

Coaching Licence

A detailed look at the strengths and weaknesses of playing each tactic. You don't need to read this to play the game but it will help you be a more successful manager.

SIT DEEP

This defensive tactic gets players behind the ball in an organised shape and attacks are built up patiently taking few risks. Sitting deep tends to result in fewer attacks for both teams allowing the opposition to have a lot of possession but trying to keep that possession away from goal.

Best used to protect a half time lead. Especially if you expect the opposition to use a fluid or possession tactic.

Avoid playing this formation if your opposition is likely to play a 4 or 5 specialist hassle or direct tactic.

Players suited to this tactic have great positioning and play well as a unit. As this is more about stopping the opposition playing you will find goals hard to come by so either

accept playing as 4star and add a great striker or play a midfielder in the striker role. Binh Tran is one of the best players suited to the Sit Deep tactic and he can play in any position.

Top Team: GK – Karlov, D – Rasmussen, ML – De Haan, MR – Rojas, S – Tran

Total Sit Deep Specialists: 15

COUNTER

This tactic is similar to sit deep but slightly more adventurous waiting to win the ball and counter attack, punishing the opposition by hitting them on the break.

Best with at least 4 specialists and against teams who are likely to play a fluid or possession tactic.

Avoid playing against a team who could play a direct tactic with 4 or 5 specialists.

Players that specialise in counter attacking will be quick with great vision. Min Zhiang is your best option as striker and if you can get Guillaume Vivant in midfield or defence you'll be a tough side to beat.

Top Team: GK – Shammass, D – Vivant, ML – Tran, MR – McGee, S – Zhiang

Total Counter Specialists: 11

DIRECT

Get the ball forward quickly. Usually results in a lot of attacks but few boosts so it is best played with strong players who need little assistance from boosts.

Best when all 5 players are specialists in direct football and against teams likely to play Sit Deep or Counter. If you need to score goals this tactic will give you chances so worth playing in the second half when your team is losing, it's not the best defensively though.

Avoid playing against any team who might play a possession tactic with 3 or more specialists.

Players will be strong with good dribbling, able to play through balls and willing to shoot on sight. This tactic is an appealing option because of the number of top players who are specialists in direct football.

Top team: GK – Karlov, D – Akua, ML – Rojas, MR – Da Costa, S – Lewis

Total Direct Specialists: 13

HIGH PRESS

A high pressing game plan with players applying pressure as a team leading to a number of turnovers in dangerous areas.

Best against a team you expect to play the Sit Deep tactic.

Avoid playing if the opposition could play a fluid tactic with 4 or 5 specialists.

Players need great stamina and work rate to specialise in the hassle tactic. Guillaume Vivant is the main man to build your team around for this one. Harry Lewis is the only quality striker who is a high press specialist, if you don't have him then your best option might be to use a non specialist as striker.

Top Team: GK – Hofmann, D – Espinoza, ML – Vivant, MR – Tran, S - Lewis

Total High Press Specialists: 13

FLUID

A fast flowing tactic that gives players freedom to change positions and drag their markers all over the pitch before popping up at the back post to score exquisite goals. Hard to get right but even harder to play against when it is played well.

Best played with all 5 players as specialists. Very dangerous against a team playing a high pressing game. This will drag those suckers all over the place opening up big holes in their defence.

Avoid playing against teams with 4 or 5 good players who are specialists in Sit Deep and Counter tactics.

Top Team: GK – Roberto, D – Medina, ML – McGee, MR – De Haan, S – Kattan

Total Fluid Specialists: 12

POSSESSION

There are fewer players who can specialise in this tactic than any other but when it is played well it can control a game with quick passing and intelligent movement to create great chances. Lots of boosts and attacks,

this is *the* tactic for lovers of beautiful football.

Best played with at least 4 specialists but if you can't squeeze a fifth specialist in the line up then it's only the difference of 1 boost card. Very useful against direct teams.

Avoid playing against teams with 4 or 5 Sit Deep or Counter tactic specialists.

Players have great passing ability and movement off the ball.

Top Team: GK – Shammass, D – Asik, ML – Da Costa, MR – McGee, S - Igor

Total Possession Specialists: 11