

Attacking Roles & Tactical Agreements



By

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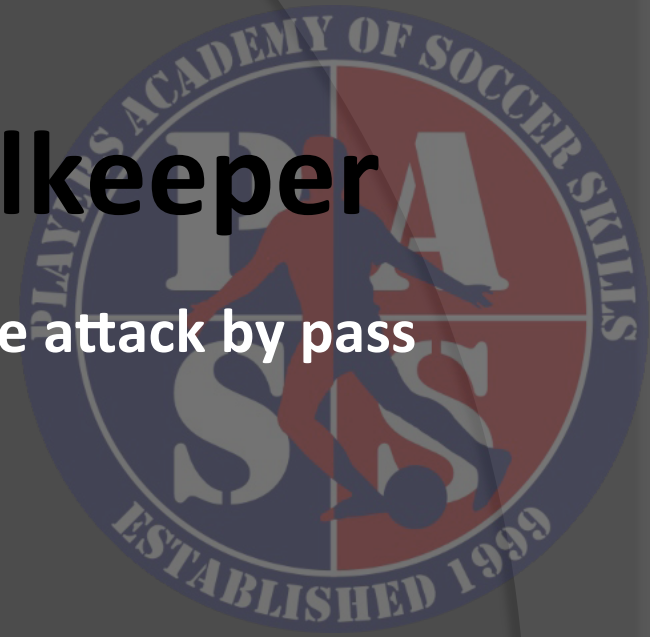
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Tactical Functions -Goalkeeper

- ⦿ Intercept the shot or cross & initiate the attack by pass or throw
- ⦿ Be available for back passes
- ⦿ Creation of the 'Time Man'
- ⦿ Communicator



Tactical Functions - Central Defenders

1. Sweeper (libero)

- Free player: Intercepts balls and initiates counter attacks
- Cover (D) / Support (A) player: Controls ball line and near post
- Penetrating Player: Creates numbers in the midfield by dribble or combination play





2. Marking Central Defender ” (Stopper/HM)

- Generally not as involved in the attack, dictate the play through the back third
- Win ball & play it quickly
- Combine w/ sweeper or support defenders when moves into the attack
- Usually good in the air and can used as a target on attacking restarts

Strong Leadership



Tactical Functions - Central Defenders

Paired Center Backs

Two main defensive strategies used by center-backs:

zonal and man-to-man

Roles: Making tackles, Intercepting dangerous crosses, shots and through-passes that cause an immediate danger to the team.

To form the tactical base of the team.

Maintain the defensive posture and offsides.

Qualities: Height, good heading and jumping ability to contest balls in the air.

Strength, marking and tackling ability to deal with one-on-one threats. Cool headed

Great passers of the ball



Tactical Functions – Flank Defenders

- Look to play ball forward immediately
 - counter attack when possible
 - Establish width in the attack
 - Implement style of attack
 - Direct w/ long ball bypassing midfielders
 - Indirect w/ shorter balls, maintain possession
 - Become involved in the attack
 - combination play (overlap, wall pass)
 - dribble into space
- Dictate defensive style – playing attacker inside or outside



Tactical Functions – Central Midfielders

1. Organizing Central Midfielder

- ⦿ Receive balls from backs and distribute
- ⦿ Dictate rhythm of attack (direct or indirect)
- ⦿ Penetrate with the ball



2. Attacking Central Midfielder

- In advanced areas in close support of forwards
- May make runs in advance of forwards
- Penetration by dribbling or by combining with forwards



Tactical Functions – Flank Midfielders

- ⦿ Able to go up and down flank
- ⦿ Support wing behind or square when playing in a 3-front
- ⦿ Combine with other flank players and central players to penetrate (overlap, wall pass)
- ⦿ Support central midfield players and forwards
- ⦿ Establish width in the attack
- ⦿ Act as wing player when playing in a 2-front (cross, dribble at goal, shoot)



Tactical Functions - Forwards

1. Central Striker Playing in the Middle

⦿ Compact system of playing forwards:

- Center striker pushes up on sweeper
- stretches the opponent
- striker can go 1v1 w/ sweeper
- combination play w/ midfielders

⦿ Pull apart central covering systems:

- Striker makes diagonal runs behind flanks
- Striker checks back drawing stopper into midfield, leaving space behind



2. Center striker playing with wing players

- Center striker bends away from wing who is strong beating defenders 1 v. 1
- Combines with winger to beat outside back
- Links with CM
- Target
- Finisher



3. Center Striker: Individual Action – Going to Goal

- ◎ Dribble past opponents
- ◎ Score by various means
 - Long distance w/ power
 - Slotting ball past goal keeper
 - Shooting bending balls
 - Finishing by any means



4. Wing Forwards

- Orthodox Wing Player

- Plays high and wide
 - Attacks Flank of the defense
 - Dribbles outside and crosses ball
 - Dribbles inside and goes to goal
 - Combines with center striker
- False 9

- Withdrawn Wing

- Withdraws back to receive balls from midfielders and defenders
- Becomes part of build-up combining with midfielders and center striker



Style of Attack

1. Direct

- ⦿ When ball is won – play ball forward at the earliest possible moment
- ⦿ Target player high, holds ball while support arrives, goes to goal quickly
- ⦿ Rhythm is fast
- ⦿ Risk loss of possession, but most of team is behind ball so generally not counter-attacked
- ⦿ Put many defenders out of play with 1 pass



2. When to Play Direct Style

- Environmental Factors
 - Climate: can use in cool climate
 - More likely to use in rain, wet field
- Field Factors
 - Narrow field
 - Bumpy, muddy service
- Player Factors
 - Limited technical ability
 - Against a superior opponent
 - Superior speed, athleticism

Tactical

When playing indirect teams

Stretch teams for space

To Targets



3. Indirect Style

- ⦿ When ball is won and counterattack is not possible, keep possession
 - ⦿ Look to put defenders out of the play a small number at a time
 - ⦿ Take advantage of numbers up situation by mobility of players
 - ⦿ Shorter passes enables more accurate passing.
- Playing between the lines



4. When to Play Indirect Style

- ⦿ Weather
 - Climate: use in hot weather
 - Dry field
- ⦿ Field Factors
 - Acceptable playing surface
 - Width
- ⦿ Player Factors
 - High technical ability
 - High tactical ability
 - Against an inferior opponent



