

BUILD UP PLAY AGAINST DIFFERENT FORMATIONS

GOALKEEPER'S DISTRIBUTION FROM GOAL KICKS AND BUILD UP PLAY FROM THE BACK

The strategy for the goalkeeper's distribution follows those that we fully explained in Chapter 1.

If the goalkeeper has used a short pass distribution, the team will then have to be able to advance up the pitch by utilising the pattern of play most appropriate to the tactical situation on the pitch.

The team must know and must be able to apply solutions for the following different situations:

- **Attacking against opponents that withdraw into their half and DEFEND DEEP**
- **Attacking against opponents with a 4 MAN DEFENCE (4-4-2, 4-4-1-1 or 4-2-3-1, 4-3-1-2 & 4-3-3)**
- **Attacking against opponents with a 3 MAN DEFENCE (3-4-3 & 3-5-2)**

BUILD UP PLAY AGAINST THE 3-5-2

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Opposing Wing Backs Push Up to Mark Our Full Backs: Pass Back to Keeper for Long Pass to Forwards



Against the 3-5-2 formation, it is again very important to find out whether the opposition are willing to face our forwards without a numerical advantage or not. Our decision making for building up play will change according to their tactical positioning during their defensive phase.

In this tactical example against the 3-5-2 formation, the opposing wing backs have moved forward and high up the pitch to mark our full backs and apply pressure.

This means that there is a 4 v 4 situation and a numerical equality for our defenders in the build up phase. This is dangerous and we need to create a numerical advantage at the back.

In this situation, our best strategy is shown in the diagram example. We must involve the goalkeeper in building up play from the back. This then creates a 5 v 4 numerical advantage and the player in possession can pass back to the goalkeeper.

In this specific example, the right back (RB) is put under pressure by the opposing wing back and passes back to the goalkeeper at the edge of the penalty area.

The goalkeeper then looks to play a long pass to exploit the 3 v 3 situation our attackers have against the opposing defenders. There is a good chance to then exploit 1 v 1 situations in attack.

Opposing Right Wing Back Moves Back to Create Back 4: Move the Ball to Our Left Back Free in Space



As shown on the previous page, against the 3-5-2, we could potentially exploit a 3 v 3 numerical equality in attack via a long pass from the goalkeeper.

However, if the opponents take some precautions to ensure they have a numerical advantage at the back, we must work out what exact movements they are using so that we can determine the best solution.

In this tactical example, the red left wing back has pushed up to press our player in possession (RB) and the red right wing back has moved back to join the defensive line and create a 4 v 3 advantage for his team in Zone C. The opposition have now switched from a back 3 to a back 4.

In this situation, our objective is to move the ball to our left back (LB) who is unmarked and free to receive in space, possibly with the help of our goalkeeper if the central areas are too crowded.

In this specific example, the player in possession (RB) is under pressure and plays the ball back to the goalkeeper. The goalkeeper then passes the ball out wide to our left back (LB).

The left back is then able to dribble forward into the space ahead of him.

From this point, he has different options depending on the reactions of the opposing players. 2 of these options (tactical examples) are displayed on the next 2 pages:

- 1. Playing in Between the Midfield and Defensive Lines: Exploit Pressing Depending On the Opposition's Reactions** (page 68)
- 2. Long Pass in Behind the Defensive Line: Exploiting the Space When a Gap is Created in the Opposition's Defence** (page 69)

I. PLAYING IN BETWEEN THE MIDFIELD AND DEFENSIVE LINES: Exploiting Pressing Depending on the Opposing Players' Reactions



Our team wants to make the correct decisions to advance the attack, in relation to the decision making of our opponents.

As our left back (LB) dribbles forward, it is highly likely that the opposing central midfielder will move wide and out of position to close him down.

In this tactical example, our left central midfielder (LCM) moves forward beyond the opposition's midfield line and acts as the front support in the rhombus shape.

The defensive midfielder (DM) is the right side support and the left winger (LW) drops back to act as the left side support in the rhombus shape.

As soon as the opposing central midfielder moves to press the ball carrier (our LB), the objective is to move the ball in between the opposition's midfield and defensive lines.

