Learning Objectives
• Students will appropriately apply soccer skills with proper technique.
• Students will apply basic offensive strategies to create open space.
• Students will demonstrate sportsmanship and follow rules.

Learning Targets
• I can combine dribbling, passing, trapping, and shooting in a game situation.
• I can use basic offensive strategies to create open space.
• I can follow rules and play safely and fairly with my group.

Teaching Cues
• Forwards, move to open space and use the give and go.
• Look up the field, and take shots.
• Fullbacks, cover the forward, block passing lanes, and pressure the ball.

PREP
• 4 spot markers or cones per 8 students (for boundaries)
• 4 tall cones per 8 students (for goals)
• 1 pinnie per 2 students
• 1 ball per 8 students

SET
• Create a long, narrow (30 x 15 paces) grid per group of 8.
• Place 2 tall cones 3-4 paces apart on each end line to form goals.
• Form groups of 4; 2 groups and 1 ball per field.
• One group wears pinnies and begins on offense.

TEACH
1. Lesson Objective
• The object of Mini-Soccer is to combine the soccer skills of dribbling, passing, defending, and shooting to play a mini-game.

2. Instructions
• Each group has 2 Forwards (Offense), and 2 Fullbacks (Defense). No Goalie.
• Play begins with pinnies on offense at midfield.
• Rules
  ◦ To score a goal, the ball must go between and no higher than the tall cones.
  ◦ Balls above cone-height are out-of-bounds and are awarded to the defense.
  ◦ Balls kicked out-of-bounds on sidelines are thrown in by the other team.
  ◦ Balls out-of-bounds on end lines are kicked back into play by the other team.
  ◦ After a score, non-scoring group restarts as offense at mid-field.
  ◦ Rotate positions (Forwards/Fullbacks) on signal (every 3-5 minutes).
• Cues for Forwards
  ◦ Move to open space.
  ◦ Use the give and go.
  ◦ Look up the field.
• Cues for Fullbacks
  ◦ Discuss defensive strategy with your groupmates.
  ◦ Either mark the Forward (player-to-player), or play a zone on the defensive half of the field.
  ◦ Block passing lanes.

3. Challenges
• How quickly can you get the ball back in play after going out-of-bounds?
• Can you pass to all your groupmates before scoring?
Reflection Questions

- Which soccer skills do you think are most important during game play? Why?
- How can you recognize open space during a soccer game?
- How does your ability to recognize open space affect your success?

SPARK It Up!

1. 5-Pass
   - Before scoring a goal, your group must pass the ball at least 5x.

2. Add a Goalie
   - This time play with a goalie.
   - *(Make goals 5 paces wide.)*

Teaching Suggestions

- Teach students to attempt to settle disagreements before going to the teacher (e.g., use rock, paper, scissors).
- Pinnies Rule: Group wearing pinnies begins on offense and always goes in the same direction.
- Watch for lopsided contests. Pair groups with similar ability.

Integration

Use your local park – your cardiovascular system will thank you. Here’s what you need: 1 ball, 4 goal markers (hats and sweatshirts work well), and 6 to 12 friends. Set up a field with 2 goals, keep the rules basic, and get your game on. Use Rock, Paper, Scissors to solve disputes. Screaming fans are optional.