GLOBAL PREMIER SOCCER

Systems Of Play - 1-2-1-2-1 formation

In Possession

Playing In The First Third
At 7v7 GPS will play a 1-2-1-2-1 formation
The 7 traits that all GPS teams should exhibit:

**CONFIDENT**
GPS teams are made up of confident players. This confidence comes from self belief, hard work, repetition and team camaraderie, all instilled in a positive coaching environment.

**GAME INTELLIGENT**
GPS teams are intelligent. Players are students of the game and are able to make adjustments based on what they see on the field.

**POSSESSION-BASED**
GPS teams play an indirect style of soccer but have an awareness of the most appropriate penetrating pass.

**BUILD FROM THE BACK**
GPS teams always look to build attacks from the back as opposed to playing kick and run soccer.

**ATTACK-MINDED**
GPS teams play the game with flair and creativity.

**DEFENSIVE ORGANIZATION**
GPS teams understand how and when to apply pressure in order to regain possession of the ball.

**PHYSICALITY**
GPS teams excel in the physical element of the game - exhibiting pace and power. GPS teams are hard working, strong in the tackle and always play within the laws of the game.
Team Shape

The team will set out with 2 center backs and one central midfielder.

Two wide players are very important to this formation as they will act as full backs and wide forwards to maintain shape and provide balance to the team.

The one central forward will be a target player and link with the wide players for create a front 3.
Dispersal to create space when GK in possession

When in possession of the ball the team must disperse to create space to receive.

#4 & #5 split wide towards apex of the penalty area.

#6 drops into the space left by the center backs.

#2 & #3 move central into the half spaces.

#9 moves to the side of the field the ball is on.
Dispersal to create space when GK in possession

When in possession of the ball the team must disperse to create space to receive.

Diagram shows the team shape once dispersal has taken place.

It's important to note that #2 & #3 are wider than #4 & #5 so to provide a natural passing angle. They must maintain as higher position as possible while remaining connected with the #4 & #5.

#6 must time the movement into the central space and continuously scan to be aware of surroundings.

#9 slides across to the ball side (shown by blue arrow) depending on which CB receives possession.
Systems Of Play - In Possession

Playing in defensive third

Passing Lanes

This diagram shows the many passing triangles and combinations that are created when dispersal takes places.
PLAYING THROUGH THE #4

When playing out from the back the first player we want to try and get in possession of the ball is either #4 or #5.

As always with GPS teams if their is a better option with a long forwards pass we encourage our players to play the most effective pass.

If no forward option is on we would want the #4 or #5 in possession to build from the back and draw the opposition out to create space in forward areas.

From this position we can draw opposition pressure and create space in central areas to exploit and work the ball closer to the goal.
Forward passing options for #4

When the GK has possession of the ball and the #4 & #5 split to the apex of the penalty area.

Diagram shows passing options for #5

The yellow arrow shows the most effective pass that can be played in behind the back line for a team mate to get possession.

The orange arrows show forward passes into feet.

The red arrows show a pass that would be made to retain possession.
GK to #4

When splitting to the apex the #4 must be moving in a way to see the whole field. This will allow scanning of the area and have an awareness of the next pass before receiving the ball.

The most forward pass that can be played would be into the feet of #9.
Playing through the #4

If the passing lane into the #9 is blocked the next most effective pass, if open, would be to the #2.

It’s important the #2 stays connected with #4 to create a passing lane. #2 must stay wider than the #4 if possible so a pass can be played.

It is also important that the #2 takes up a position higher than #6 to keep passing angles not to have a flat shape.
Playing through the #4

If a situation occurs where the #2 is unable to get into a wider position than the one taken up by the #4 or the passing lane is blocked off it might be necessary for the #2 to drift infield to receive possession.

This position becomes more apparent in the 11v11 format of the game and the introduction of ‘half spaces’.

From here the #2 can drive forward with the ball or play forwards to #9 or look to switch the attack to #3.
Playing in defensive third

Playing through the #4

If the opposition are organized and prevent forward passes into #9 or #2 the #6 needs to have clever movement to try and become available.

#4 needs to be aware that a pass into the #6 might need immediate support for a quick set if under pressure.

From here the #6 can play a number of forward passes to build the attack.

