## ir.'Gnba



## Starter Level ABCD's

At the Starter level, the fundamental skills begin to be honed and expanded upon. As players have now been exposed to the game, they will start to understand how to play in a team setting. It is in the Starter level that we begin introducing team offensive and team defensive concepts. Again five-on-five competition is limited, yet the frequency of practices may increase from the Rookie level. The goal of the Starter level is to continue having fun, develop further skills, and begin to understand team concepts.

## ALWAYS FUN

Mastering Skills

## V

Along with a fun environment and skill-related games, mastering skills now becomes an exciting part of practice. Whether it is making your first left-handed lay-up, or dribbling between your legs for the first time, skill development is fun! This excitement of mastering skills should be a significant part of the Starter level.

## BUILDING SKILLS

See Skill Checklist

At the Starter level, we will build on the basic fundamentals previously acquired, as well as introduce more specific skills. Here we implement more fakes, specific dribble moves, rebounding and much more. While there is still an emphasis on individual skill development, the Starter level will also incorporate team offense and team defense into practice plans.

## CORE VALUES

Teamwork

Positivity

The Starter level continues to build on the values of the Rookie level while also emphasizing group activities and collaboration. This emphasis on teamwork will also increase the need for encouragement and positive reinforcement among players and coaches. The Starter level helps the players see the game through a lens beyond themselves, and develop the ability to be a good friend and teammate. It is important that we explain what teamwork is and the impact that it can have on the team's success.

DEVELOPING WELLNESS

Balanced Lifestyle
Nutrition

V

The Starter level continues to emphasize players having fun and being active, but also teaches players how to lead a balanced lifestyle. A balanced lifestyle includes positive family and social interaction, as well as the importance of academics. Leading a well-balanced lifestyle will help players remain healthy as they mature and develop further interests. Nutrition is another key component of the Starter level as players begin establishing their eating habits. Educating the players on the relationship between food, energy, and performance is essential.

## Skill Checklist

At the conclusion of the Starter Level, Jr. NBA players should be proficient at each of the following skills. Judging proficiency at this level is the responsibility of the coach.

| $\checkmark$ | Ball Handling |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | Advanced Stationary |
| Control Series |  |


| $\bigcirc$ | Pass Off the Dribble |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\bigcirc$ | Slide \& Pass |
| $\bigcirc$ | Kick Pass |
| $\bigcirc$ | Dribble to Jump Stop Pass |
| $\checkmark$ | Shooting |
| $\bigcirc$ | Weak Hand Lay-Ups |
| $\bigcirc$ | Stepping Into the Shot with Both Feet |
| $\bigcirc$ | Euro-Step Lay-Ups |
| $\bigcirc$ | Drop Step Lay-Ups |
| $\bigcirc$ | Dribble Move to Shot |
| $\bigcirc$ | Free Throws |
| $\bigcirc$ | Up \& Under |
| $\bigcirc$ | Catch \& Shoot on the Move |
| $\bigcirc$ | Shot Fake Shooting |
| $\bigcirc$ | Using A Screen |
| $\bigcirc$ | Speed Lay-Ups |
| $\checkmark$ | Footwork \& Conditioning |
| $\bigcirc$ | Jab Step |
| $\bigcirc$ | Pivoting For Space |
| $\bigcirc$ | Forward to Backward Run |
| $\bigcirc$ | Side/Lateral Push |
| $\bigcirc$ | Changing Speeds |
| $\checkmark$ | Rebounding |
| $\bigcirc$ | Boxing Out |


