

# **EMERGING MATILDAS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 TECHNICAL REPORT**

NADINE SHIELS

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - GIRLS



**FOOTBALL  
NSW**

# INTRODUCTION

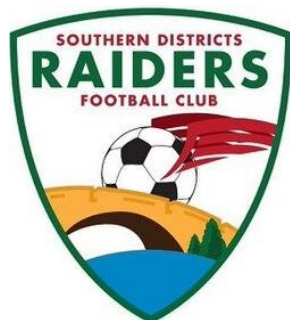
Earlier this year, Football Australia announced the unveiling of the Emerging Matildas Championships - a bold transformation of the premier youth football tournament, the National Youth Championships.

This strategic revamping of FA's elite youth development framework marks a significant step forward in aligning our pathways with the CommBank Matildas and Subway Socceroos, ensuring a more structured and streamlined route for our nation's brightest young talents to reach the pinnacle of international success.

Football NSW were provided the opportunity to send two NSW metro teams in the Under 15s age group. This meant we had three teams representing metro NSW at the inaugural Emerging Matildas Championships.



# CLUBS REPRESENTED





# OVERVIEW

NSW Metro received accolades in the Under 15s with two players sharing the Golden Boot award, Player of the Final award and Player of the Tournament award.

The Under 15s Sky team were victorious in their age group winning the tournament and going through to the end undefeated.

The Under 15s Navy team finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place after facing the Sky team in the semi-final.

The Under 16s Sky team finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place after conceding their only goal in the tournament to Football Victoria in the final.

The revamped tournament provided an enhanced environment for development and talent identification, reinforcing its crucial role in preparing our future stars for the FIFA U-17 Womens World Cup and the global stage.

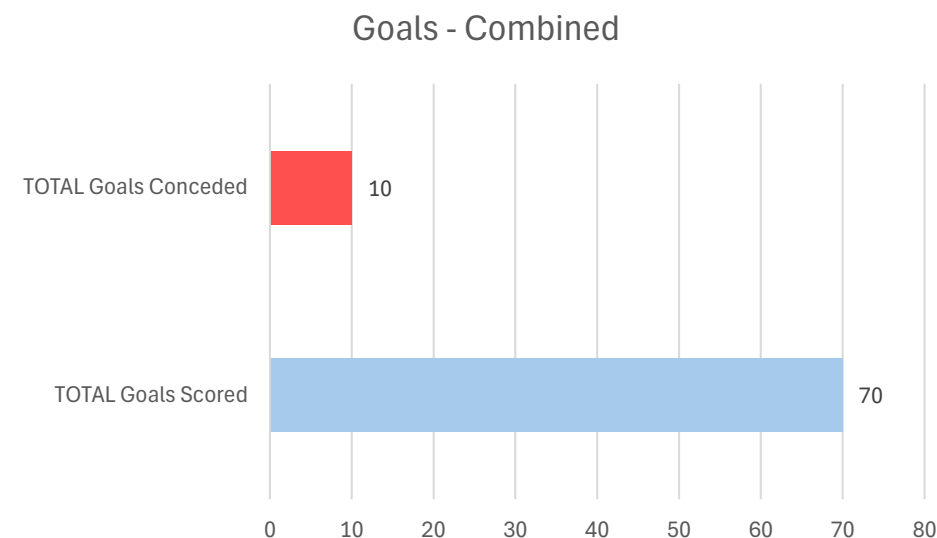


# NSW METRO PERFORMANCE - COMBINED

The NSW Metro teams played a total of 20 matches, achieving 16 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses.

Over the course of these matches, the teams scored 70 goals and conceded 10.

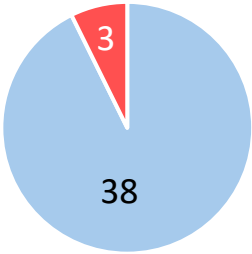
In our post tournament analysis, we closely observed the way these goals were scored and conceded, aiming to develop valuable insights and learnings from the data. We expect this data to highlight key strengths and areas to improve in our players which can guide our youth league clubs, programs and coaches to best develop players ultimately giving them the best opportunity to succeed.





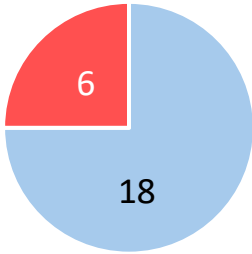
# NSW METRO PERFORMANCE - TEAM

Under 15s Sky



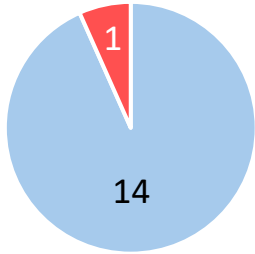
■ TOTAL Goals Scored ■ TOTAL Goals Conceded

Under 15s Navy



■ TOTAL Goals Scored ■ TOTAL Goals Conceded

Under 16s Sky



■ TOTAL Goals Scored ■ TOTAL Goals Conceded



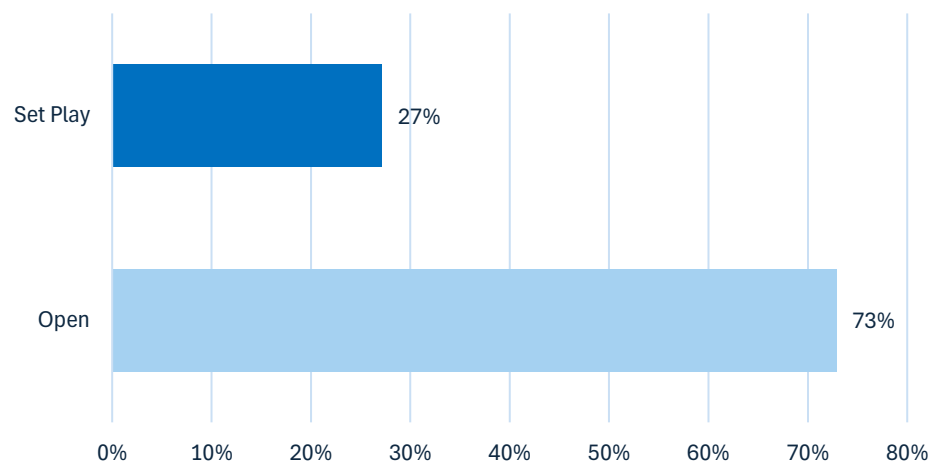
# PHASE OF PLAY – OPEN PLAY V SET PLAY

Through analysis of the phase of play from which goals were scored and conceded, we looked to determine if there was a significant difference between goals from open play and those resulting from set plays.