Attacking Relative to the Third of Field

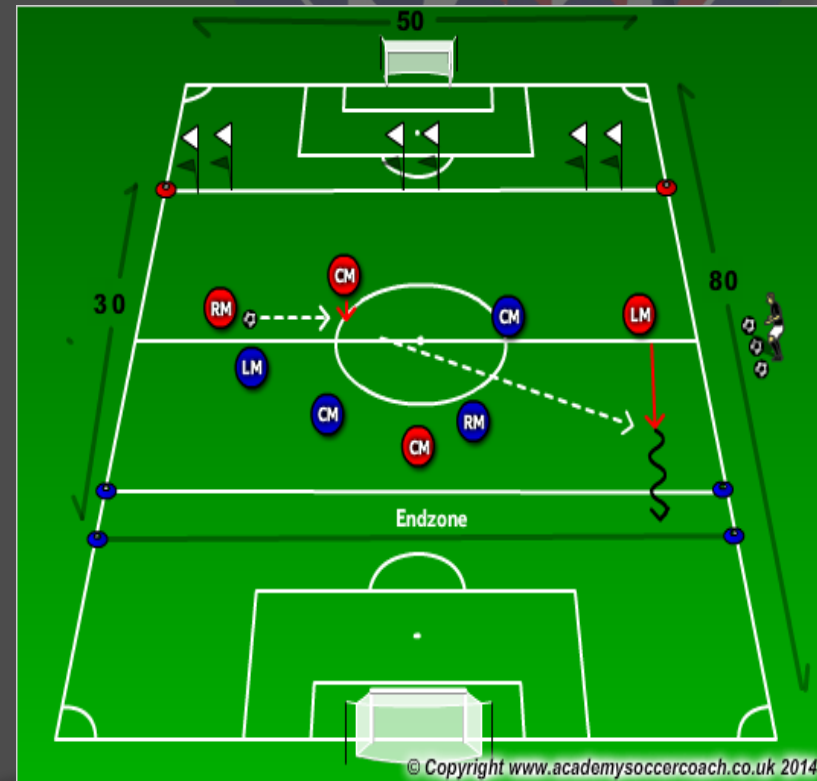
1. Back Third

- Objective: Get the ball to middle or front third with possession maintained
- Use goalkeeper as attacking player
- Minimize risk (no unsafe square passes, accurate passing to feet/space on flanks)
- When ball transfers to middle or
- front third
- Maintain numerical superiority in back
- Maintain compactness from behind both for attacking support and defensive readiness if ball is lost



2. Middle Third

- Objective: Get the ball forward to front third while maintaining possession
 - Middle third is staging point for attack into the final third
 - Penetrate by various means (dribbling, combination play, pass behind the defense)
- When ball is transferred to final third
 - Entire team must maintain compactness
 - Depth maintained by one midfielder and defenders (change point of attack, delay opponents if possession is lost)



ATTACKING TACTICS 2: 4v4 The Middle Third - Phase of Play

3. Final Third

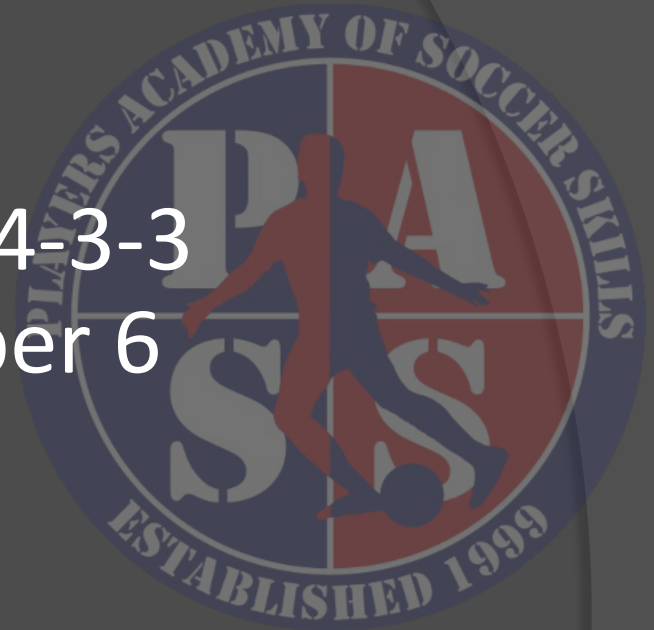
- Objective: Create scoring chances and finish
- Players take risks to create scoring chances
 - Dribbling in confined spaces
 - Risky passes
 - Numbers down penetration
 - Shoot from any reasonable position
 - 50-50 balls on crosses, flick-ons
- Scoring chances from balls served from flanks
 - Compact defenses leave space on flanks
 - Aggressive risk-taking is rewarded



TACTICAL AGREEMENTS



Playing a GK- 4-3-3
With a Number 6



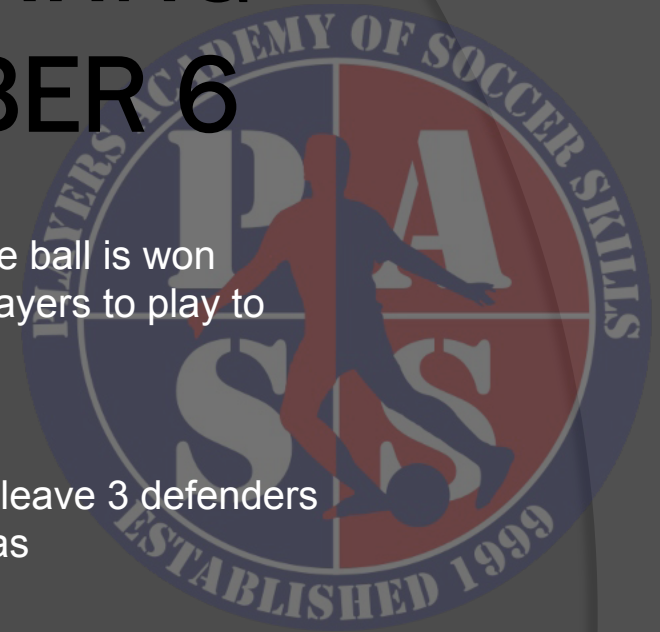
THE STRENGTHS OF PLAYING GK 4-3-3 WITH A NUMBER 6

Attacking:

- Three attackers allow the team to attack quickly when the ball is won
- Allows the team to play more direct as there are more players to play to
- Difficult for defenders to mark all players
- Allows the team to attack with numbers
- Space on the outside for the fullback to get into
- Full backs can get forward to support the attack and still leave 3 defenders
- Full backs can create numbers up situations in wide areas

Defending:

- The 4 defenders cover the width of the field easily
- The defensive midfielder is able to screen the back 4 defenders
- 2 wide forwards can drop into make a 6 man midfield
- Allows the team to play high pressure when teams try to play out of the back
- Allows teams to put pressure on players that are not able to play long passes