| $\bigcirc$ | Pursuing the Ball |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\bigcirc$ | Protecting the Ball |
| $\checkmark$ | Offense |
| $\bigcirc$ | Screening |
| $\bigcirc$ | On the Ball Screens |
| $\bigcirc$ | Off the Ball Screens |
| $\bigcirc$ | Fast Break Spacing \& Concepts |
| $\bigcirc$ | Square Up and Rip Through |
| $\bigcirc$ | Pass, Cut and Replace |
| $\bigcirc$ | Fill The Corner |
| $\bigcirc$ | The Pass Is Faster |
| $\bigcirc$ | Receiving The Outlet |
| $\bigcirc$ | Post Pass \& Screen |
| $\checkmark$ | Defense |
| $\bigcirc$ | On Ball Defense |
| $\bigcirc$ | Half Court Man To Man |
| $\bigcirc$ | Disadvantage Spacing \& Concepts |
| $\bigcirc$ | Closeout |
| $\bigcirc$ | Closeout to Slide |
| $\bigcirc$ | Drop Step Slide |
| $\bigcirc$ | Turning the Ball |
| $\checkmark$ | Other |
| $\bigcirc$ | Full Explanation of Rules |

## jr.:Gnha

## Practice Plans

The chart below indicates approximate amounts of time to be spent on each portion of practice. The twelve practice plans to follow are samples that reinforce Starter level principles.


Practice 1 of 12


[^0]how to allocate practice time.

Practice 2 of 12


Practice 3 of 12

| theme | ACtivity | details | $\begin{array}{r} \text { PERCENTACE } \\ \text { OF TOTAL } \\ \text { PRACTICE TIME } \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Values | FAIRNESS 1 | Explain the basic rules and why we play fair. | คั่ |
| Warm-Up | FREEZE TAG (2 minutes) | Warm-up with a fun game of freeze tag. | คั |
| Building Skills | Ball-Handling |  |  |
|  | QUICK DROPS DRILL ( $2 \times 20 \mathrm{sec}$ ) | Work on quick hands and catching the ball. |  |
|  | SEATED DRIBBLE <br> ( $2 \times 45$ seconds each arm) | Sit and work on low, quick dribbles with the fingertips. |  |
|  | STATIONARY CROSSOVER LOW, MIDDLE, HIGH <br> ( $3 \times 15$ seconds each) | Push the ball back and forth from hand to hand to improve coordination and ball control. |  |
|  | STATIONARY UNDER THE LEG DRIBBLE DRILL ( $1 \times 1$ minute) | Have the players work on controlling the ball under their leg. |  |
|  | Passing |  |  |
|  | KICK PASS BREAKDOWN <br> DRILL (1 minute each way) | Work on the proper kick pass form. |  |
|  | Shooting |  | ¢ั |
|  | UP \& UNDER BREAKDOWN DRILL (1 minute each way) | Work on the proper footwork of the up and under. |  |
|  | PASS \& UP \& UNDER <br> DRILL ( $1 \times 2$ minutes) | Execute the up and under in this fluid drill. |  |
|  | MAKE FOR ACONE GAME ( $1 \times 3$ minutes) | When a team makes a shot, they take a cone from the other team. | eam. |
|  | FREE THROW GOLF (1 game) | Work on free throws in a fun competitive game. |  |
|  | Rebounding |  |  |
|  | SELF-TOSS REBOUNDING DRILL (3 x 8) | The players will toss the ball into the air and jump and catch it at their peak. | it at |
|  | Footwork \& Conditioning |  |  |
|  | TUCK BACK DRILL <br> (2 $\times 6$ each way) | Work on triple threat and protecting the ball. |  |
| Team Concepts | DRIVE \& KICK COMPETITION <br> DRILL (games to 8) | Emphasize a good drive and a good kick pass. |  |
|  | 2-PERSON CLOSEOUT DRILL ( $2 \times 1$ minute) | Work on guarding the ball and quickly going to help. | ใٌ |
| Competing | 4 ON 4 (games to 3) | Emphasize all the skills worked on in practice. |  |
|  | 5 ON 5 (games to 3) | Keep this a half court game. | セٌ |

[^1]The percentages listed serve as approximate recommendations on
how to allocate practice time.

Practice 4 of 12


[^2]how to allocate practice time.

Practice 5 of 12


[^3]The percentages listed serve as approximate recommendations on
how to allocate practice time.