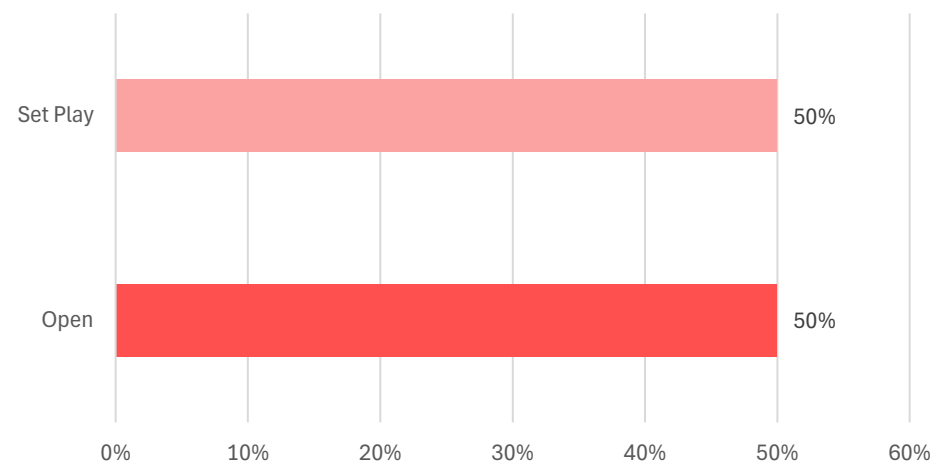
This revealed that 73% of goals scored occurred during open play, while 27% came from set plays. In goals conceded, it was 50/50.

This data provides us with an indication that we have improved our ability to attack balls delivered in the box, with 2024 data showing 18% of goals were scored from set pieces.