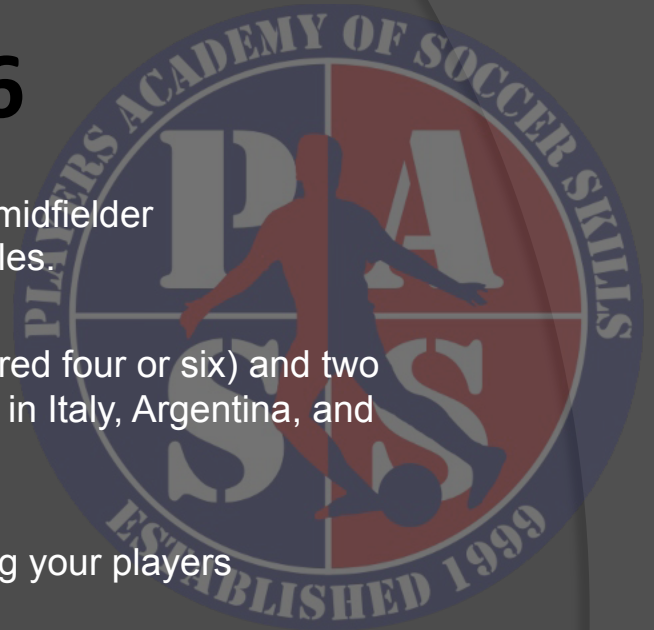
COACHING THE GK-4-3-3 WITH A NUMBER 6

Most teams using this formation now use the specialist defensive midfielder with Barcelona and Chelsea being the most famous recent examples.

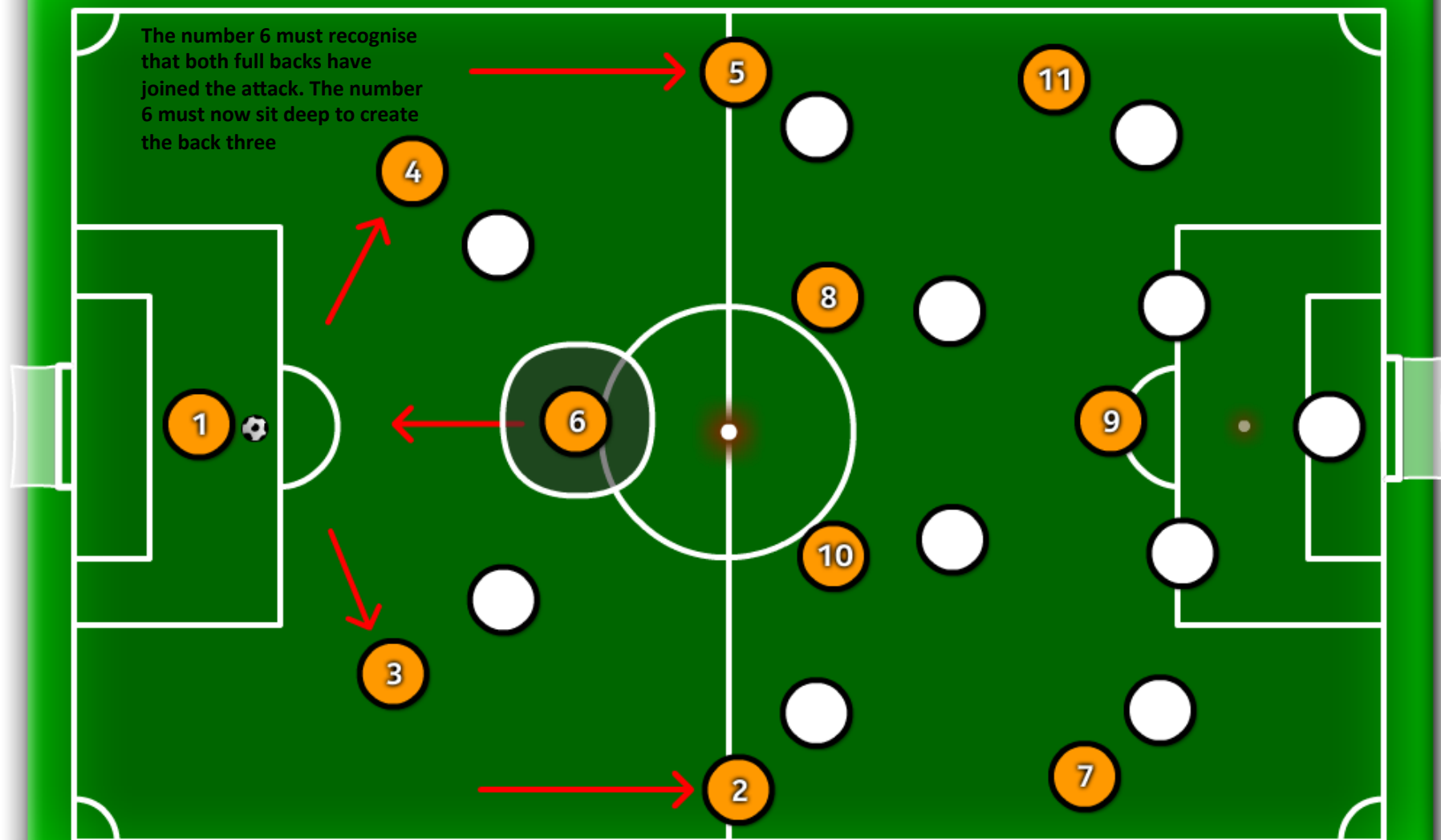
A staggered 4-3-3 involving a defensive midfielder (usually numbered four or six) and two attacking midfielders (numbered eight and ten) was commonplace in Italy, Argentina, and Uruguay during the 1960s and 1970s.

