner Approach

## Technical

Improved short passing

Improved receiving the ball on half turn

Improved penetration passes

## Physical

Improved A-B-C's

Improved speed of play

Improved hip flexor rotation

## Social/ Emotional

Improved team play

Improved communication

Improved co-operation

Players can learn different roles

## Psychological/Mental

Improved decision making skills

Improved self confidence

Improved risk assessment skills

Improved awareness skills



# Question

⚽ Can the goalkeeper play before the opponents have retreated?

⚽ **Answer: Yes**

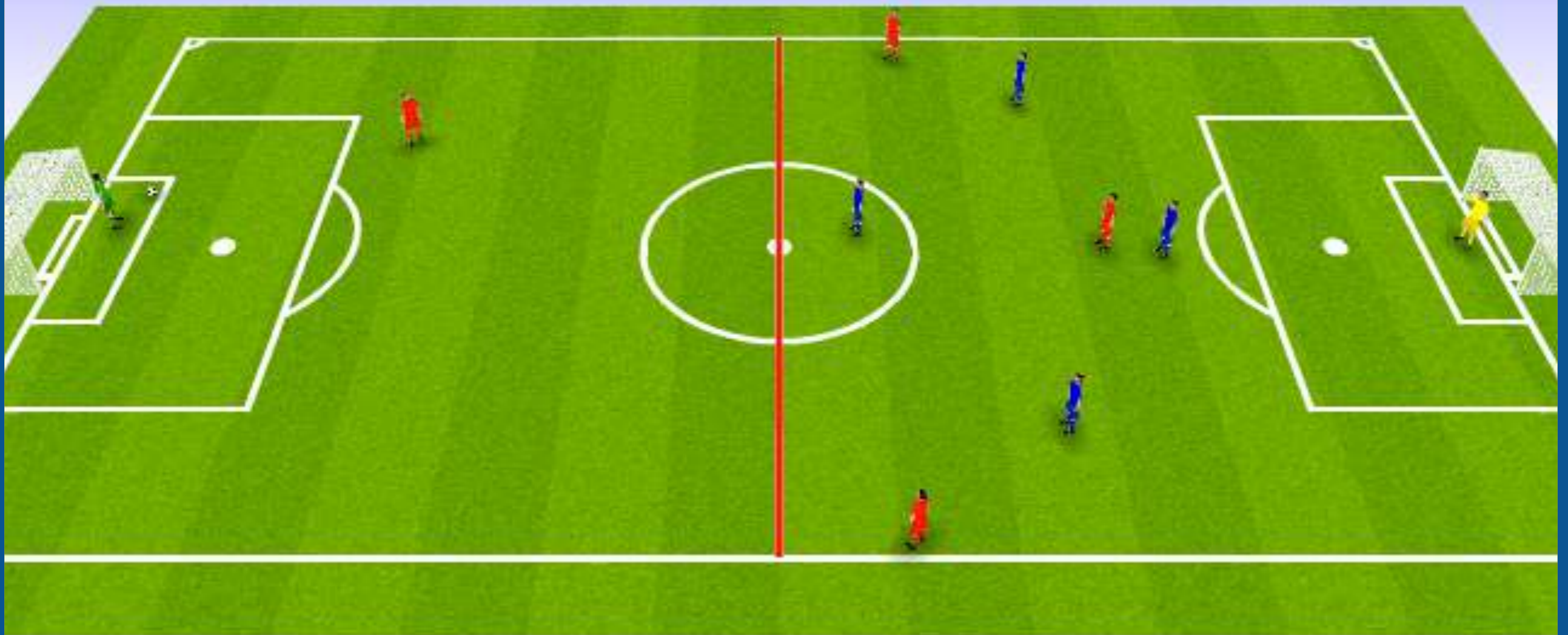
- Goalkeeper see's a 1v1
  - Goalkeeper wants to counter attack
  - Goalkeeper sees a player option
- ⚽ Referee should not stop the game if players have not reached the retreat line.
- ⚽ We want to promote players making the decisions





