

# CHAPTER 4

## CREATING AND EXPLOITING 3 V 2 SITUATIONS NEAR THE SIDELINE

## STEP 4: EXPLOITING THE NUMERICAL ADVANTAGE CREATED

After creating a 3 v 2 situation near the sideline, Bielsa's tactics are to use this numerical advantage to move the ball to the free player. This can be done through intelligent positioning, good decision making and accurate passing. All the following options can be applied to all formations:

### Option 1 (a): Direct Pass to the Full Back Who is Free of Marking Near the Sideline



In this example, the winger (11) already has a central position and moves at the appropriate angle to provide a passing option. The left back (3) is in an effective position and at a good angle too. This positioning makes it impossible for the opposition winger (blue No.7) to block both passing options for the man in possession (5).

The centre back (5) has to decide which is the best passing option according to blue No.7's positioning. If blue No.7 decides to apply pressure in a way that blocks the inside pass towards white No.11, the pass towards the unmarked left back (3) is easy - this is shown in the diagram above.

## Option 1 (b): Exploiting the 2 v 1 with the Winger's Run into the Space Behind the Full Back



This diagram follows on from the example on the previous page. As soon as the left back (3) receives, he has available time on the ball and free space to move forward. This action creates a 2 v 1 numerical advantage near the sideline and a 5 v 4 advantage for the attack.

The aim for the team is to launch a quick attack from this point. This is to prevent the opposition midfielders from having enough time to get back and provide help to the defenders.

As we have a 2 v 1 situation in the highlighted area, the blue right back (2) has to move forward to contest the ball carrier. The winger (11) reads the situation and makes a diagonal run to receive in behind the blue right back, as shown in the diagram.

A successful pass to the winger (11) in this situation can lead to creating a goal scoring chance.

## Option 2: Quick Combination Play to Move the Ball to the Free Full Back When the Direct Pass is Blocked



For the second option, the opposition winger (7) applies pressure in a different way and this time blocks the direct pass to our left back (3). As explained before, blue No.7 is unable to block both passing options, so this leaves our left winger (11) free of marking, ready to receive a pass from the centre back in possession (5).

In this situation, the reaction of the opposition right back (2) is the key. There are 3 possibilities:

- **Option 2 (diagram above):** If the blue right back (2) waits for the pass to be made and then moves to put pressure on the ball by taking advantage of the transmission phase (the time the ball takes to travel), the white winger (11) may not be able to receive and turn. However, the winger (11) can play as 'link player' in order to move the ball to the left back (3) who is free of marking.

*After the pass towards No.3 is achieved, both the options shown on the previous two pages can be used (option 1b: 'exploiting the 2 v 1 with the winger's run into the space behind the full back' and option 1c: 'the winger exploits the space created in the centre by forward's run out wide').*

- **Option 3 (page 79):** The blue right back (2) retains a balanced position and does not move forward to contest our winger (11) which allows him to receive and turn - this is option 3 described on the next page.
- **Option 4 (page 80):** The blue right back (2) moves forward to contest the winger before the pass is made so he is unable to receive. The left back (3) must move forward into the free space.

## Option 3: The Winger is Able to Receive in Space and Turn with 2 Passing Options



In this third option, the opposition winger (7) applies pressure in a way and that blocks the direct pass to our left back (3), as shown in option 2 on the previous page. As blue No.7 is unable to block both passing options, this leaves our left winger (11) free of marking, ready to receive a pass from the centre back in possession (5).

In option 2, the opposition right back (2) moved forward to prevent our winger (11) from turning. In this example, he doesn't move forward to put pressure on white No.11 after the centre back's (5) pass, but instead stays in a balanced position to control both No.11 and the left back No.3.

This enables the winger (11) to receive the pass from the centre back unmarked, turn and move forward with the ball. As soon as he is able to do this, the opposition midfielders are taken out of the game and we can launch a quick 5 v 4 attack.

A 2 v 1 situation is created again near the sideline. The winger (11) has 2 options:

1. Pass to the left back (3) who makes an overlapping run.
2. The winger can use the distraction of the left back's run to give him enough time and space to play a through pass in behind the defensive line in the centre. Another attacking player (No.10 in diagram) must make a well-timed run to meet this pass.

## Option 4: Exploiting the Space Behind the Opposition Full Back Who Moves Forward to Mark Our Winger



In this final example, the blue right back (2) moves forward to mark our winger (11) before the pass is made so he is unable to receive. This prevents the centre back (5) from being able to pass to him. However, this early forward movement of the blue right back (2) creates space behind him.

If the man in possession (5) has enough time on the ball to play an aerial pass, the available space can be exploited by the forward run of the left back (3), as shown in the diagram.

In this situation, the white team would have a 4 v 3 numerical advantage for their attack and a good chance to create a goal scoring opportunity.

# SESSION 6



**Based on Tactics of  
Marcelo Bielsa**

## **Creating and Exploiting 3 v 2 Situations Near the Sideline**

# MARCELO BIELSA

**Coaching  
Build Up Play  
Against High  
Pressing  
Teams**

*Terzis Athanasios*

SoccerTutor.com - The Web's #1 Soccer Coaching Specialists Since 2001



**BUY NOW**  
Worldwide Shop

**BUY NOW**  
USA /Canada Shop

**Available in Full Colour Print and eBook!**

PC | Mac | iPhone | iPad | Android Phone/Tablet | Kobo | Kindle Fire



**FREE  
COACH  
VIEWER  
APP**



[www.SoccerTutor.com](http://www.SoccerTutor.com)  
[info@soccertutor.com](mailto:info@soccertutor.com)