Practice 6 of 12


[^4]how to allocate practice time.

Practice 7 of 12


[^5]how to allocate practice time.

Practice 8 of 12

| theme | ACtivity | DETAILSPERC <br> PRACTI | PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL practice time |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Values | RESPECT: PARENTS | Discuss how to show respect for parents. | คั |
| Warm-Up | RUN TO THAT LINE ( $1 \times 5$ lines) | Learn the geography of the court while getting warm. | คั |
| Building Skills | Ball-Handling |  |  |
|  | BALL SLAMS ( $2 \times 10$ ) | Slam the ball hard to the floor and catch it on the way up. |  |
|  | FINGER DRIBBLE DRILL <br> ( $1 \times 30$ seconds each hand) | Use 1 finger at a time to dribble the ball. |  |
|  | SIDE TO SIDE DRIBBLE LOW, MIDDLE, HIGH (3 sets each hand) | Work on controlling the ball by dribbling it back and forth. |  |
|  | DRIBBLE BALANCE PUSH ( 2 x down and back) | Develop good balance and really push out on every move. |  |
|  | Passing |  |  |
|  | DRIBBLE \& PASS TO A <br> TARGET DRILL ( $1 \times 2$ minutes) | Emphasize hitting a specific target with each pass. |  |
|  | SLIDE AND PASS DRILL <br> (2 sets of each pass) | Stay low and move while passing. |  |
|  | PARTNER RUNNING PASS DRILL ( 2 x down \& back) | Make sure to lead the teammate with a good pass. | ¢0\% |
|  | OPEN \& DECIDE (3 min) | Work on quick decision making. |  |
|  | Shooting |  |  |
|  | FORM SHOOTING 2 HANDS ( $3 \times 8$ ) | Work on shooting with great form every time. |  |
|  | PARTNER STEP-IN SHOOTING <br> DRILL (10 makes each) | Work with a partner to take good shooting reps. |  |
|  | CHASE LAY-UPS (3 minutes) | Work on making lay-ups with a live defender. |  |
|  | BLOCK TO BLOCK SHOOTING <br> DRILL (30 seconds each player) | Work on using the backboard to make shots. |  |
|  | Footwork \& Conditioning |  |  |
|  | CHANGE OF SPEED DRILL <br> (3x down and back) | Changing speeds will make every player better. |  |
| Team Concepts | POST PASS \& SCREEN <br> DRILL (3 minutes) | Use pass fakes to make passes easier. | セٌ |
|  | FOLLOW THE LEADER SLIDES <br> DRILL (10 seconds each) | Have the players lead these quick defensive slides. |  |
|  | ZIG-ZAG DEFENSIVE SLIDE <br> DRILL (3 times down and back) | Get a good feel for changing directions while defending a dribbler. |  |
| Competing | BACK 1 ON 1 DRILL <br> (games to 5 makes) | Have fun with this great 1 on 1 drill. | ใ్ํ |
|  | 5 ON 5 (games to 7) | Encourage the players to keep the ball moving! |  |