**Phase of Play (Scored) - Combined**

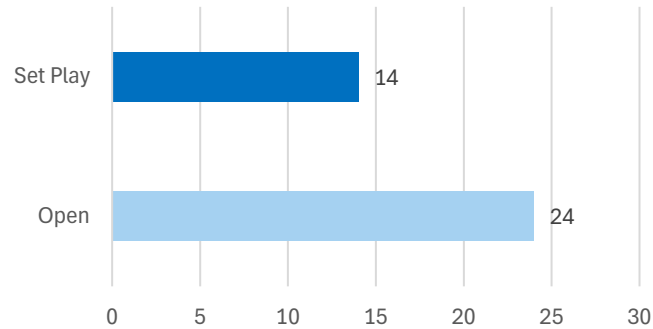


**Phase of Play (Conceded) - Combined**

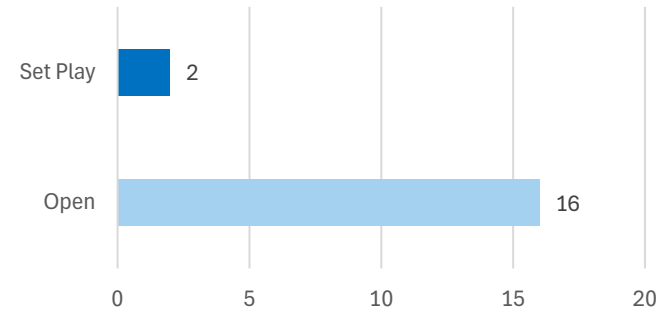


# PHASE OF PLAY – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

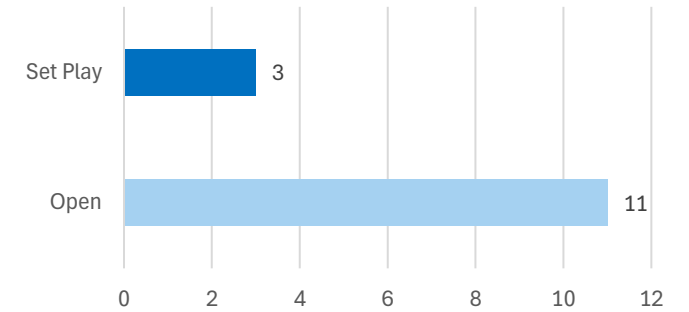
## Under 15s Sky - Scored



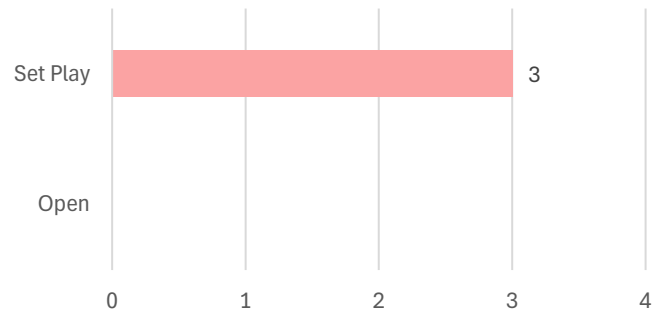
## Under 15s Navy - Scored



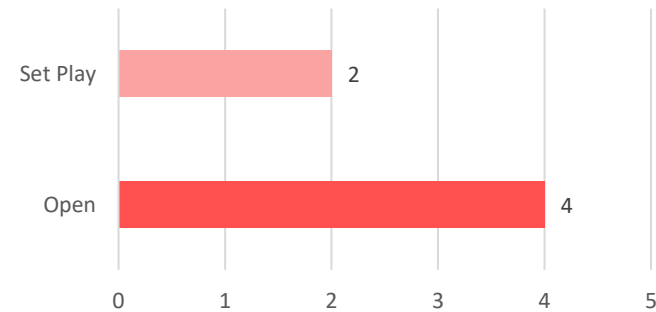
## Under 16s Sky - Scored



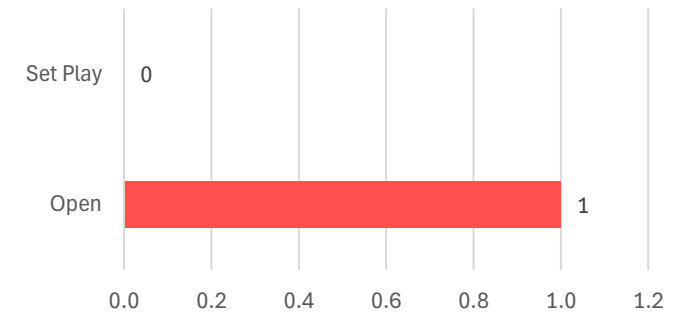
## Under 15s Sky - Conceded



## Under 15s Navy - Conceded



## Under 16s Sky - Conceded





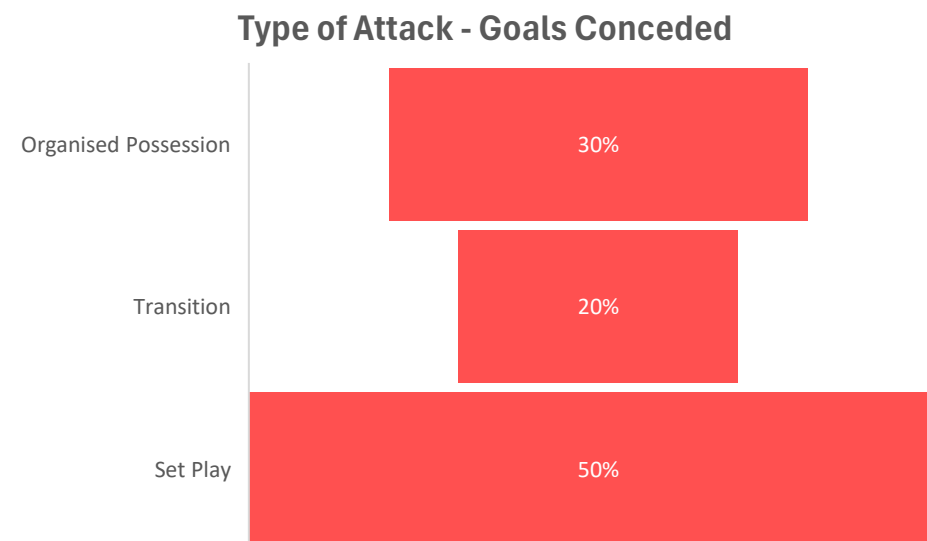
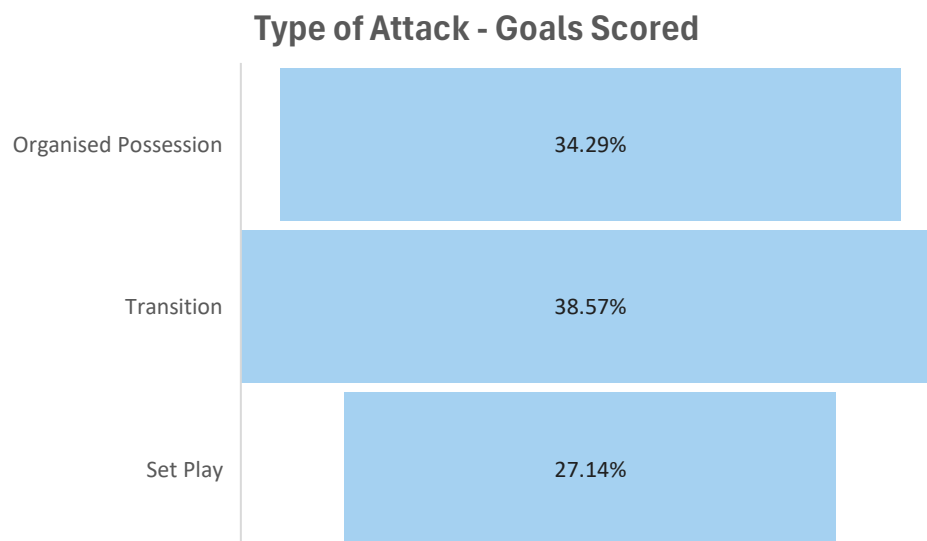
# TYPE OF ATTACK

We looked at the type of attack used to score goals and found that the data was quite close between organised possession and transition goals. A lot of the transition goals were a result of losing possession and then regaining possession quickly to score.

Organised possession goal statistics would be much higher if range of passing (with both feet) improved and possession wasn't turned over as frequently resulting in a need to defend and regain.

Of the 10 goals conceded, 50% of them were from set plays (corner, free kick and penalty).

\*Transition goals were defined as goals scored from 3 or less passes after a change of possession but not restarts.

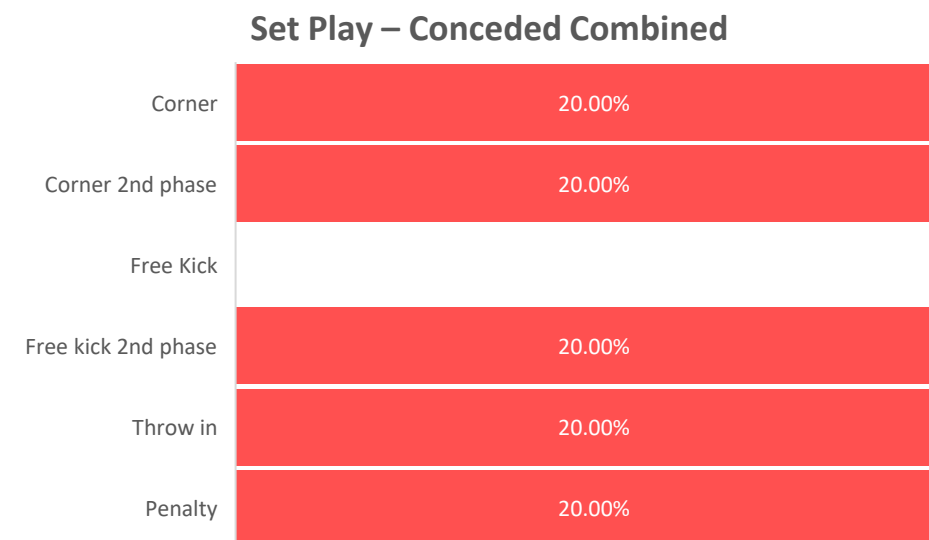
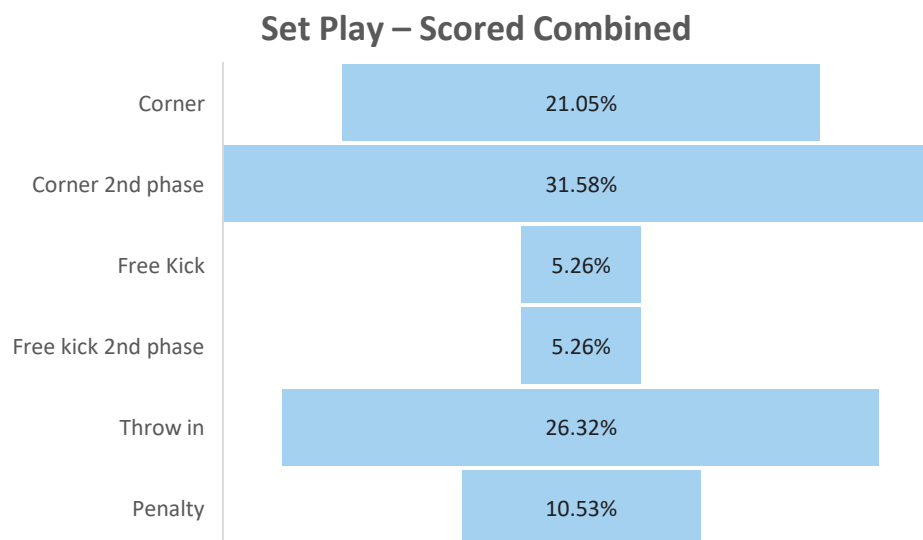


# SET PLAY GOALS

This year we had a reasonable number of goals originate from set pieces. It was pleasing to see the number (27%) sitting within the norm for womens international football tournaments (25-30%).

Conversely, 50% of the goals conceded were from a set piece.

This information supports the Phase of Play data, showing a higher percentage within the corner 2<sup>nd</sup> phase category, demonstrating our ability to attack the ball in and around the box and be tenacious and eager to score when the opportunity arises.



