

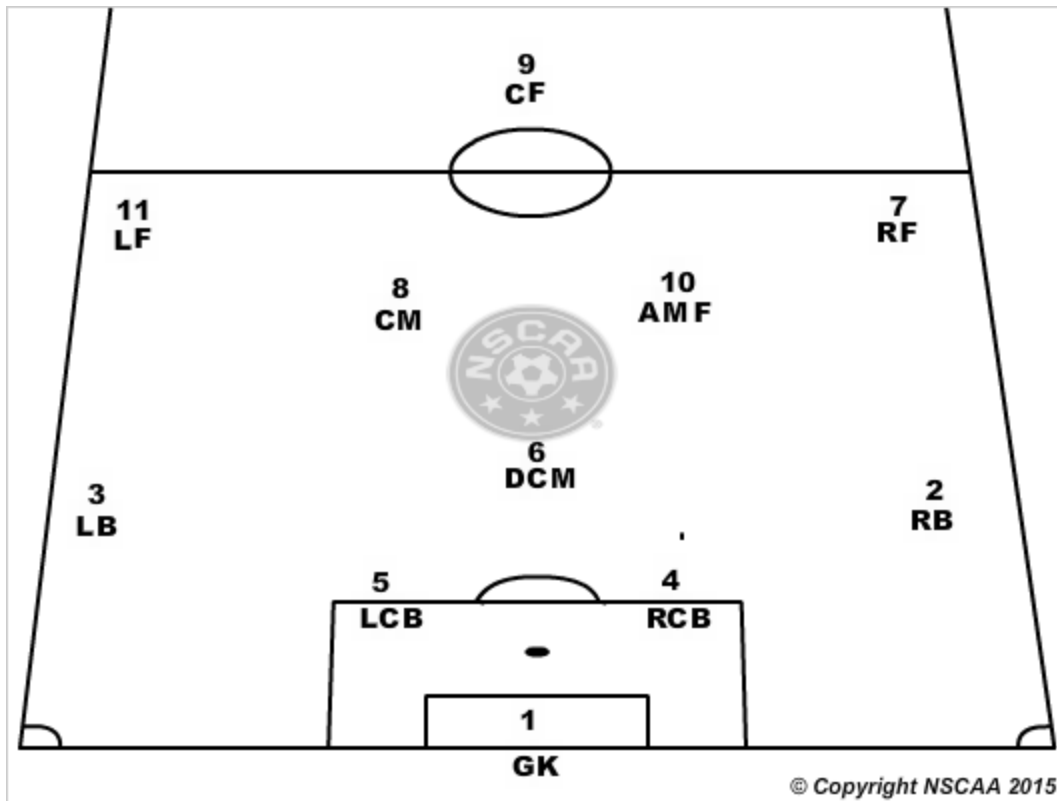


## Player Numbers, Positions, and Associated Responsibilities

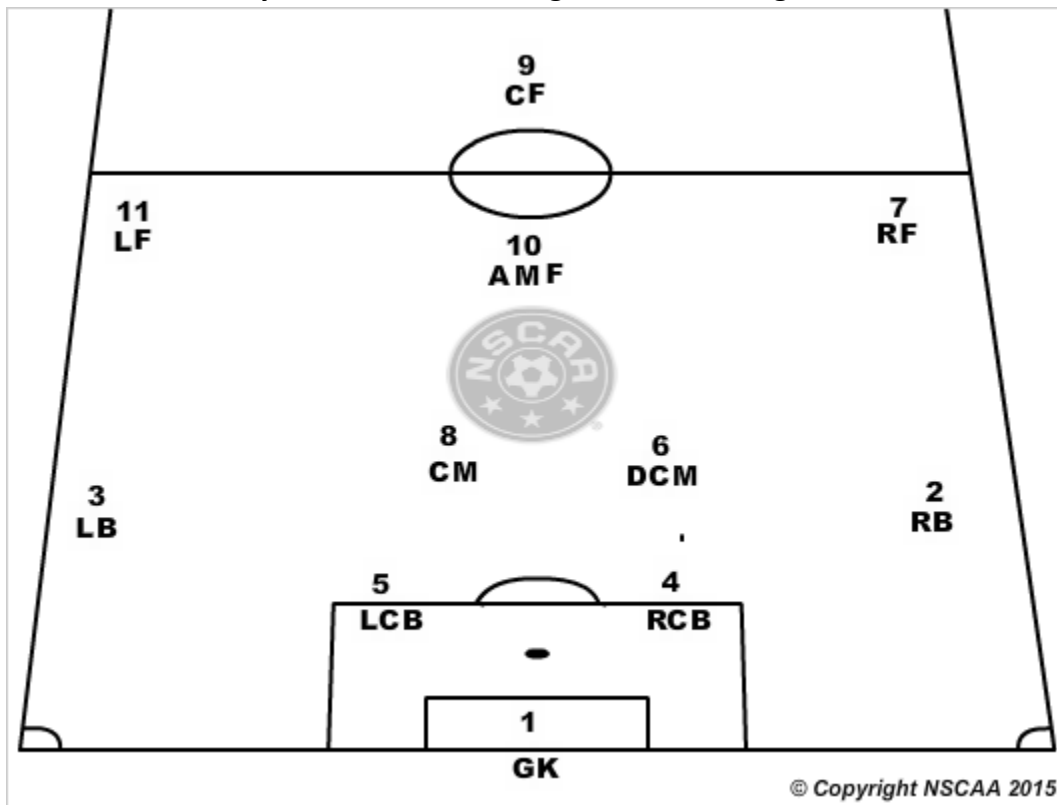
### 1-4-3-3 Formation of Play

For consistency throughout the Indiana ODP process as well as the US youth Soccer ODP System, we will use the US Soccer numbering system so that all players and coaches refer to the same positions when using these numbers. A numbering system allows for a common and consistent language for addressing player roles. All Indiana ODP teams will utilize the 1-4-3-3 formation of play to create a standard playing style throughout the whole system from state to regional to national. This will insure players are able to adjust to the level of play as they move from one age group to another, participate in regional or national events, and accelerate the learning process. It is important that all players understand and know the numbers associated with each position, and the basic responsibilities for each position within the 1-4-3-3 formation.

