

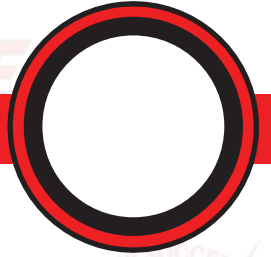
THUNDER SOCCER CLUB

HOWARD COUNTY, MD



NUMBER SYSTEM

NUMBER SYSTEM



What is the number system?

Simply put, the numbering system relates positions on the field to numbers.

Where does it come from?

'Squad numbers' were introduced by Arsenal manager Herbert Chapman in 1928 as a way to identify players on the field by adding numbered strips on uniforms during matches.

It took nearly 11 years for the community to fully adapt the number system and implement numbers on all uniforms during soccer matches.

While the number system has been around for generations, U.S Soccer only implemented the number system into it's program in 2012.

NUMBER SYSTEM



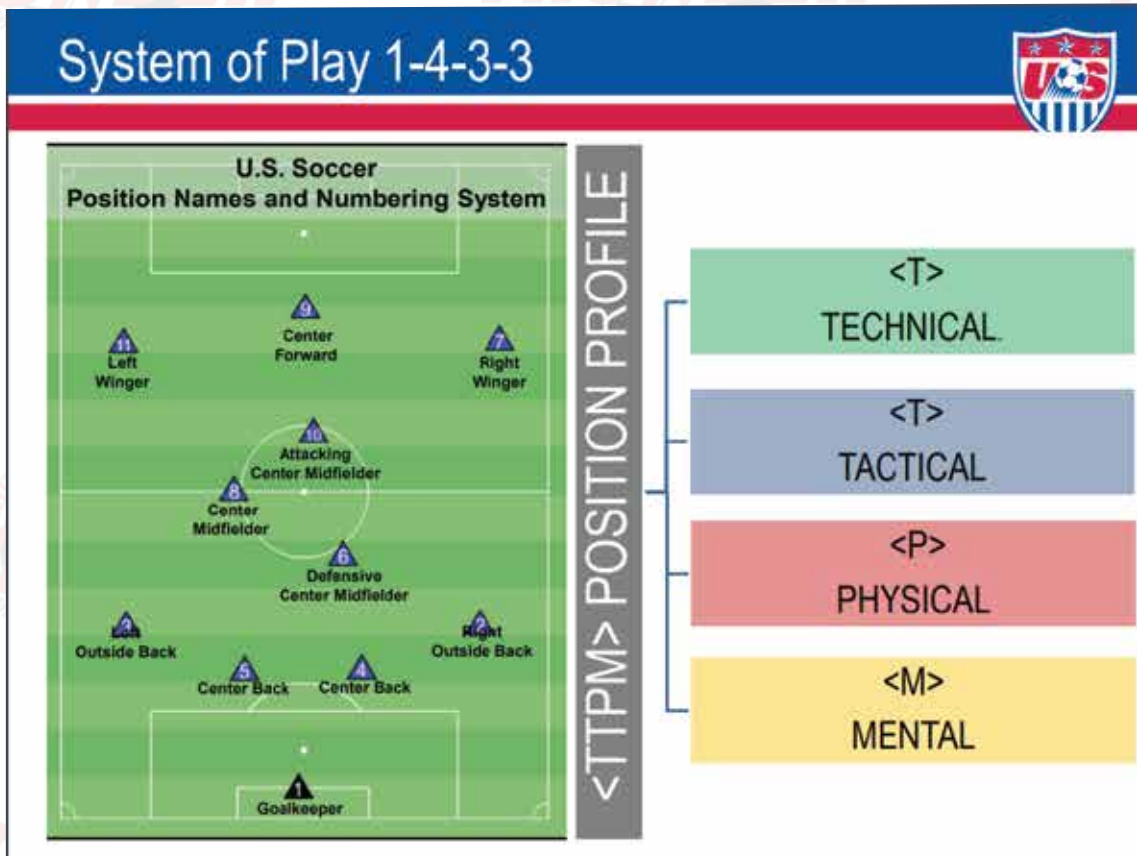
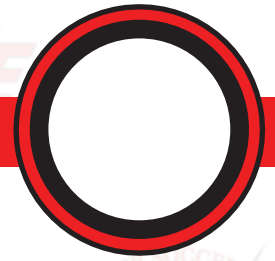
Number System vs. Traditional Positions

“A standard numbering system for positions and their roles provides a concise and common method of communicating technical information about individual and team play.”

