



Portfolio

Football leadership

Academy systems and football methodology designed and implemented by Neil Connor.

neil@coachneilconnor.com

Online portfolio



Experience

My work connects academy delivery with individual and coach development.

300+

Players coached

10

Coaches led

3-18

Age range

4

Countries worked in

I develop football methodology and build the processes that support its delivery.



Process

A repeatable approach to academy improvement.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 01 Understand | Assess academy needs and delivery. |
| 02 Listen | Gather views from across the academy. |
| 03 Design | Connect football and development systems. |
| 04 Implement | Support coaches to apply the processes. |
| 05 Review | Review evidence and feedback. |
| 06 Improve | Adjust plans and agree the next priority. |

 **COACH NC**
Seasonal Planning Toolkit

PERSONAL WORKED EXAMPLE

Season Review and Next-Season Handover

Season Evidence: Strengths and Unfinished Priorities

18 Sep: receiving choices observed in selected clips; supporting timing remained late. 26 Feb: support arrived earlier in selected practices. 21 May: match evidence still varied by role and opponent. Retain both priorities with context.

Player Voice and Participation Context

Players valued short clip conversations. Two had fewer early-block sessions. Do not claim the same development for every player or infer progress from winning games.

Next-Season Priorities and Coaching Support

Continue support timing in representative games. Coach A shares priorities with the next coach; GK coach C agrees goalkeeper links to build-up and transitions.

Planning Decisions: Retain, Adapt or Stop

Retain brief weekly intentions and dated reviews. Adapt practice when attendance or facilities change. Stop collecting ratings that do not help an agreed coaching decision.

Handover Owner / Date / Sharing Arrangements

Coach A / 28 May 2027. Share agreed team summary and relevant individual actions through the club process. Confirm next-season calendar before copying this plan.

Season Planning and Review | v2.1.1 coachneilconnor.com | 10
Illustration only. Names, observations and ratings are fictional; these are not standardised norms.



Planning

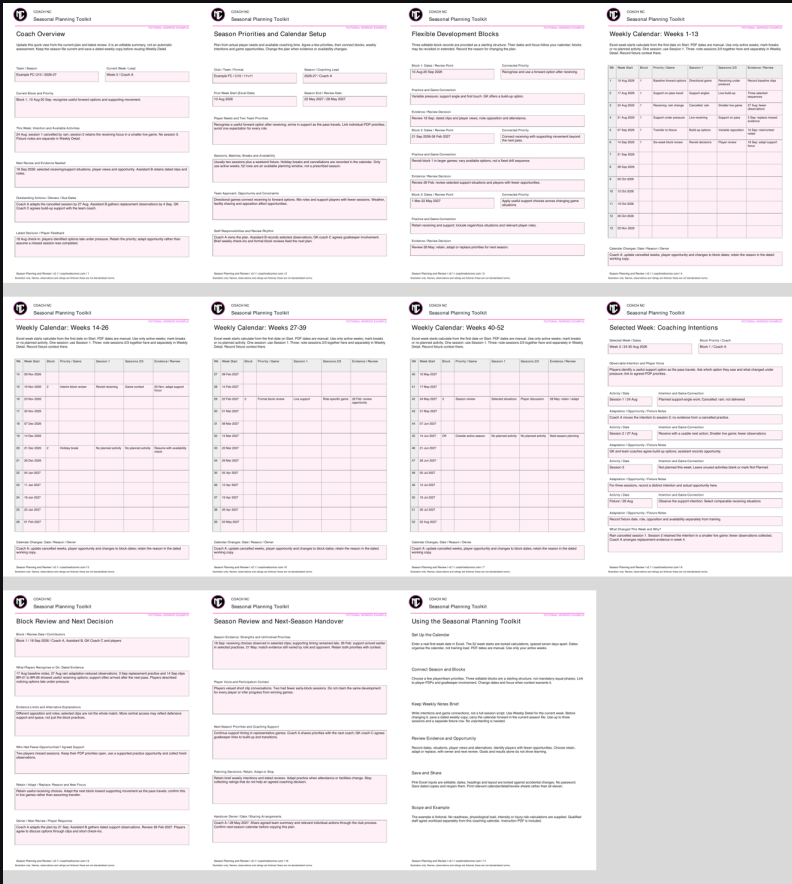
Academy priorities connected with weekly delivery.