Below are some coaching tips which will be useful when discussing your players

1. The number 6 must always want to be on the ball in a “playmaker role”
2. When both full backs attack, the number 6 must create a defensive three
3. The number 8 and 10 players must go beyond their markers to receive
4. The full back, wide player and attacking midfielder rotate positions to receive
5. If the ball is on the opposite wing, the wide player comes off the line.
6. Its important that the midfield is made up of different types of player
7. The number 9 must be free in movement and be willing to receive to feet
8. When making a pass, the player passing must make a forward run off the ball
9. When defending, the team must become compact and narrow to force outside
10. Now the ball is outside, the team must squeeze across to apply high pressure
11. The number 6 is now used to screen the two centre backs

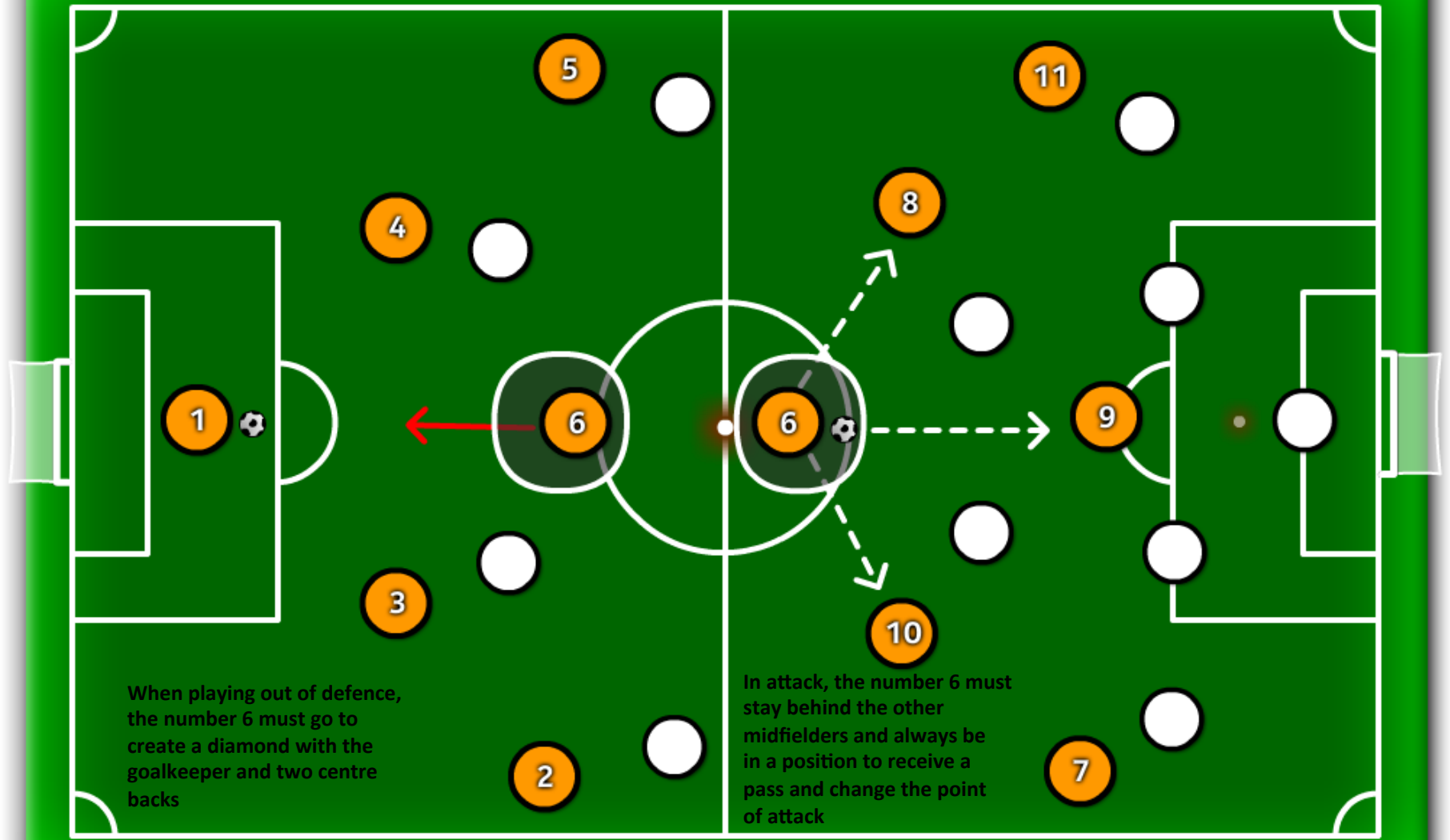


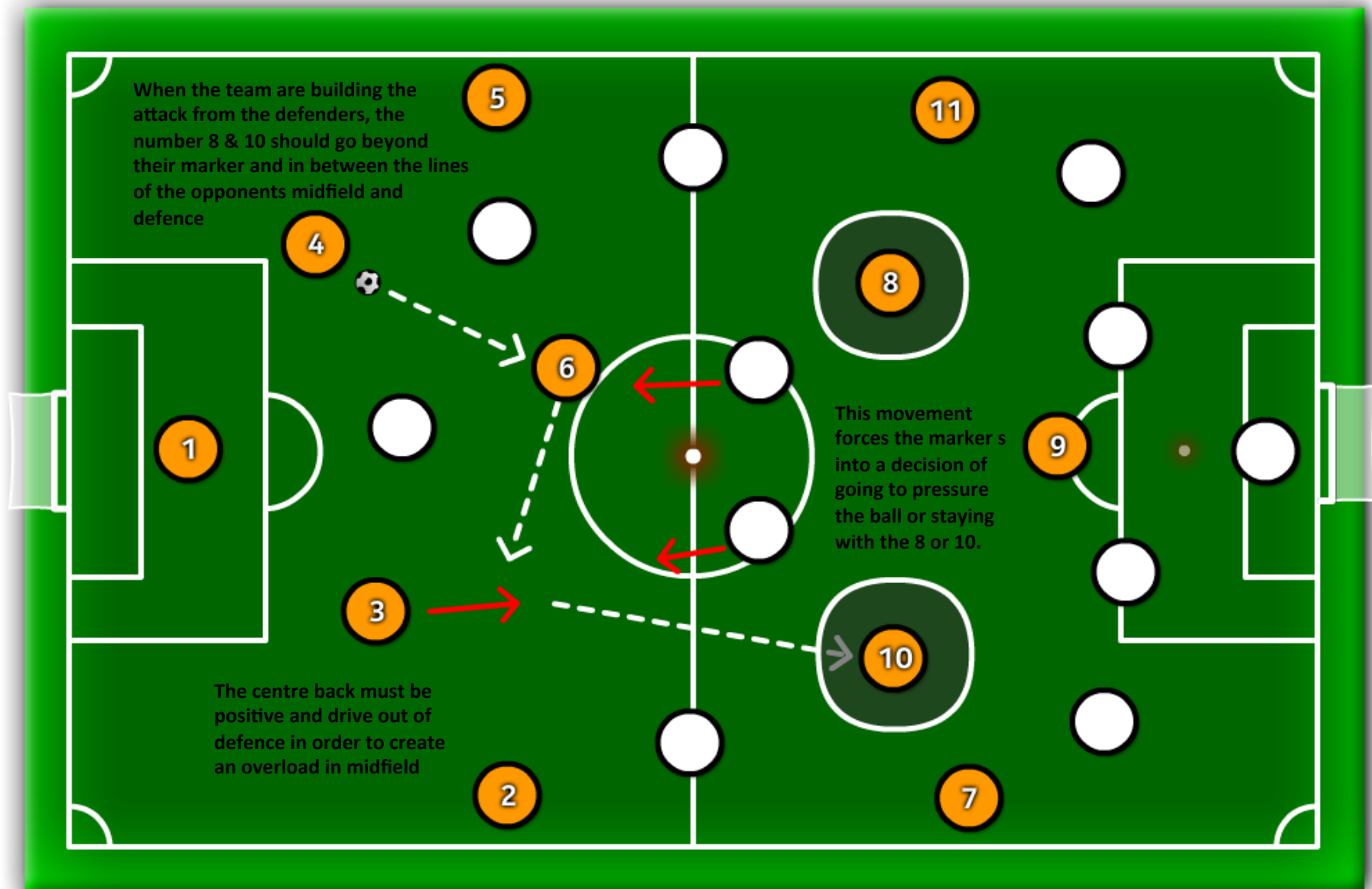
The number 6 must recognise that both full backs have joined the attack. The number 6 must now sit deep to create the back three