# FUNdamental (U8 Outdoor & U10 Indoor) - 5v5

**Goalkeeper - No Punting**



# Learning to Train (U10 Outdoor & U12 Indoor) - 7v7

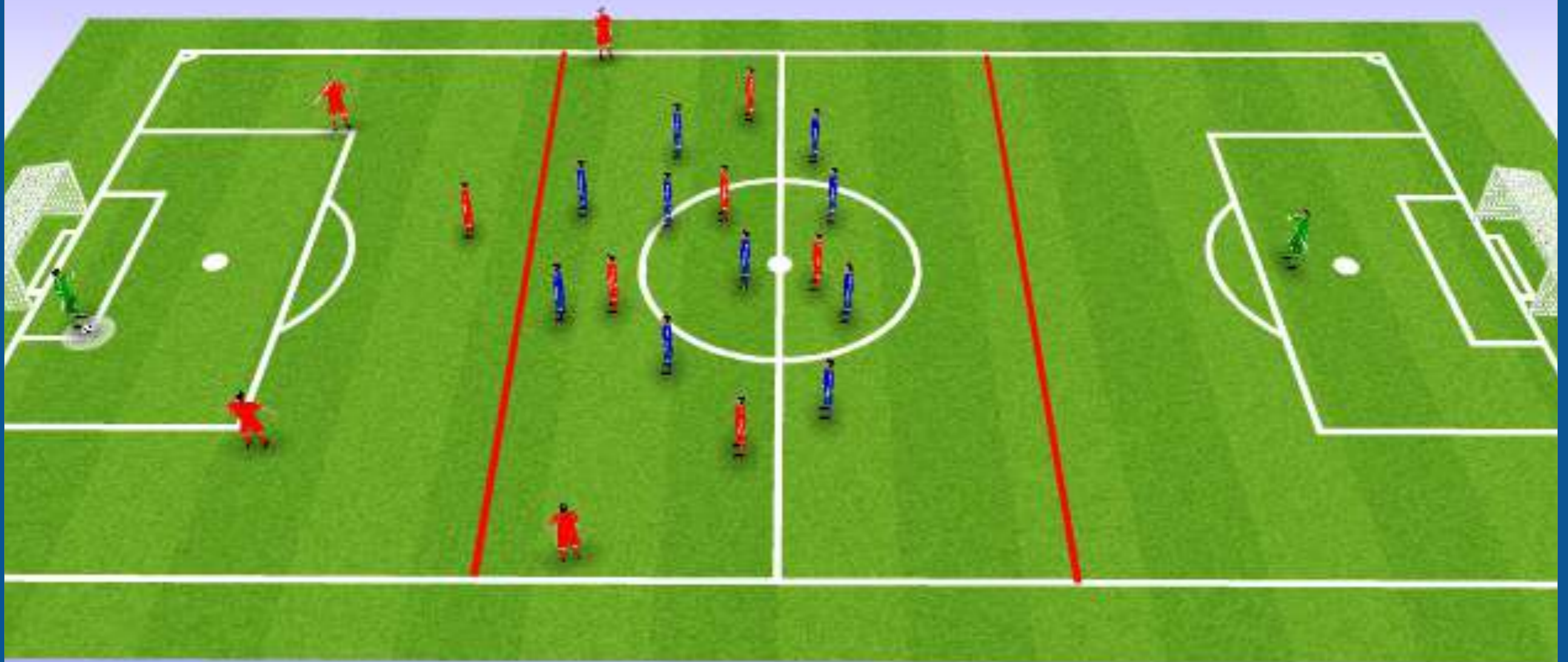




# Learning to Train (U11, U12 & U13 A/B) - 9v9



# NSSL (U13AA) - 11v11



# Research

Format	U9 - Less than three passes	U9 - Sequence of passes	U11 - Less than three passes	U11 - Sequence of passes
Retreat Line Used	68%	32%	58%	42%
Retreat Line Not Used	89%	11%	71%	29%

Format	Less than three passes	Sequence of passes
Outcome if 1st Pass is long from the retreat line	84%	16%
Outcome if 1st Pass is short from the retreat line	56%	44%

- Its evident that the retreat line generates a higher success rate for passing sequences when being used.
- The u9 success rate was over 21 % higher when the retreat line was used.
- In the u11s games there was a difference of 13% when the retreat line was in use.
- The type of pass made once in the retreating area is also significant. The finding established conclusively that if a player plays a long pass (over 15 meters) it will reduce the chance of generating a passing sequence.





# Implementation & Support

- Start of Fall/Winter 2015/16 for FUNdamental and Learning to Train Stages (U8-U12).
- Staff, Regions, Clubs, Coaches & Officials all have a responsibility to promote and implement this with players and parents.
- Officials have been notified and will be briefed during their indoor refresher training in the fall.
- We have requested that the officials remind the coaches before each game.
- We are asking that coaches keep their players accountable at all times.





# Questions & Thank you!

Mike Whyatt: [coach@soccerns.ns.ca](mailto:coach@soccerns.ns.ca)

Special thanks to Ontario Soccer Association

