

WAYS INTRODUCTION TO PLAYER FORMATIONS

The following is a summary presentation of some basic player formations for 6v6, 8v8 and 11v11 play. Formations are always presented with defensive numbers first, then midfield, then forwards.

At the 6v6 level kids begin to learn the concept of playing positions rather than the bee-hive play of micro soccer. The 2-1-2 is the simplest formation to teach.

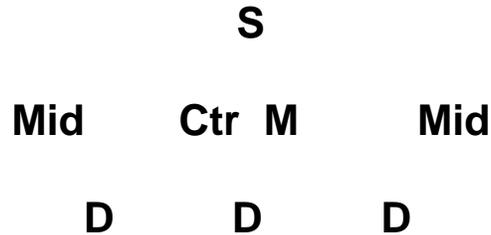
At the 8v8 level there are 2 extra players and opportunity to better learn the three lines of play (forward, midfield and defense).

At the 11v11 level players take on the challenge of adapting to the large field. The 4-3-3 is the best beginning formation as there are more clearly defined roles for the forwards and midfielders and it provides the best coverage of the three zones of play (forward, midfield and defense). Other formations utilize less defined roles for forwards and midfielders which provide the opportunity for player and team creativity.

The DVD, [Systems of Play](#), (available in the library) is an excellent presentation of the 11v11 game and positional approaches and responsibilities.

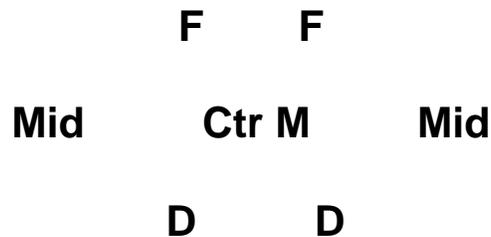
8v8 PLAYER FORMATIONS

3-3-1



- Strongest formation for defense.
- Single forward is like a striker in the 11v11 game.
- Outside midfielders play offense and defense. Center midfielder is a distributor
- Outside defenders can fill into midfield on attack. Center defender always stays back
- Defenders follow play out of defensive zone to shorten the field (offsides)

2-3-2



- Two forwards provide clearer offensive responsibility
- Midfielder play more of a support role
- Center midfielder needs to play strong defense in middle of field.

Variation of the 2-3-2 is a 3-2-2 which strengthens defense but provides one less player on offense

2-4-1

S

Attacking M

Left Mid

Right Mid

Defending Mid

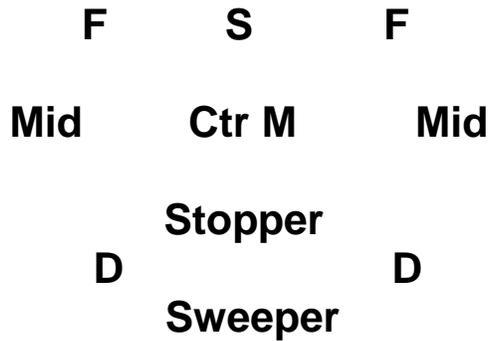
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- More offensive than 3-3-1.
- Single forward is like a striker in the 11v11 game.
- Tries to control the game by packing the midfield with players.

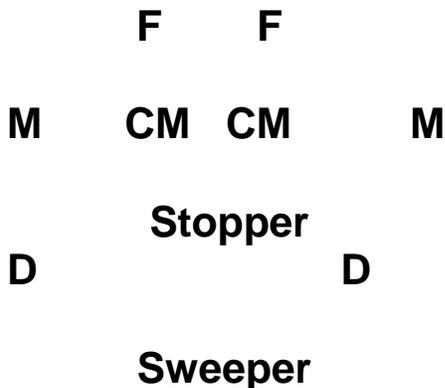
11v11 PLAYER FORMATIONS

4-3-3

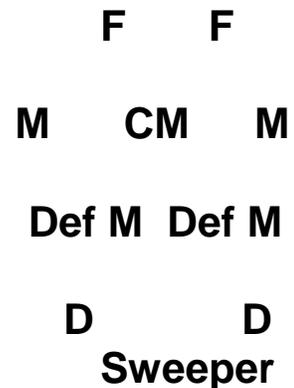


- Best beginning 11v11 formation.
- Provides clearly defined roles and positional strength across the field
- Strongest players play the middle positions (Striker, Center Mid, Stopper, Sweeper)
- Ideally defenders have good speed. Stopper and Defenders should have specific marking assignments Sweeper should be an extra defender providing support to other defenders.
- Defenders follow play out of defensive zone to shorten the field (offsides)

4-4-2



3-5-2



4-4-2 Two forwards play as a pair. Combine with midfielders to provide offense Outside midfielders need to play both offense and defense – a lot of running. They are the outside option when on offense. Center midfielders can play side by side or one more offensive and the other more defensive

3-5-2 Center mid is a more offensive position. Defensive ctr mids move up to support the midfielders in the offensive end.