PLAYBOOK

Soccer playbook

A free soccer playbook to print. Eleven plays drawn for you: a formation, a kick-off, a throw-in, free kicks and corners, each ready to edit in Playmaker.

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11 plays

Soccer

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Soccer playbook

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4-3-3

Soccer · Call 1 · 3.0 s



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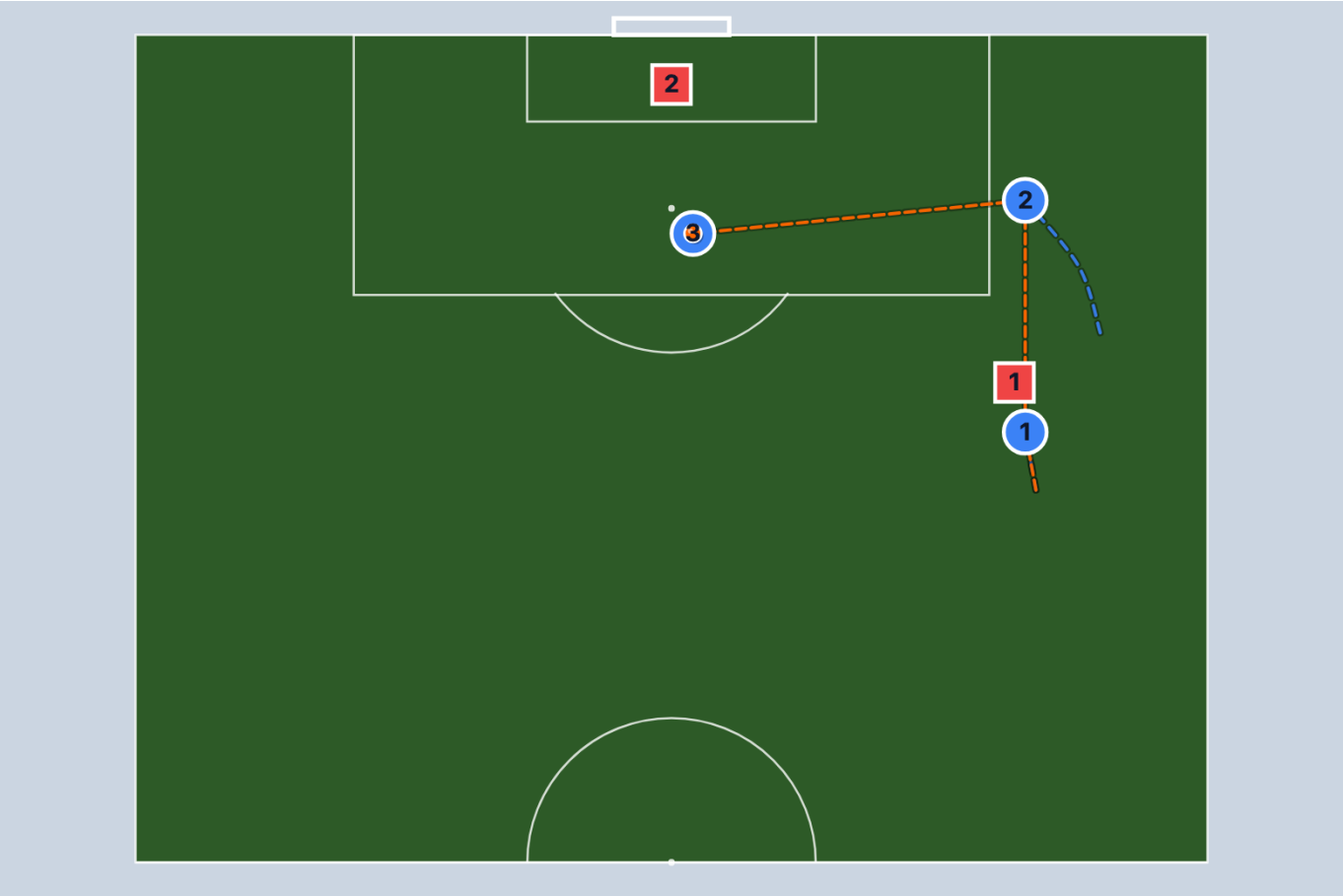
When to call it: Your base shape for open play, and where everyone stands when the game restarts.

Who does what: A back four, one holding midfielder with two midfielders ahead of him, and a front three. The wingers stay wide on the touchlines so the full backs have room to overlap.

