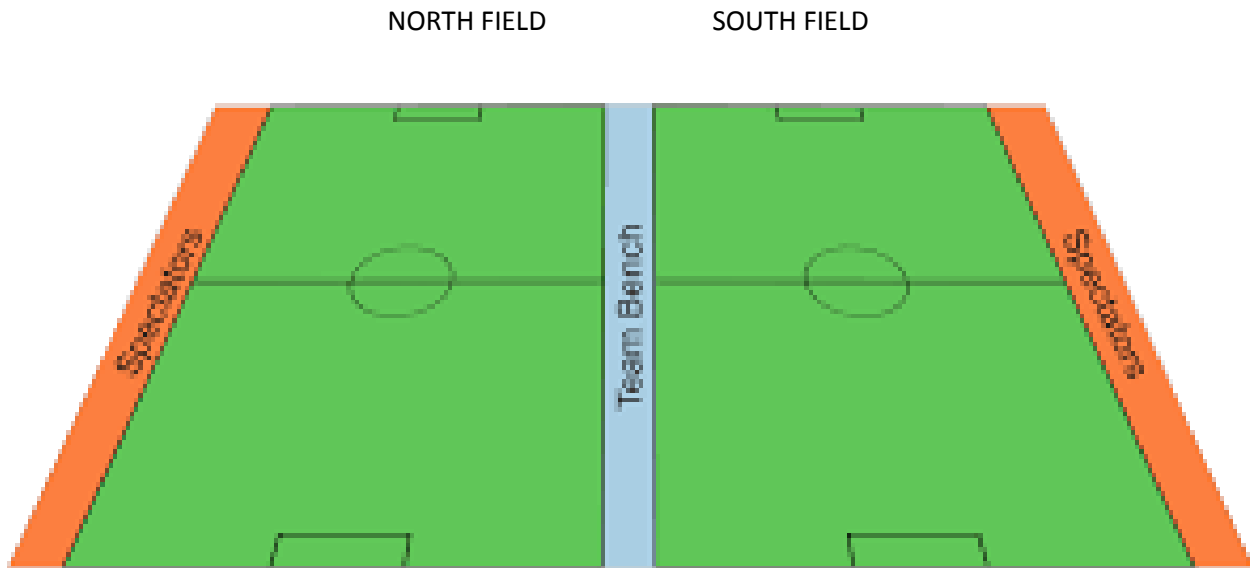


Split field Kindergarten and 1st grade games

Kickers Kindergarten and 1st grade games utilize a dual field setup, this puts the teams in the middle of the 2 fields with parents and spectators on the outside end lines, or the outside sidelines. This allows for players to get more time on the field, and more touches on the ball while getting to play with different members of their teams. Kindergarten teams play 3v3 split field, while 1st grade teams play 4v4 split field.

SET UP FOR SPLIT FIELDS FOR 3 V 3 OR 4 V 4 PLAY



We know that this can put some strain on a single coach trying to monitor and coach both fields. While we hope to provide each coach with an assistant it may be necessary for each coach to ask for parental help. This method of game is best managed by at least 2 adults. If you are having trouble recruiting an assistant it may make sense to designate that on each parents snack week that they are the bench parent for that week's games. Don't worry coaching during dual sided games should be minimal. The purpose of the games is to let the game teach the player, and see how well the skills from practice are making it to the game. So the coach's primary responsibility for the game is handling substitutions and cheering on the team.

I suggest that you alternate team pairings from week to week, don't always have the same 3 or 4 players split onto one side, make sure throughout the season that every player gets the chance to play with every other player. Try to make sure that players get equal playing time, and that every player is having fun.

During dead ball situations it is permissible for the coach to come onto the field to help instruct the players, ie.... Show them the right direction to kick a goal kick, help them understand a corner kick, or understand what to do on kickoffs. Coaches are not allowed to come onto the field while play is in progress.

Coaching soccer at this level isn't preparing you or them for the World Cup. It is hopefully teaching an understanding of the game basics, and a love of the game.

The most important thing to remember (Other than to have fun) is that I am here to help; if you have any questions or concerns find me on Saturdays at the Kickers park, or email me at coachingdirector@ickickers.org. We want this experience to be enjoyable and rewarding, and we will do everything we can to make sure that it is.