

**PECULIARITIES OF THE BALL PASSING BY THE BEST TEAMS OF  
THE PREMIER LEAGUE AND THE FIRST LEAGUE OF UKRAINE ON  
FOOTBALL**

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**Purpose:** to determine the performance of ball passing in football teams of different qualifications.

**Material and methods:** the registration of ball passes was carried out on the example of the best teams of the Premier League: Dynamo Kiev, Shakhtar Donetsk, Zorya Lugansk and the leaders of the First League of Ukraine: Veres Rivne, Chornomorets Odessa, Metalist 1925 Kharkiv season 2020/2021. A total of 90 football matches were recorded. To solve the set tasks, the following research methods were used in the work: analysis of scientific and methodological literature, registration of ball passes during the game, methods of mathematical statistics.

**Results:** the article presents data on the performance of ball passes by the best teams of the Premier and the first Ukrainian football league. The analysis of the effectiveness of the total number of ball passes, forward passes, long passes, passes to the last third of the field, cut passes, and the pace of play of each of the teams was determined. The differences in the use of ball passes by the best teams of the Premier League: Dynamo Kiev, Shakhtar Donetsk, Zorya Lugansk and the leaders of the First League of Ukraine: Veres Rivne, Chornomorets Odessa, Metalist 1925 Kharkiv season 2020/2021.

**Conclusions:** research data indicate the differences in the use of ball passes by teams of different qualifications of Ukraine on football of the 2020/2021 season.

Thus, it is noted that teams of a higher level have better indicators of the total number of passes and ball passes, and the number of long passes is much lower.

**Keywords:** passing the ball, tactics, efficiency, pace of the game.

## **Introduction**

Football is a dynamic game that requires a great concentration of players' actions throughout the match. Ball control plays an important role during the game, allowing the team to change the pace and rhythm of a football match [3, 8, 12]. Passing the ball is one of the main components of ball control in football, which combines individual and group tactics.

In addition, Golomazov S., Chirva B., Lysenchuk G., Shamardin V.M. [1, 2, 7] believe that the final result of a football match often depends on the efficiency of transfers in football. In turn, Perevoznyk V., Pertsukhov A. [4, 5, 6] claim that the level of the team primarily depends on the quantitative indicators of one and two touches.

To assess the effectiveness of ball pass in football distinguish [7, 9, 11]:

- distance: short (5-10 m), medium (10-25 m), long (more than 25 m)
- pass in the direction: back, across, forward;
- key passes: in the last third of the field (transfer in the 35-meter zone from the opponent's goal line), cut out pass;
- tempo of the game (number of passes per minute of possession of the ball) [3].

**Purpose** of the study is to determine the performance of ball passes in football of teams of different qualifications.

## **Material and Methods of research**

The following research methods were used to solve the tasks: analysis of scientific and methodological literature, registration of ball transfers during the game, methods of mathematical statistics. Registration of ball transfers was carried out by recording different types of passes in a specially designed table during the game of the best teams of the Premier League: "Dynamo" Kyiv, "Shakhtar" Donetsk, "Zorya" Luhansk and the leaders of the First League of Ukraine: "Veres" Rivne,

"Chornomorets" Odessa, "Metalist 1925" Kharkiv in the 2020/2021 season. The following indicators were registered in this way: forward passes, long passes, pass to the last third of the field, cuts passes. The pace of play of each of the three best teams of the Premier League and the First League of Ukraine was also determined.