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Two against one, wide

Soccer · Call 2 · 4.0 s



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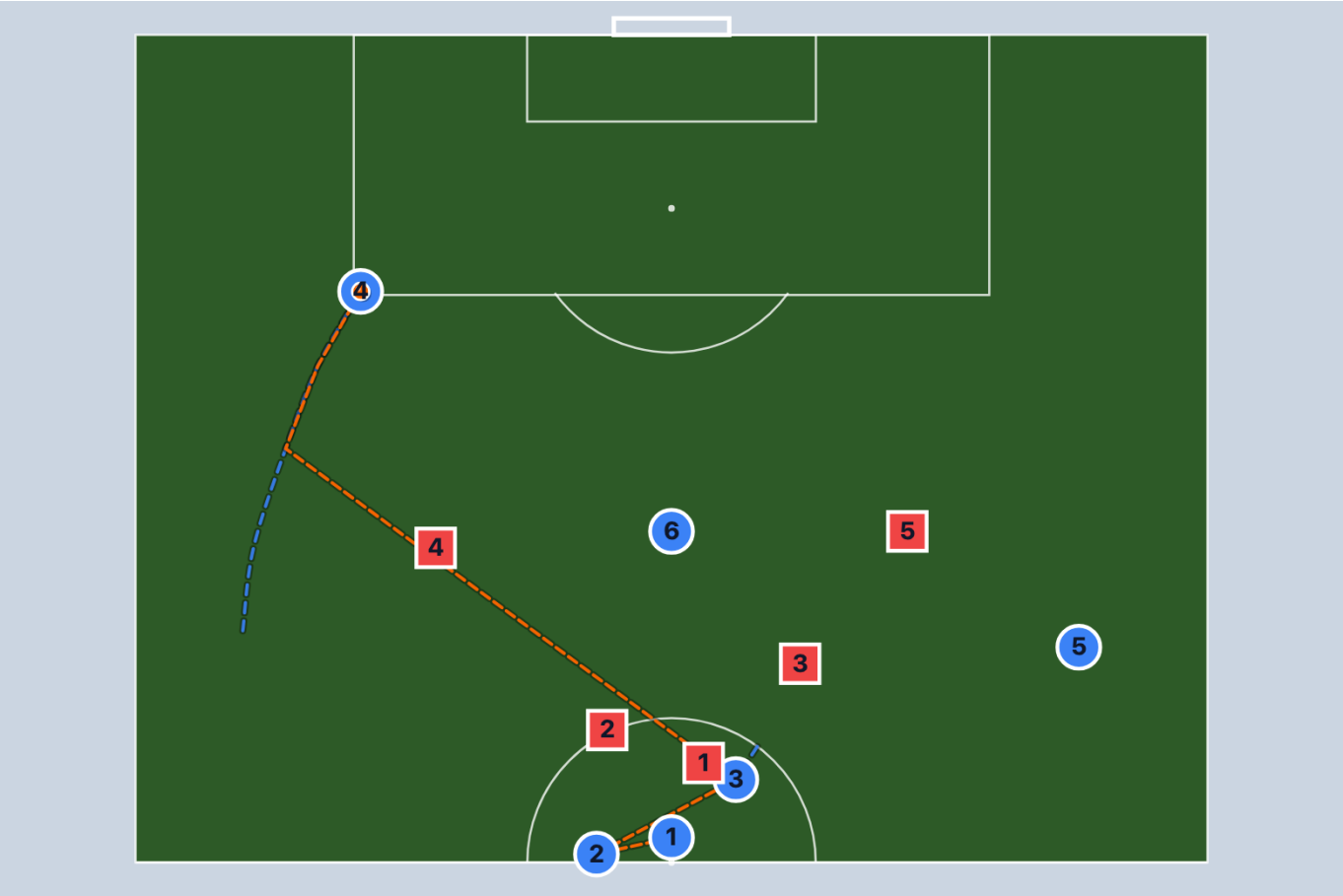
When to call it: In open play, whenever a full back and a winger find one defender between them near the box.

Who does what: The full back carries the ball at the defender. The winger runs past him on the outside. Hold the pass until the defender commits to the ball, then play the winger in, and he crosses for the striker.

