



**SYSTEM's**

of

**PLAY**



# 1- Definition



System of play refers to the tactical formation and strategy a team adopts during a match.

Common systems include 4-4-2, 4-3-3, and 3-5-2, each indicating the number of players in the defensive, midfield, and forward lines respectively.



# 2- KEY FACTOR'S



**COACH  
PHYLOSOPHY**

**HUMAN  
RECOURSES**

**TEAM  
STRENGH  
OR  
WEAKNESSES**

**OPPONENT  
STRENGH  
OR  
WEAKNESSES**

**TACTICAL  
STRATEGIES,  
ADJUSTMENTS**

**CONDITION'S  
and  
ATMOSPHERE**



# 3- HISTORY



1

Gk-2-3-5 Pyramid : 1920  
Herbert Chapman / ARSENAL

2

•Gk-3-2-2-3 WM Formation: In the 1920s and 1930s,  
Herbert Chapman / ARSENAL

3

• Gk-4-2-4 to 4-4-2 Formation: In the 1950s and 1960s  
Zezé Moreira - Flavio Costa / BRAZIL - SACCI /MILAN 1987

4

• Gk-4-3-3 Total Football: in the 1970s  
Rinus Michels / NEDHERLAND

5

• Gk-1-4-4-1 : Catenaccio : 1960 (door-bolt)  
Helnio Herrera / INTER MILAN - CARL RAPPAN / 1930 – 1937 SWITZRLAND – 2-3-5

6

• Gk-4-3-3 Tiki-Taka: 2000  
Johan Cruyff / NEDHERLAND / FC BARCELONE - BIELSA-GUARDIOLLA – VANGHAL

7

• Gk-4-4-2 to 4-5-1 : PARKING THE BUS : 2004  
Otto Rehhagel / GREECE

# 4- STYLES OF PLAY INVOLVED



## TEAM IDENTITY

**POSSESSION BASED**

**DEFENSIVE SOLIDITY**

**FAST TEMPO**

**HIGH PRESSURE**

**COUNTER ATTACK**

**HYBRID TACTICS**

## TACTICAL STRATEGIES

**LONG BALL**

**BUILD FROM THE BACK**

**VERTICAL PLAY**

**ATTACK FROM SIDES**

**HIGH PRESS**

**GIGENPRESS**

**MAINTAIN POSSESSION**



FIFA WORLD CUP  
Qatar 2022

# 5- STAT'S

## FIRST TOUR SYSTEM'S OF PLAY

FORMATION	USERS	GOAL SCORED	GOAL CONCEDED	GOAL DIFFERENCE
4.3.3	38	53	21	32
3.4.3	16	15	18	-3
4.2.3.1	15	18	27	-9
4.4.2	11	12	17	-5
5.3.2	8	6	21	-15
4.5.1	4	2	4	-2
3.5.2	2	1	0	1
5.4.1	2	3	4	-1

TEAM	ROUND 1	ROUND 2	ROUND 3
A.Saudia	4.5.1	4.2.3.1	4.5.1
Argentina	4.4.2	4.4.2	4.3.3
Australia	4.3.3	4.4.2	4.4.2
Belgium	3.5.2	3.4.3	3.4.3
Brazil	4.3.3	4.3.3	4.4.2
Cameroon	4.3.3	4.3.3	4.4.2
Canada	3.4.3	4.4.2	4.4.2
Costarica	4.4.2	5.4.1	5.4.1
Croatia	4.3.3	4.3.3	4.3.3
Denmark	3.5.2	3.4.3	4.3.3
Ecuador	4.4.2	3.4.3	4.3.3
England	4.3.3	4.3.3	4.3.3
France	4.3.3	4.2.3.1	4.3.3
Germany	4.2.3.1	4.2.3.1	4.3.3
Ghana	5.3.2	4.2.3.1	4.2.3.1
Iran	5.3.2	4.3.3	4.2.3.1
Japan	4.2.3.1	4.2.3.1	3.4.3
Mexico	4.3.3	5.3.2	4.2.3.1
Morocco	4.3.3	4.3.3	4.3.3
Netherlands	3.4.3	3.4.3	3.4.3
Poland	4.5.1	4.2.3.1	4.2.3.1
Portugal	4.3.3	4.3.3	4.5.1
Qatar	5.3.2	5.3.2	5.3.2
S.Korea	4.3.3	4.2.3.1	4.3.3
Senegal	4.2.3.1	4.4.2	4.3.3
Serbia	3.4.3	3.4.3	3.4.3
Spain	4.3.3	4.3.3	4.3.3
Switzerland	4.3.3	4.3.2.1	4.3.2.1
Tunisia	3.4.3	3.4.3	3.4.3
Uruguay	4.3.3	5.3.2	4.3.3
Usa	4.3.3	4.3.3	4.3.3
Wales	5.3.2	3.4.3	4.2.3.1



# 6- DESCRIPTION



<b>4-3-3</b> <b>SPACES</b>	<b>4-4-2</b> <b>SIDES</b>	<b>5-3-2</b> <b>COMPACT</b>	<b>4-2-3-1</b> <b>SWITCH</b>	<b>3-4-3</b> <b>BALANCE</b>
<b>4-1-4-1</b> <b>SPLIT</b>	<b>3-5-2</b> <b>DOMINATION</b>	<b>5-4-1</b> <b>SOLIDITY</b>	<b>4-3-2-1</b> <b>DEEP</b>	

