MIDFIELD ROTATION IN A 4-3-3
UEFA A LICENCE PRE-COURSE TASK 2015

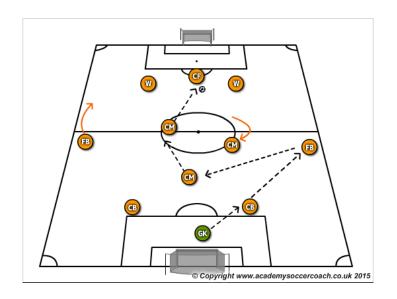


## **TASK**

- 1. DESIGN A PRACTICE AS PART OF YOUR CLUB, SCHOOL OR ORGANISATIONS PROGRAMME OF WORK TO IMPROVE YOUR PLAYERS AND TEAM IN A CERTAIN ASPECT OF THE DEVELOPING MODERN GAME.
- 2. YOU WILL NEED TO ILLUSTRATE AND DEMONSTRATE THAT THIS IS A PARTICULAR AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT REQUIRED TO DEVELOP YOUR TEAM AND IMPROVE PERFORMANCES.
- 3. YOU WILL THEN PLAN ORGANISE AND DELIVER A PRACTICE FOCUSSING ON THE TACTICAL ASPECTS OF THE GAME/PRACTICE.
- 4. YOU WILL HAVE APPROXIMATELY 25 MINUTES TO DELIVER THIS PRACTICE DURING BLOCK 1 OF THE COURSE. YOU WILL ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS YOUR SESSION WITH OTHER GROUP MEMBERS AND YOUR TUTOR PRIOR TO DELIVERY AND POST THE DELIVERY.

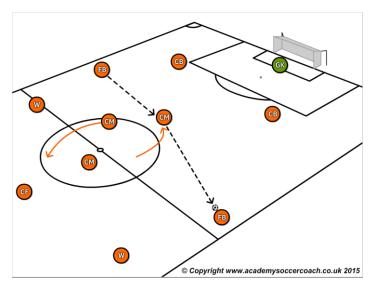
## THE 'BENEFITS'...

#### HOW DOES THE PRACTICE IMPROVE PERFORMANCE



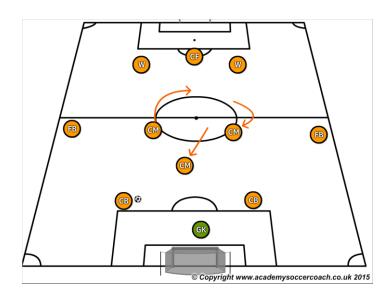
'INCREASED POSSESSION'

- -GIVES US THE ABILITY TO CONTROL
  GAMES
- ALLOW US TO BUILD FROM THE BACK AND PLAY THROUGH THE THIRDS



'POSITONAL PLAY'

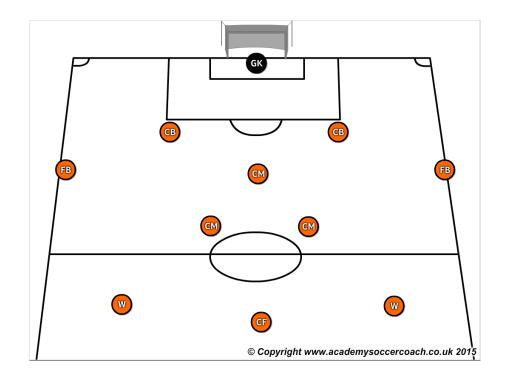
- THIS SUPERIORITY IN POSSESSION, ALLOWS US TO CREATE OVERLOADS IN KEY AREAS
- ALLOWS US TO MOVE THE OPPOSITIONS DEFENSIVE BLOCK TO EXPLOIT AND PENETRATE



'UNPREDICATBLE'

- PLAYERS THAT ARE COMFORTABLE TO PLAY IN A NUMBER OF 'POSITONS' MEANS THE TEAM IS UNPREDICTABLE AND DIFFICULT TO DEFEND AGAINST

# THE 'SHAPE' WHAT ARE THE DEMANDS



GOALKEEPER COMFORTABLE PLAYING WITH HIS FEET. RECOGNISING WHEN TO 'LEND' AND 'TEASE' BUT ALSO WHEN TO BREAK.

CENTRAL DEFENDERS 'SPLIT', OFFER WIDTH AND DEPTH TO START ATTACKS AND RECYCLE POSSESSION

FULL BACKS THAT ARE ATHLETIC AND CAN OFFER WIDTH IN POSSESSION

MIDFIELDERS ONE DROPS IN, ONE IN BETWEEN AND ONE BEYOND.

- -WHEN TO 'BOUNCE'
- -WHEN TO COMBINE
- -THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EACH OTHER

FORWARDS THAT ARE INTERCHANGEABLE. CAN PLAY EITHER SIDE, RUN BEYOND AND PLAY INBETWEEN.