# START OF POSSESSION

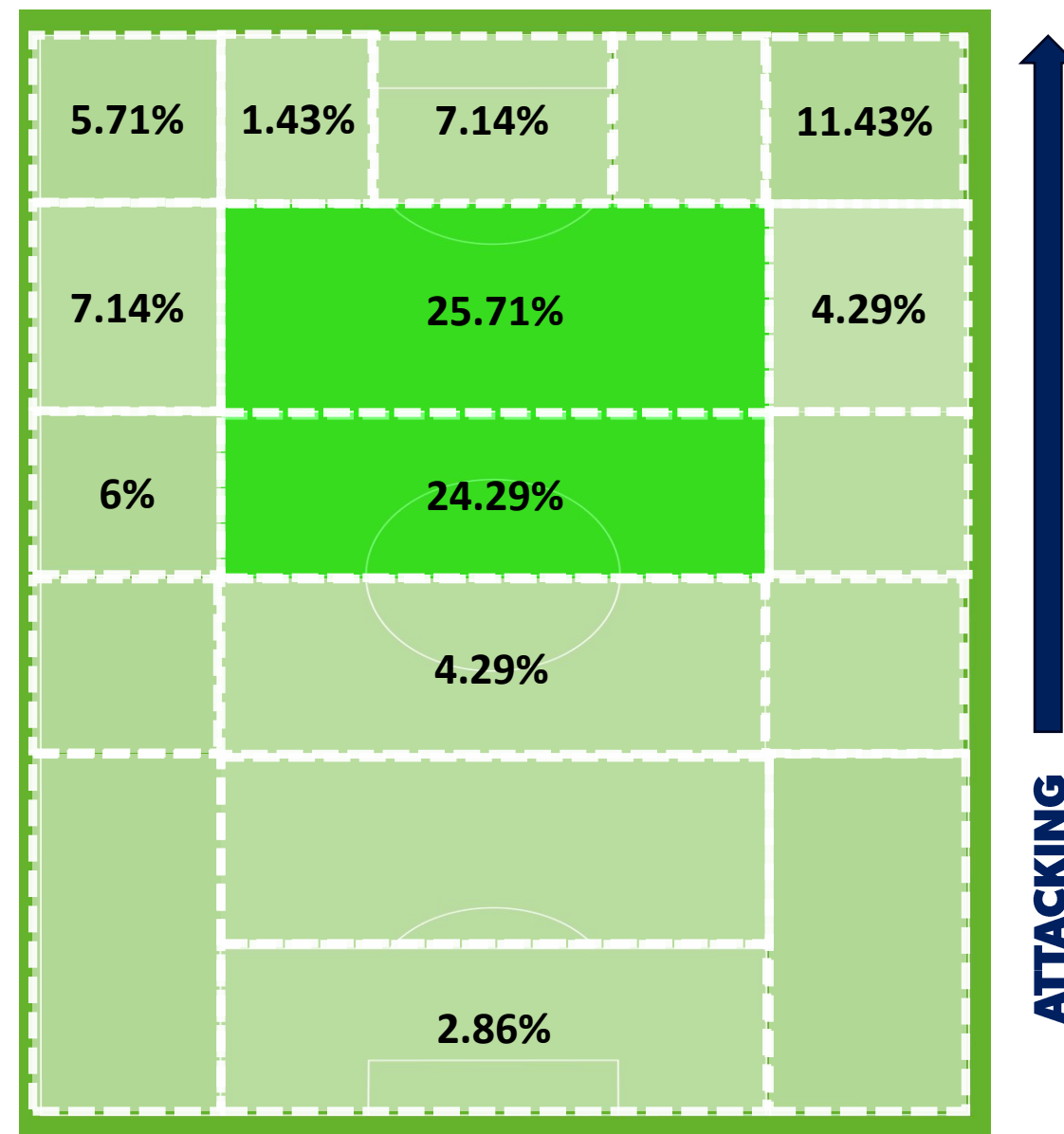
## GOALS SCORED

An analysis of where possession began for each goal was conducted. The data, unsurprisingly, shows that most goal sequences started in the central corridor, particularly in the middle to front third.

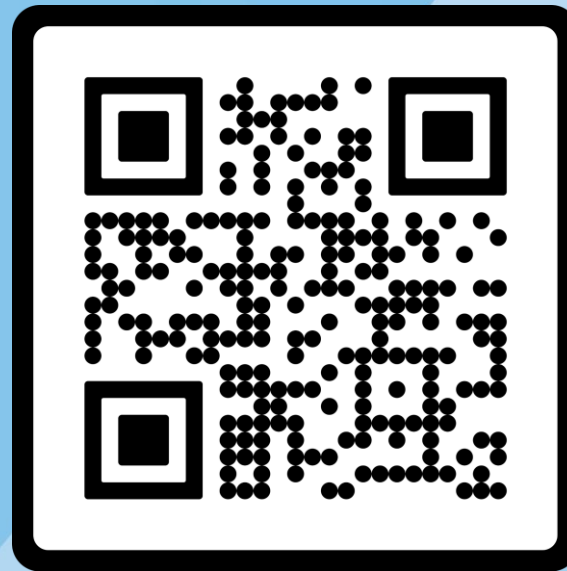
This data is very similar to that of the analysis conducted in 2024.

This highlights our ability to win the ball in central areas through swarming and playing forward and through immediately. This linked in with the high percentage of transition goals also suggests a lack of opponent's ability to build up which was recognised and capitalised on by our teams.

Due to the low number of possession starts in the back third, our ability to maintain possession and build up from these areas needs improvement, particularly through range of passing (both feet).



# SWARM TO WIN POSSESSION



NUMBERS AROUND THE BALL

Scan Me





# RANGE OF PASSING

OVERHIT  
UNDERHIT  
CLINICAL  
BOTH FOOTED



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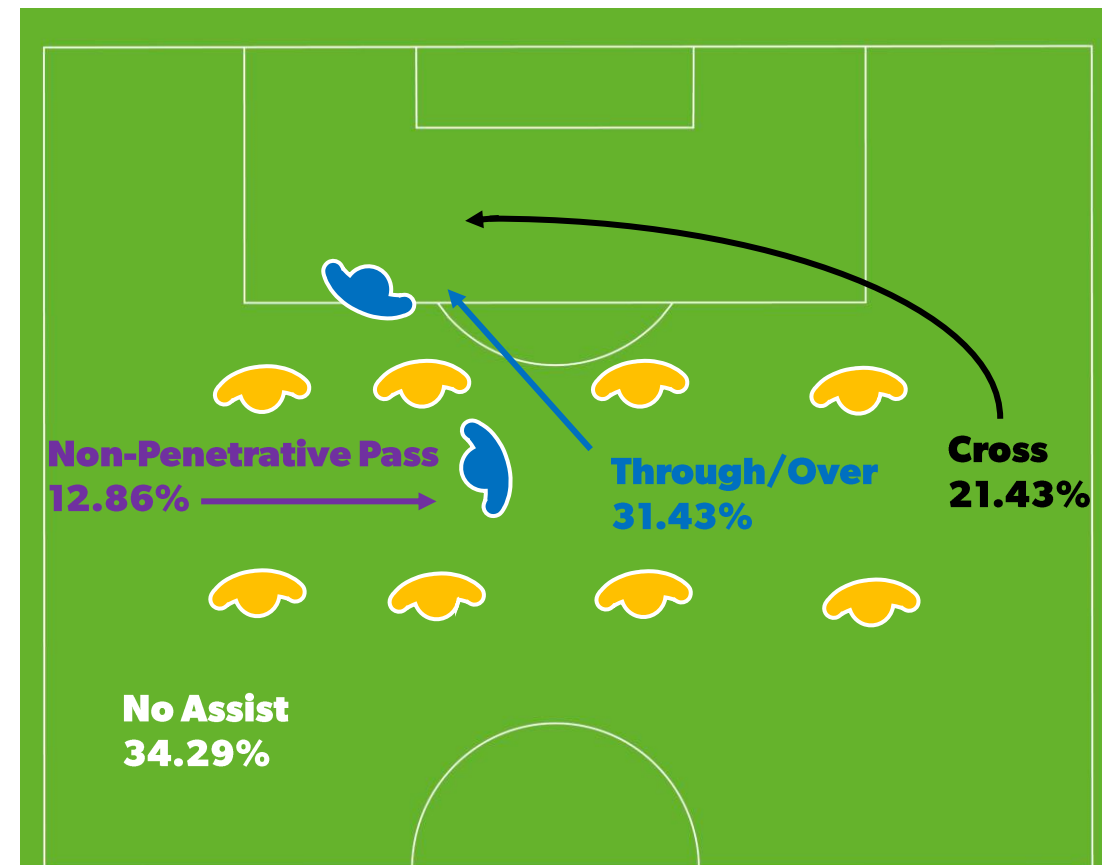