**Number System with 2 Attacking and 1 Defending Midfielders**



### Number System with 1 Attacking and 2 Defending Midfielders



#### Key Player Components of the 1-4-3-3 Formation

- 1) Goalkeeper (#1) must stay connected to the team and be part of the buildup of play
- 2) Back Four (#2, #3, #4, #5) will always play a zone defense. Center Backs (#4, #5) create depth in support of possession and switching the point of attack. Outside Backs (#2, #3) look to create width and support the team forward in attack
- 3) Always have a dedicated defensive midfielder (#6) in front of the back four
- 4) Goalkeeper (#1), two Center Backs (#4, #5) and Defensive Midfield (#6) defend against the counter attack to delay game until team recovers
- 5) Two attacking midfielders (#8, #10) can both be attacking minded or one of them can play more of a defending midfield role (#8) depending on the game, opponent, or moment in the game.
- 6) Center Forward (#9) will play high and off the opponent's two center backs
- 7) Two wide forwards or wingers (#7, #11) who play very wide and create the width of the field

#### Player Number, Position and Basic Responsibilities

##### #1 (Goalkeeper)

- Stop Shots/Prevent Goals
- Organize Defenders/Communicate
- Cover the space behind back line
- Support the back line in possession and switch the point of attack or relieve pressure when under pressure
- When catching a cross or stopping a shot quickly assess passing options to pass to someone with time/space to maintain possession or start a counterattack

## #2 (Right Back) and #3 (Left Back)

- Part of back line who plays vital role in possession and always available for a back pass
- Create width in possession and get forward in attack (support or overlap)
- Defend wide attackers and deny crosses
- Provide cover for #4 or #5 and #7 or #11 (depending on side of field you play)
- Provide balance on back lines weak side (pinch and slide to connect with #4 or #5)

## #4 (Right Center Back) and #5 (Left Center Back)

- Part of back line who plays vital role in possession and always available for a back pass
- Dropping off to create depth in possession, assist in switching of point of attack, and connect long passes to players higher in the game (#7, #9, #10, #11)
- Deny opponent scoring opportunities
- Defend opposing forwards (especially the #9)
- Provide cover for #2 or #3 and #6
- Intercept passes, win tackles and air balls
- Delay/Defend against counter attacks

## #6 (Defensive Midfielder)

- Also known as “Holding Midfield” and is primary defensive in nature
- Occupy the space between the backs and attacking midfielder(s)
- Dictates the rhythm of possession for team (tempo of ball circulation)
- The “Pivot” – Always available for a pass, supports the attack from either behind or ahead of the ball, creates passing lanes, and assists in changing the point of attack
- Maintain midfield balance with #8 and #10, and center backs (#4, #5) to play in open spaces and not crowd the area near the ball (pull way, sit in open pockets of space on the field)
- Win possession through interceptions and tackles
- Pressure ball to deny penetration
- Provide cover for #8 and #10 and space in front of #4 and #5
- Delay/Defend against counter attacks

## #8 (Central Midfielder)

- #8 can play in a more attacking or defensive role depending on shape of midfield
- Vital link between back line and forwards – offer back line/defensive midfield passing options for penetration into the middle third of the field
- Offers passing options to all teammates to connect team in possession
- Maintain midfield balance with #6 and #10 to play in open spaces and not crowd the area near the ball (pull way, sit in open pockets of space on the field). Open body by peeling off to create vision to see all players (team and opponents)
- Win possession through interceptions and tackles
- Pressure ball to deny penetration
- Defend center of field and provide cover for #6 and #10 and space in front of #4 and #5

### #10 (Attacking Midfielder/Playmaker)

- #10 is the playmaker (creative dynamic player) and creates scoring opportunities for others and self through passing and dribbling
- Stays connected to forward line (#7, #9, #11), especially with #9 to support them whenever they receive balls
- Provides penetrating (through) balls behind opponents back line
- Vital link between back line and forwards – offer back line/defensive midfield passing options for penetration into the middle third of the field
- Maintain midfield balance with #6 and #8 as well as forwards (#7, #11) and especially with #9 to play in open spaces and not crowd the field. Open body by peeling off to create vision to see all players (team and opponent's)
- Help defend the center of field and get into passing lanes dictated by #9

### #7 (Right Forward/Winger) and #11 (Left Forward/Winger)

- Stretch the field to make it as big as possible by staying wide against the sidelines (width) and pushing as high as opponent's back line will allow
- Penetration in attack to threaten spaces behind opponent's back line
- Attack flanks to serve ball centrally
- Cut inside with ball to score or pass
- Defend wide spaces and support wide backs (#2 or #3)
- Press ball to win possession back or help steer opponent's attack

### #9 (Center Forward)

- Provides team length (height) and plays off opponent's two center backs (#4, #5). Must stay high to stretch game to help create space for #10 to play underneath
- Provides high target for possession further up the field and as an outlet from high pressuring opponents
- Must play in the space in behind the opponent's midfield and in front of the center backs. Resist temptation to check toward ball too early and too deep into midfield. Find the space between opponent's back line and midfield line.
- Ability to play with back to goal to hold and maintain possession allowing for team to advance
- Threaten space behind opponent's back line
- Win air balls with ability to flick and score
- Score Goals!
- Defensively help push opponent's attack to one side and help deny ability to switch the point of attack