

Doolittle, S. (1995). Teaching net game to low skilled students: A teaching for understanding approach. JOPERD, 66(3), 18-23.

Issue/Focus

The key problem identified by the author is that teachers often shape physical education classes around skill development followed by doubles tournaments. The purpose of this article is to offer a different technique that involves modifying the skills so that lower skilled students are still able to play the game.

Reasoning

The author addresses the issue by acknowledging that some skills such as striking are difficult for beginners. By eliminating certain skill students are able to focus on other aspects of the game. This argument is supported by the fact that low skilled students need to understand the ideas behind the game before they become competent. Once students learn the need for different offensive and defensive skills they will want to learn how to perform them.

Assumptions

The author assumes skill level varies among students, and that teachers are often given a restricted amount of time and space.

Conclusions

After reading this article I found out about different modifications that can be made to make the skills more or less difficult. One example is changing the size of the ball or using a short handed racquet before using a badminton racquet. I also learned that if there is a shortage of nets, a solution could be to string a skipping rope between two tall cones.

Significant Information

Some key information to remember is to have students engage in one on one play, ensure students can control the ball before moving on to the next progression and change the game somewhat to highlight certain skills. Teachers need to remember to ensure that the students know how to play the game by asking them the rules. If they understand the game, the teachers can ask the students to explain their strategies.

Personal Information

I think this is an informative article and I can definitely see myself using these strategies in a teaching setting. I think that modifying the skills so that students can be successful is ideal in a classroom setting with a wide range of skill levels.