# TYPE OF ASSIST GOALS SCORED

The analysis of assist types revealed a high percentage of goals assisted from 'through/over' passes (31.43%) and suggests that this is an area of strength and comfortability for our players. The desire to play forward quickly and make forward runs was evident across the teams.

Goals scored without an assist was the highest (34.29%) showing a strong ability to regain possession in advanced areas and capitalise on and good individual efforts in some cases. It highlights our opponent's inability to play out from the back or clear the danger.

Overall, it is evident that the paths to goal at this level are still relatively broad, however more work can be done in wide areas and getting crosses into the box.



# GOALS – NO ASSIST



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REGAINING POSSESSION IN ADVANCED AREAS



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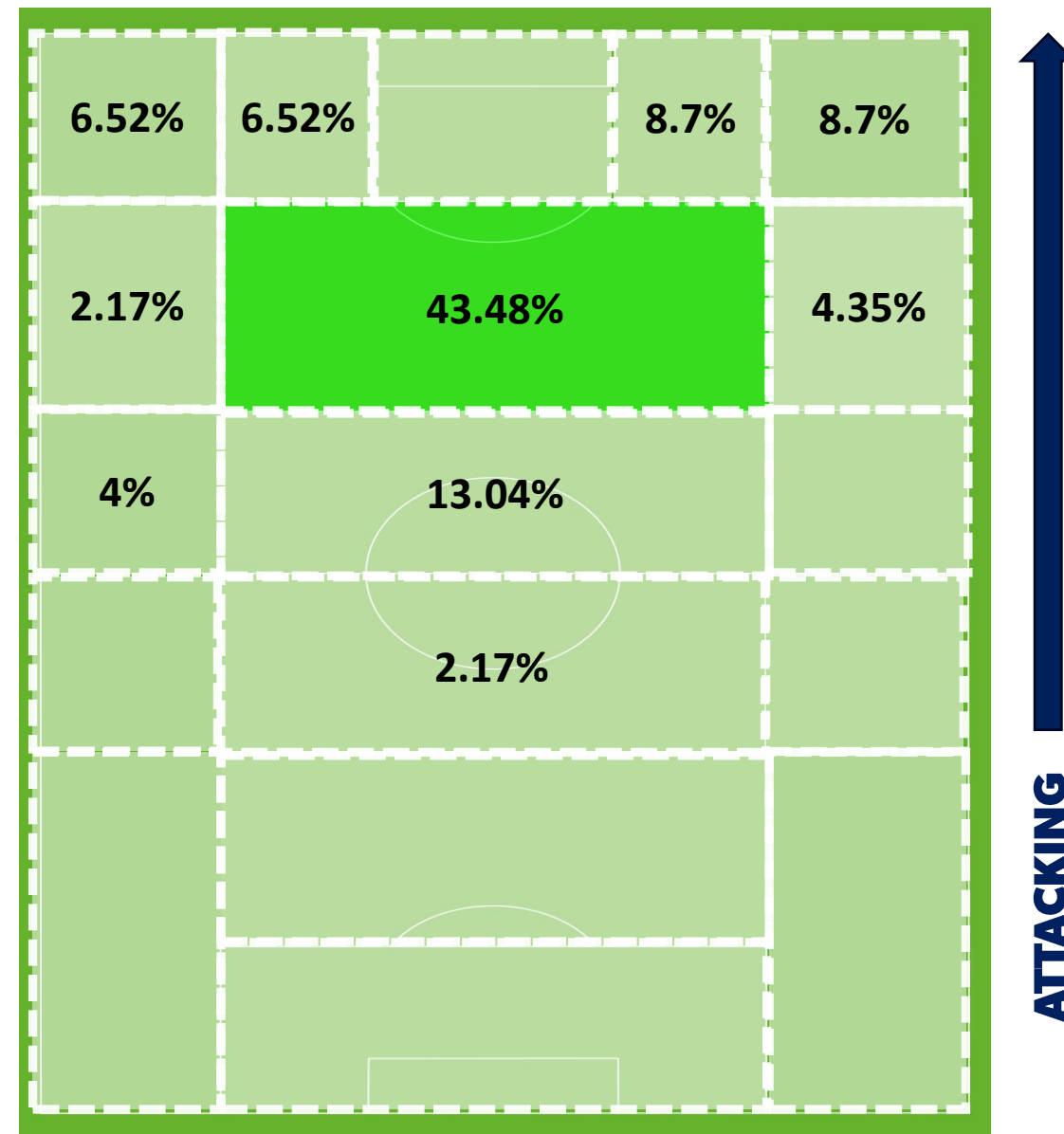
# ASSIST LOCATION

## GOALS SCORED

Assist locations revealed that 80.43% came from the front third and most noticeably, 43.48% in the central area outside the box.

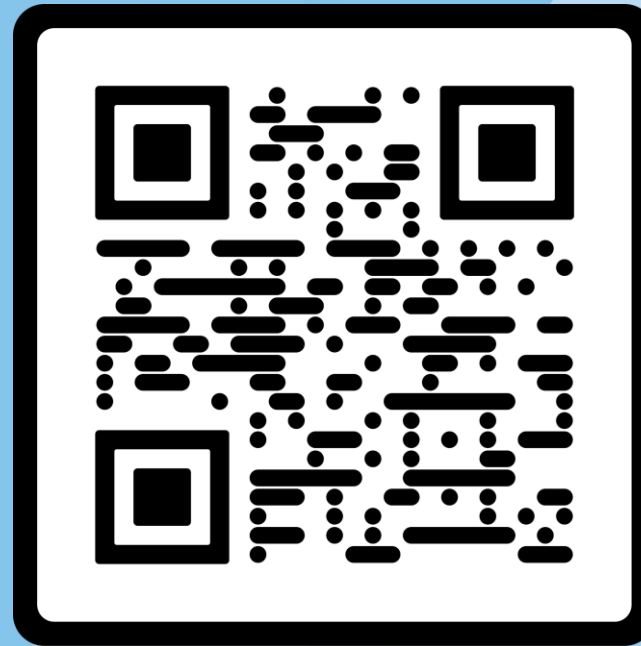
This aligns with the findings of the type of assist, suggesting that we are effective in these central areas.