Design

A linked calendar, development blocks and review resources.

Delivery

Season planning tools connect coaching intentions with the next review.





Methodology

A shared football identity across the academy.

Design

Football methodology and age-specific game models.

Delivery

I implemented the methodology and supported coaches to apply it.

IP01

BREAKING LINES

Recognise pressure · find the spare player · break the line · exploit the advantage

RECOGNISE **CREATE** **EXPLOIT**

FREE COACHNEILCONNOR.COM **PLAN | DELIVER | DEVELOP**



Development

Individual priorities recorded and reviewed.

Design

Player assessment, reflection and reporting tools around an agreed focus.

Delivery

I introduced individual development plans and structured player reviews.

COACH NC

Player Assessment Profile

FICTIONAL WORKED EXAMPLE

Player and Review Context

Use a dated review to identify strengths and one or two development priorities. Pink areas are editable. Gather relevant training and match examples, discuss the player view and transfer the agreed actions into the Player Development Plan.

Player Reference

Player A (fictional)

Team / Age Group

Fictional Development Group / U15

Coach Reference

Coach A (fictional)

Position / Role

Central midfield / linking play

Review Date

7 October 2026

Observation Period

18 September-4 October 2026

Review Purpose and Agreed Role Expectations

Identify a useful receiving priority. Central midfield role: offer an angle, identify available options and keep the next action possible under pressure.

Observation Sources, Dates and Opportunities

18 and 25 Sep: two directional training games. 4 Oct: selected match notes. Receiving evidence is mainly training-based; limited finishing opportunities.

Availability, Opportunity and Support Affecting the Review

Player attended both observed sessions. Match role changed after half-time. Use a short conversation and one football example at a time; do not infer ability from missing opportunities.

Player Voice: Enjoyment, Strength and Question

I enjoy linking play. I want more time to see the forward pass when a defender is close.

Five-Area Development Review | v2.1.1 | coachneilconnor.com | 1

Illustration only. Names, observations and ratings are fictional; these are not standardised norms.



Coaches

Feedback connected with coach development.

Design

A 360-degree Coach Competency Framework covering observation, mentoring and CPD.

Delivery

Observation and feedback resources structure development conversations.

 COACH NC

Coach Observation Feedback

FICTIONAL WORKED EXAMPLE

Before the Observation

Agree a coaching question, the intended player behaviour and an observation method. Use selected dated examples. Invite the coach explanation before proposing a change. This record supports development; it is not a qualification grade.

Coach Reference

Coach A (fictional)

Observer Reference

Mentor B (fictional)

Date / Observation Window

7 Oct 2026 / 18:10-18:25

Group / Practice Context

U15 / 4v4 + 2 neutrals, directional game

Learning Intention and Expected Player Behaviour

Recognise when to progress forward or retain possession. Players look for pressure and available options, then choose an appropriate pass or carry.

Coach Question and Agreed Observation Focus

Am I giving the solution before players can respond? Record selected interventions, why they happen and the next player decision.

Evidence Method, Opportunity and Constraints

Mentor records selected moments and times during 15 minutes. No recording used. Familiar task, mixed playing roles; chosen examples are not a complete count of decisions.

Feedback Arrangements and Who Will Read the Record

Private debrief after training. Coach A and Mentor B read this record. Discuss any further sharing with the coach; use no identifying player details.

Practice Observation and Follow-Up v2.1.1 coachneilconnor.com | 1

Illustration only. Names, observations and ratings are fictional; these are not standardised norms.



Review

Evidence informs the next development action.

Design

Reporting tools record observations, support needs and review points.