DEFENSIVELY

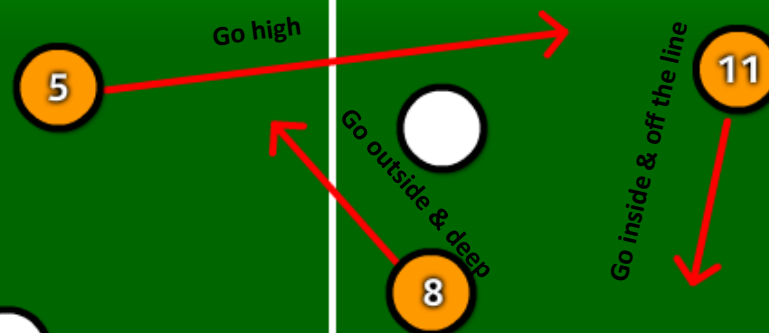
OFFENSIVELY





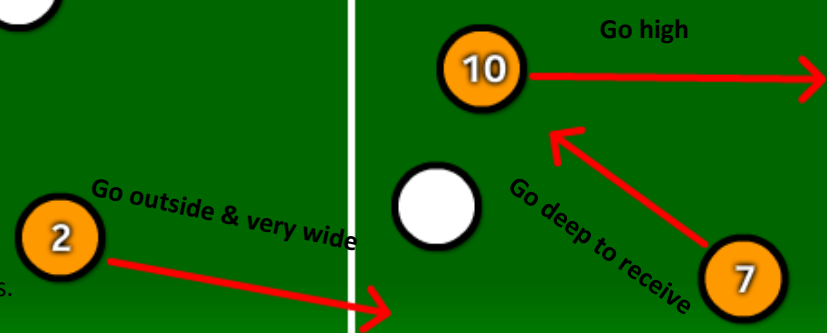
Example 1

As the centre back steps out of defence. The number 5 goes high and the number 11 goes inside. Finally, the number 8 pulls into a deep wide position to receive

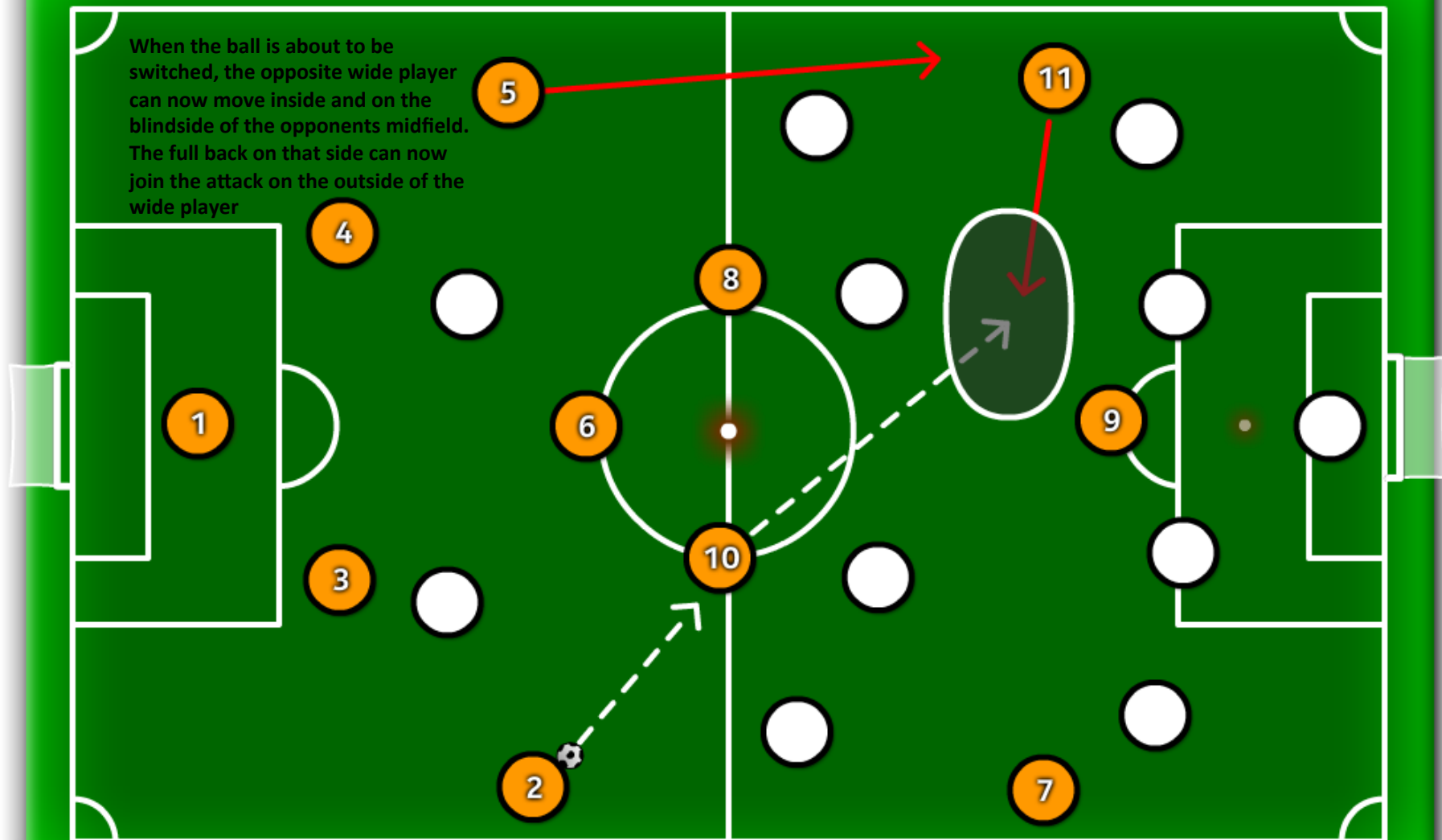


Example 2

As the centre back steps out of defence. The number 2 goes high and wide and the number 10 also spins and goes high into the forward line to "pin" the defenders. Now the number 7 is free to come deep to receive to feet