# 7- STRENGTH and WEAKNESSES



**STRENGTH**

**4-3-3**

**WEAKNESS**

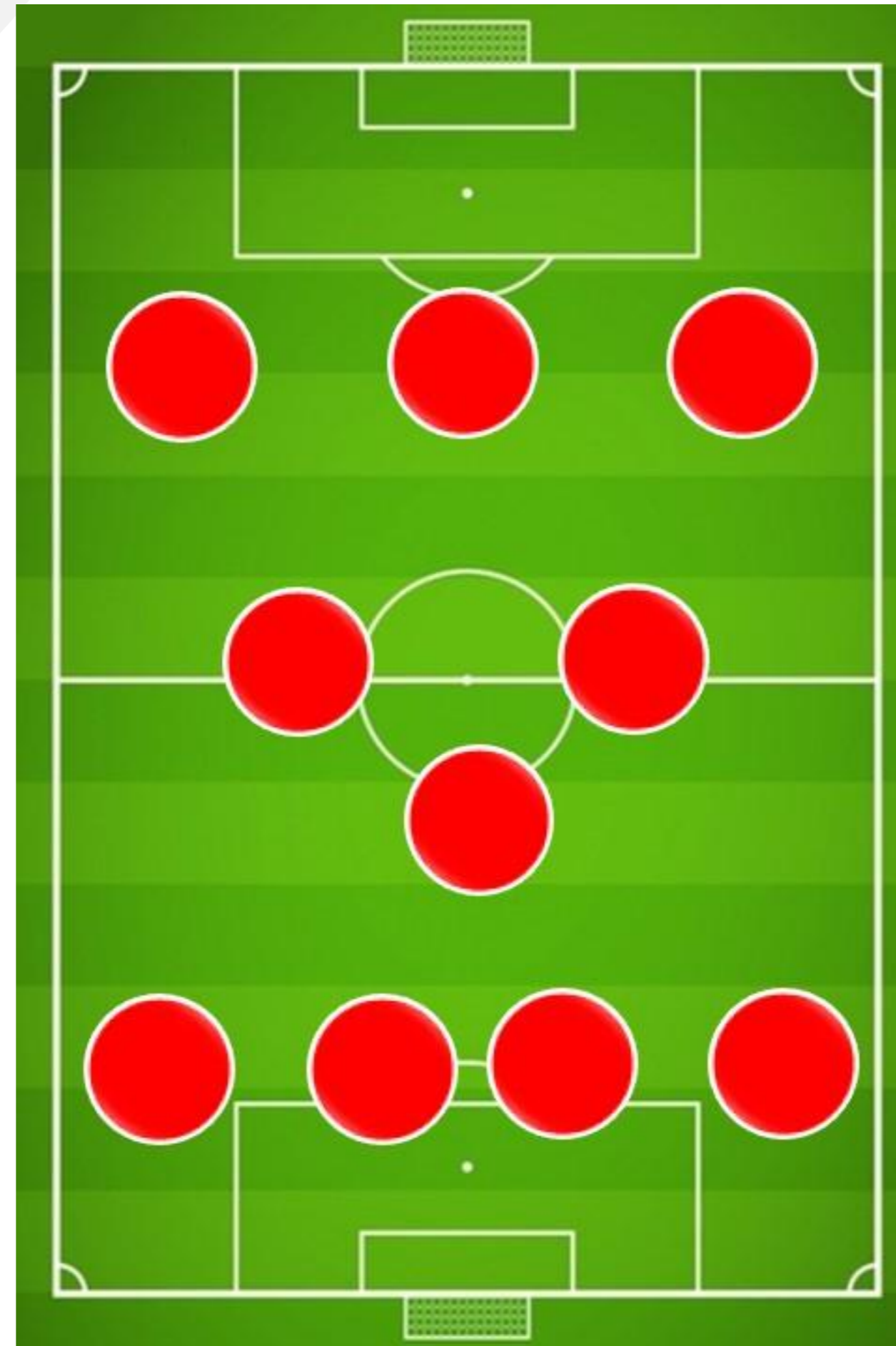
Midfield Dominance

Attacking Firepower

Ball Retention

Tactical Flexibility

Suits Modern Pressing Tactics



Defensive Vulnerabilities

Requires a High Work Rate

Relies on Quality Midfielders

Teams Can Run Out of Steam



**STRENGTH**

**4-2-3-1**

**WEAKNESS**

Strong Central Spine

Defensively Solid

Attacking Firepower

Facilitates Different Playing  
Styles

Highly Adaptable



Relies on a Creative CAM