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Kick-off switch

Soccer · Call 3 · 5.0 s



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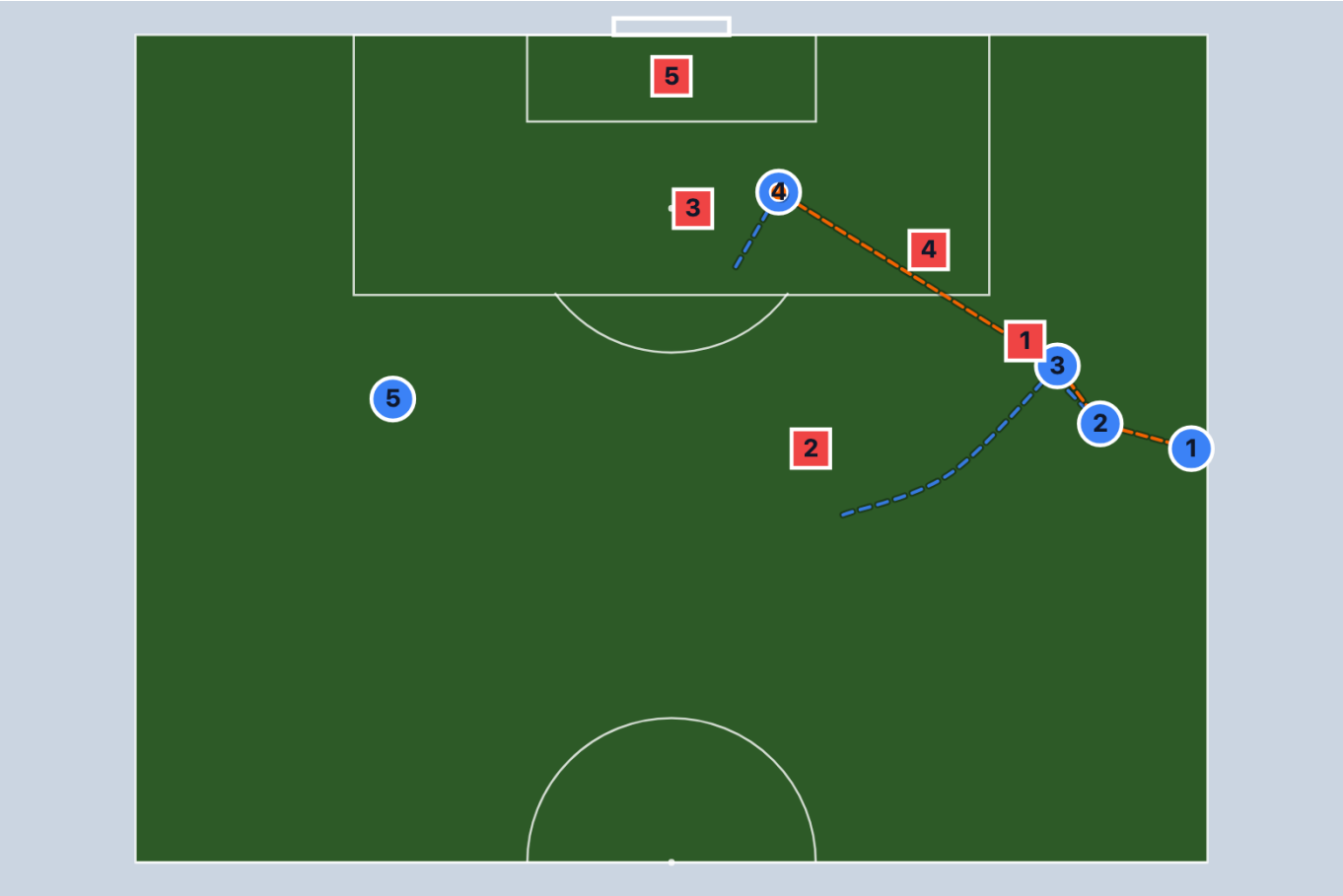
When to call it: Every kick-off, especially against a young team where everybody runs at the ball.

Who does what: Two touches in the middle and one long pass to the winger on the far side. The taker plays it short, the next player lays it back, and the holder switches it out wide while the other team is still running at the middle.

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Throw-in third man

Soccer · Call 4 · 6.0 s



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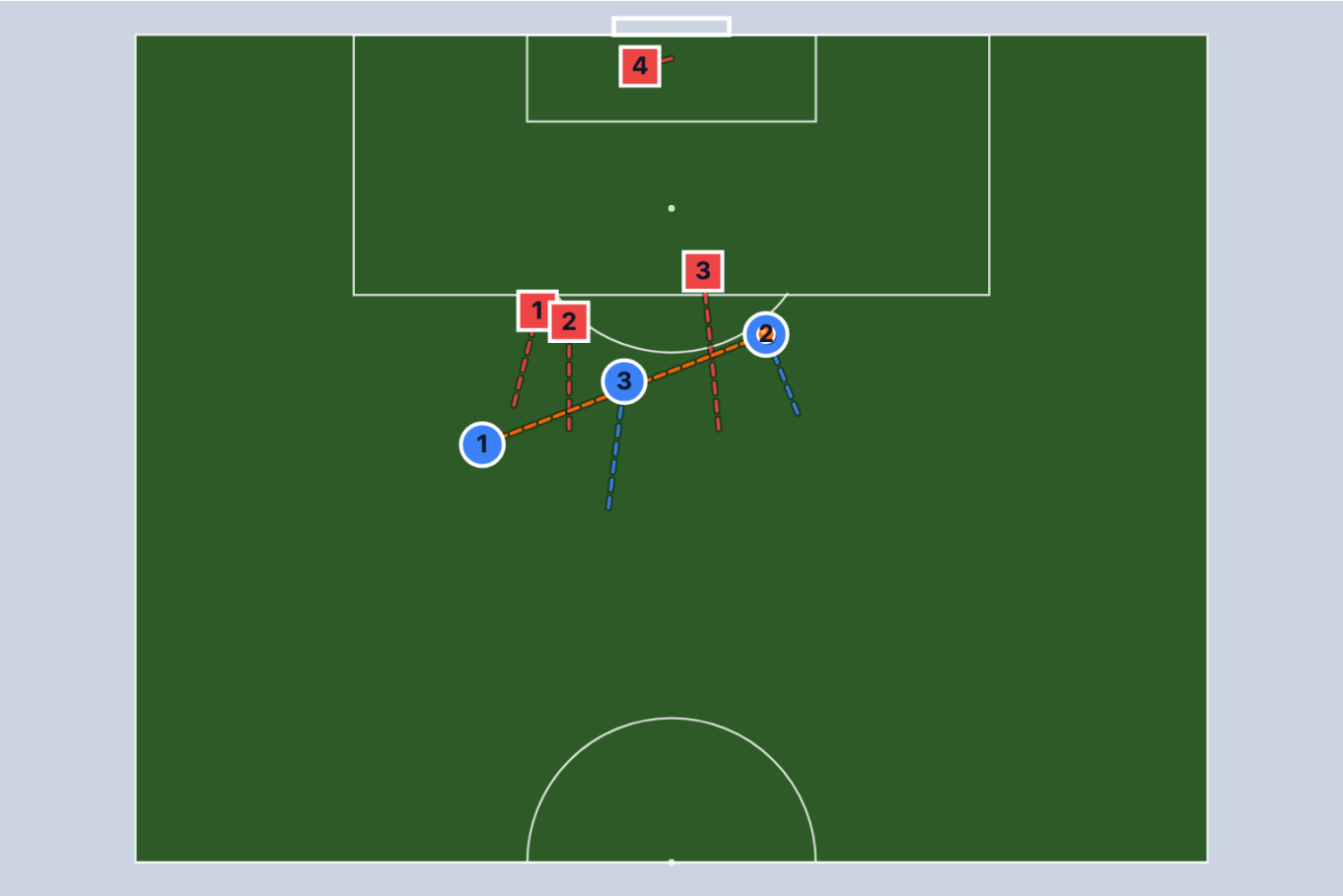
When to call it: Any throw-in in the other team's half, when the defender is standing close to your nearest player.

