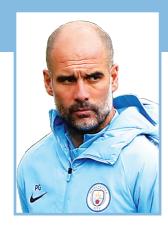
TACTICAL SITUATION 2



Positioning and Rotations with Inverted Full Backs

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.

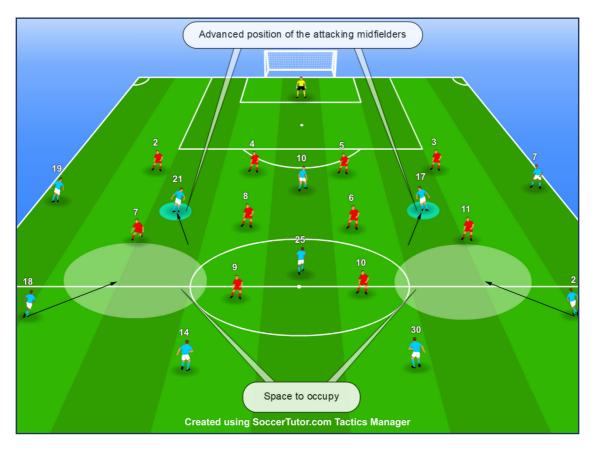
Each action, pass, individual movement with or without the ball, and the positioning of each player on the pitch including their body shape, are presented.

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



POSITIONING AND ROTATIONS WITH INVERTED FULL BACKS

Full Backs Move Towards the Inside when the Attacking Midfielders Take Up Advanced Positions Between the Lines



One of Pep Guardiola's tactical innovations is the use of inverted full backs, which he also used at Bayern Munich.

During the attacking phase, both full backs (18 & 2) move towards the inside into more central positions and create a line of 3 with the defensive midfielder **Fernandinho (25)** - this forms the second line of the team in a 2-3-2-3 attacking phase formation.

Pep Guardiola uses Inverted full backs with his Manchester City team during certain tactical situations against all possible formations.

The full backs **Delph (18)** and **Walker (2)** move towards the inside when the attacking midfielders are positioned high up and beyond the opposition's midfield line, as shown with **Silva (21)** and **De Bruyne (17)** in the diagram.



THE BENEFITS OF INVERTED FULL BACKS AND THEIR CENTRAL POSITIONING

1. Creating Triangle Shapes with Inverted Full Backs



The central positioning of the full backs provided Manchester City with several benefits.

First of all, an effective triangle shape could be formed between the full back, winger and attacking midfielder, as shown in the diagram.

2. Creating a Double Triangle with Full Back in Possession



In situations when the full back was in possession, the forward (10) would often drop into a deep position between the lines.

Manchester City could then create a double triangle, providing the full back (18) with many passing options, as shown in the diagram.



ROTATING POSITIONS OF THE INVERTED FULL BACK, ATT. MIDFIELDER AND WINGER TO RETAIN BALANCE



In the attacking phase, Pep Guardiola's Manchester City showed fluidity in the positioning of the full back, the winger and the attacking midfielder, but always maintained their balance as a priority. In this way, the benefits of the appropriate positioning were retained.

When the attacking midfielder dropped into a deeper position to receive, as shown by **Silva** (21) in the diagram example, a rotation was carried out.

The full back on the strong side **Delph (18)** moves into a wide position and the winger **Sané (19)** converges towards the centre to provide a passing option, in case the attacking midfielder **Silva (21)** receives from **Laporte (14)**.

Using this rotation, the effective triangle shape and all its important benefits are retained, which will be shown in the following parts of this book.

SESSION 2 BASED ON THE TACTICS OF PEP GUARDIOLA

Positioning and Rotations with Inverted Full Backs





SESSION FOR THIS TACTICAL SITUATION (2 PRACTICES)

Practice 1: Rotating Movements with Inverted Full Backs in a Passing Rotation Practice



Description

There are 2 groups of 5 players who all start positioned on the blue cones. The 2 groups work simultaneously.

The centre back (14/30) starts the practice by playing a 1-2 combination with the inverted full back (18/2).

Rotation: As soon as the return pass is made, the attacking midfielder (21/17) starts to drop back. This action is the trigger for the players to start the rotation, as the full back (18/2) moves wide and the winger (19/7) shifts inside.

At the same time, the centre back (14/30) passes to the defensive midfielder (8/25), who plays a

first time pass inside to the attacking midfielder (21/17) who has dropped back.

The attacking midfielder (21/17) receives and passes forward to the winger (19/7), who plays a first time pass back to the defensive midfielder (8/25) - he then directs the ball back to the centre back (14/30) in the starting position.

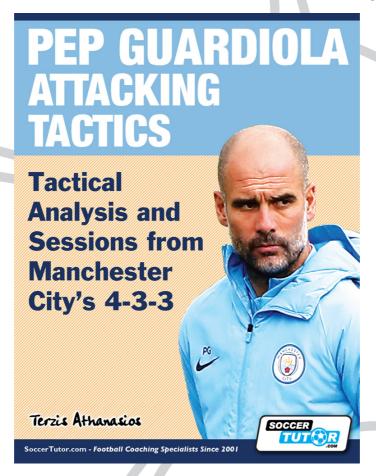
The practice continues with the 3 rotating players in new positions.

Coaching Points

- 1. The attacking midfielder triggers the rotation.
- 2. Well-timed synchronised movements.
- 3. High speed passing (1 or 2 touches).



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