Requires Fit Fullbacks

Strikers Can Struggle to Make  
an Impact

Vulnerable to Crossfield  
Switches

Specialist Positions in  
Midfield



**STRENGTH**

**4-4-2**

**WEAKNESS**

Simplicity

Dual Strikers

Defensive Cover Across the Field

Well-Balanced Shape

Excellent Shape for Counterattacks



Midfield Can Get Outnumbered

Space Between the Lines

Requires Disciplined Wingers

Physically Demanding

Not Suited to Possession-Based Tactics



**STRENGTH**

**4-5-1**

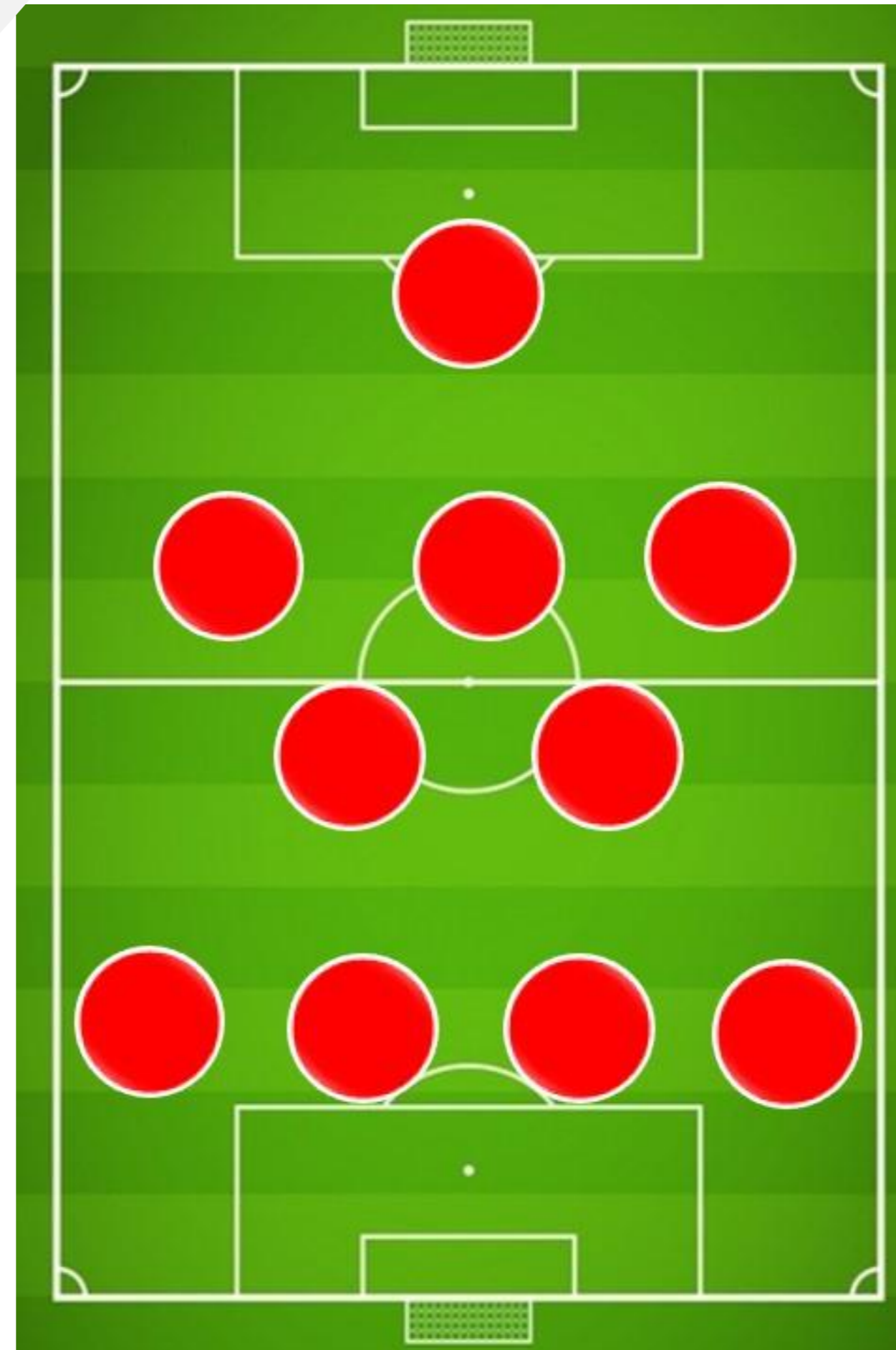
