



# Club Playing Philosophy

## In possession

Play an attacking and stylish brand of football based on ball retention and quick precise passing through the thirds of the pitch.

If there is no opportunity to counter attack, possession should be developed from the back with intelligent movement and rotation from nearby players providing high quality options for the man on the ball. With a priority on passing forwards whenever possible, we should look to receive between and behind opposition players and units, with a body shape that facilitates further progress up the field.

With comfortable possession, players should be aware of opportunities to quickly switch play and exploit space in wide areas. Whilst maintaining defensive cover, chances to threaten the opposition goal should be exploited with committed support, swift combinations, creative individual play and confident finishing.

## In transition

When possession has been lost if there is a chance to regain, press immediately and in numbers whilst maintaining defensive cover. Otherwise, recover into organised shape behind the ball, giving a solid base to start from.

When regaining the ball look to exploit any opportunity to play forwards, attacking with pace and precision. If counter attacking is not an option, secure possession in order to build an attack.

## Out of possession

Develop a work ethic which allows for quick regain of possession. Working together from an organised team shape, make opposition play predictable in order to reduce danger and increase chances of regaining the ball. Players and units will adjust positions in a coordinated way, denying space between and behind the defence and midfield. When opposition players are in positions to shoot or supply the ball to someone else who can, defensive pressure should be immediate, restricting space and providing a physical barrier to further forward progress.

## Systems of play

The main systems of play will be 4-4-2 and 4-3-3 and all players should have a good tactical understanding of both systems, being familiar with the individual roles and responsibilities required to function in each.