### **Results of the research**

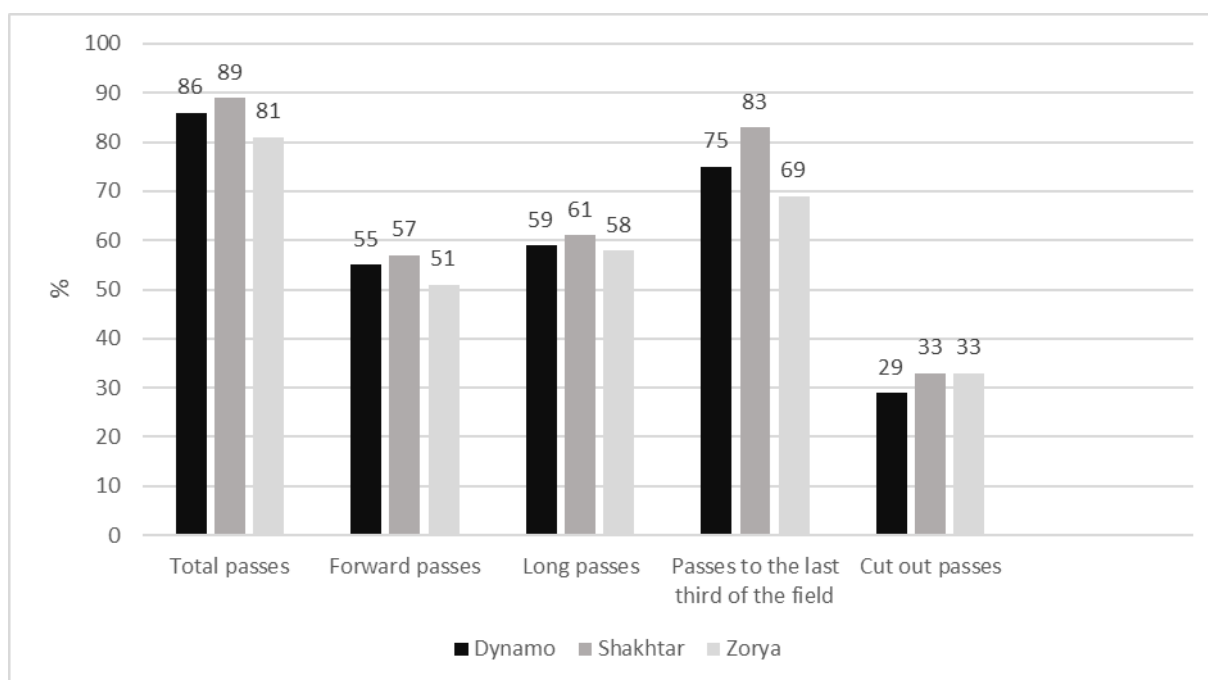
Table 1 shows the performance of the ball during the game by the best teams of the Premier League of Ukraine in the 2020/2021 season. The table shows that the team "Zorya" Lugansk has an advantage in the number of long passes per game  $47,8 \pm 4,3$  times, which is explained by the level of preparation and tactical actions of the team players. "Shakhtar" Donetsk out performs "Dynamo" and "Zorya" in all respects, but the pace of play for "Dynamo" and "Shakhtar" is the same –  $17,3 \pm 0,4$  passes per minute.

*Table 1*

#### **Performance passes of the ball the best teams of the Premier League of Ukraine in the football season 2020/2021**

Teams	Total passes, times	Forward passes, times	Long passes, times	Passes to the last third of the field, times	Cut out passes, times	Tempo of the game, pass/min
"Dynamo" Kyiv (n=15)	$488,8 \pm 20,3$	$140,8 \pm 18,7$	$41,2 \pm 3,7$	$58,9 \pm 3,8$	$8,8 \pm 0,2$	$17,3 \pm 0,4$
"Shakhtar" Donetsk (n=15)	$577,9 \pm 27,3$	$155,6 \pm 19,8$	$37,8 \pm 2,9$	$70,1 \pm 4,6$	$10,8 \pm 0,3$	$17,3 \pm 0,4$
"Zorya" Lugansk (n=15)	$397,2 \pm 43,4$	$138,7 \pm 19,3$	$47,8 \pm 4,3$	$53,7 \pm 4,3$	$8,0 \pm 0,2$	$16,1 \pm 0,7$

Indicators of efficiency (%) of passes by the best teams of the Premier League are presented in Figure 1. Thus, "Shakhtar" team outperforms "Dynamo" and "Zorya" in all respects, only the assists have the same indicators as "Luhansk" – 33 %. "Zorya's" performance is much lower in the last third of the opponent's field and is 69 %, unlike Dynamo's 75% and "Shakhtar's" 83 %.