**WEAKNESS**

Tactical Flexibility

Various Points of Attack

Strong Defensively

Counter Attacking  
Opportunities



Striker May Become  
Isolated

Tough to Implement a High  
Press

Requires Talented  
Midfielders



**STRENGTH**

**4-1-4-1**

**WEAKNESS**

Defensively solid

Tactical Flexibility

Allows For Two Attacking  
Midfielders

Multiple Points of Attack

Enables You to Win the  
Midfield Battle



Lone Striker

Requires a Specialist CDM

Can Be Difficult to Create  
Chances

Reliant on a Strong  
Midfield



**STRENGTH**

**5-3-2**

**WEAKNESS**

Defensively Solid

Very Strong Spine to the Team

Be Adapted to Become More Offensive

Counter attacks



It Can Be Too Defensive

Weak on the Wings

Tiring Mentally and Physically

Relies On Having Specific Personnel



**STRENGTH**

**3-5-2**

**WEAKNESS**

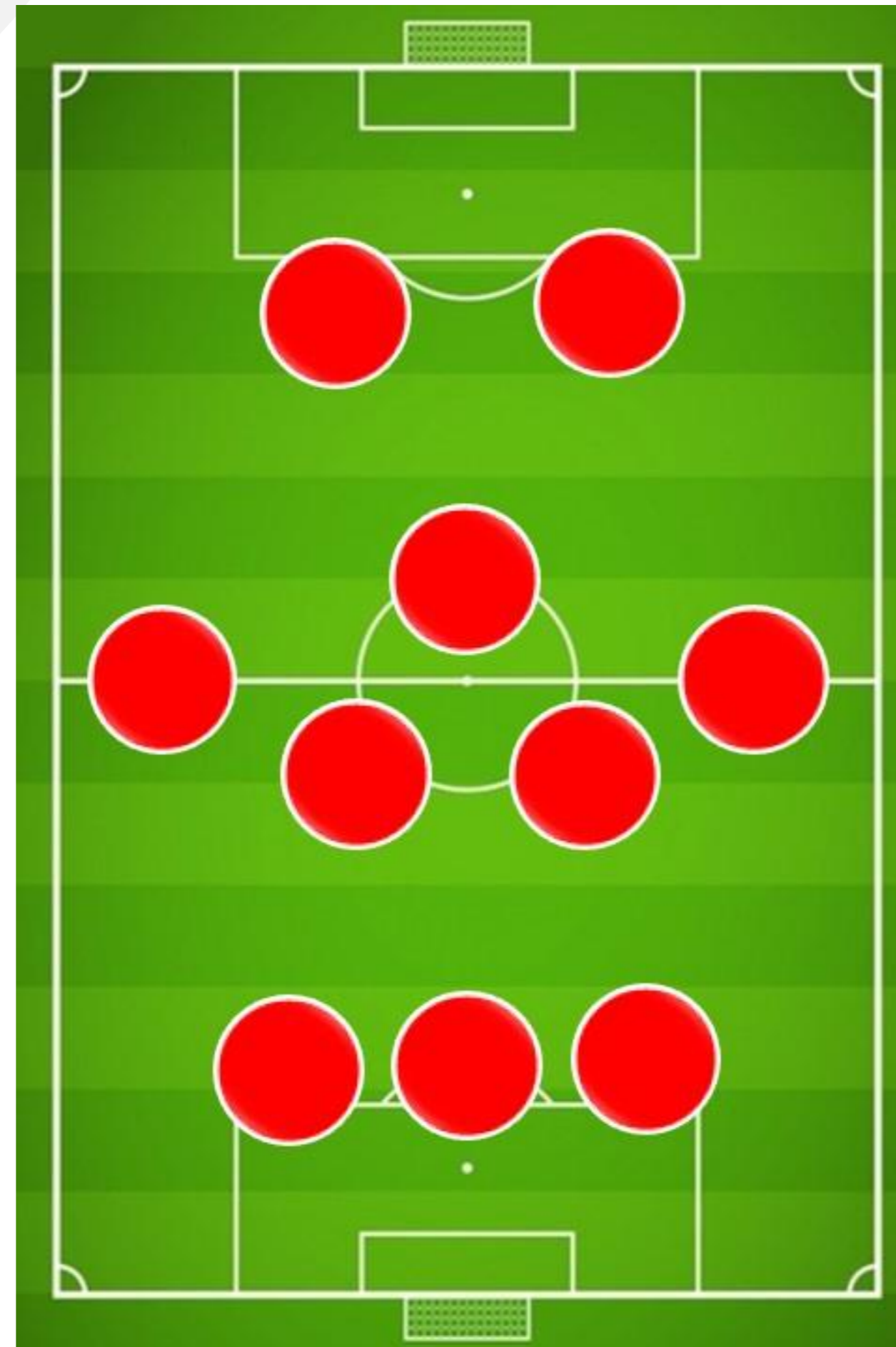
Controlling Possession

Strong Defense

Double Trouble Up Front

Shape Flexibility with  
Wingbacks

Midfield Fluidity



Midfield Congestion

Vulnerable on the Wings