It further highlights that we need to work on our ability to score goals from crosses in wide areas by improving the technical ability of players to deliver better quality balls into this area (with both feet) and be braver in 1v1 situations in wide areas.





# GOALS – THROUGH BALL ASSIST



LINE OF PASS  
VISION TO EXECUTE  
CLINICAL

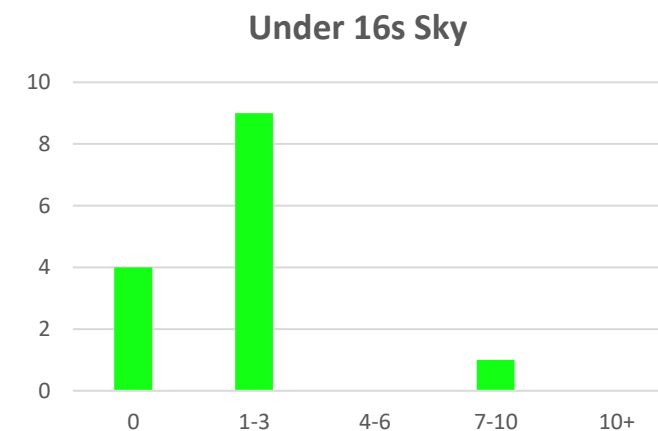
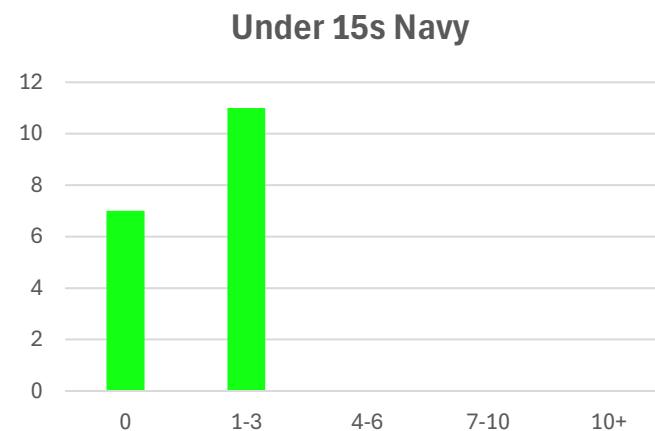
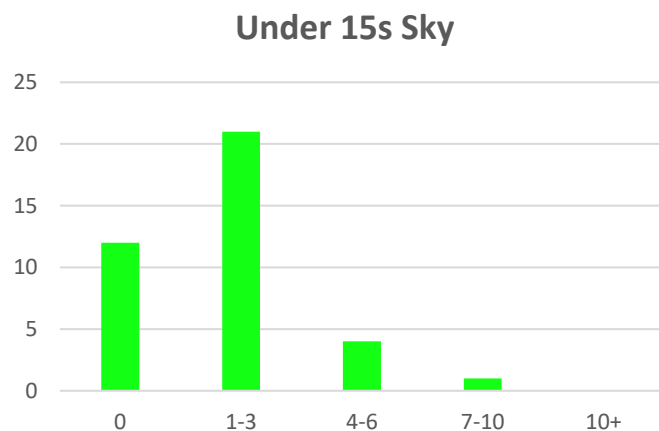
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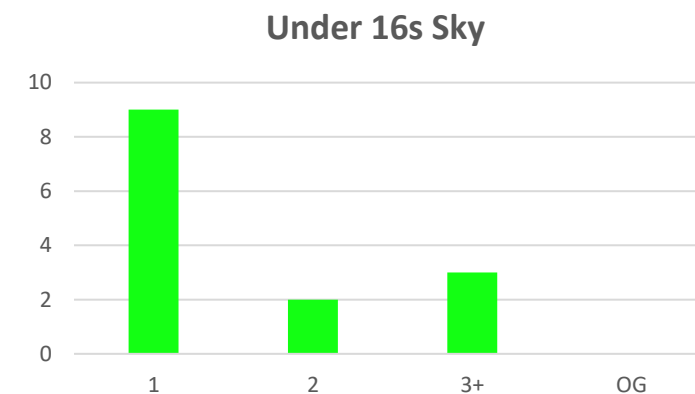
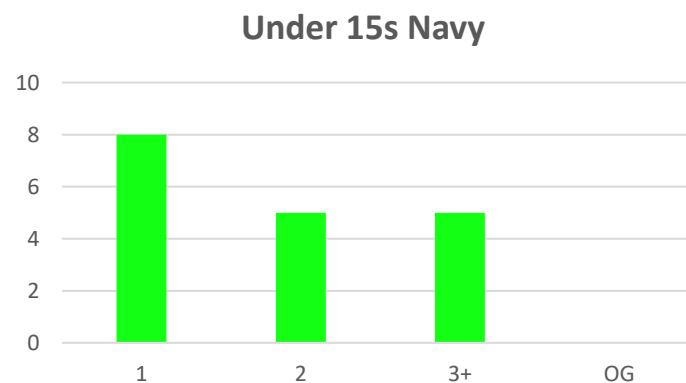
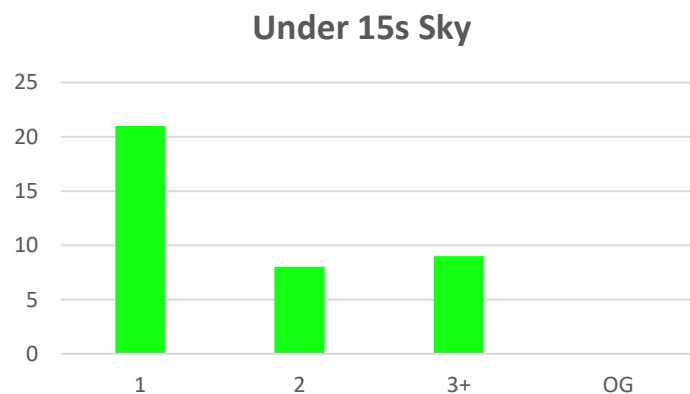
# NUMBER OF PASSES PRIOR TO GOAL - TEAM

Most goals, both scored and conceded, occurred with less than three passes. This supports the earlier analysis of the type of attack, reinforcing that the majority of goals scored were during transition moments, regaining possession in advanced areas and capitalising on these opportunities.



# SHOT TOUCHES

Majority of the goals scored were one touch finishes which showed that players were getting in the box for crosses or passes and decision making was good in that they weren't taking unnecessary touches prior to finishing. There was a surprising number of one touch finishes with non-dominant foot which was great to see.



