

10 Rondo Soccer Drill Variations



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Rule and set up changes that can increase or decrease the difficulty of your rondo or make them more fun

- **Increase or decrease the size of your area**

Increasing the size of the area the players are working will allow them to have more time on the ball so they can afford to take a little bit longer to make their decisions. By decreasing the size of the players will have less time on the ball which will increase the speed of their decision making.

- **Passes = Points**

This gives players a goal to achieve as a team instead of passing for the sake of passing. A fun twist you can add on to this as well is when the possessing players reach X amount of passes the defenders must stay in for an extra turn.

Also if there are two defenders in the middle and a pass 'splits' them that can also count as a point.

Another way to keep track is to see how many passes in a row the possessing team can get.

- **Limit the amount of touches**

By limiting the amount of touches players will have to think more about their body position, first touch and their decision making. The smaller the amount of touches players are allowed the harder it will be.

- **Megs**

If a player plays a pass and it goes through the legs of the defender and reaches a team that counts as a 'megs'. The defender must stay in for an extra turn.

Coaching points for rondo soccer drills

- **Scan the area**

by scanning the area before you receive the ball you are aware of where the space is, where the defender is and where you team mates are. This is so when you receive the ball you already have a picture in your head of what you want to do, this will increase the speed of which decisions can be made.

- **First touch**

A players first touch should always be away from the pressure and towards the space either using the inside of the outside of the back foot.

- **Body position**

When a player receives they should try to always be in an open body position, this will allow them to see the whole area and easily be able to pass to anyone in the rondo.

- **Pressing as the defender**

When a defender presses they should close down the space as quick as they can, with their body position and stance they can show the possessing player the direction they want them to go in. If on defender is pressing then the other defender is covering.

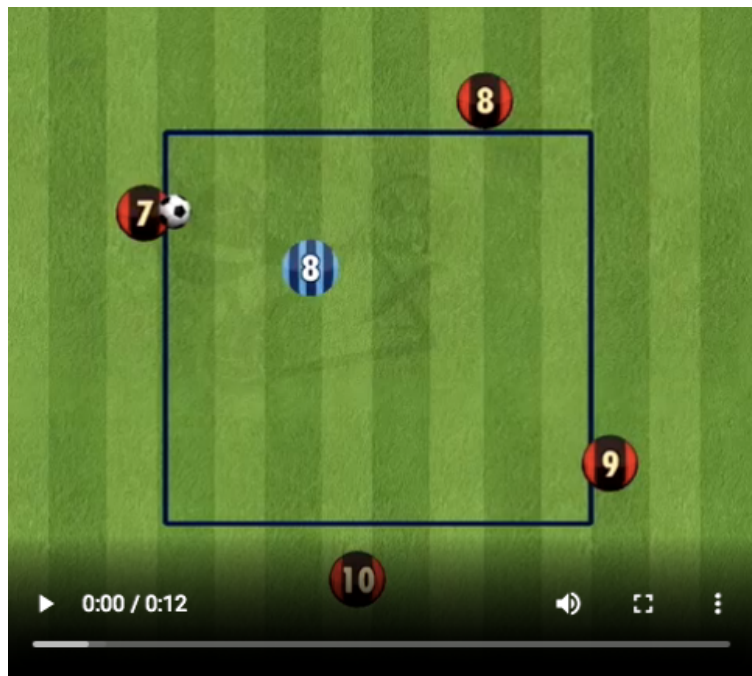
1. Basic rondo soccer drill

Set up:

- 5 x 5 yard area
- 1 soccer ball
- 4 players possessing
- 1 defender

Instructions:

This is the simplest of rondos and it is a great rondo to introduce to your players who are just starting to learn the basics in soccer. For this rondo have 1 defender in the middle and 4 possessing players in the outside.