When the ball is about to be switched, the opposite wide player can now move inside and on the blindside of the opponents midfield. The full back on that side can now join the attack on the outside of the wide player

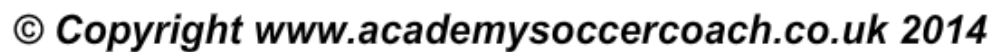


The three midfielders must be different types of player and bring different skills to the game. This will aid to the variety of the teams play and enable natural rotation in movement

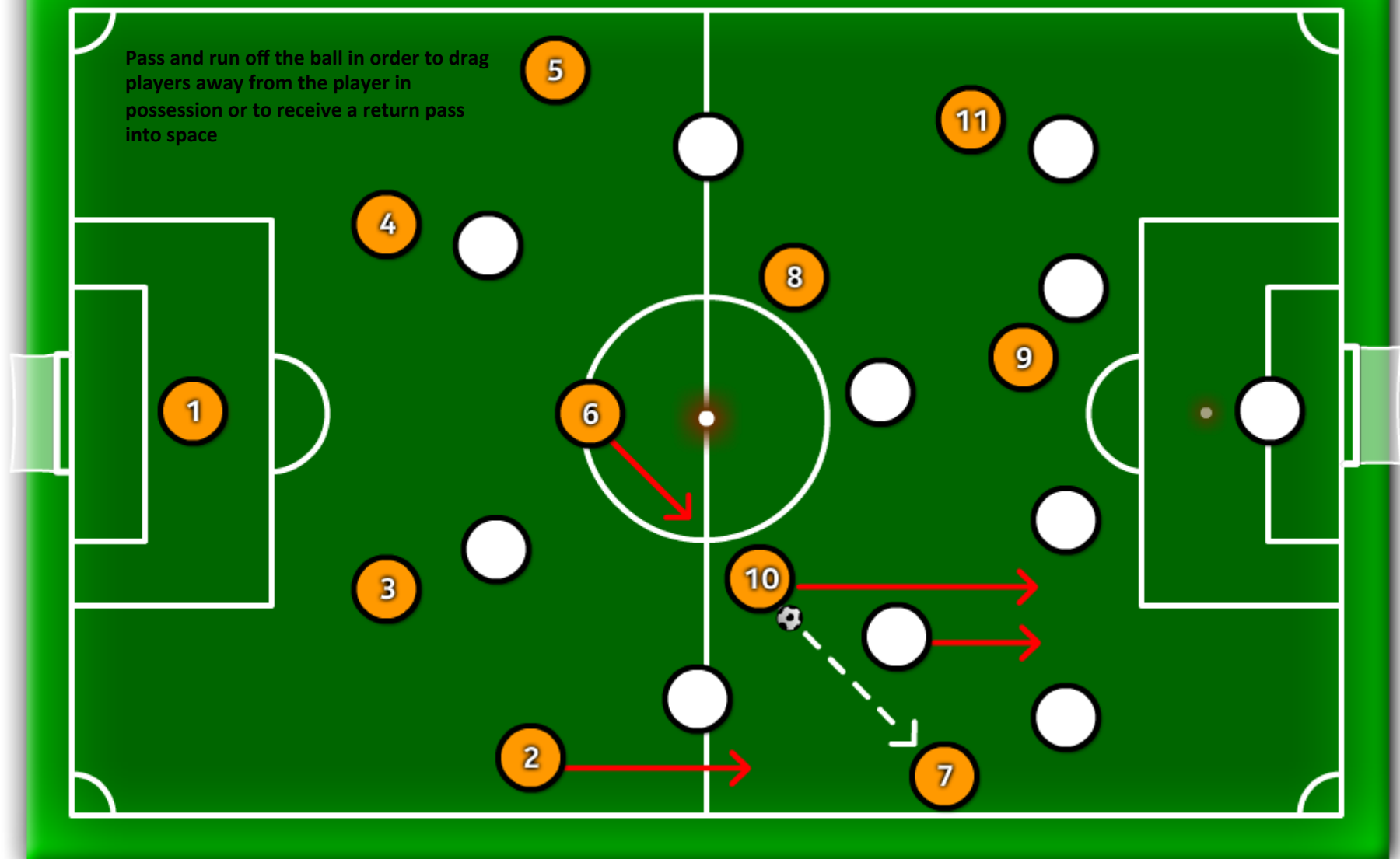
#6 The Passer – the teams playmaker who gets onto the ball to make intelligent passes.

#8 The Energiser – this type of midfielder has lots of energy and uses this to good effect by moving off the ball both in attack and defence