# GOALS – ONE TOUCH FINISH



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# SHOT LOCATION

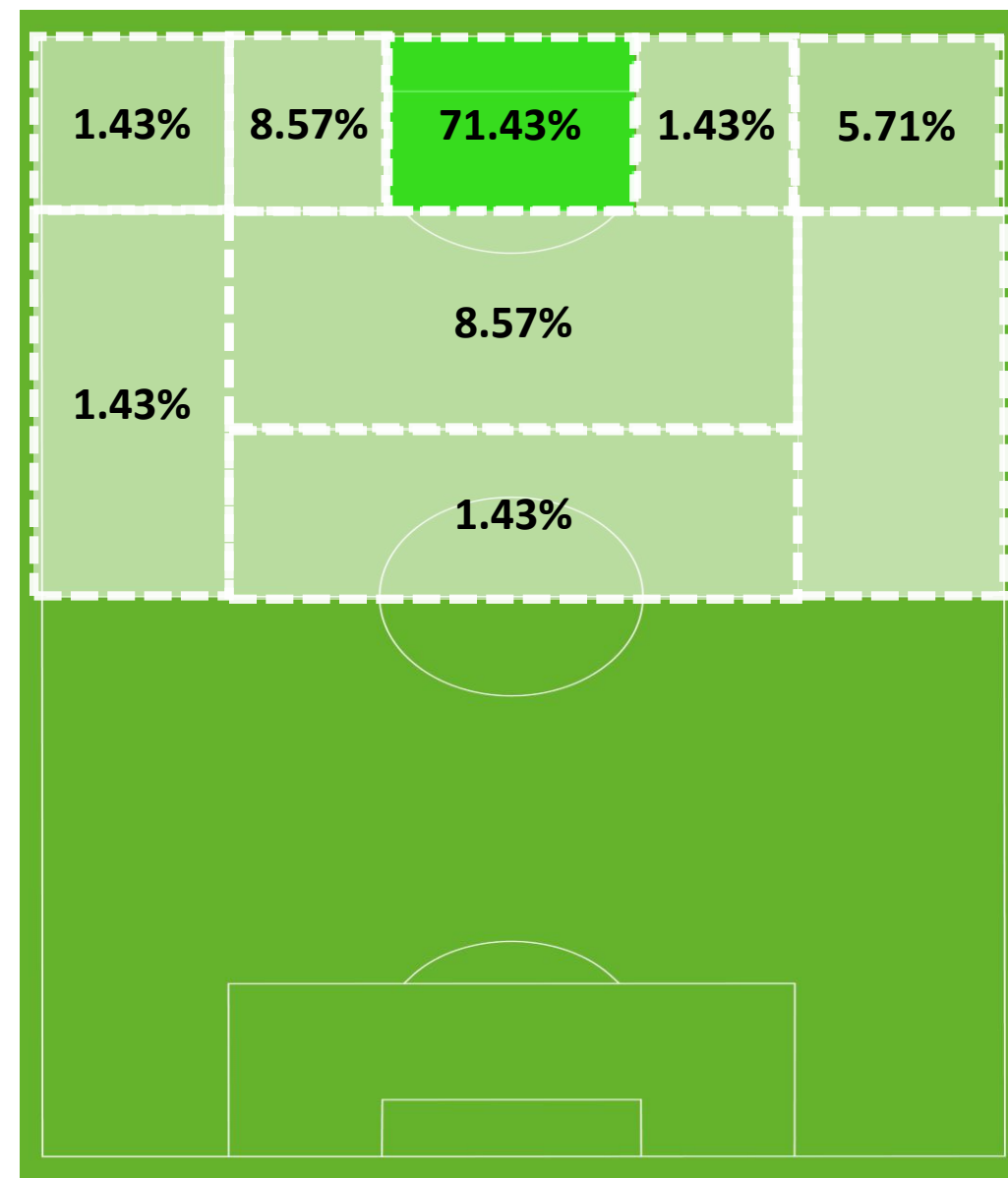
## GOALS SCORED

The highest percentage of goals were scored in the area directly in front of goal. These statistics emphasise the importance of players being able to deliver the ball into this area, positioning players in the box, and ensuring players can create space to take a shot on goal or finish one touch.

The analysis supports the 'shot touches' breakdown, with one touch sitting at 54.29%.

Throughout the tournament, the goals scored could have been significantly higher across each of the teams, with more clinical decision making in the final third and greater technical competency of execution.

The limited number of goals scored outside the box highlighted a lack of power, accuracy and range of passing to execute shots from distance.



# CLINICAL - FRONT THIRD

DECISION MAKING  
TECHNICAL COMPETENCY  
EXECUTION



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# START OF POSSESSION

## GOALS CONCEDED

Of the 10 goals conceded, 5 were from open play. 2 were through transition and 3 were organised possession.

The 2 transition goals in open play both started centrally, 1 in each of the highlighted zones.

Set play goals were from a corner (2), penalty (1), throw in (1) and free kick (1) showing quite a spread of variation.

The only reasonable take away from these findings is that players need to stay vigilant and alert in all moments of the game particularly during a set piece stoppage. A lack of concentration and fatigue may be the cause of conceding from these set pieces.

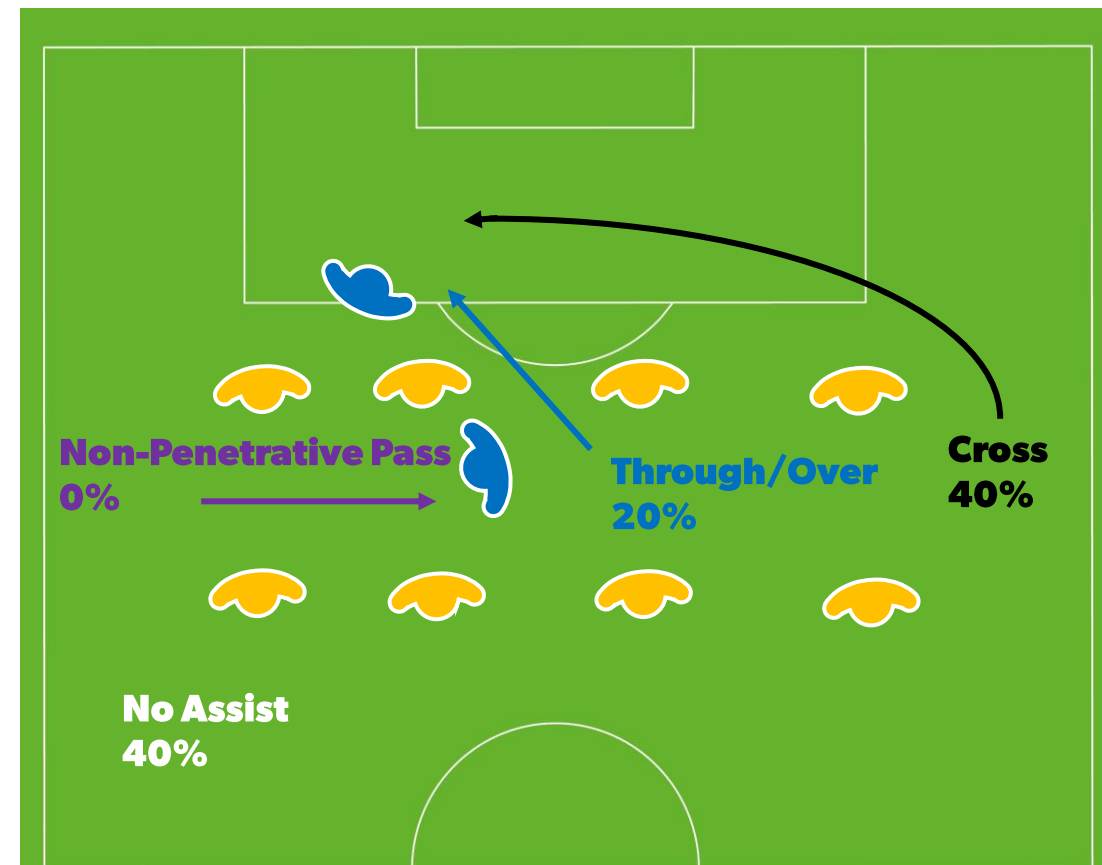


# TYPE OF ASSIST GOALS CONCEDED

Most of the conceded goals were from a cross or no assist.

