**3 vs. 3 Soccer Defense Basics**

1. Defense is played in a “V” formation. Two players play in front and one in back guarding the goal.
2. The object of defense is to keep two players between the ball and the goal at all times.
3. The player in back guarding the goal is responsible for low-angle shots coming from the sides.
4. The object is not to steal the ball from the other team, but to block shots or deflect them.
5. Stay out of the goal box!
6. The two players at the top of the “V” should not cross paths, but operate like windshield wipers.
7. The player guarding the goal should be one to four feet from the goal line depending upon the situation.
8. The players at the top of the “V” should play ten to fifteen feet in front of the back player.
9. There are some times when other defenses, such as man to man or pressure defenses, are appropriate.