

How to slam it

The ability for players to cross a ball or make a defense-splitting pass comes from being able to kick the ball with the correct height, weight and accuracy. This will become instinctive to players as they develop their soccer instincts.

I like to let my players experiment with how they kick the ball. At first it is important they just get the ball back – especially in the younger age groups.

You are looking for them to react to the position of the ball and the position of their opponent. Don't worry if they just kick with their toes at first. Pick them up on it later.

This game epitomizes what soccer coaching is all about – good fun and using the tools in your skills box to try and beat your opponent. It goes back to the school playing ground when there is just you and your mate and you play each other against a wall.

How to play Slam

- Pair up your players and put two cones in front of a wall, six yards apart.
- Tell each player they have three lives.
- Players take turns to play the ball against the wall between the cones.
- They lose a life if they miss the area between the cones, let the ball stop, cannot play it first time or get hit by their own rebound.
- They play until one of the pairs is out of lives.

How to develop it

Children in a playground would play with a bunch of their friends, not just in pairs. Get your players to do this by:

- Having teams which try and beat each other, with any player on each team playing the ball when it's their team's turn. Misses or the ball stopping etc, count as goals. Play first to five.
- Playing with more players as individuals. Each player can be given a number and they must hit the ball in sequence. In this case, players go out as before, and the winner is the last one left.

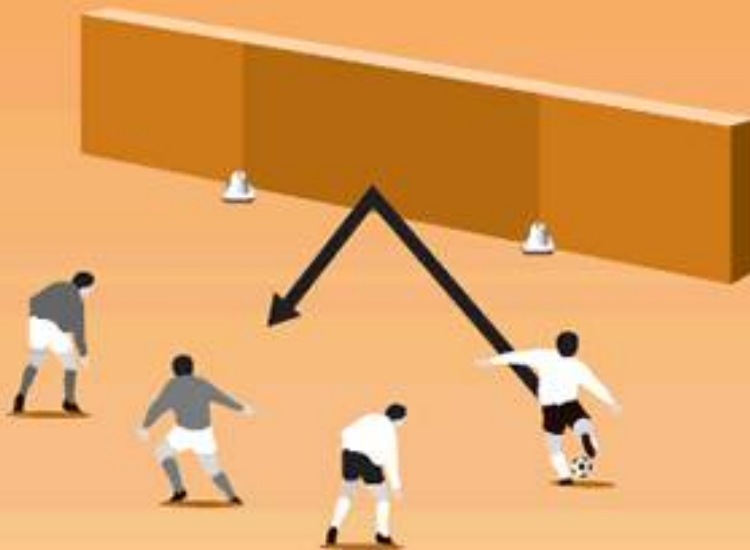
How to advance it or make it easier

- Make the game easier by allowing a second touch or harder by having to use left foot then right foot.
- Change the size or height of the goal.
- Allow the ball to stop for young players.

Learn tactics with Slam



Players must read the direction of the ball and move quickly to be in the best position to return it.



With more than one player on a team positional tactics play a big role in the game. One player can go wide or short to anticipate where the ball will go.

movement of player ■ ■ ► **shot** ►