Most of the goals conceded were from 3 or less passes which highlights the 50% being set piece goals and 3 of the 5 open play goals being quick counterattack goals.

Considering there were no goals scored from good build up play, it suggests that we were successful in breaking down any build up attempt and confirms the previous statement that our ability to win the ball back quickly and regain possession through swarm was positive.





# GOALS AGAINST – OPEN PLAY



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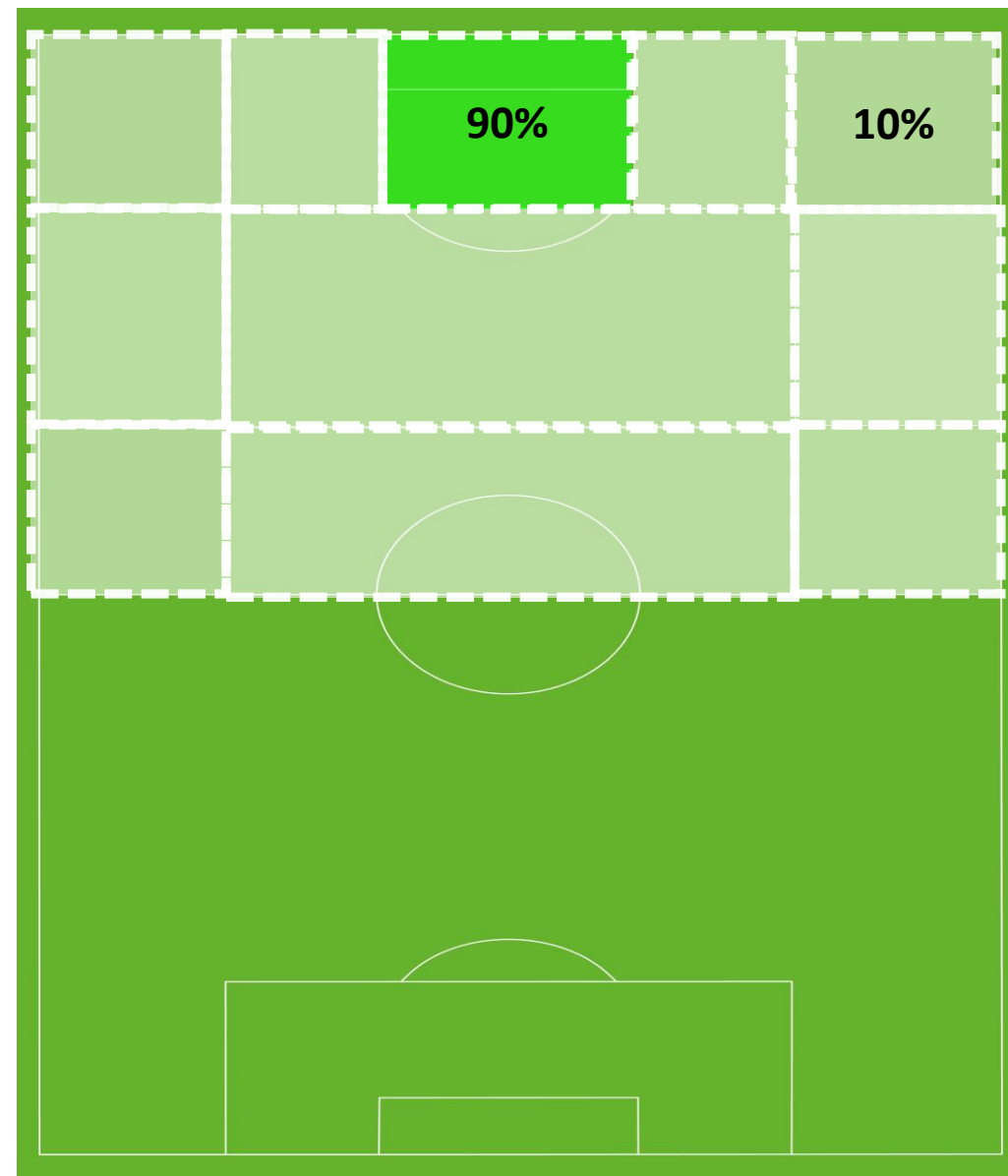


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# SHOT LOCATION GOALS CONCEDED

From a defensive perspective, 9 of the 10 goals were scored in the area directly in front of goal from either a set play or open play, proving that denying space in this area is essential by improving our ability to be ruthless and meticulous when defending in and around the box to deny the opposition time and space in this area.

It is also critical to limit the set piece opportunities we give away through undisciplined defending.



# GOALS AGAINST – SET PLAY

RUTHLESS IN BOX TO DEFEND



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# CONCLUSIONS

## Scoring Goals

- Players who can strike a ball (accurately) from distance and with improved power and accuracy
- Ability to play around and be more dominant in wide areas. Brave to beat players and having different solutions in their toolbox
- Ability to get better quality crosses into the box
- Dual footed – ability to take opportunities with both feet
- Increase organised possession and build up in attack to create goal scoring opportunities i.e. more than 3 passes before scoring
- Decision making in front third

## Preventing Goals

- Dealing with long high balls (from crosses and centrally) – reading the flight, adjust body position/shape, and heading
- Ruthless in front of goal to defend and clear the ball – using the correct foot to clear the ball
- Brave in duels to regain possession
- Staying vigilant and alert during stoppages in play (set plays) particularly under fatigue
- Disciplined and organised defending in transition moments – do players know their role

# CONCLUSIONS

## Technical

- Lack of specialist 9's – goal scorers
- Lack of specialist defensive midfielders
- Defenders who can defend as a priority – heading, ruthless
- Lacking quality of balls over and around – weight, direction, spin etc.
- Short and long passing – accuracy, dual footed, type of pass
- Ability to carry the ball on the opposite side to defender and out of tackling range – dual footed

## Tactical

- Read and deal with long balls – consequence is defending balls in behind
- Struggle to utilise wide areas and get crosses in – ability to beat players 1v1 in wide areas
- Playing out of the press
- Understanding roles during transition moments – 1<sup>st</sup> defender, 2<sup>nd</sup> defender, delay, tracking players etc.
- Game management









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