Who does what: The nearest player comes short for the throw and lays it off first time. His defender follows him, the midfielder runs round the outside into the space he has just left, and finds the striker.

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Quick free kick

Soccer · Call 5 · 6.0 s



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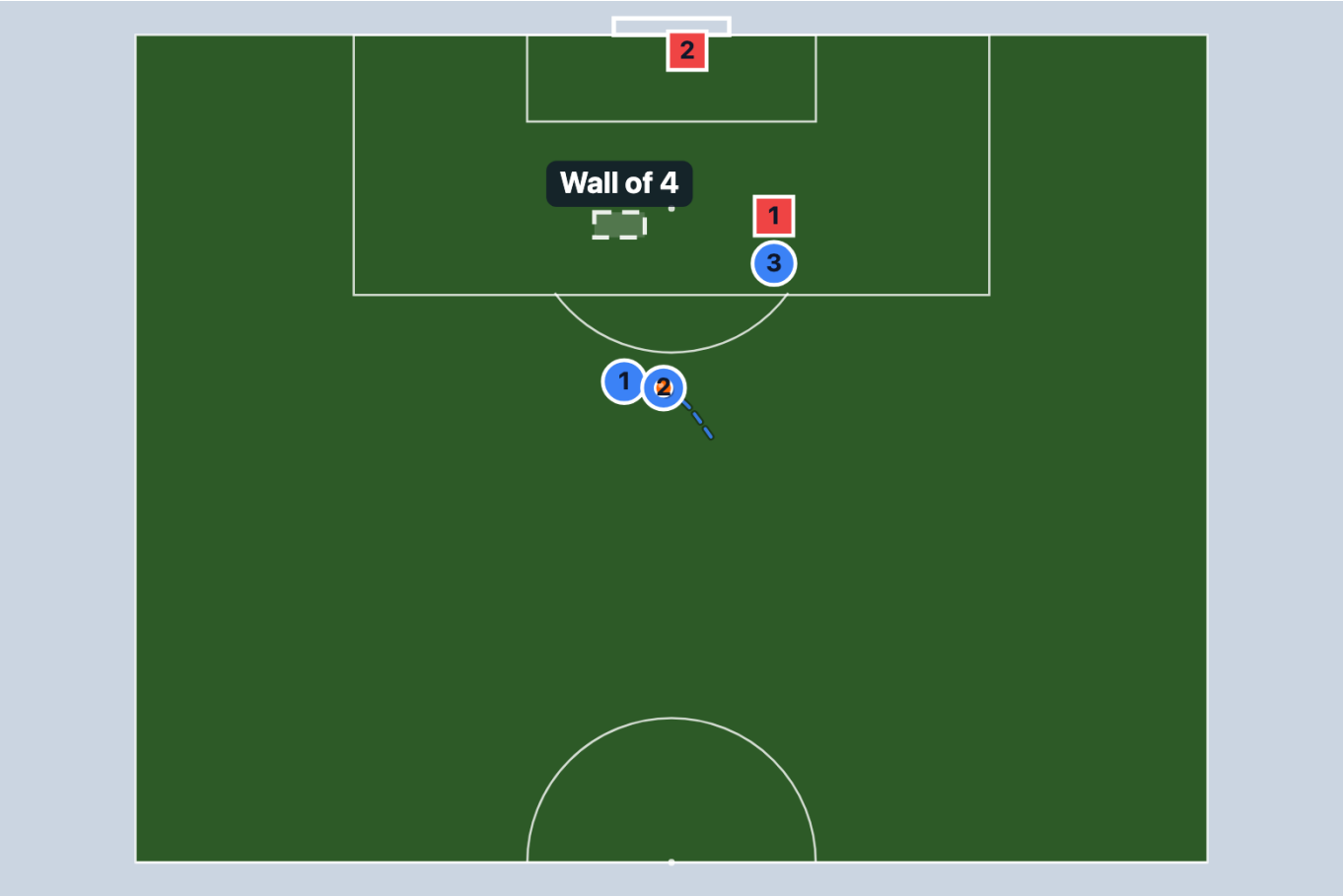
When to call it: A free kick within shooting range, when the other team turns its back to set a wall. Take it before they are ready.

Who does what: The taker plays it straight away to the striker, who has come to the edge of the box in front of the retreating defenders. The striker shoots before anyone has set.

