

# U12 Systems of Play

Sam Snow

Director of Coaching Education

US Youth Soccer

Game format: 8 vs. 8

Possible formations: 3-2-2; 3-3-1; 2-3-2



All formations allow the players to execute the principles of play

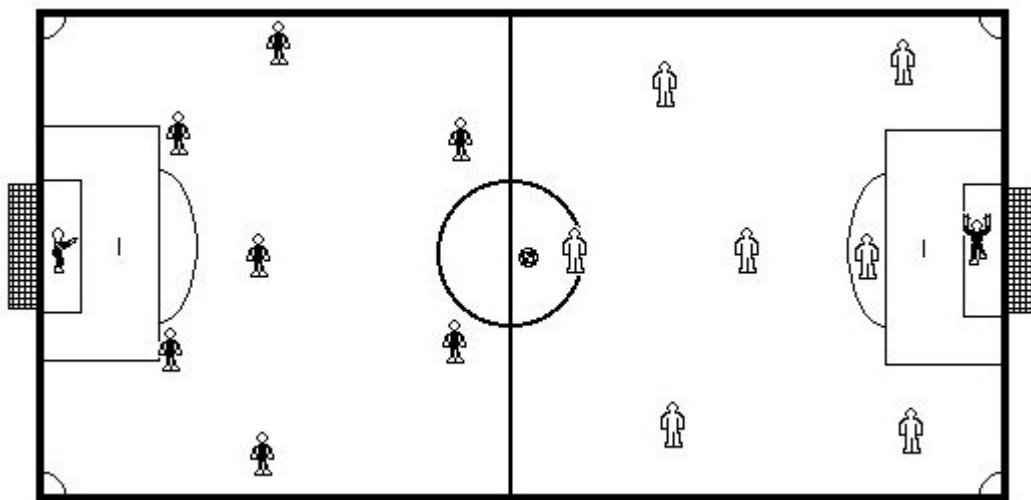


All players must attack and defend in this system of play



All formations, when played on an appropriate U12 size field, allow the players to:

- switch the point of attack
- attack the far post on corner kicks and from the flow of play
- stay compact



**3-3-1** formation may require the center forward to play 'off-center' to one side. This then makes it possible to combine with the center midfielder and an outside midfielder.



The opposite flank is now open for overlap attack by the outside fullback and midfielder.

## *The Game for All Kids!®*



**3-2-2** formation is the easiest in which to form triangles around the ball.



It is the easiest in which to provide support on offense and defense.



It is the easiest formation to coach and therefore may be best suited to the novice coach.



**2-3-2** formation is the most demanding on the players and coach.



This formation emphasizes transition and the tactical awareness that makes transition possible.



Considerable demand of vision and communication is placed upon the players.



Zone defense, requiring tactical growth, is mandatory.

# *The Game for All Kids!®*