

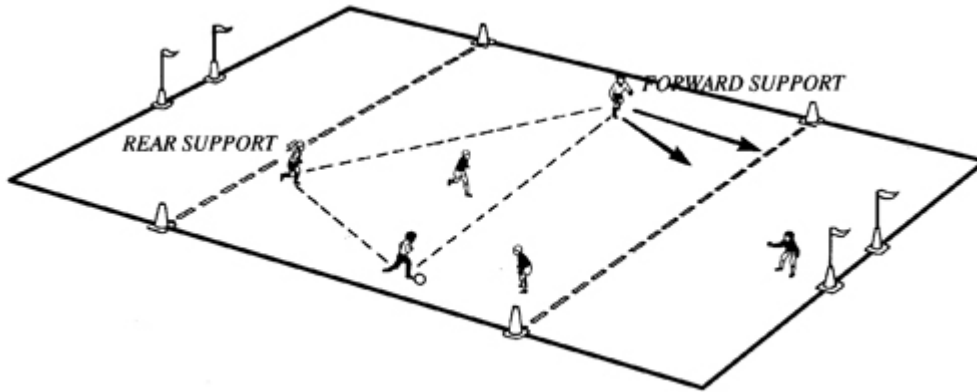
### 3 vs. 3 for 6 Year Olds

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For long enough (since 1987), not only have we advocated 3 vs. 3 play for 6-year olds and up, but recommended the use of a goalkeeper as one of the three – on a rotating, equal-time basis (changes should be made every 2- minutes of play).

There are a number of reasons for this, but one is that it introduces children to one of the most exciting and fun aspects of the game - goalkeeping. Another being, it solves the problem of the rear supporting player.

At this age it is too early for the children to appreciate the importance of cover and defensive support to the player with the ball. Playing without a goalkeeper might tempt a coach to position a player as a permanent sweeper. If you think I'm kidding, I'm not! This has happened with a number of 3 vs. 3 programs where coaches with their 6-year olds have been more concerned about winning (for their own self-gratification).



*Micro Soccer*

*6-yard boxes provide the handling zone.*

*Field is 30 yds. x 20 yds. Goals 9' wide.*

Once all the young players are comfortable with the Goalkeeper Role consider the Bobby Howe rule. This stipulates that goals can only be scored by the attacking team when the goalkeeper has moved up outside the 6-yard box. This makes the goalkeeper much more of a sweeper-keeper and more of a rear-supporting play. But don't bring this rule in too soon. Maybe wait for the 2nd season of 3 v 3 play.

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