When the left winger (LW) drops back, he forces the opposing right wing back (who is now in the right back position - see previous page) to choose whether to follow him or to retain balance in defence for his team:

1. If the opposing player doesn't follow our winger (LW), the LB can make a simple forward pass for the LW to receive between the lines (**yellow passing lines in diagram**).
2. If the opposing player does follow our winger (LW), the LB passes inside to the defensive midfielder (DM), who then passes forward to the left central midfielder (LCM) in between the lines (**blue passing lines in diagram**).

With either scenario, our team would have an advantageous 4 v 4 situation to try and progress the attack.

PRACTICE EXAMPLES FOR BUILD UP PLAY

2. Goalkeeper's Distribution and Build Up Play from the Back in a 7 (+GK) v 6 Dynamic Game



Objective: Building up play from the back into the opposition's half.

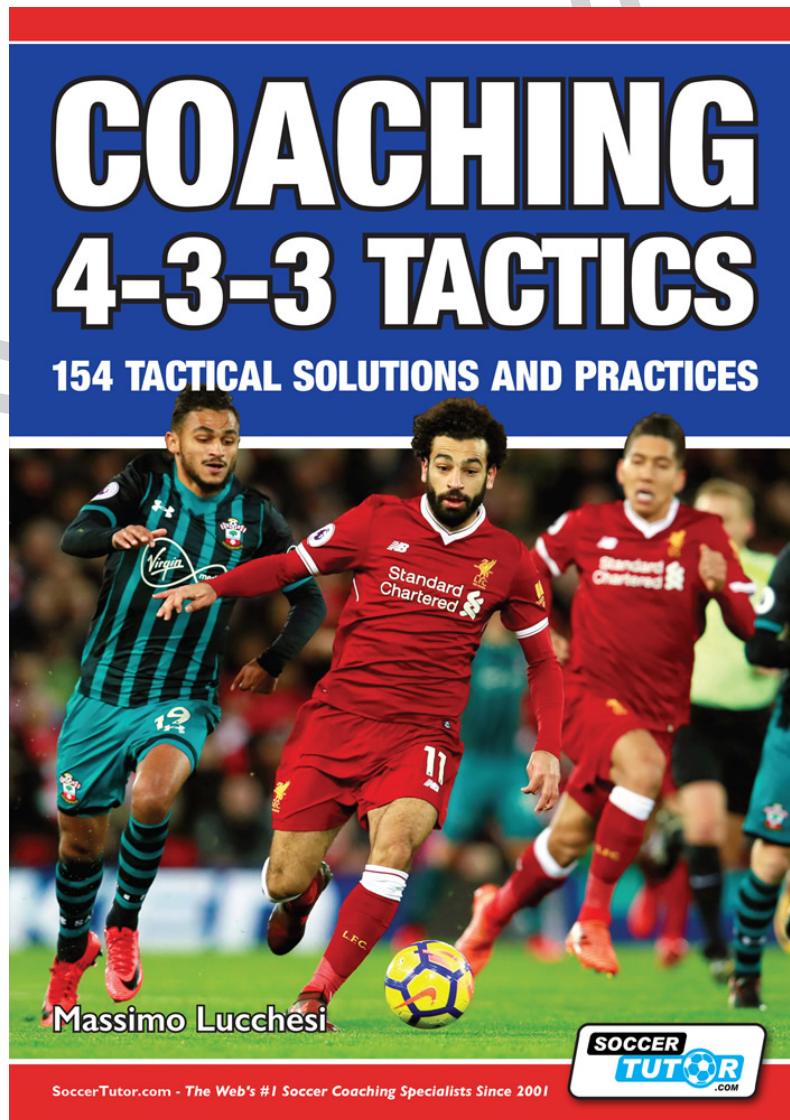
Practice Description

Using half a full pitch, we have the goalkeeper, the back 4 and 3 central midfielders from the 4-3-3 formation against 6 opposition players. In the diagram example, the red defending team are in a 3-3 formation. This can easily be changed to 4-2 or 3-1-2 etc.

The goalkeeper chooses the correct distribution based on the formation of the opposition. From this point, the blue team build up play and try to achieve one of these goals:

1. Score in one of the 3 mini goals on the halfway line.
2. Dribble the ball past the halfway line.

The red team aim to press collectively, stop the blue team from scoring and win the ball. If they win the ball, they then try to score in the big goal with a fast break attack.



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