## FORMATIONS ARE STARTING POINTS

INTERPRETATION & UNDERSTANDING IS MORE IMPORTANT

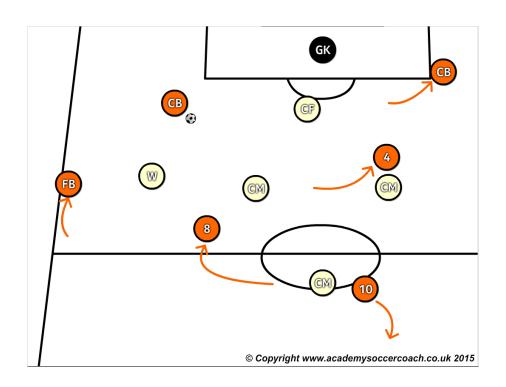






## AN 'IN GAME' EXAMPLE

**CENTRAL DEFENDER** IN POSSESSION. PARTNER **DROPS OFF** TO AFFECT THE STRIKER AND BE IN A POSITION TO RECEIVE FROM THE **GOALKEEPER** IF PLAY IS SWITCHED.



FULL BACK DROPS TO GIVE THE WINGER A DECISION, PRESS OR DROP?

#4 DROPS IN, CAN LINK WITH 1-2 TOUCH, OPEN THE GAME OR CREATE SPACE FOR HIS FELLOW MIDFIELDERS

#8 PLAYS 'IN BETWEEN' THE LINES GIVES CENTRAL DEFENDER OPPORTUNITY TO ELIMINATE / BREAK LINES.

ONE 'PICTURE'. MANY OPTIONS.

**#10 RUNS BEYOND** OR COULD MAKE DOUBLE MOVEMENT TO RECEIVE IN FRONT.

# CONSIDER...THE OPPOSITION AND THE OPPORTUNITIES

WHERE CAN WE CREATE OVERLOADS?

**FORMATION** 

GK442, GK352, GK433..ETC

**DEFENSIVE BLOCK** 

HIGH, MEDIUM, LOW?

**ORGANISITON** 

PRESS/MOVE TOGETHER OR DISORGANISED? GAPS?

INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS

STRONGEST AND WEAKEST PLAYERS?

WHERE IS THERE ALREADY SPACE?

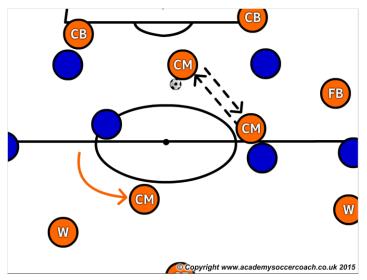
WHERE COULD WE CREATE IT?

OTHER AREAS TO EXPLOIT

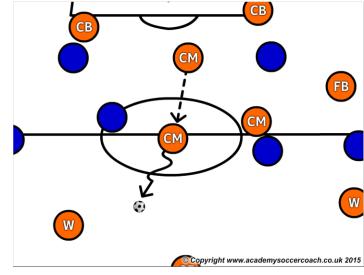
STATE OF THE GAME

## THE 'HOW'...ON THE BALL

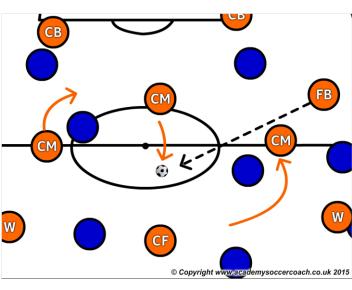
#### CONSISTENT PICTURES THAT WILL REPEAT THROUGH ALL PRACTICES



'BOUNCE'



**'OPEN UP'** 



'MISS OUT'

**MIDFIELDER** LENDS POSSESSION TO A TEAMMATE.

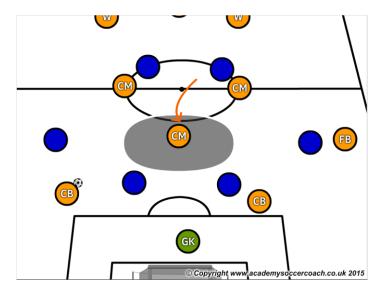
- TEAM MATE MIGHT BE UNDER PRESSURE SO CAN NOT PLAY FORWARDS
- 'BOUNCE' ALLOWS THE PICTURE TO CHANGE

**MIDFIELDER** CAN RECEIVE THE BALL, OPEN AND PLAY FORWARDS.

MIDFIELDER MAKES A MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE BALL, TEAM MATE RECOGNISES SPACE HAS BEEN CREATED. PLAYER IN POSSESSION MISSES OUT THE CLOSER PLAYER AND PLAYS HIGHER UP THE PITCH.

