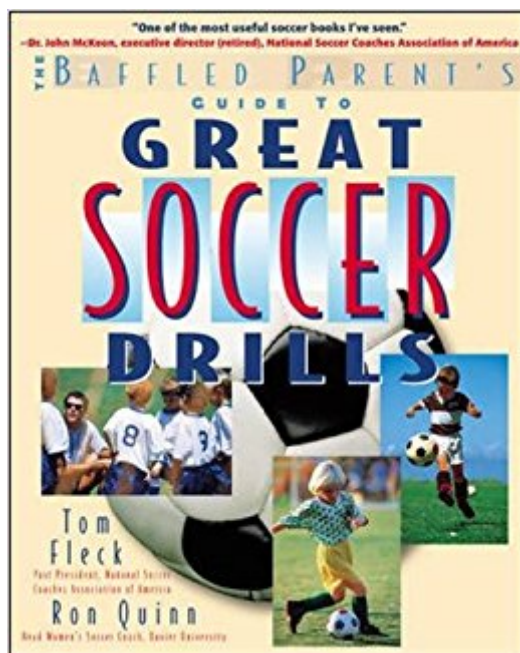


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# Great Soccer Drills : The Baffled Parent's Guide



## Synopsis

A PAPERBACK ORIGINAL A games-based alternative to tedious rote exercises, guaranteed to keep practices fun, engaging, and productive Great Soccer Drills provides soccer coaches with a great way to make every soccer practice active, fun, and productive. Coaches get 125 games guaranteed to keep kids moving and excited while teaching them basic skills, sharpening their reflexes, and building their confidence and decision-making ability. Written by two of North America's foremost names in youth soccer coaching, it also includes guidelines on how to create just the right blend of drills to hold the attention of six- to twelve-year-old players. Great Soccer Drills can be used in conjunction with the bestselling Coaching Youth Soccer: A Baffled Parent's Guide or as an excellent stand-alone resource for spicing up any practice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"One of the most useful soccer books I've seen."--Dr. John McKeon, executive director (retired), National Soccer Coaches Association of America "Young soccer players should be trained in an environment that is safe, fun, and has direct implications for the game. This book has 125 ways to do just that. I strongly recommend it to all parents and coaches."--Bob Gansler, head coach, Kansas City Wizards (2000 MLS Champions) Did we say "drills"? Sorry, we meant games. That's right. Games that teach them more effectively than the tedious drills you endured as a kid. Games that challenge but do not frustrate them. Games that build rather than undermine a child's confidence and sense of involvement. Great Soccer Drills contains 125 dynamic games and activities designed

to keep your players moving, thinking, and most of all, having fun. The "games approach" to team practices allows you to teach soccer basics like ball control, movement, passing, and shooting while enhancing team communication and decision-making skills. You'll even learn a thing or two about coaching style, and how to make improvement--rather than winning or losing--the goal of your season. Learn creative activities that develop skills quickly and painlessly Use the Troubleshooting Chart to pinpoint problems Develop coordination, cooperation, and camaraderie among your players Design effective practices using the sample practices Create a positive attitude, build team spirit, and get along with parents Make practices fun and rewarding Match practices to age and ability "Since my retirement, I have been coaching youth teams and have found the games approach presented in this book the only way to coach. A must for every youth soccer coach."--Andy Caruso, founder and former president, Kwik Goal "Already regarded as national authorities on youth coaching and player development, Ron and Tom recently received international recognition when they addressed the European Coaches Association."--Jay Miller, former coach, U-17 National Team

Tom Fleck is a former president of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, and is currently director of coaching and player development for the Idaho Youth Soccer Association. Ron Quinn is an associate professor and director of the sport studies program at Xavier University, where he is also head coach of the women's soccer team.

As a fledgling volunteer soccer coach, I had only a slight idea of what to do when signing up to coach a U-8 boys team. I picked up this book at the library and it was good enough to buy. There are a lot of good activities for all age groups, from peewees to high school. Some of them seem silly and unrelated to soccer, but the youngest of soccer players are still learning coordination, which is their left and right sides, and how to move in space. The key to keeping kids playing and excited about soccer is to make it fun, while building critical skills. I think the authors did an excellent job in accomplishing both. My players enjoyed the activities (don't call 'em drills) I used from this book. I highly recommend this book to any parent thrust into a coaching role. There is great advice on building a practice plan, managing practices, and teaching players. Anybody want to play Gladiator Ball? I've got a group of U-8's that can take on anyone, anytime, anywhere....

The kids love the "drills" and look forward to them each week. I am a first-time coach and our team went from the worst to one of the better teams in only 4 weeks! They are 7-8 year olds and most

kids attend every practice now. Reading the first few chapters helps frame the reason for the drills (which are usually fun games rather than rote drills) and why they can benefit kids of any age or skill level. The book has sample practice plans to get you started and a "troubleshooting" section which references good drills to help kids overcome any bad habits. The kids beg to do some drills longer, and I have to promise to include them in future practices. I highly recommend this book to any youth soccer coach.

Some of the info and drills are helpful, and it's a good place to start for parents like me who are lost coaching kids who show some promise and interest. But most of the drills are too silly, even for 4 and 5 year olds. Playing It and Tag and Follow the Leader are not the types of drills I was looking for.

It's ok. I read it and it was useful but nothing more than what I can find them from online. There are a lot of drills here but I rather have 1/10th of what is listed with much more details on how to run them.

I am a USSF National "D" license coach who also recently took the USYSA National Youth License Course. This book is an excellent resource and mirrored many of the things that were taught in the course. Don't let the title fool you; it is about teaching soccer through games and fun activities. I used it to supplement my training sessions at the U-9 competitive level here in Florida for my team and we had great success. I would recommend this book to anyone, including rec and competitive coaches for U-12 and below, especially. We are working on getting every coach in our club one of these books as well.

Many years ago I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Fleck and taking a number of coaching clinics from him. I recently had an opportunity to coach a young team. Instantly I reached for my youth module booklets from Dr. Fleck but was unable to find them. No worries though, this book is a great source for drills and does a fantastic job of explaining a child's mindset.

Coaching soccer for the first time, and I kids love the drills at practices. There's also lots of good tips in this book for first-time coaches.

So far so good. Drawings could be better showing movement. I like the practice plans.

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