**Fig. 1.** Efficiency of passing the ball to the best teams of the Premier League of Ukraine in the 2020/2021 season

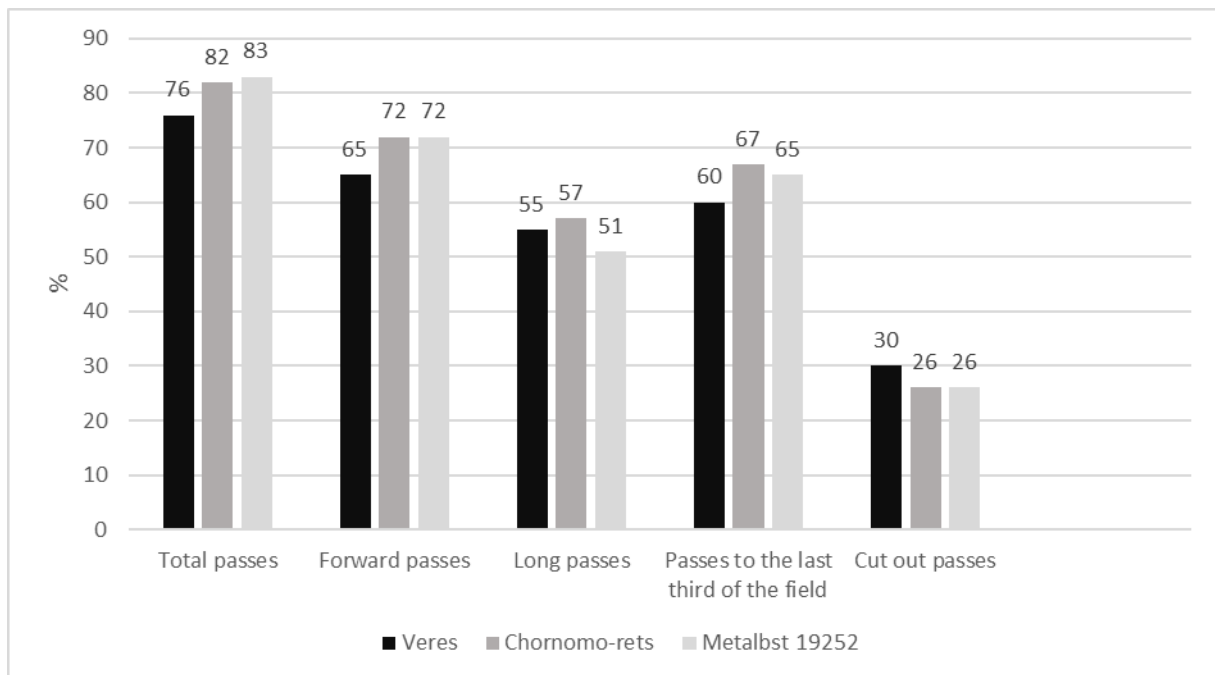
Analyzing the data in Table 2, we can conclude that the team "Metalist 1925" Kharkiv outperforms the teams "Veres" and "Chornomorets" in terms of total passes -  $436 \pm 22,7$  and forward passes –  $147,7 \pm 15,7$  per game. The team "Veres" Rivne has the best indicators in the number of long passes –  $60,6 \pm 4,3$ . "Chornomorets" Odessa has the best indicators in the number of key transfers: in the last third of the field –  $60,59 \pm 5,4$ , cut out pass –  $9,8 \pm 0,3$ .