***Dave Chesler
Performance Analysis Coach, USWNT***

Traditional Positions can be effective in teaching players how to operate on the field, but it typically leaves much room for interpretation with positions having similar names but different roles on the field.(i.e - halfback, fullback, outsideback)

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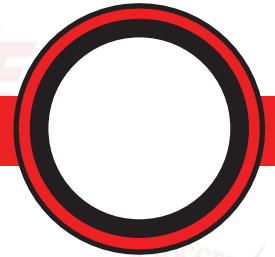


The implementation of the number system is mainly geared toward the **TACTICAL** and **MENTAL** aspects of soccer.

The **PHYSICAL** and **TECHNICAL** aspects should already be routinely implemented into team practices and activities.

REFER TO THE POSITION SPECIFIC PROFILES PRESENTATION FOR MORE INFO.

NUMBER SYSTEM



What are the responsibilities of each role?

7v7

POSITIONAL ROLES AND NUMBERS – 7v7
1-2-3-1 FORMATION

1-2-3-1 Formation for 7v7

(#1 Goalkeeper)

- Keep ball out of goal
- Help build up attack
- Organize the backs/defense
- First line of attack (distribution)

(#4, #5 Center Backs)

- Deny attacking chances on goal / defend #9 (forward)
- Intercept passes, win tackles and air balls
- Provide depth in build up when attacking
- Penetrate primarily by passing

(#8 Midfielder)

- Box to box midfielder
- Offer passing options
- Connect players in possession
- Penetrate by passing, dribbling, and shooting

(#7, #11 Wingers)

- Provide width in attack
- Pressure higher up field defensively
- Penetrate by passing, dribbling, and shooting
- Penetrate in wide areas to create scoring opportunities
- Serve crosses or dribble central

(#9 Center Forward)

- Score goals
- Play with back to goal
- "Hold" the ball to allow teammates to help
- Penetrate by passing, dribbling, and shooting
- Provide length in attack
- Defend higher up the field

Information provided by US Soccer publications

NUMBER SYSTEM

What are the responsibilities of each role?

9v9

POSITIONAL ROLES AND NUMBERS – 9v9 1-3-2-3 FORMATION



1-3-2-3 Formation for 9v9



Information provided by US Soccer publications

(#1 Goalkeeper)

- Keep ball out of goal
- Help build up attack
- Organize the backs/defense
- First line of attack (distribution)

(#4 Center Back)

- Deny attacking chances on goal / defend #9 (forward)
- Intercept passes, win tackles and air balls
- Provide depth in build up when attacking
- Penetrate primarily by passing

(#2, #3 Outside Backs)

- Defend wide attacking players
- Provide cover for #4
- Provide width in attack
- Penetrate by passing or dribbling
- Provide defensive balance when ball on opposite side

(#6 Defensive Center Midfielder)

- Holding midfielder
- Intercept passes and win tackles
- Penetrate by passing, dribbling
- Aid the backs and mids in building up
- Pressure ball to deny penetration

(#8 Midfielder)

- Box to box midfielder
- Connect players in possession
- Offer passing options
- Penetrate by passing, dribbling, shooting

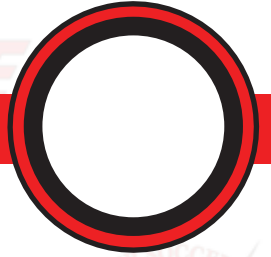
(#7, #11 Wingers)

- Provide width in attack
- Serve crosses or dribble centrally
- Pressure higher up field
- Penetrate by passing, dribbling, shooting
- Penetrate in wide areas to create scoring opportunities

(#9 Center Forward)

- Score goals
- Provide length in attack
- Play with back to goal
- Defend higher up the field
- "Hold" the ball to allow
- Penetrate by passing, dribbling, shooting

NUMBER SYSTEM



As a team, we should...