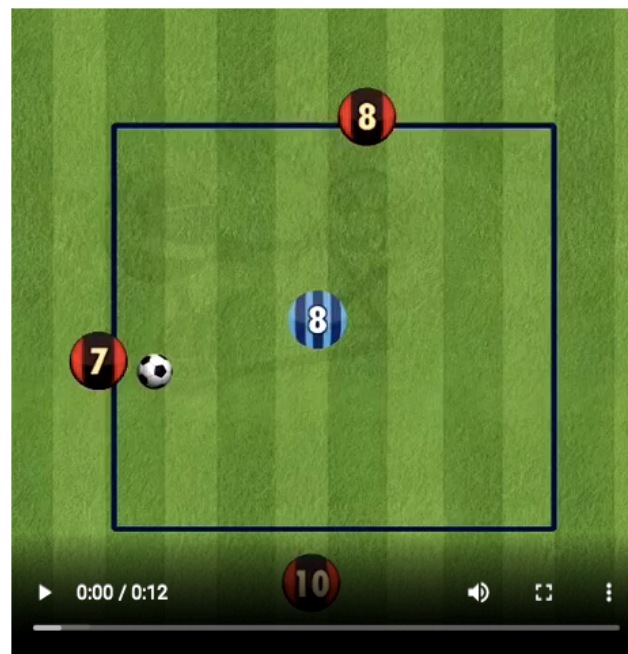
2. 3 player rondo

Set up:

- 5 x 5 yard area
- 1 soccer ball
- 3 players possessing
- 1 defender

Instructions:

This will be the same set up as the previous rondo however there will be one less player possessing, this means that players will have to move around the square to the 'free side' to help support their team mate on the ball. This will help encourage players to move off the ball once they have played a pass.



3. Split the defenders rondo soccer drill

Set up:

- 5 x 5 yard area
- 1 soccer ball
- 4 players possessing
- 2 defenders

Instructions:

The goal of this rondo is to play a pass that splits the defenders, every time the possessing team manages to do this successfully they will gain a point. With this rondo you want to encourage your players to work the ball between them to pull the defenders further apart, this will create a bigger gap for them to play a pass through.



4. Defense to attack rondo

Set up:

- 5 x 5 yard area
- 1 soccer ball
- 4 players possessing
- 2 defenders

Instructions:

Still using 4 players possessing the ball and 2 defenders in the middle, highlight 2 players on the possessing team who are standing opposite each other as the target players. Every time the ball is played from one target player to another the possessing team gets a point.

This is a great rondo to use that focuses on defensive positioning and pressing in pairs.



5. Pass through the square rondo

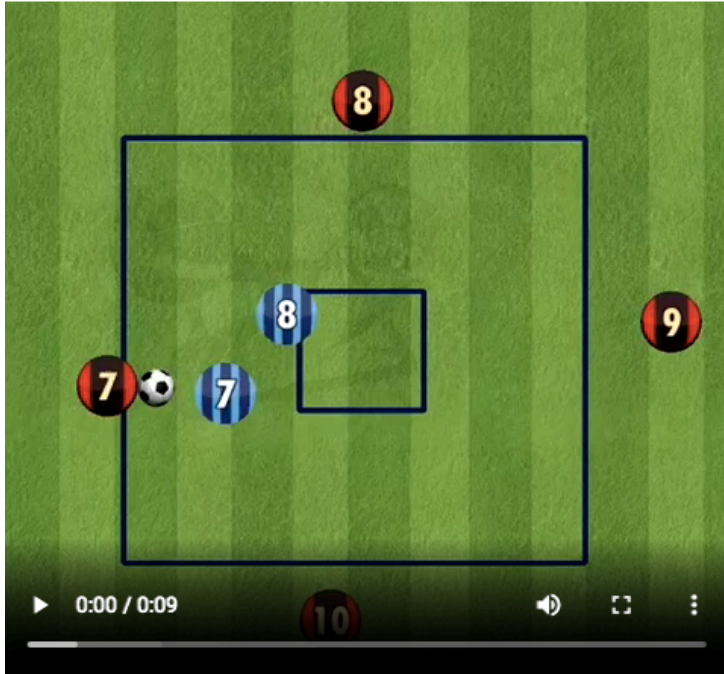
Set up:

- 5 x 5 yard area
- 1 x 1 yard inside the 5 yard area
- 1 soccer ball
- 4 players possessing
- 2 defenders

Instructions:

With this rondo set up instead of having to spilt the defenders with a pass, you must pass the ball through the 1 x 1 yard square to a team mate. If you achieve this the team will get one point.