## THE 'HOW'...OFF THE BALL

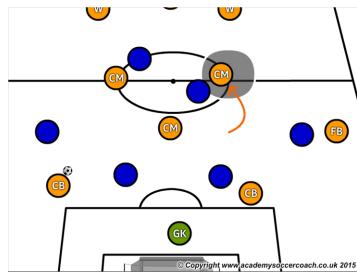
#### THE MOVEMENTS OF THE MIDFIELD THREE



'DROP IN'

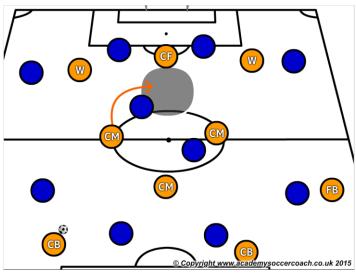
ONE **MIDFIELDER** LOOKS TO FIND SPACE BETWEEN LINES (OPPOSITIONS MIDFIELD AND ATTACKING UNIT)

- IDEAL: TURNS AND PLAYS FORWARDS OR WIDE IF WE HAVE AN OVERLOAD
- OR...OCCUPIES A TEAMMATE/OPENS PASSING LINES



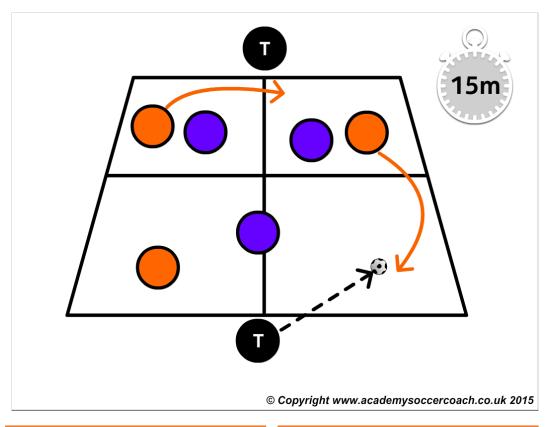
**'ON THE SHOULDER'** 

- MIDFIELDER LOOKS TO PLAY ON THE BLINDSIDE OF THE OPPONENT
- IDEAL: OPPOSITION MARKS POORLY AND HE CAN RECEIVE THE BALL
- OR...OCCUPIES OPPONENT FOR TEAMMATE



'BEYOND'

- MIDFIELDER LOOKS TO FIND SPACE BETWEEN LINES (OPPOSITIONS MIDFIELD AND DEFENSIVE UNITS)
- IDEAL: RECEIVES THE A BALL IN A DANGEROUS AREA
- OR... OPENS SPACE FOR A TEAMMATE



#### **TECHNICAL**

Passing variations
BOUNCE – OPEN – MISS OUT
Emptying and filling each others
space

#### PHYSICAL

Physical demand is high, little or no rest period. 3 minute bursts Movements to receive

#### SOCIAL

Collaboration to find a solution Communication within the group Confidence to experiment, get it wrong and try again.

#### **PSYCHOLOGICAL**

Recognising the correct picture Awareness – ball, teammate, defender and objective!

#### LEAD IN SESSION: EMPTYING AND FILLING

#### **SESSION NOTES**

2 of 3 teams work in a 12x12 grid, with 2x target players outside the grid. Objective for the players is to transfer the ball from target to target, using the 4 grids as guide. Midfield 3 should look to fill 3 of the 4 boxes at any time.

NO. OF PLAYERS IN THE PRACTICE 8 (2X PRACTICE WITH A SQUAD)

#### **COACHING OUTCOMES/FACTORS**

- Players should look to 'empty and fill' the areas to create space for themselves, their teammates and the target players.
- Players should aim to be 'offline' in a 1-2 or 2-1 formation
- Ability to play off 1-2 touch where needed
- Recognition of when to play forwards and when to keep possession (penetration vs patience)
- 'Eyes off the ball' recognise the moment

#### PROGRESSIONS/ADAPTIONS

- With more players, one colour plays vertically the other plays horizontally.
- Add competition. Point for successful transfer

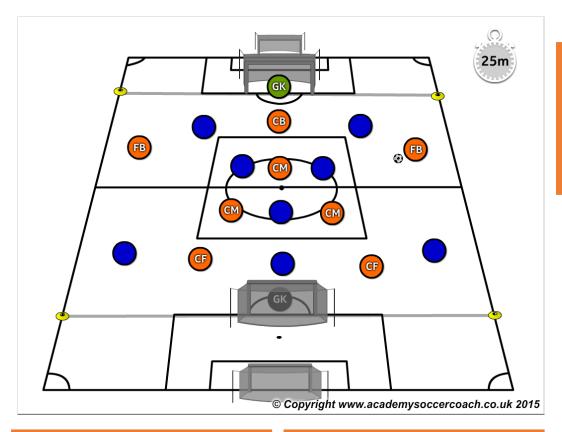
#### **KEY QUESTIONS**

- Why is it important to try and fill 3 of the 4 boxes?
- How will you know when to play forwards?
- Will you always be able to play forwards?
- What are the 'triggers' to leave your box?









