

Futsal- Playing into the pivot in the final third



Organisation

- Divide a half-court into three zones, including a 10-metre-wide middle zone.
- Place a goal on each touchline.
- Set up a 4v4 (plus goalkeepers) and arrange both teams in a 3-1 formation.

Explanation

- Each team's pivot is not allowed to defend and must stay in the marked-out attacking zone at all times.
- The out-of-possession team must leave one player in their defensive zone at all times to defend against the attacking team's pivot, resulting in a 3v2 numerical advantage in favour of the attacking team.
- The objective for the attacking team is to connect with the pivot, who can then either shoot on goal or lay the ball off to a team-mate who is now allowed to join them in the attacking zone.

Coaching points

- Adopting good body orientation provides players with the widest possible field of vision, which allows them to play the ball into any area of the court.
- Out-of-possession players must constantly look to create passing lanes to ensure that team-mates have multiple passing options.
- Emphasis should be placed on forward passes and forward movement.
- Players should show patience to improve their team's chances of scoring once the pivot receives the ball.
- When their team are in possession, players must look to support their team-mates and make runs off the pivot.
- Circulating the ball quickly allows a team to take advantage when the pivot is unmarked or under less pressure from the opposing defender.
- The pivot must focus on shielding the ball, creating passing lanes, body orientation, receiving the ball, rolling the defender, controlling the ball to lay off to a team-mate, controlling the ball to turn, scanning, linking up with a support player, positioning to receive the ball and turn or combine with a team-mate.