Good communication from the #4 is vital here to inform the #6 if they have time to turn or if they need to play quickly away from pressure.
Playing through the #4

When playing against an organized opposition who are preventing forward passes it’s vital to switch the play quickly to exploit space on the weak side.

This example shows all forward passes being blocked off. #4 switches the play quickly into #5.

The arrow shows the pass played slightly in front of the #5 which will allow a positive first touch and quicker forward movement of the ball before the opposition can slide across and adjust.
When playing out from the back the first player we want to try and get in possession of the ball is either #4 or #5.

As always with GPS teams if there is a better option with a long forwards pass we encourage our players to play the most effective pass.

If no forward option is on we would want the #4 or #5 in possession to build from the back and draw the opposition out to create space in forward areas.

From this position we can draw opposition pressure and create space in central areas to exploit and work the ball closer to the goal.
Forward passing options for #5

When the GK has possession of the ball and the #4 & #5 split to the apex of the penalty area.

Diagram shows passing options for #5

The yellow arrow shows the most effective pass that can be played in behind the back line for a team mate to get possession.

The orange arrows show forward passes into feet.

The red arrows show a pass that would be made to retain possession.
Playing through the #5

As the ball travels to the #5 the #9 slides across to that side of the field maintaining a central position.

If the pass is on into the #9 that would be the first pass the #5 should look for to penetrate the front and midfield lines of the opposition.

From here the wide players can push on and support and build an attack.
Playing through the #5

If the passing lane into the #9 is blocked the next most effective pass, if open, would be to the #3.

It’s important the #5 stays connected with #5 to create a passing lane. #2 must stay wider than the #5 and higher than the opposing defender if possible so a pass can be played.

It is also important that the #3 takes up a position higher than #6 to keep passing angles not to have a flat shape.
Playing through the #5

If a situation occurs where the #3 is unable to get into a wider position than the one taken up by the #5 or the passing lane is blocked off, it might be necessary for the #3 to drift infield to receive possession.

This position becomes more apparent in the 11v11 format of the game and the introduction of ‘half spaces’.

From here, the #3 can drive forward with the ball or play forwards to #9 or look to switch the attack to #2.
Playing through the #5

If the opposition are organized and prevent forward passes into #9 or #3 the #6 needs to have clever movement to try and become available.

#5 needs to be aware that a pass into the #6 might need immediate support for a quick set if under pressure.

From here the #6 could bounce the ball to #3 or draw in the defender and set the ball back to #4 or #5 for a forward pass into a forward player.

Good communication from the #5 is vital here to inform the #6 if they have time to turn or if they need to play quickly away from pressure.
PLAYING THROUGH THE #6

When #4 & #5 are being pressed by the opposition the #6 must drop into the space created by them splitting.

Receiving the ball in this position opens up the whole field with forward passing options.

#6 must move into this space with correct timing and body shape so to receive with the maximum amount of time possible to allow a forward pass.

Awareness of pressure is key as losing the ball in this part of the field can lead to a quick counter attack and shot on goal.
Forward passing options for #6

When the GK has possession of the ball and the #4 & #5 split to the apex of the penalty area #6 can drop into the central space.

Diagram shows passing options for #6 when in possession in the central space.

The yellow arrow shows the most effective pass that can be played in behind the back line for a team mate to get possession.

The orange arrows show forward passes into feet.

The red arrows show a pass that would be made to retain possession.
Playing through the #6

This diagram shows the opposition forward applying pressure to #4 and vacating the central space meaning #6 can drop in and receive.

A high start position is key to allowing #6 to move into this space with as little pressure as possible. If #6 starts in this space they become easy to mark and the passing option is taken away.

Due to receiving a straight pass from the GK the #6 must have scanned and have an awareness of where the pressure will be coming from and take a positive touch into space to allow a forward pass.
Playing through the #6

If the opposition are applying a high press and the pass to either #4 or #5 is being prevented and the CF has maintained a central position the #6 will have to check into the space at an angle to open up a passing lane.

#6 needs to make sure that they move into the space equal distance from all defenders to give themselves maximum time in possession allowing for better decision to be made.

It is vital to have correct body position when receiving and being aware of where the pressure is and what passing option is best.

#3 must stay connected and be an option so the #6 can play quickly from the central area.