#### **TECHNICAL**

BOUNCE – OPEN – MISS OUT Emptying and filling each others space SCORE – SET UP - SECURE

#### **PHYSICAL**

Runs inbetween – DROP IN, OFF THE SHOUDLER and RUNS BEYOND

#### SOCIAL

Collaboration to find a solution Communication within the group Confidence to experiment, get it wrong and try again.

#### **PSYCHOLOGICAL**

Recognising the correct picture Awareness – ball, teammate, defender and objective!

### SSG: PLAYING THROUGH MIDFIELD

#### **SESSION NOTES**

SSG/9v9. Pitch with central midfield 'zone' to replicate lead in practice. Teams set up in a 4332 formation, linking to philosophy. Team aim to play through midfield zone before scoring. To start players 'locked in' to zones.

NO. OF PLAYERS IN THE PRACTICE 18

#### **COACHING OUTCOMES/FACTORS**

- Team should 'lend' possession to 'tease' opposition out of shape...then exploit!
- Players should look to 'empty and fill' the areas to create space for themselves, their teammates and the target players.
- Players should aim to be 'offline' creating width and depth in the midfield
- Ability to play off 1-2 touch where needed
- Recognition of when to play forwards and when to keep possession (penetration vs patience) increased realism
- 'Eyes off the ball' recognise the picture from 'emptying and filling'

#### **PROGRESSIONS/ADAPTIONS**

Encourage full backs to join attack, whilst maintaining balance

#### **KEY QUESTIONS**

- How does a teammates movement affect yours?
- What are the 'triggers' to play forwards?
- How can you create space for another midfielder?









#### **TECHNICAL**

BOUNCE – OPEN – MISS OUT Emptying and filling each others space SCORE- SET UP –SECURE

#### **PHYSICAL**

Increased area size might mean the picture is created less frequently but increased realism

#### SOCIAL

Collaboration to find a solution Communication within the group Confidence to experiment, get it wrong and try again.

#### **PSYCHOLOGICAL**

Recognising the correct picture Awareness – ball, teammate, defender and objective!

#### 11v11: PLAYING THROUGH MIDFIELD

#### **SESSION NOTES**

11v11 'game' situation. ORANGES in a 4-3-3 and BLUES in a 4-4-2. ORANGES look to play through midfield 3 to score.

NO. OF PLAYERS IN THE PRACTICE 22

#### **COACHING OUTCOMES/FACTORS**

- Team should 'lend' possession to 'tease' opposition out of shape...then exploit!
- Players should look to 'empty and fill' the areas to create space for themselves, their teammates and the target players.
- Players should aim to be 'offline' creating width and depth in the midfield
- Ability to play off 1-2 touch where needed
- Recognition of when to play forwards and when to keep possession (penetration vs patience) increased realism
- 'Eyes off the ball' recognise the picture from 'emptying and filling'

#### **PROGRESSIONS/ADAPTIONS**

- Switching play short, long using full backs and wingers
- Midfield runs 'beyond' to join the attack

#### **KEY QUESTIONS**

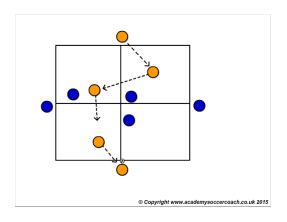
- How can we create an overload (numerical advantage) over the opposition?
- Which of the 'pictures' are being recreated? Do we read and act accordingly?
- Which midfielder is getting the most success? Why? How does it benefit the team?





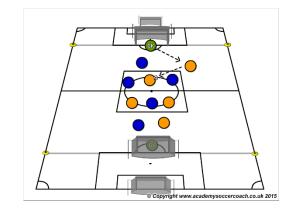


## WHAT IF SCENARIOS...



#### **TEN PLAYERS**

3V3 IN CENTRAL GRID BLUES PLAY HORIZONTALLY ORANGES PLAY VERTICALLY ROTATION OF TARGETS



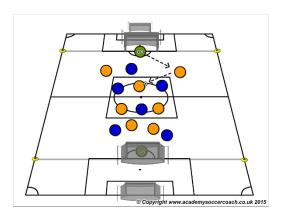
#### **TWELVE PLAYERS**

SSG GK131 FORMATION MIDFIELDERS PLAY 'FREE'



#### **FOURTEEN**

SSG
GK231 FORMATION
SIMILAR TO SSG PRACTICE
MIDFIELDERS JOIN ATTACKERS



#### **ODD NUMBERS**

PLAY GAME THAT'S NEAREST WITH OVERLOAD/UNDERLOAD

NO NEUTRALS