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Lay-off round the wall

Soccer · Call 6 · 6.0 s



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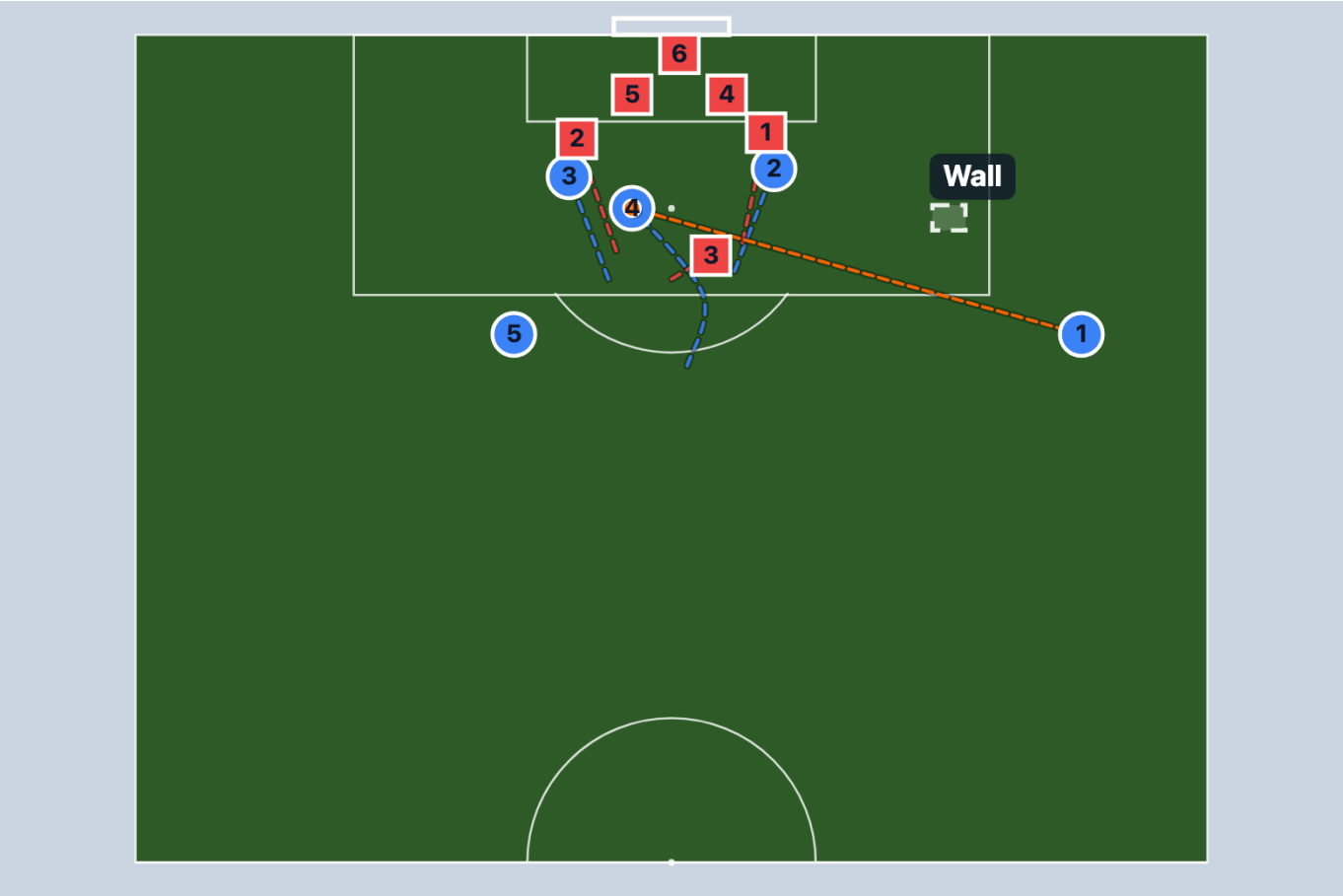
When to call it: A central free kick just outside the box, with the wall covering the near post.

Who does what: The taker rolls it two or three metres to the side. The shooter runs onto it and shoots with a clear line to goal outside the end of the wall.