[^6]Practice 9 of 12

| theme | ACTIVITY | DETAILS |  | PERCENTAGE PRACTICE TIME |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Values | SPORTSMANSHIP | Discuss how sportsmansh | can translate off the court. | ถํ |
| Warm-Up | DYNAMIC WARM-UP <br> ( 1 x each from baseline to half court or vice versa) | - Walking Quad Stretch <br> - Knee Hugs <br> - Down Out Leg Walk <br> - Light Quick 3 | - Walking TFL Stretch <br> - 4 Point Slow \& Low <br> - Jog \& Drop <br> - Long Straight Leg Run | ฉํํ |
| Building Skills | Ball-Handling |  |  |  |
|  | SMACKS \& TAPS (1x <br> 20 seconds each) | Get the fingers and hands warm and ready to practice. |  |  |
|  | 3-3-3 DRIBBLING DRILL <br> ( $2 \times 30$ seconds) | Push the ball hard with each dribble! |  |  |
|  | STATIONARYIN \& OUT DRILL (1 min each way) | Work on good control and good footwork. |  |  |
|  | Passing |  |  |  |
|  | PASS \& CUT DRILL <br> ( 5 x each player on each side) | Work on good passes and good cuts. |  |  |
|  | OPEN \& DECIDE (3 min) | Good decision making is essential in basketball! |  |  |
|  | Shooting \%iol |  |  |  |
|  | 3-LINE LAYUPS ADD <br> VARIATIONS ( $1 \times 90$ sec each line) | Practice the fundamentals of the lay-up. |  |  |
|  | LUNGESHOOTING <br> DRILL (2 min. each way) | Work on good footwork and balance with lunge shooting. |  |  |
|  | LOOP SHOOTING DRILL (2-4 min.) | This shooting drill should build energy and teamwork. |  |  |
|  | Rebounding |  |  |  |
|  | TOSS \& GET IT DRILL <br> (2 minutes each side) | Emphasize good timing and rebounding with two hands. |  |  |
|  | Footwork \& Conditioning |  |  |  |
|  | 4 CORNER PASSING DRILL (2 min each way) | Be sure to mix up the dribbles and pivots. |  |  |
| Team Concepts | THE PASS IS FASTER DRILL ( 2 x down and back each player) | Emphasize that the pass is faster than the dribble. |  |  |
|  | HALF COURT TURN \& TRACE DRILL (2 minutes) | Build defensive principles in this high-energy drill. |  |  |
| Competing | 2 ON 2 DRIVE AND KICK <br> (games to 3 baskets) | Play 2 on 2 out of a drive and kick. |  |  |
|  | 3 ON 3 NUMBERS <br> GAME (games to 5) | Use 3 on 3 to develop team concepts. |  |  |

[^7]The percentages listed serve as approximate recommendations on
how to allocate practice time.

Practice 10 of 12


[^8]how to allocate practice time.

Practice 11 of 12

| THEME | ACtivity | DETAILS |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { PERCENTACE } \\ & \text { OF TOTAL } \\ & \text { PRACTICE TIME } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Values | NUTRITION | How does food affect how you play? |  |  | คั่ |
| Warm-Up | DYNAMIC WARM-UP <br> ( 1 x each from baseline to half court or vice versa) | - In Out Turn <br> - Quick Feet <br> - Hip Up \& Over Touch | - Over the Hurdle Forward <br> - Over the Hurdle Backwards <br> - Jog to Sprint |  | ถั |
| Building Skills | Ball-Handling |  |  |  |  |
|  | FIGURE 8 FINGERTIPS <br> ( $1 \times 30$ sec each way) | Work on low quick dribbles in a figure 8 motion. |  |  |  |
|  | SINGLE LEG WRAPS ( $2 \times 20 \mathrm{sec}$ ) | Wrap the ball quickly around each leg! |  |  |  |
|  | FRONT TO BACK DRIBBLE <br> ( $2 \times 20$ seconds each hand) | Control the ball by dribbling it from front to back. |  |  |  |
|  | SIDE TO SIDE DRIBBLE <br> ( $2 \times 20$ seconds each hand) | Dribble the ball side to side with good control. |  |  |  |
|  | 3-3-3 DRIBBLING ( $2 \times 30 \mathrm{sec}$ ) | The players will continuously execute the 3-3-3 dribble routine. |  |  |  |
|  | DRIBBLE BALANCE PUSH ( 2 x down and back) | Work on balance and pushing out of every move. |  |  |  |
|  | RUNNING DRIBBLE RIGHT, <br> LEFT, \& CROSSOVER ( 2 xeach ) | Work on controlling the dribble while running. |  |  |  |
|  | Passing |  |  |  |  |
|  | OPEN \& DECIDE (3 min) | Stress the importance of good, quick decisions. |  |  |  |
|  | Shooting |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1-STEP FORM DRILL <br> (10 makes each side) | Create a lot of space and have good balance with each shot. |  |  |  |
|  | PARTNER LAY-UPS (3 minutes) | Work in pairs on specific finishes. |  |  |  |
|  | Rebounding |  |  |  |  |
|  | 3-SECOND BOX OUT DRILL <br> (2 minutes each side) | Work on making contact and holding a good box out. |  |  |  |
|  | Footwork \& Conditioning |  |  |  |  |
|  | CHANGE OF SPEED (3x) | Changing speeds will help all players improve. |  |  |  |
| Team Concepts | PASS \& CUT (3x each way) | Passing and cutting is an offensive concept at all levels of the game. |  |  |  |
|  | REVERSE THE BALL <br> DRILL (games to 8) | Reinforce the concept of reversing the ball. |  |  |  |
|  | CHANGE DIRECTION <br> SLIDE DRILL (3 minutes) | Work on moving quickly and efficiently. |  |  |  |
| Competing | 3 ON 3 NUMBERS <br> GAME (games to 5) | Use 3 on 3 to emphasize team concepts. |  |  |  |
|  | 5 ON 5 (games to 6) | Encourage team play and good decision making. |  |  |  |
| $\rightarrow$ Please limit standing time for players by spreading out as many baskets, basketballs, and parents/helpers as <br> $\rightarrow$ Be sure to take regular water breaks to help your play |  | and using The percentages listed serve as <br> approximate recommendations on <br> ossible. how to allocate practice time. |  |  |  |

