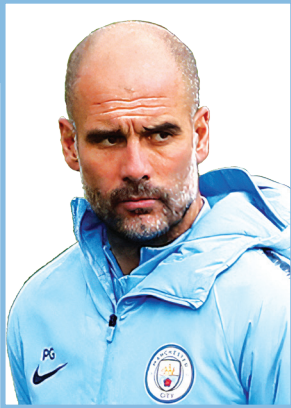


# TACTICAL SITUATION 8



## Attacking Options when the Attacking Midfielder Receives Between the Lines

### **Content from Analysis of Manchester City during the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 Premier League winning seasons**

The analysis is based on recurring patterns of play observed within the Manchester City team. Once the same phase of play occurred a number of times (at least 10) the tactics would be seen as a pattern. The analysis on the next page is an example of the team's tactics being used effectively, taken from a specific game.

Each action, pass, individual movement with or without the ball, and the positioning of each player on the pitch including their body shape, are presented.

The analysis is then used to create a full progressive session to coach this specific tactical situation.

# ATTACKING MIDFIELDERS MOVE INTO AVAILABLE PASSING LANES TO RECEIVE

## Both Attacking Midfielders Move into Available Passing Lanes to Receive from the Defensive Midfielder



When the ball is moved to the defensive midfielder **Fernandinho (25)**, there is always the option of attacking through the centre.

Pep Guardiola has both his Manchester City attacking midfielders move towards the available passing lanes to receive (inside movement).

In this example, **Silva (21)** and **De Bruyne (17)** are the attacking midfielders. **Bernardo (20)** and **Gündoğan (8)** have also often played in these positions.

The positioning of the 2 attacking midfielders in the space between the zone of responsibility of the opposing centre back and full back made it difficult for the opposition to control them.

In this example, the defensive midfielder **Fernandinho (25)** has time, space and available passing lanes to pass to either attacking midfielder **Silva (21)** or **De Bruyne (17)**.

# ATTACKING OPTIONS AFTER RECEIVING BETWEEN THE LINES (READING REACTION OF FULL BACK)

## 1. Opposing Full Back Stays Back: Receive, Turn and Pass in Behind



As soon as the attacking midfielder **De Bruyne (17)** receives free of marking, he is able to move forward facing the opposition's goal. This is because the opposing full back (red No.3) stays back to retain balance in the defensive line.

In this situation, City have a 5v4 advantage for their attack. **De Bruyne (17)** can play a key pass for one of his team-mates or shoot at goal.

## 2. Opposing Full Back Presses Attacking Midfielder: Lay-Off for Defensive Midfielder's Aerial Pass to the Winger



In this variation of the previous example, the opposing full back (red No.3) moves forward to press the attacking midfielder **De Bruyne (17)** and this creates in behind.

The ball is played to **Sterling (7)** after **De Bruyne (17)** lays the ball back to the defensive midfielder **Fernandinho (25)**, who then plays an aerial pass into the available space created.

# SESSION 8 BASED ON THE TACTICS OF PEP GUARDIOLA

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## Attacking Options when the Attacking Midfielder Receives Between the Lines



## SESSION FOR THIS TACTICAL SITUATION (3 PRACTICES)

### Practice 1: Attacking Options when the Attacking Midfielder Receives Between the Lines in a Passing Practice

#### Scenario A: Strong Side Attacking Midfielder Receives Unmarked



#### Description (Scenario A)

In a 35 x 45 yard area, the practice starts with the centre back (5). There is a 20 x 5 yard white central zone for the blue attacking midfielders (21 & 17) and two 8 x 5 yard yellow wide zones for the blue wingers (20 & 7) and red full backs.

The blue back 4 pass amongst themselves. As soon as the defensive midfielder (25) receives in between the lines with an open body shape (half-turn), the attacking midfielders (21 & 17) move towards the available passing lanes to receive.

The defensive midfielder (25) passes to one of the attacking midfielders (**No.17 on the strong side in diagram**) and he has to read the reaction of the opposing full back (red No.3).

In Scenario A, the attacking midfielder (17) receives within the white central zone and the red full back on that side (No.3) stays in the wide yellow zone, so the blue attacking midfielder (17) receives, turns and plays a key pass.

## Scenario C: Opposing Full Back Prevents Strong Side AM Turning



### Description (Scenario C)

In Scenario C, the attacking midfielder on the strong side (**17**) receives from the defensive midfielder (**25**) and the red full back on that side (No.3) moves forward into the white central zone to prevent him from turning.

This creates space in behind for the winger (**7**) to receive unmarked.

The ball is played to the winger (**7**) after the attacking midfielder (**17**) lays the ball back to the defensive midfielder (**25**), who then plays an aerial pass into the available space created.

The winger (**7**) can either shoot at goal or cross for a team-mate to score.

## PROGRESSION

### Practice 3: Attacking Options when the Attacking Midfielder Receives Between the Lines in a Conditioned Game



**Objective:** Attacking options for the attacking midfielder after receiving between the lines.

#### Description

This is a progression of the previous practice, moving into a 10 v 10 (+GK) game. The blue team start the practice with the centre back (5) from the end line.

The blue team can score in any way (1 point), but if they score after the defensive midfielder (25) successfully passes to one of the attacking midfielders (21 or 17) between the lines, they score 2 points.

Please see the tactical analysis and practices for all possible situations, reactions and options.

If the reds win possession, they try to score in either mini goal within 10-12 seconds (2 points).

The marked zones are only used to make it easier for the blues to read the tactical situation and can be removed.

**Rule/Restriction:** Only the red full backs can move inside the white central zone to prevent the blue attacking midfielders (21 or 17) from turning.