

TEAM SOCIOLOGY

I am continuously fascinated by the roles that players take on within a team. This is the sociology of being in a team and it is something that begins the first time a player joins one and exists on every team you ever represent. Currently, we are in the middle stages of indoor and as most of you have experienced, this is a time when players are mixed during the indoor training sessions and also a time when players will guest play within other teams in the club. I always enjoy it because I get to see all the players in the club in different environments than their outdoor fall season. It is always refreshing for me to interact with different faces and I am sure it is the same for the other staff and for the players.

So what does all this have to do with sociology? In every team there are different roles which players take on. Mixing them into different teams for the short period of indoor often gets players into performing different roles, playing different positions, and having to deal with different adversities and successes within the game than they are used to. Often it is during these times that we can see growth in players that has taken place.

I have seen a lot of the U10 and U11 teams playing week in and week out and our players seem to hold an edge over the competition most of the time. This does not always translate directly into wins but most of our teams seem to hold a psychological edge over the opponents. We rarely get rattled by adversity and always seem ready to make the next play on the field. I think this attitude comes from the training environment and the things that we ask of our players each week.

Some players cringe at the thought of not being in their cozy comfortable team where everything is just exactly how they are used to. It is definitely, difficult for some of the girls teams who are only really experiencing this through indoor training sessions. If you ask them they will tell you that absolutely would rather just train in a group with their friends and always have the same coach. They want this because it is comfortable. However, as they become more comfortable within these roles we often see true competitors emerge.