This is a another rondo that has a focus on staying organized as defenders.



6. Play to the middle man rondo

Set up:

- 5 x 5 yard area
- 1 soccer ball
- 5 players possessing (1 in the middle)
- 2 defenders.

Instructions:

This rondo is great for helping players find gaps and spaces to receive the ball between the oppositions lines of defense. The player in the middle must be constantly scanning the around them to find gaps to receive the ball and also to see where their team mates are to play a quick pass to them.

Every time a pass is played to the middle player and they successfully make a pass to a player on the outside that counts as a point.



7. 4 area rondo

Set up:

- 5 x 5 yard area divided into quarters
- 1 soccer ball
- 4 players possessing
- 2 defenders

Instructions:

With your rondo square this time divide it into quarters, each possessing play must stay in their quarter. Which ever quarter the defending team manages to win the ball back in it becomes a 2v1 with the possessing player in that quarter.



8. 2 team rondo

Set up:

- 5 x 10 yard area divided in half to make 2 5 x 5 yard areas
- 1 soccer ball
- 2 teams of 4

Instructions:

Set each of your teams up in their own area, when 1 team is possessing 2 of the players from the other team can come into that area to create a 4v2. As soon as the defenders win the ball back they must try and switch the ball to their team mates so they can create a 4v2 in their area.



9. 3 team rondo

Set up:

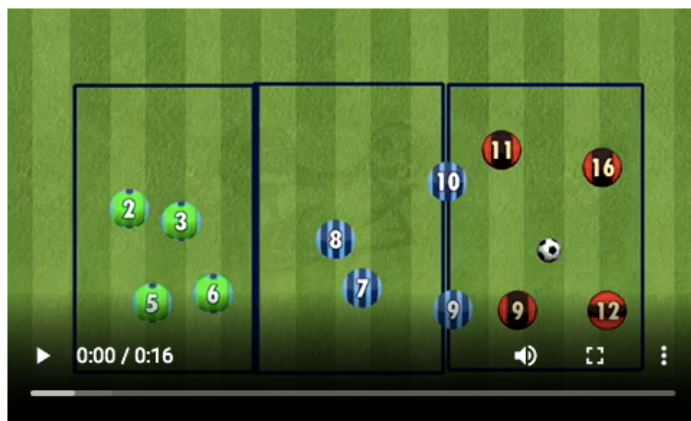
- 15 x 7 yard area divided into equal thirds
- 1 soccer ball
- 3 teams of 4

Instructions:

Once you have divided your teams into 4 assign them each a section. The team in the middle will be the defending team and the teams in the outside sections will be the possessing teams.

The goal for the possessing team is to switch the ball as many times as they can to each other, every time they do this they will get 1 point. 2 defenders are able to enter the area at a time with the team that has possession, this will create a 4v2.

If the defending team wins the ball back they will swap areas with the team that lost possession. The 2 defenders in the middle section are allowed to intercept passes as well.



10. Target player rondo soccer drill

Set up:

- 5 x 10 yard area divided in half to make 2 5 x 5 yard areas
- 1 soccer ball
- 4 players 2 defenders

Instructions:

This rondo has a focus of working the ball to a target player who could represent a striker or a centre midfielder in a game.

In one section there will be a 3v1 one and they must try to work the ball to the player in the other area who is being marked by the other defender.

Once the ball is played into the target player the 2 possessing players will move across to that section to help support the target player.

Leaving one possessing player to become the target player being marked by the defender.

