

Tactics

General

- Play positions (the various roles can be understood even as players rotate positions).
- Get open and call for the ball.
- Look and listen for passing opportunities.
- Pass and move to space and/or to support.
- Work to build and maintain triangles - the basic structure for passing and support.
- Always support the player with the ball (forward and rear support within passing distance).

Team Offense

- Maintain possession of the ball.
- Keep the offense wide in order to spread (and weaken) the opponents' defense and to create space for scoring opportunities.
- Penetrate as deeply as possible with every pass, without unduly risking loss of possession.
- Finish attacks with shots on goal.

Team Defense

- Support and communication are critical.
- Pressure opponents to decrease their "comfort zone".
- Delay opponents' attack when your team first loses possession of the ball to permit defense to regroup.
- Mark "goal-side" to defend against shots on goal.
- Mark "ball-side" to defend against easy passes.
- Maintain defensive balance on the field; guard against reversing the ball (crossing passes).
- Mark tighter as you get closer to your goal.
- Concentrate defense in front of the goal as the ball approaches your goal (limiting space available for goal shots) and direct ball away from goal.

Throw-in

- Throw to an open teammate if possible (first look for the farthest unmarked player).
- Throw toward the other team's goal.
- Throw down the touchline.
- Throw to your goalkeeper (this is not considered an illegal pass back).
- Take throw-ins quickly (before the defense can set up) but always under control.
- Throw the ball so that it can be controlled in the air.
- Thrower should re-enter the field quickly to be open for a return pass.

Kick off

- Short pass and dribble.
- Short pass and pass back (triangle).

(Note that the "long boot" is not encouraged!)

Goal kick

- Big kick up the side of the field.
- Avoid kicking the ball across the front of your goal.
- Consider having a defender take goal kicks while the goalkeeper maintains position to guard goal.

Free kick

- Close to goal, direct - shoot!
- Close to goal, indirect - short pass and shoot.
- Far from goal - big kick toward the front of the opponents' goal.

Corner kick

- Big kick into the opponents' goal area.
- Short pass and dribble or cross.