*Table 2*

**Performance passes of the ball the First League of Ukraine in the football season 2020/2021**

Teams	Total passes, times	Forward passes, times	Long passes, times	Passes to the last third of the field, times	Cut out passes, times	Tempo of the game, pass/min
"Veres" Rivne (n=15)	$334,8 \pm 38,6$	$130,1 \pm 12,8$	$60,6 \pm 4,3$	$54,2 \pm 7,3$	$6,6 \pm 0,2$	$15,4 \pm 0,5$
"Chornomorets" Odessa (n=15)	$417,1 \pm 28,7$	$146,1 \pm 21,3$	$50,0 \pm 3,7$	$60,5 \pm 5,4$	$9,8 \pm 0,3$	$16,6 \pm 0,3$
"Metalist 1925" Kharkiv (n=15)	$436,2 \pm 22,7$	$147,7 \pm 15,7$	$50,0 \pm 3,1$	$57,8 \pm 4,7$	$8,6 \pm 0,2$	$16,1 \pm 0,4$

Indicators of the efficiency of the transfer (%) of the best teams of the First League are presented in Figure 2. Thus, the team "Metalist 1925" outperforms "Veres" and "Chornomorets" in the overall efficiency of the passes (83 %), the team "Chornomorets" has higher performance when performing long passes (67 %) and passes to the last third of the field (67 %) and at "Veres" - passes of a ball in a cut (30 %).



**Fig. 2.** Efficiency of passing the ball to the best teams of the First League of Ukraine in the 2020/2021 season

Table 3 shows the average performance of the best teams of the Premier League and the First League of Ukraine in the 2020/2021 season.

Comparing the quantitative indicators of the transfer of teams of different qualifications, it was found that the Premier League teams exceed the teams of the First League in terms of the total passes ( $t=2,20$ ;  $p<0,05$ ) and cuts passes ( $t=2,01$ ;  $p<0,05$ ). These differences are explained by the tactical training of both the team as a whole and the skill of the players. Highly skilled teams have more control over the ball, due to the increase in the total number of passes of the ball during the game, and passes in the cut allow you to make attacks much more creative.

Table 3

**Indicators passes of ball by the best teams of the Premier League and the  
First League of Ukraine in the football season 2020/2021**

Types of passes	Premier League (n =45)	First League (n =45)	t	p
Total passes,times	487,9±30,3	394,0±22,8	2,20	<0,05
Forward passes, times	145,0±19,3	141,3±16,6	0,14	>0,05
Long passes,times	42,3±3,6	53,5±3,7	2,17	<0,05
Passes to the last third of the field, times	60,9±4,2	53,5±3,7	0,48	>0,05
Cut out passes,times	9,2±0,2	8,3±0,4	2,01	<0,05
Tempo of the game, pass/min	16,9±0,5	16,0±0,4	1,4	>0,05

First League teams have better results in the number of long passes per game ( $t=2,17$ ;  $p<0,05$ ), although these results also confirm the statement that the best teams have more control over the ball due to short and medium passes.

### **Conclusions / Discussion**

The data (Perevoznyk V., Pertsukhov A.) concerning quantitative indicators of performance of transfers of highly qualified teams are confirmed. Supplemented and expanded data (Golomazova S., Chirva B., Lysenchuk G.) on the effectiveness of key ball transfers in football.

The results of the study confirmed the data on the peculiarities of the use of programs by teams of different qualifications. Thus, in this study it is noted that the teams of a higher level have better indicators of the total number of passes and cut out, and the number of long passes is much lower.

For the first time, a comparative analysis of the ball transfers of the best teams of the Premier League and the First Football League of Ukraine was carried out in the research.

Conclusions and main provisions of the study can be taken into account when building the training process of teams of different qualifications.

**Prospects for further research.** Further research will be devoted to establishing the features of tactical actions in the attack of teams of different qualifications.

**Conflict of interest.** The authors state that there is no conflict of interest that may be perceived as prejudicial to the impartiality of a state, public or commercial organization.

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