Requires Quality Center  
Backs

Relies on Uber Fit Wingbacks



**STRENGTH**

**3-4-3**

**WEAKNESS**

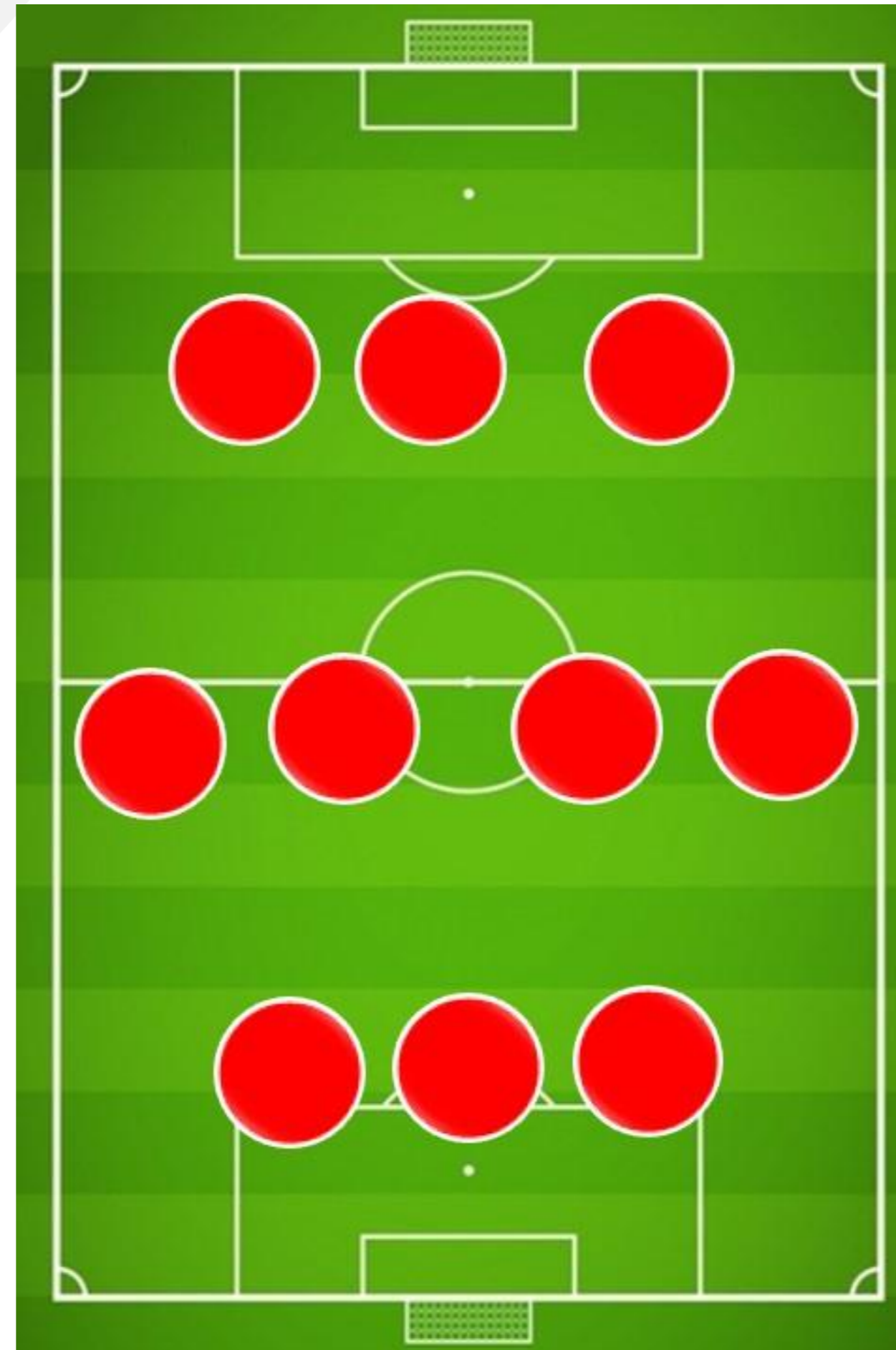
Range of Attacking Options

Balanced Shape

Strong Against Defensive  
Teams

Easy to Create Overloads

Tactical Flexibility



Demanding in All Positions

Can Leave Openings at the  
Back

Vulnerable on the Wings

Requires Specialist  
Wingbacks

# 1-4-3-3 FORMATION



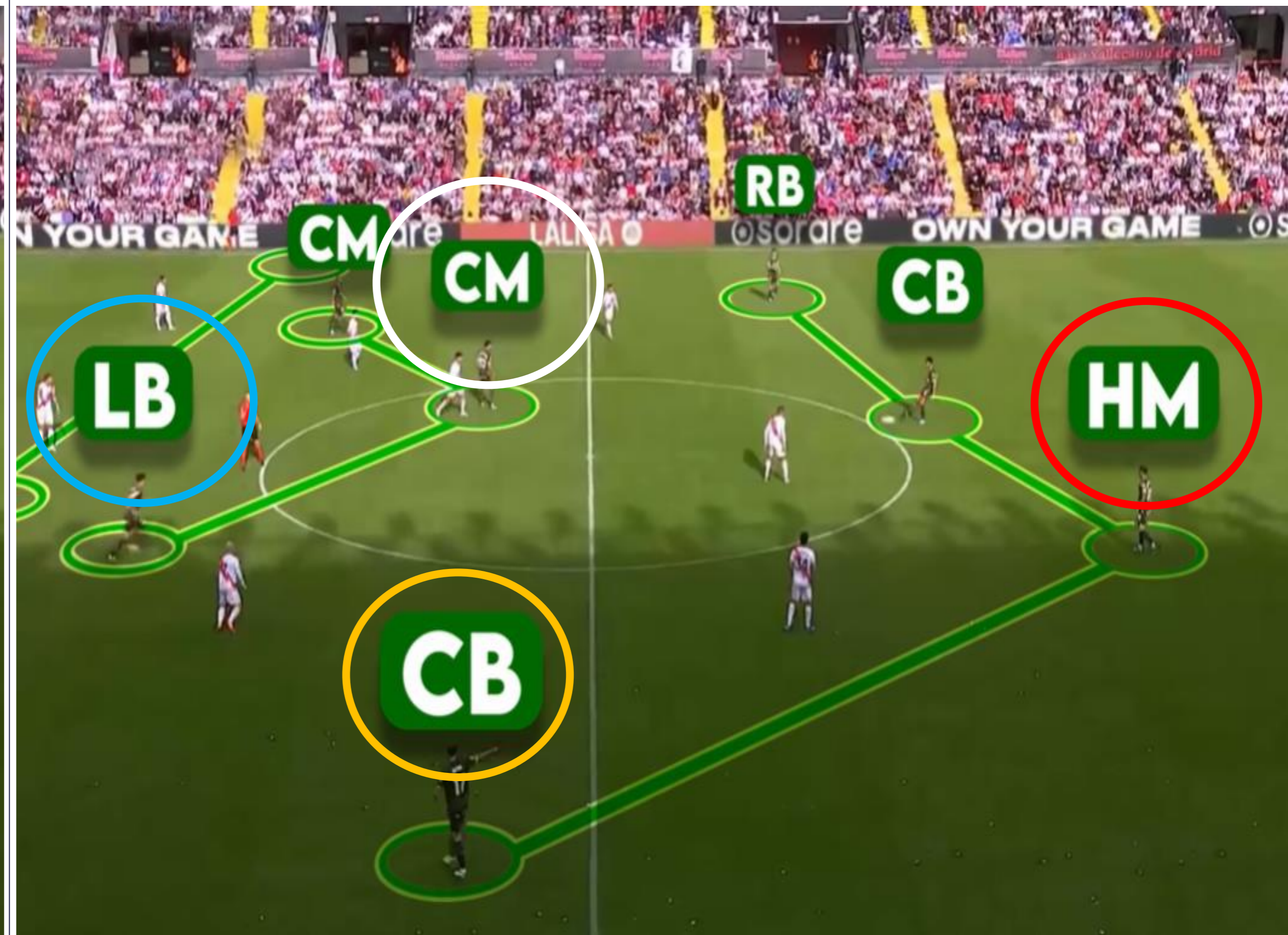
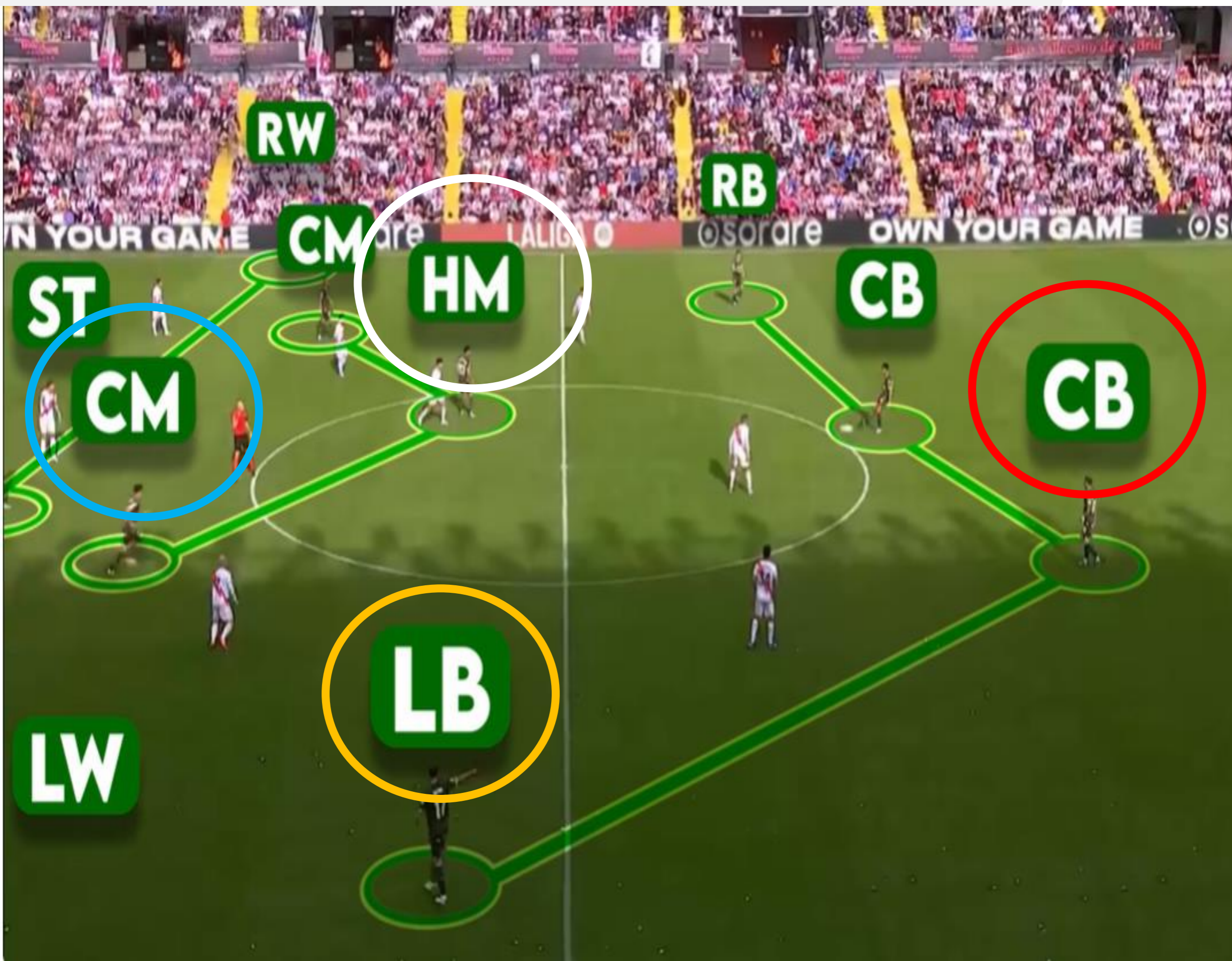
# TRENDING STRUCTURE





