

## c) Receiving Between the Lines and Playing the Final Pass



The attacking midfielders (8 and 23) usually took up positions behind the opposition's midfield line. This positioning enabled them to either drop back into defensive positions when possession was lost or to move further forward to receive between the lines when attacking. In all these different tactical situations, the team's balance was always retained.

As soon as Pirlo (21) receives the ball in the centre, the attacking midfielder on the strong side (Marchisio) drops back. This movement enables the left wing back Asamoah (22) to move into an advanced position, while the other attacking midfielder Vidal (23) makes a forward movement to receive in between the lines. Lichtsteiner (26) stays in a deep position because Asamoah has moved forwards. Pirlo (21) passes to Vidal (23) and the 2 forwards (Tevez and Llorente) and Asamoah make runs to receive a through ball in behind the defensive line (3 options).



### ASSESSMENT:

There were situations when the attacking midfielders received on the run between the lines as shown in the example above. However, there were also situations when they received with their backs to goal and then turned with the ball.

## SESSION FOR THIS TACTICAL SITUATION (4 Practices)

### 1. Receiving Between the Lines and Playing the Final Pass (Unopposed)



#### Description

In the area shown, all the players start in their positions next to the blue cones (No.8 starts on yellow cone). No.19 starts the practice and the 4 players at the back pass the ball to each other.

When the right or left centre back (15 or 3) receive a pass they should dribble round the large red cone which gives time for the attacking midfielders and the wing backs to take up the appropriate positions. These positions should help the team to retain balance. At the same time the two forwards move freely.

The wing back on the strong side (22) moves to the yellow cone while the attacking midfielder on that side (8) drops back to the blue cone. On the weak side, the attacking midfielder (23) moves forward but the wing back stays deep (26). If the ball is played to the right centre back (15), the players should adjust their positions again.

After 3 passes the defensive midfielder (21) receives and dribbles through the cone gate. As soon as this takes place (trigger) the attacking midfielder on the weak side (23) moves into a more advanced position between the lines and towards the available passing lane. He receives the pass and has 3 passing options in behind the defensive line; 1) No.14, 2) No.10 and 3) No.22.

**Variation:** This practice can be used against various formations by re-positioning the mannequins.

## PROGRESSION

### 2. Receiving Between the Lines and Playing the Final Pass (Opposed)



#### Objective

The attacking midfielders practice receiving between the lines and then playing a final pass in behind.

#### Description

This is a progression of the previous practice. This time there are 5 real defenders (3 centre backs and 2 wing backs) instead of the mannequins who try to prevent the black players from scoring. The practice works in the same way but this time the black team are fully opposed when trying to play the final pass and score a goal.

#### Restrictions

1. The 3 red centre backs are not allowed to move outside of the blue zone at any point unless the ball is passed to a wing back (22 or 26) in behind (the offside rule is applied throughout).
2. The 2 red wing backs are not allowed to enter the blue zone at any time.

**Variation:** This practice can be used against various formations e.g. by using a red back four.

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