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Wide free kick

Soccer · Call 7 · 8.0 s



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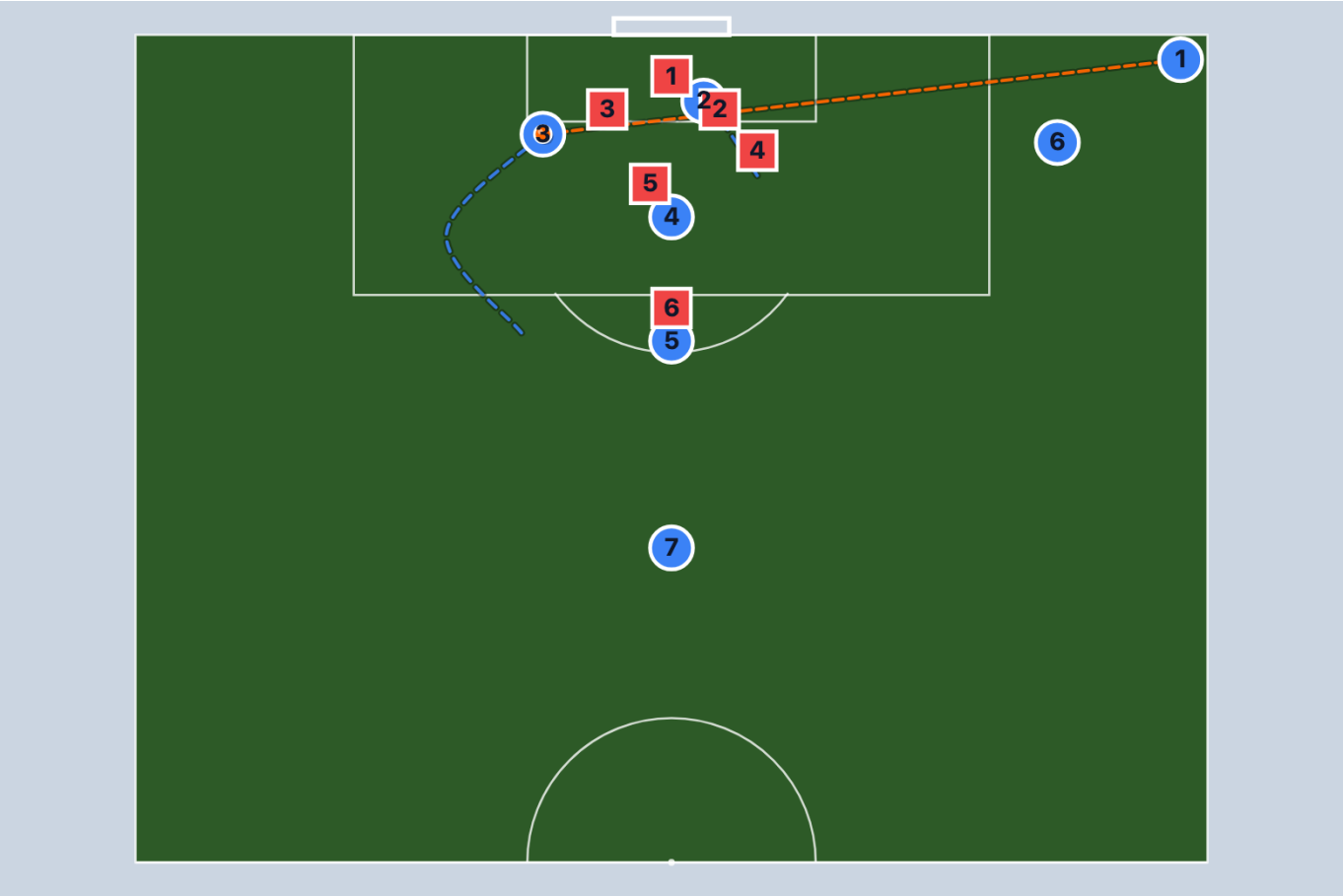
When to call it: A free kick out wide, level with the box or just outside it.

Who does what: Two runners take their markers to the near and far posts. The third starts deep and arrives late in the space they left, beyond the penalty spot. Nobody runs beyond the last defender before the kick, so nobody is offside.

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Back-post corner

Soccer · Call 8 · 5.0 s



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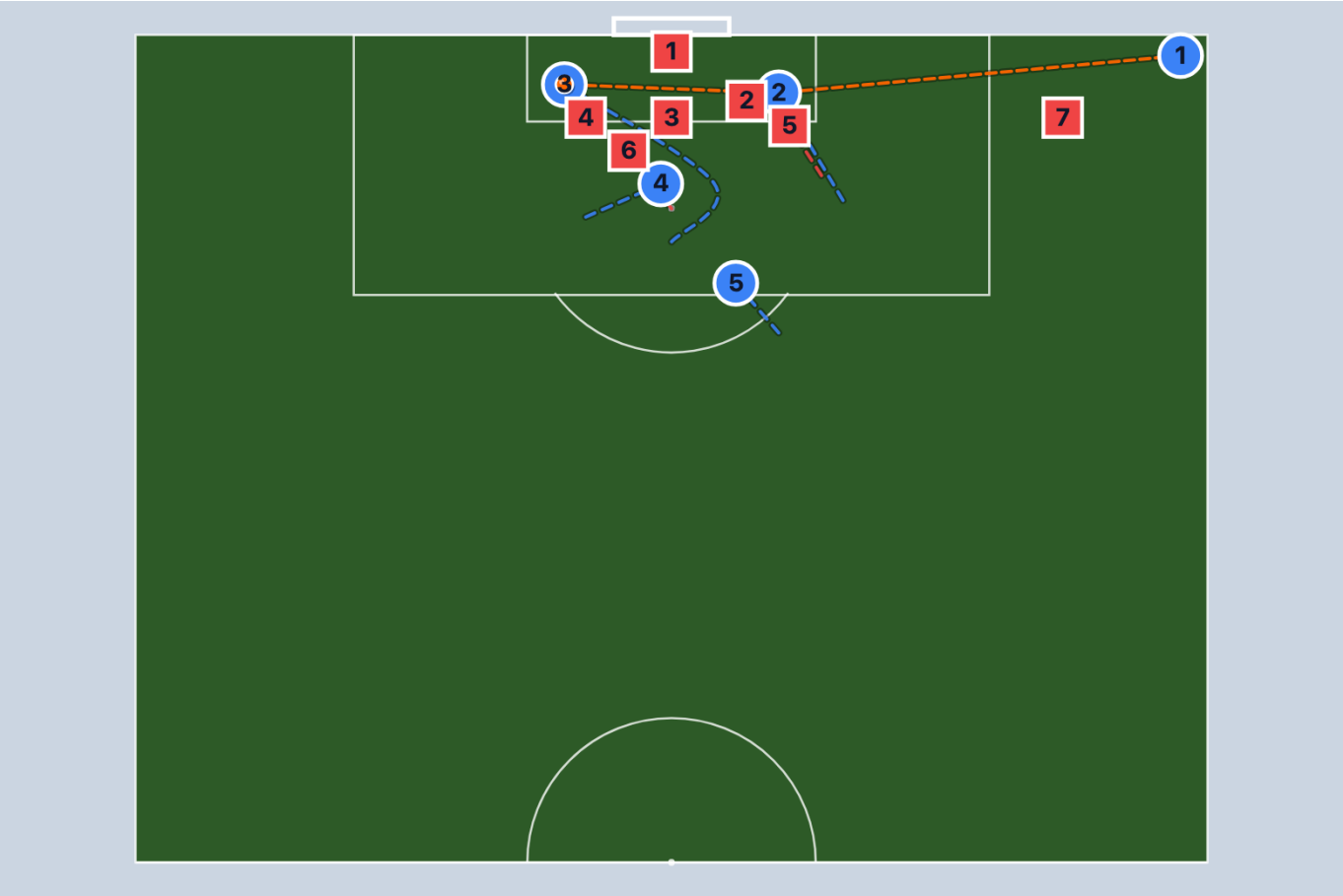
When to call it: Your first corner of the game, aimed at the back post.