Practice 12 of 12

| theme | ACtivity | DETAILS |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Values | CONFIDENCE | Practicing and working on your game makes you more confident. | fident. $\stackrel{\text { ¢ }}{ }$ |
| Warm-Up | RUN TO THAT LINE ( $1 \times 5$ lines) | Learn about the court while warming up. | セั่ |
| Building Skills | Ball-Handling |  |  |
|  | FINGER DRIBBLE DRILL ( $1 \times 30$ seconds each hand) | Dribble with a different finger every time. |  |
|  | 5-5-5 CREATIVE DRIBBLE (1 minute) | Let the players use their imagination with the ball. |  |
|  | RUNNING DRIBBLE RIGHT/ <br> LEFT/CREATIVE ( 2 x each) | Work on controlling the ball while running. |  |
|  | Passing |  |  |
|  | WHO IS READY <br> DRILL (2 minutes) | Work on building decision making skills with the ball. |  |
|  | DRIBBLE \& PASS TO TARGET <br> DRILL (2 min. each side) | Work on being perfect with the pass. |  |
|  | DRIBBLE, JUMP STOP, <br> \& PASS DRILL (2 min. each side) | Reinforce that a good pass leads to an easier shot. |  |
|  | Shooting |  |  |
|  | PARTNER LAY-UPS (3 minutes) | Work on making lay-ups with a partner! |  |
|  | LOOP SHOOTING DRILL (3 minutes) | Start close and progress to shots further away. |  |
|  | JUMP STOP SHOOTING GAME (games to 6) | Make sure the players land with both feet at the same time. |  |
|  | Rebounding |  |  |
|  | SELF-TOSS REBOUNDING DRILL ( $3 \times 8$ ) | Work on timing and catching the ball with two hands. |  |
| Team Concepts | 2-ON-1 FAST BREAK <br> DRILL ( 3 min ) | Work on making good decisions. | ใٌ |
| Competing | 2 ON 2 NUMBERS GAME (games to 3) | Use this fun 2 on 2 game to teach offense and defense. |  |
|  | 3 ON 3 NUMBERS <br> GAME (games to 5) | Use 3 on 3 to emphasize team concepts. | セٌ |
|  | $\mathbf{5 O N} 5$ (games to 5) | Encourage team play and good decision making. |  |

[^9]how to allocate practice time.


[^0]:    $\rightarrow$ Please limit standing time for players by spreading out and using
    $\rightarrow$ Be sure to take regular water breaks to help your players stay hydrated

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