Offense

When the team receives the ball, the entire team should be establishing 'depth' on the field.

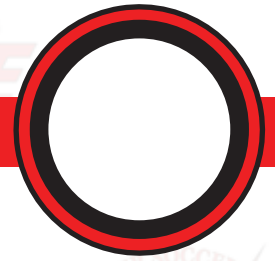
Attackers are pushing up to the last defensive line while flank players are taking advantage of the width.

Defense

When the team loses the ball, players should be getting compact as a unit and tracking back behind the ball.

Defenders and midfielders are getting compact and flank players are marking up their respective players.

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System of Play 1-4-3-3



Playing System
1-4-3-3

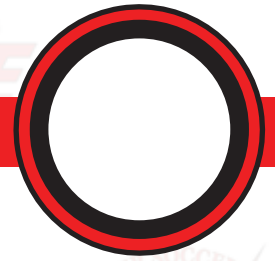
3 Forwards

3 Midfielders

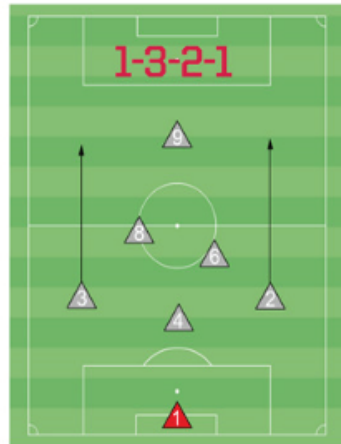
4 Backs

1 Goalkeeper

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Team Organization



DEVELOPMENT FIELD - 47x30 yards

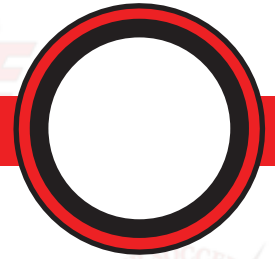
- U9 and U10 - **7v7** - 14 players per team
- 7v7 formations promote a good distribution of the players on the field and provide a versatile framework to introduce simple tactical elements at an early age
- Formations are focused in the development of attacking elements of the game
- 1-2-3-1 formation: designed to develop passing and movement of the ball
- 1-3-2-1 formation: designed to promote forward runs and 1v1 situations



SMALL SIDED FIELD - 75x47 yards

- U11 and U12 - **9v9** - 16 players per team
- On a bigger field 9v9 formations are ideal to keep developing attacking elements of the game and introduce basic defensive concepts working as a unit
- 1-3-2-3 formation: designed to provide space in midfield areas and provide multiple attacking options at front
- 1-3-3-2 formation: designed to understand basic defensive organization and promote build up play

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How can we use the number system to have a tactical advantage on the other team?

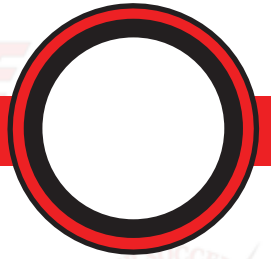
Scenario #1 7v7 sided

One of the many ways of breaking down an opponent is through taking advantage of open field space. If the 11 (left-wing) or 3 (left-back) have the ball on the left side of the field and cannot penetrate the defense, what position(s) can we use to initiate a switch to the other side of the field?

Scenario 2 9v9 or 11v11

If the #7 (right-wing) player receives the ball and is faced with a 1v1 situation, what can the #2 (right-back) do to make this situation into a 2v1 advantage?

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Possible 7v7 Formations

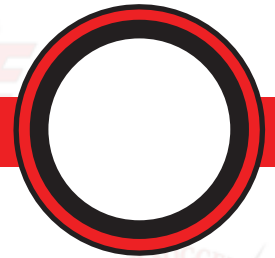
1-3-2-1

1-3-1-2

1-2-3-1 (US Recommended)

1-3-3

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Possible 9v9 Formations

1-3-2-3

1-3-4-1

1-3-3-2

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