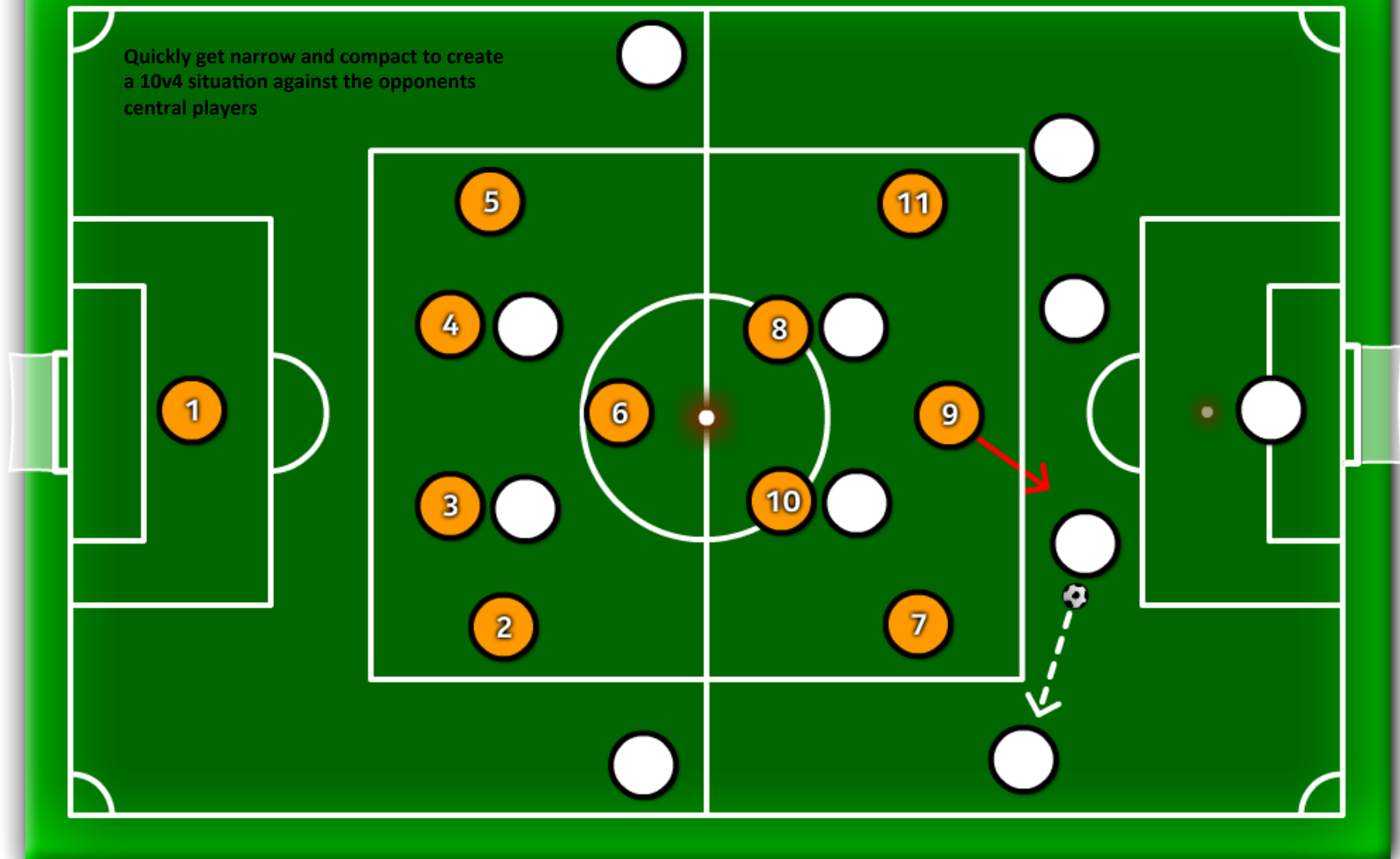
#10 The Magician – the player that can unlock the defence with a dribble or moment of individual brilliant to score or assist goals



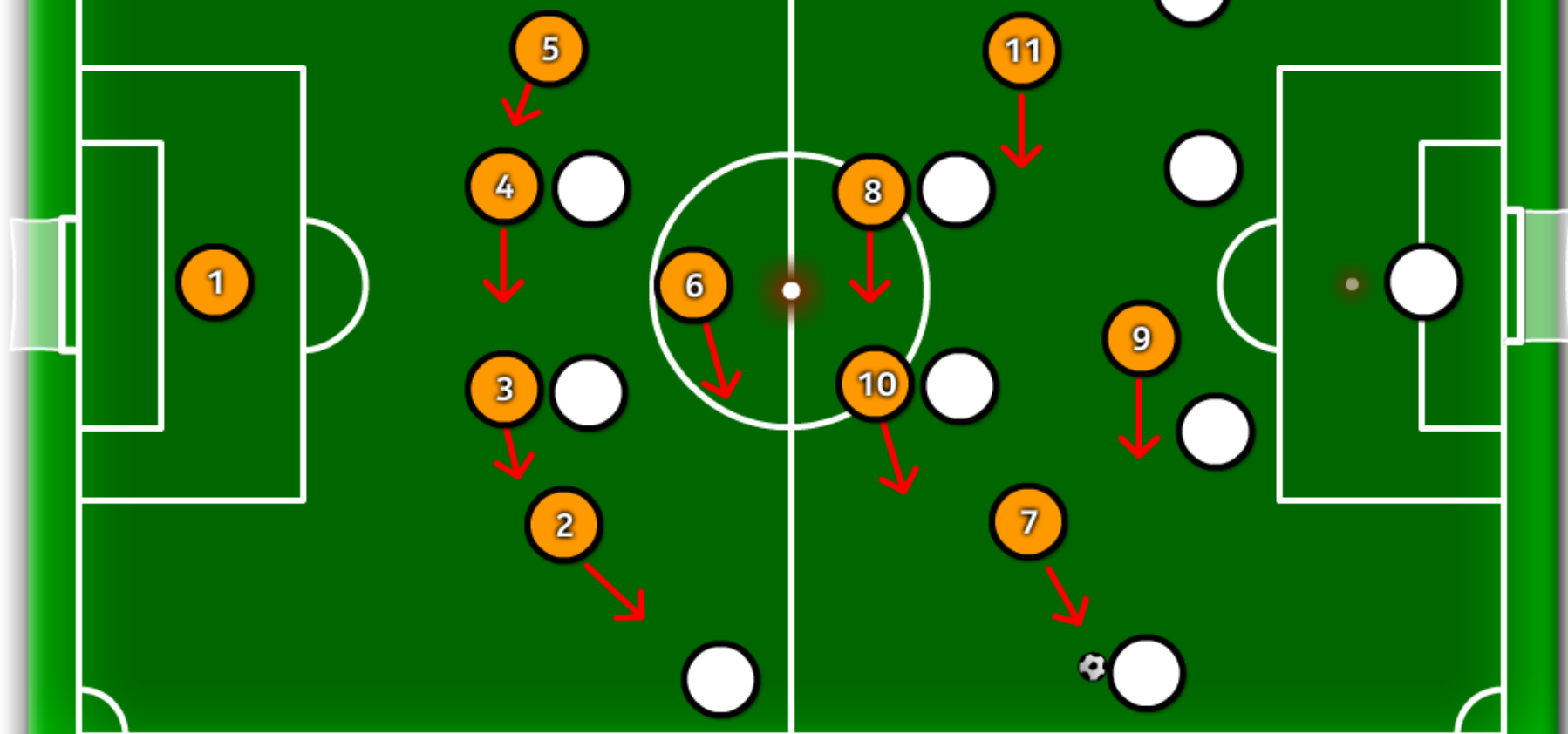
Pass and run off the ball in order to drag players away from the player in possession or to receive a return pass into space