Who does what: One runner attacks the near post to take the first defender with him. The second checks away and comes back to the far post, which is where the ball is going. One player stays back in case they break.

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Near-post flick-on

Soccer · Call 9 · 6.0 s



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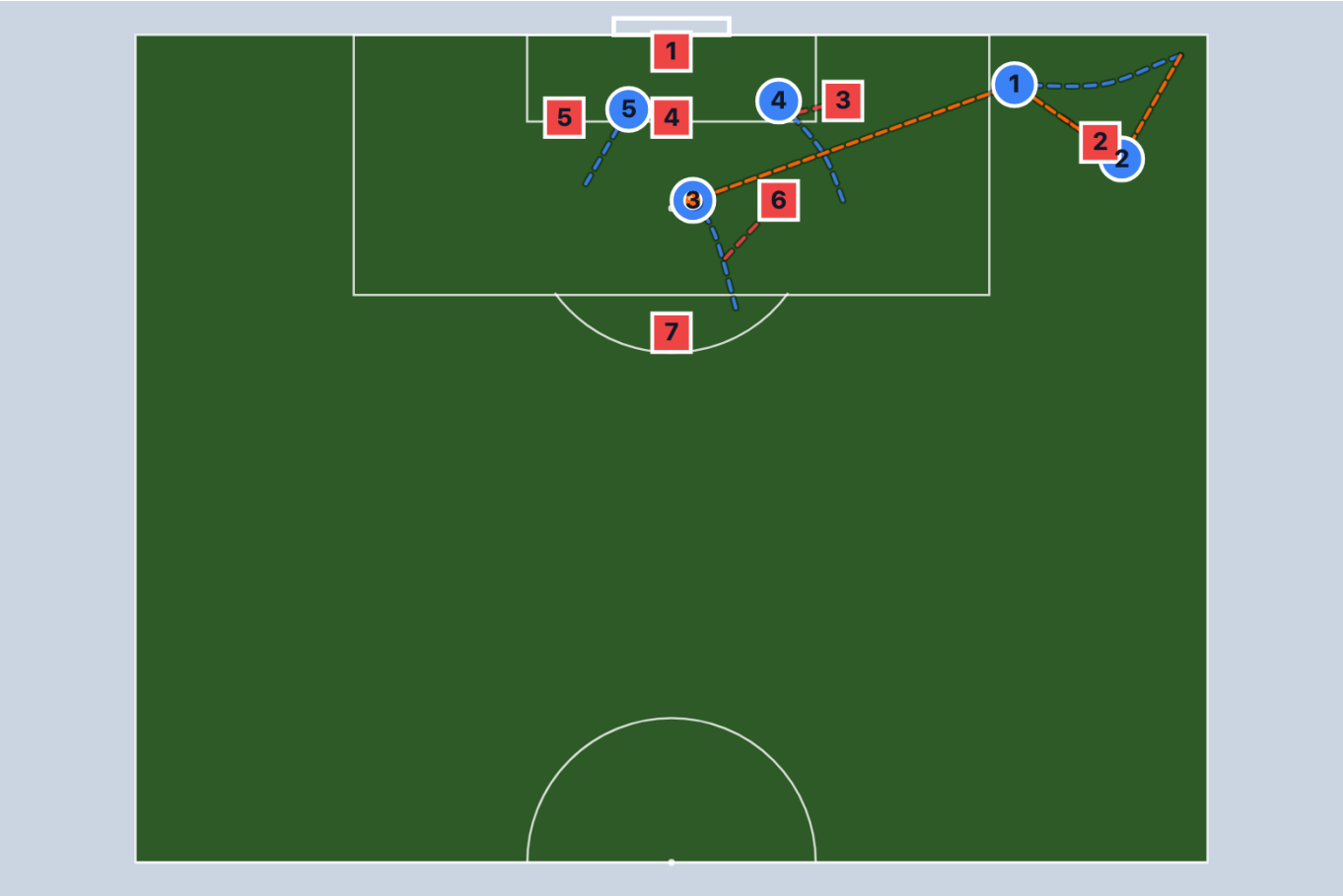
When to call it: Against a team that packs the middle of the box.

