

Tactical Functions

Tactics

- decision making
- elevating the game to a thinking level
- playing both sides of the ball
- transition both from attacking to defending and defending to attacking (teams are most vulnerable at the moment of lost of possession)
 - ❖ (Attacking and defending involve all 11 players and to be successful we need to train our players with this in mind)

Tactical Functional Training – Decisions by players as to which skill is necessary as dictated by the playing environment. It joins together technical implications of tactical functions of players by positions. It is position specific and the training is done in that area of the field where the player normally plays.

Organization of Back Players

Role of the Sweeper (Defensive)

- play behind and/or in front of backline
- organize the team defensively, communication
- establish and control last line of defense, and rate of retreat
- offside considerations
- marking responsibilities
- stepping up (explain)
- deny through balls (interception)
- skillful in the air and tackling

Role of Sweeper (Attacking)

- as a free player, attempts to start counter-attacks
- as a support player, dictates rhythm of play (vision)
- as a penetrator, with and without the ball

Role of Marking Backs

- mark central forwards; when to deny, contain, tackle
- mark ball side in the central areas, starting positions
- proper angles of recovery (explain)
- understands man-to-man, zone, and combination defending
- understands off-side trap
- skillful in the air and tackling
- proper decisions on when to attack the ball
- provides cover

Role of Marking Backs (Attacking)

- proper decisions on distribution of ball (safety/risk)
- establish width in the attack
- overlapping runs into advanced positions
- able to maintain compactness in attack
- support player

Role of Outside Backs (Defensive)

- deny penetration on flanks
- marking responsibilities, starting positions
- provide cover (explain)
- provide balance (explain)
- skillful tackler
- tracking down according to defensive philosophy

Role of Outside Backs (Attacking)

- provide early outlet after ball is won
- establish width in the attack
- overlapping runs into advanced positions, timing
- ability to play as winger
- maintain compactness in attack – balance
- provide support

Organization of Midfielders

Defensively as a Group

- work to get goal-side at an instant of transition
- proper angles of recovery (explain)
- delay attacking progress of opposition (pressure points, pressure pockets)
- keep ball in front of midfield
- provide cover and balance
- understands man-to-man, zone and combination defending
- win 1v1 duels

Attacking as a Group

- link between backs and forwards; support behind and in advance of ball
- switch point of attack, rhythm of play
- penetrate with or without ball; creating space, combination play
- finishing; long range shooting

Defensive Midfielder

- organize midfielders and forwards
- provide cover to pressuring MF players
- provide balance in MF
- mark attacking MF of opposite team
- zonal play; laterally across the field
- pressure the ball, slow down the attack
- ability to double team
- ability to win 1v1 duels
- communication

Flank Midfielders (Defensive)

- defend the flank
- proper recovery runs from flank (explain)
- understands responsibilities of man-to-man, zonal and combination defending
- provide cover and balance
- track players to goal
- delay and contain attacking team
- skillful in air and tackling
- ability to win 1v1 duels

Organizing Midfielder (Attacking)

- support in advance of ball
- support behind ball
- dictate rhythm of play, vision
- maintain possession
- penetration with or without ball
- finishing

Attacking Midfielder

- play in advanced areas, close support of forwards
- make runs in advance of forwards
- penetrate defense with the ball, combination play
- receive balls to start counter attacks
- finishing

Flank Midfielders (Attacking)

- ability to patrol entire flank
- ability to play as a winger
- establish width in the attack
- create space for teammates
- ability to penetrate w/dribble, combination play
- overlapping runs into advanced positions
- support central MF forwards and backs
- ability to service attacking spaces in the box early
- finishing

Organization of Forwards

Defensively as a Group

- transition to defending (psychological aspects)
- integral part of collective team defense
 - make play predictable, steer opponents according to defensive philosophy
 - playing low-pressure (explain principals)
 - playing high-pressure (explain principals)

Attacking as a Group

- know when to hold ball, when to lay-off
- ability to beat opponents; dribble, combination play
- ability to create space for self and teammates, mobility
- finishing with all surfaces, from all areas and angles
- proper attacking runs in the box, timing
- ability to play together, shape

Central forwards (Strikers)

- compact central covering system
 - push up to the sweeper
 - stretch the opponents in DEPTH
 - position of stopper will dictate forwards play
- pull apart the central covering system
 - diagonal runs into space on flank; stopper follows run and pulls apart the center of field
 - withdraw to meet midfielders; position of sweeper will dictate play
 - show for wingers for combination play
 - bending run away to create space for winger
 - constant attempt to get behind defender
 - finishing

Wingers

- play in wide and advanced positions
- creation space for self and others
- 1v1 abilities
- combination play with central strikers

Withdrawn Wingers

- plays wide, not as advanced
- withdraws deep on flank to receive balls from backs
- midfield build up
- combination play
- create space for teammates without the ball
- ability to play as a winger

Goalkeeper (Defensively)

- organizing players in front of goal; especially restarts
- verbal communication
- play as deep sweeper
- angle play for shots
- shot stopping (technique)
- handling crosses (technique)
- transition
- vision

Goalkeeper (Attacking)

- support player; explain back pass implications
- distribution; when, where, how
- boxing, punching
- verbal communication
- transition
- vision

Technical Needs and Objectives

Sweeper

- accurate clearance of balls to targets
- tackling
- receiving
- passing; proper pace, driven balls
- long-range shooting
- dribbling forward
- heading, shooting

Marking Backs (Stopper)

- accurate clearance of balls to targets
- tackling
- passing; proper pace, driven balls
- long-range shooting
- receiving
- dribbling forward

Outside Backs

- accurate clearance of balls to targets
- tackling
- receiving balls from goalkeeper
- passing; to goalkeeper, driven balls
- runs up the flank

- crossing
- heading and shooting

Attacking Midfielder

- receive ball and turn
- accurate passing; through balls
- dribbling with speed
- combination play with forwards
- improvisational dribbling
- finishing; all surfaces, all distance

Defensive Midfielder

- receive ball and turn
- accurate passing; long balls, short balls to feet
- change point of attack
- tackling
- accurate clearance
- run ball forward
- finishing; long range heading

Flank Midfielders

- receive ball and turn
- combination play
- accurate passing
- change point of attack; long driven balls
- dribbling
- services into box
- finishing

Central Forwards and Wingers

- shooting; all surfaces, accuracy and power
- dribbling; create space, beat defenders
- heading; flick-ons, redirect, on goal
- passing; lay-off, wall
- receiving hold ball under pressure
- services into box

Goalkeeper

- shot stopping; catch and hold ball properly, parrying (explain)
- crosses; catch and hold ball properly boxing (explain)
- distribution; throwing, bowling, punt, drop-kick
- receiving; back pass implication
- passing; driven balls to targets