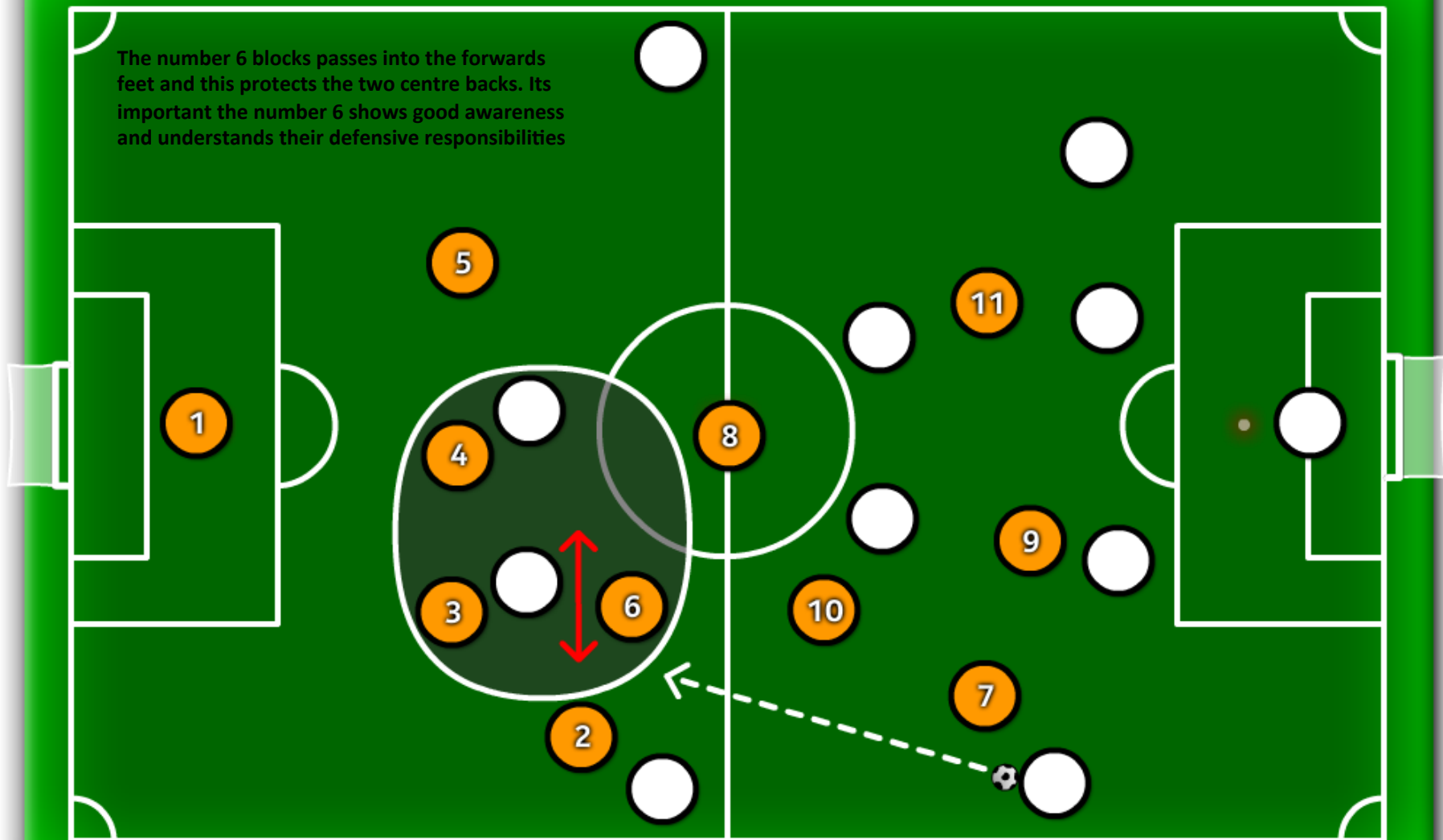
Quickly get narrow and compact to create a 10v4 situation against the opponents central players



The team now squeeze across to keep play on this side and outnumber the opponents to regain possession of the ball.



The number 6 blocks passes into the forwards feet and this protects the two centre backs. Its important the number 6 shows good awareness and understands their defensive responsibilities



FORMATION OVERVIEW

ROTATING THE SHAPE

4-3-3 – Number 10

- ◉ The number 10 can easily push forward and the 6 & 8 become the two central midfielders

4-4-2 – Diamond

- ◉ The number 9 can drop deeper to create a four player “diamond” midfield with the 7 & 11 becoming two forwards

4-3-2-1 – Christmas tree

- ◉ The 7 and 11 drop slightly deeper and pinch inside to play behind the number 9

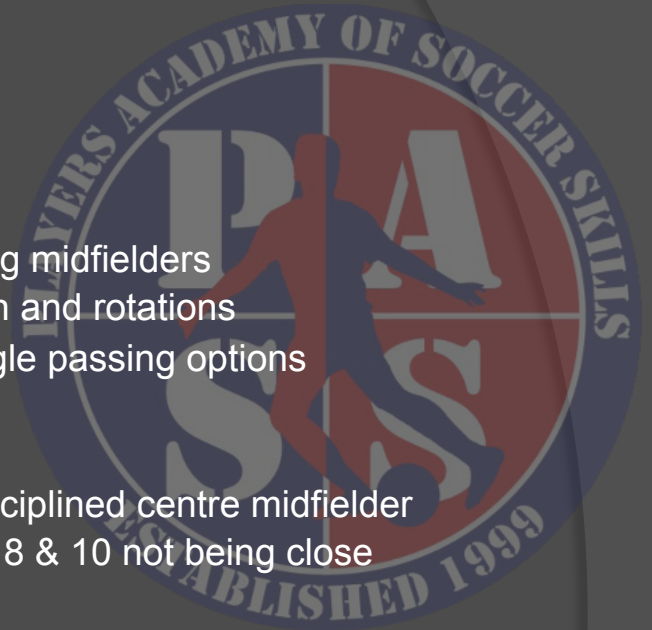
The above rotations should happen naturally in the game due to player movement

STRENGTHS

- ◉ Two attacking midfielders
- ◉ Natural width and rotations
- ◉ Lots of triangle passing options

CONCERNS

- ◉ Only one disciplined centre midfielder
- ◉ The number 8 & 10 not being close enough to 9



Thank you – Glazier Clinics

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