Who does what: An in-swinging corner to the near post. One runner attacks it and glances it on. A second runner checks off his marker and arrives at the back post, and a decoy run to the penalty spot holds the middle defenders.

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Short corner

Soccer · Call 10 · 8.0 s



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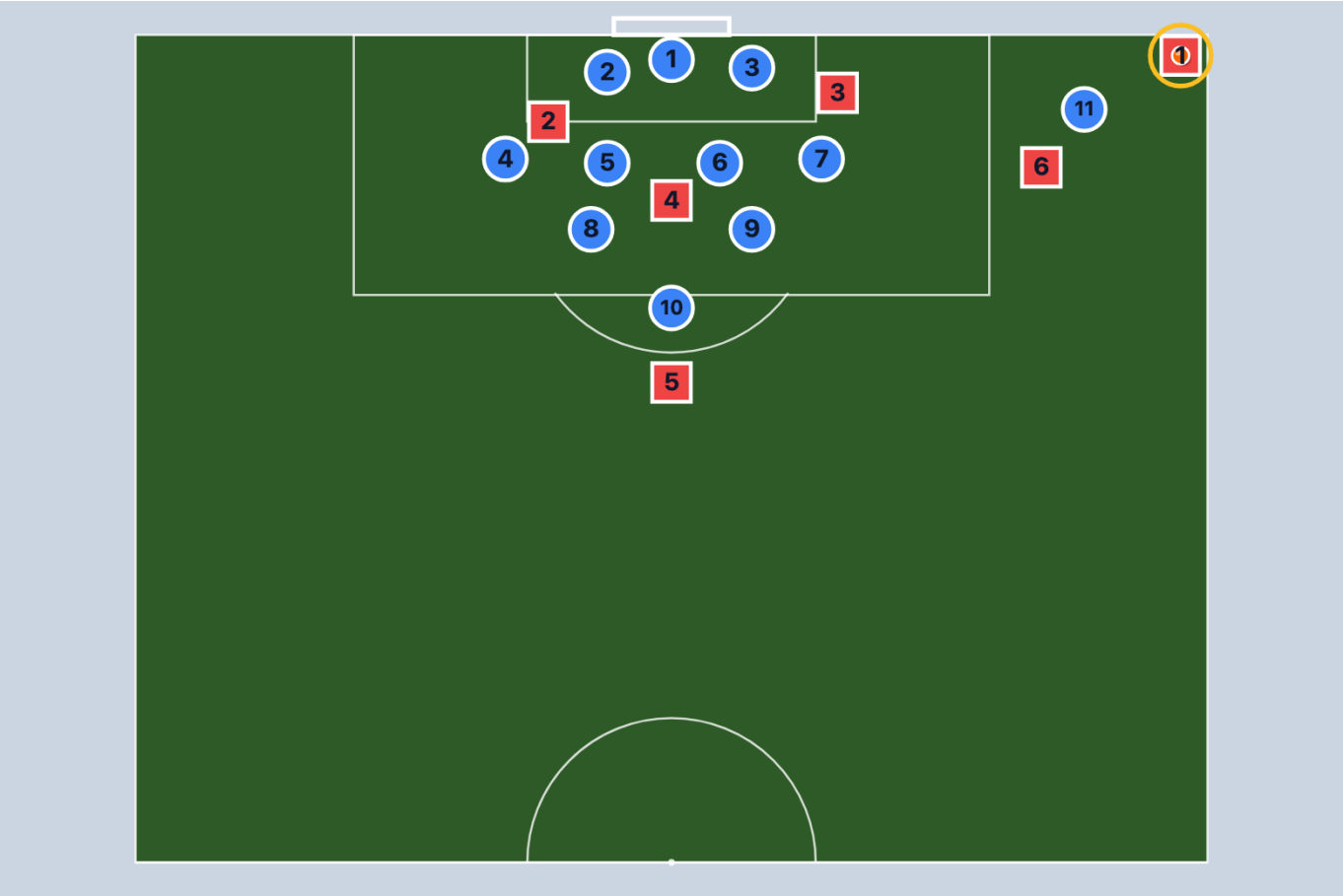
When to call it: Against a team with tall defenders who win every cross into the box.

Who does what: The taker plays it short to a team-mate and runs infield along the goal line. The ball comes back to him, and he cuts it back to a runner arriving at the penalty spot while the defence is still facing the corner flag.

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Defending corners, zonal

Soccer · Call 11 · 3.0 s



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When to call it: Every corner against you. Each player defends a space, not a person.

Who does what: The goalkeeper on his line, a player on each post, four across the six-yard line, two on the penalty spot, one on the edge of the box and one out to press the taker. Attack the ball in your zone.

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