

# Year of Learning Article #1

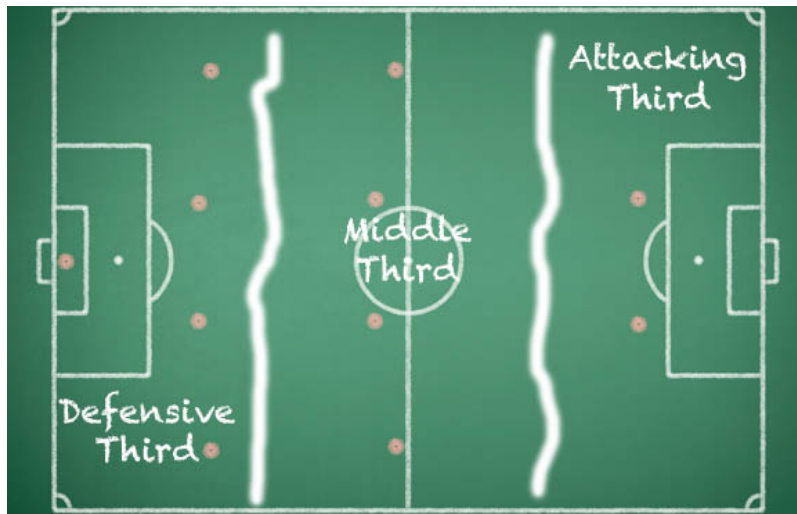
## Understanding the Soccer Pitch

As a soccer coach it is vital for your players to understand the different parts of the pitch. A soccer field can be broken down into thirds of the field. There is the defensive third, middle third, and attacking third. Players must understand how to play in each third of the field as they relate to the game.

In the defensive third you want to play safe and simple with little dribbling. Players need to look forward for opportunities to advance the ball and build the attack. The defensive third is a great opportunity to teach supporting angles to receive the ball and help your teammates escape pressure.

The middle third you still want to play simple soccer looking forward for options to advance the ball. It is important to stretch the field as wide as possible to maximize your options in the middle third of the field. Players must maintain composure and not force the ball forward.

The attacking third is much different from the other two. This is the area of the field where players need to take chances and make critical decisions. Players will need to get into the box to create scoring opportunities. This area of the field is where players will need to dribble the most and be the most creative.



This is a basic overview of how the players are to understand the soccer pitch. Hopefully you can take something away from this for your own understanding of how the pitch is organized in the mind of a coach and a player.