How-To Up-Tempo Your Practice Plan

Jeremy Plaa

Head Coach, Thomas Downey High School, Modesto, CA www.tdfootball.com/clinic

jeremyplaa@amail.com

How We Practice

- 140 kids in the program, most kids go 1-way only
- 15 coaches for V-JV-Frosh, coaches coach 1-way plus special teams
- Practice FAST philosophy: Stuff a 3-hour practice into 2-hours.
 - From Oregon: "Pack the suitcase tightly---Do it right, do it light; do it wrong, do it long."
 - Google Docs for online practice planning; script everything.
 - Use loud MUSIC for mood, tempo, and distraction.
 - No conditioning; its built into the tempo of practice
 - Blue OPS: On-Field Personnel staff (fancy term for managers). Recruit the correct kids.

What Slows Down Practice?

- Installing drills & plays.
 - Install in spring & summer, or during camp; including special teams.
 - Design group drills to show up on game film.
 - Incorporate competition/scoring into drills.
- Getting out of the locker room; late players.
 - Makeup work/tests, must pre-notify coach.
 - Stay on top of grades with weekly checks.
 - Getting taped: Use managers to help & invest in laced ankle braces.
 - Getting dressed: 20 minutes to field, stuff practice clothing before school, PIE wheel for late
- Watching film
 - Use Hudl to do the bulk of film watching as homework.
 - Monday: Homework is due before practice starts, to position coach.
 - Tue, Wed, Thur: Check board for name, and watch film with coach on iPad, individually by clip
- Pratice field setup; equipment setup
 - Each player is on a "duty team"; chosen by "pride point" rank. (tdfootball.com/pride_points)
 - Design field layout so drills happen in a specific place; to speed up transitions.
 - Video from middle of field, so you can video as much/little as you want.
 - Place water carts in places that players can hydrate between reps; walking woulded with water bottles.
- Stretching & Weight Training
 - Warmup by position over static stretching. Playground example.
 - SAQ, 15 minutes, twice a week: Cleans, kettles, jump rope, core, footwork
- "Too much" coaching
 - Shorten your message, kids have very short attention span
 - Transition quickly between segments; lots of time lost here
 - Post-practice: Quick announcements, PIE, Reward effort with stickers, short positive message

Practice Plan

- Zero Period: Indy time by coaches; work on "first things first, fundamentals, or flex."
- Periods 1-4: Everyone together. "O": 200 TD's in 20 minutes. OL: Mass Run steps. "D": Pursuit, TNT
- Periods 5-6: Frosh/soph leave. Offense & Defense still separate, various group/indy work.
- Periods 7-9: Group work LIVE, scored. Inside run, pass pro/rush, skelly/screen
- Period 10: The JOUST. 3 on 3 w/ball carrier & QB. Keep score, one rep per player- no where to hide.
- Periods 11-13: Special Forces. Indy first, KO vs KOR LIVE, then split between Punt & Points
- Period 14: Stopwatch period: How fast can we run 15 scripted plays?
- Period 15-16: Offense: Run game vs Self-serve, Landmines/Ones. Defense: Indy/Group, fix period
- Period 17: Rapid Fire. Two scout offenses vs Defense, two reps per minute minimum
- Period 18: Clutch Period: 1's vs 1's. Work all clutch situations.
- Period 19: Final Score; who won? Coaches announce practice players, PIE wheel, etc.
 - Same plan is followed weekly, day before a game: eliminate team drills, run Kamikaze drill.