# STREET FOOTBAL

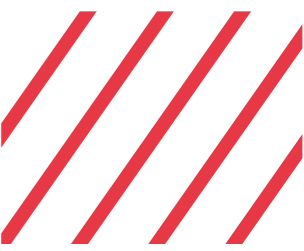




# FLEXIBILITY



# Composition



1 Goalkeeper

2 Wide Defenders  
2 Central Defenders

3 Central Midfielders  
2HM – 1 CM / 1 HM – 2 CM / 3 CM

3 Attackers

Offensive



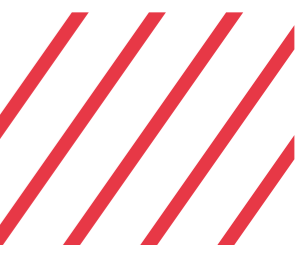
Defensive



Flat



# Composition



Wide forward line



Narrow forward line

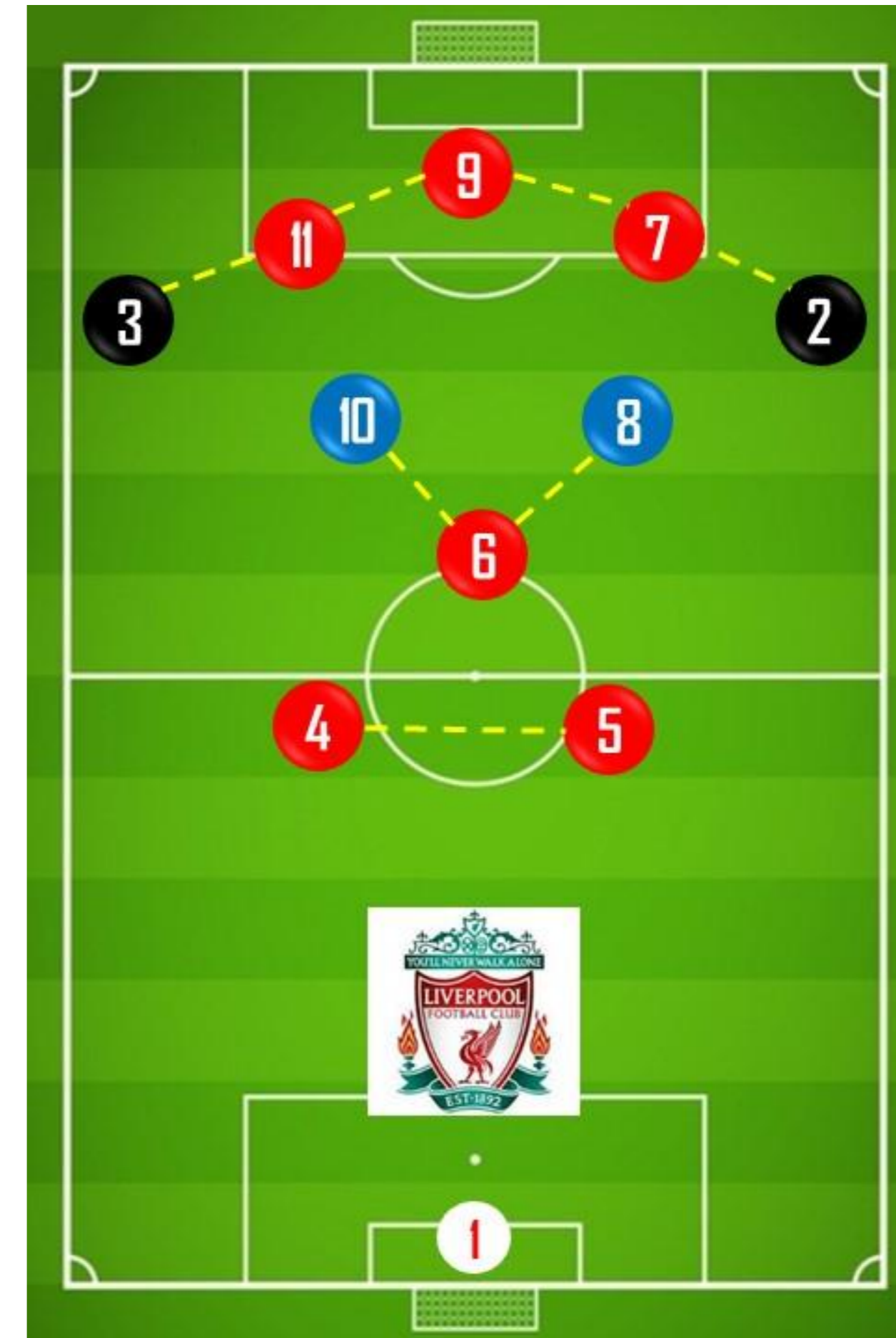
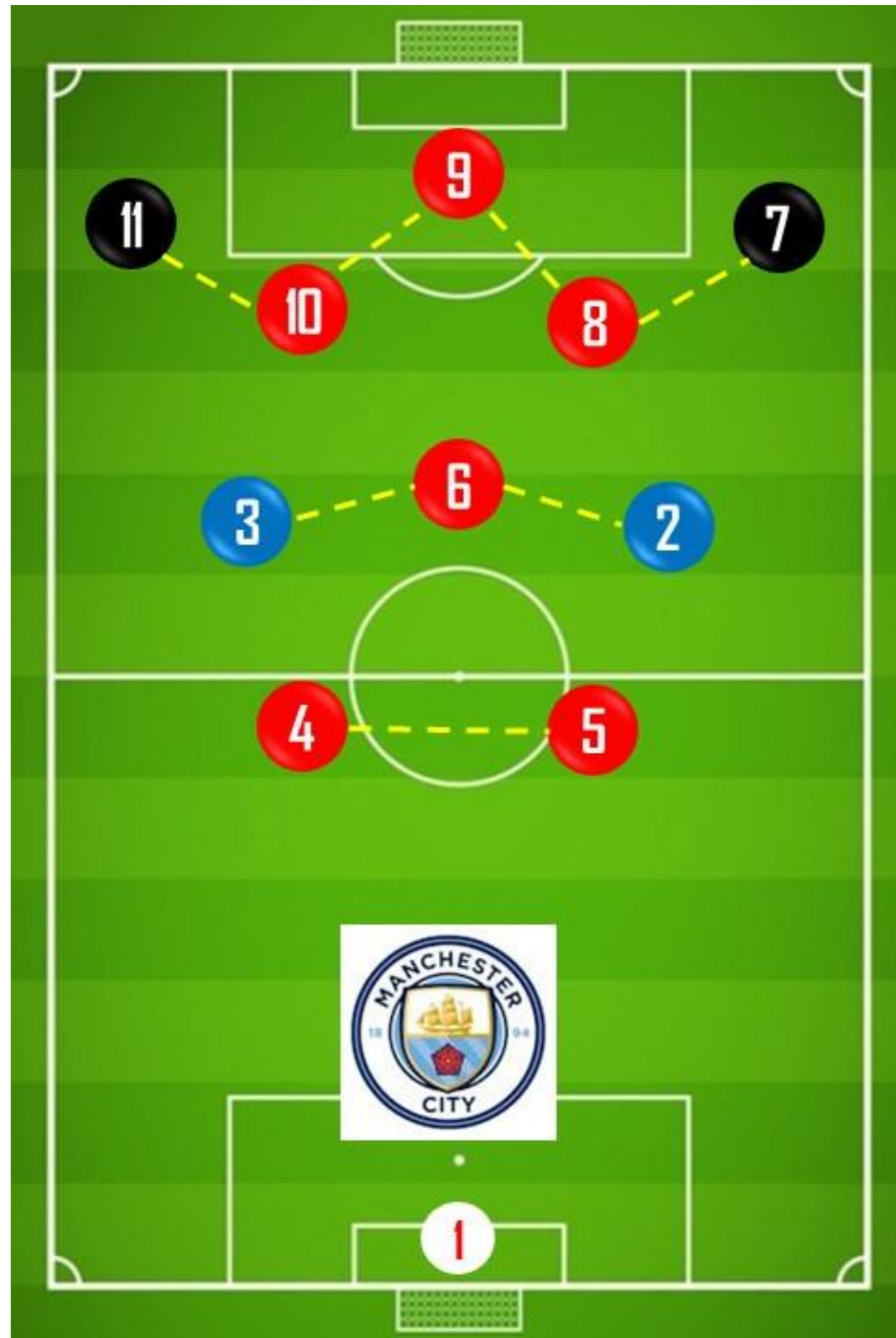