Delivery

Player and team reviews connect the current evidence with the next plan.

COACH NC

Player Progress Report

FICTIONAL WORKED EXAMPLE

Progress and Supporting Evidence

Summarise one review period using relevant PDP priorities and dated observations. Describe what changed, what remains uncertain and the strength to retain. Pink areas are editable.

Player / Team Reference

Player A / Fictional U15 Group

Coach / Report Date

Coach A / 7 October 2026

Review Period

18 September-4 October 2026

Observed Opportunities

Four training sessions and two games

Agreed Priority at the Start of This Period

Recognise pressure and an available option before receiving. Keep a useful next action possible under pressure.

Starting Evidence: Date, Source and Context

18 Sep training: looked before three of eight selected receiving moments in a directional game. Coach and player agreed to practise reading the defender before the pass.

Progress Evidence: Date, Source, Behaviour and Context

4 Oct match notes: looked before seven of ten selected receptions. In one pressured moment, recognised the defender and used a supporting pass. Selected moments are not a complete match record.

Context, Contrary Evidence and Limits to the Comparison

Training and match pressure, pass speed and role differed. Some later receptions still lost a useful option. Counts support discussion; they do not establish a precise improvement rate.

Strength to Retain: Specific Evidence

Continue offering supporting angles. In three selected match sequences, moved after passing to offer a new option.

Progress Review and Next Action | v2.0 | coachneilconnor.com | 1

Illustration only. Names, observations and ratings are fictional; these are not standardised norms.



Communication

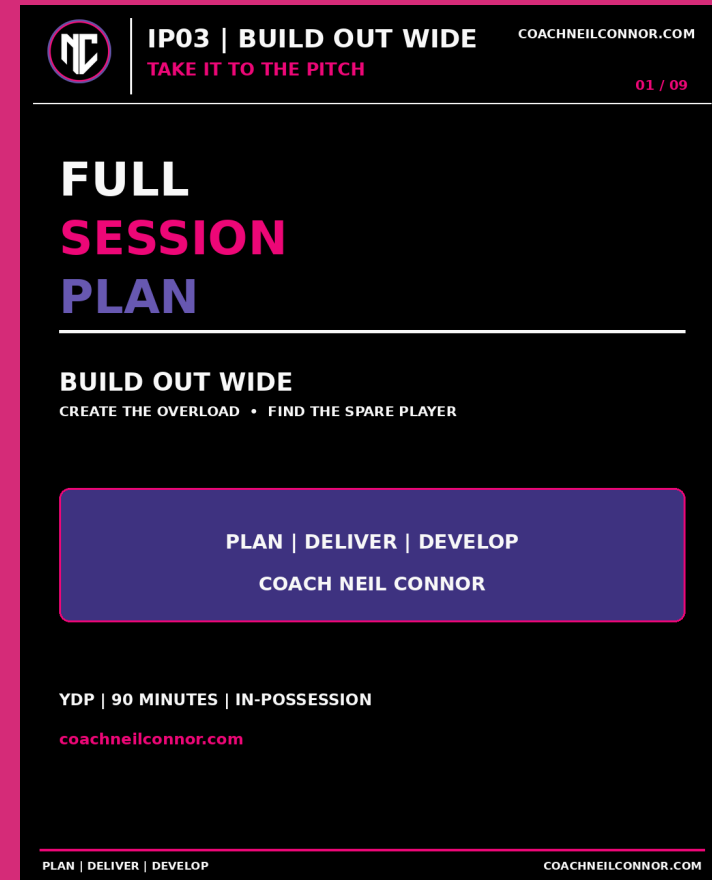
Coaching ideas explained through visual resources.

Writing

Academy structure, coach development and practice design.

Resources

Session plans and social carousels make the football idea accessible.





Connect

Neil Connor

Football leadership and academy development

neil@coachneilconnor.com

Online portfolio

LinkedIn

Interactive PDS demo

Football CV

coachneilconnor.com