Playing in the Attacking Third & Finishing
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This is an instructors session on:

**Playing in the Attacking Third and Finishing**

- A full team is needed.
- A full field is also needed.
- Roles and functions of individuals and groups need to be clearly defined.
- Assign US Soccer position names and numbers from 1-11:
  - 2-right outside back, 7-right winger, 6-defensive center midfielder, etc.
- Individual, group and team tactics are very important for this topic:
  - #10 – ability to possess, penetrate, dictate tempo.
  - #9 – ability to hold up the ball, check into midfield, run the channels.
  - #7, #9, #11 – to work as a unit, switch positions, combine, cross, finish.
  - #10, #6, #8 – to get involve in the attack, to support the play, provide options.
  - #2, #3 – to overlap, to provide support, to stretch the opposition.
- More than one session will be needed to enable the team to maintain possession, create chances and finish in the final third.
### TECHNICAL WARM-UP

**ORGANIZATION (DIAGRAM + RULES)**

- Area – Half field, width of the penalty area, use one goal. 
  - Keeper in goal. 
  - 2 central defenders v 1 forward (#9). 
  - 3 midfielders (#10, #6, #8) playing 2-1. 
  - Play 4v3 to goal.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Ball is played to one of the 2 deepest mids (6, 8). 
- Mids play into lone forward (9) who looks to lay off to attacking mid (10). 
- Attacking team look to get into the penalty area for a shot on goal.

**KEY COACHING POINTS**

- Technique – passing and control – receipt of the ball, ability to play forward, type of pass, pace on the ball, etc. 
- Quality of the support. 
- Running in advance of the ball.

### SMALL-SIDED ACTIVITY

**ORGANIZATION (DIAGRAM + RULES)**

- Area – half field, use full width. 
  - Counter goals. 
  - Keeper in goal. 
  - 4 defenders v 3 forwards (#7, #9, #11) 
  - 3 midfielders (#10, #6, #8) 
  - Use cones or flags to mark out attacking third.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Same set up as before, but mids can play into any of the forwards. 
- Progress: Add1 defending mid. 
- Progress: Add two full backs (#2, #3) and another defending mid. 
- Use 18 yard line as an offside line. 
- Counter goals for opposition.

**KEY COACHING POINTS**

- Same points as previous activity. 
- Movement of #7, #9, #10 – when to switch, moving wide, dropping deep. 
- Third man running. 
- Combination play. 
- Use by not using.

### EXPANDED SMALL-SIDED ACTIVITY

**ORGANIZATION (DIAGRAM + RULES)**

- Area – half field. 
  - Two teams in pinnies. 
  - Full goal and two small counter attack goals. 
  - Play 9v9. 
  - Ball always starts with the attacking team.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Same set up as before, but mids can play into full backs or back to server. 
- Use final third as a visual cue. 
- Counter goals or full goal for opposition.

**KEY COACHING POINTS**

- Same points as previous activities. 
- Overlapping runs. 
- Coming inside for reverse pass, diagonal ball. 
- Runs into the area – where to go. 
- Finishing.

### MATCH

**ORGANIZATION (DIAGRAM + RULES)**

- 11 v 11 game 
  - 1-4-3-3 v 1-4-4-2 
  - No restrictions – FIFA rules.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Try to finish under the pressure of a game.

**KEY COACHING POINTS**

- Focus on all previous coaching points.
Warm Up
4v2 + Keeper (4v3)
Small Sided Activity Part I
6v4 + Keeper (6v5)
Expanded Activity
9v8 + Keeper (9v9)
Match
11v11: 1-4-3-3 v 1-4-4-2