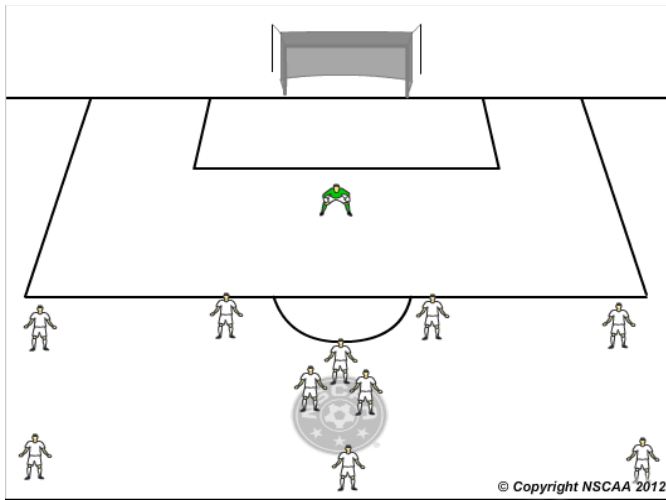
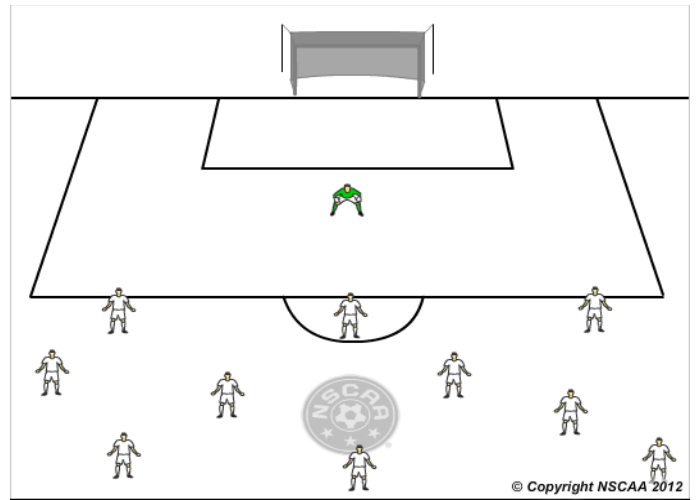


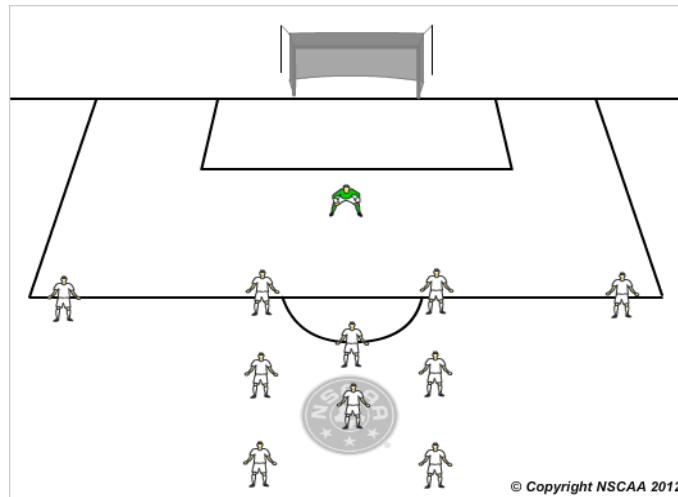
## 4-3-3 and 3-4-3 Systems



4-3-3 Germany  
U-19 Women's World Cup



3-4-3 North Carolina Women



4-3-3 France '98

### Advantages of a Three-front

#### Defending

1. The three-front system allows a team to apply pressure closer to the opponents goal. The three-front does not steer the opposing team's attack as a two-front does, but attempts to intercept the ball immediately.
2. This system puts tremendous pressure on a weak opponent. It is particularly effective against a team which cannot serve long balls to strikers. It is also considered to be a good system against players who cannot hit long passes.
3. The system encourages opposing teams to play the ball forward – making it difficult to play the ball sideways.
4. The system tends to force opponents' back players into smaller spaces.
5. A three-front can mask a slow player both



offensively and defensively.

6. A three-front forces an opponent to adjust. Few teams are willing to play 3 v 3 in their defensive third.
7. Changing into a three-front can frequently change a teams' rhythm and makes a team more aggressive.
8. When playing against a 4-4-2, the back three in a 3-4-3 can play man-to-man with a sweeper or in a zone.

#### Attacking

1. Front line is already positioned to attack when the ball is won.
2. It is easier to play directly with three targets rather than two.
3. A three-front evenly spreads physical demands on strikers. The runs of the strikers are shorter compared to a two-front.
4. It is easier for a three-front to attack near, middle and far post spaces.
5. The three-front creates immediate width as center forwards go wide. The width provided by a three-front makes it effective against low pressure defenses.

6. A three-front sweeping to one side can pull a man-to-man defense to one side, exposing an opponent's weak side.
7. The team is psychologically in an attacking mode when structured with three center forwards.

#### Negatives of a Three-front

1. Three players can be played out of a game immediately with one forward pass.
2. Three players receive ball with their back to goal, depending on starting position.
3. Team can be out numbered in midfield if opponents play with four or five.
4. More effective against players who do not have the ability to hit the ball further over the top of a three-front.
5. Team generally defends with seven rather than eight field players.
6. Three-back system is vulnerable on outside corners.
7. Tends to pull more opposing defenders back into the vital area, thus compacting more defenders into important attacking spaces.