# Transformation



- **Trio** / midfielder With inverted Full back's.
- Front 5 players with wingers providing width and interior on half spaces.

- **Trio** / with 3 true midfielders
- Front 5 players with narrow wingers and overlapping full back's.



# Main Concept

Guardiola



Tactical concept of “7 outside, 3 inside” offers a tactical structure to control the midfield.

The main idea is that in a 4-3-3 formation three midfielders control the direction and tempo of the game, while outside players create space and interact accordingly.

## PATTERN'S

- Playing out from the back.
- Control of possession.
- Positioning.
- Movement.
- Compactness.
- exploiting half-spaces.
- combination play.
- counter-pressing.
- vertical play.
- overload to isolate.



# Main Concept



## ROLES

1-4-5 : CONTROL POSSESSION.

2-3-7-9-11 : PROVIDE SPACE AND SUPPORT

6 : DOMINATE THE CENTRE.

8-10 : INTERCHANGE POSITION.

8-10-6 : CONTROLE TEMPO AND DIRECTION.



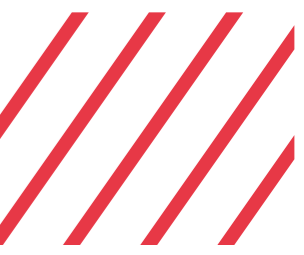
# **WORKRATE and CRITERIA'S**



- **EFFECTIVE USE OF SPACE**
- **OPTION'S FOR PLAY**
- **ADAPTABILITY**
- **STABILITY AND BALANCE**
- **CONTINUS MOVEMENTS**
- **PATIENT BUILD UP**
- **OFF THE BALL MOVEMENTS**
- **NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY**
- **INVITE**



# SUCCESS- REQUIREMENT'S



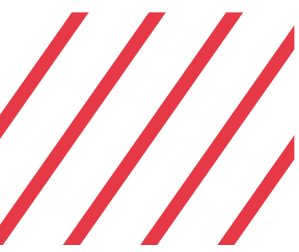
- Triangular Shapes – Rotation's – Connection's .
- Central midfielders who are disciplined and work together well as a trio by controlling possession, supporting the attack, and helping out in defense.
- Athletic fullbacks who support the wide forwards in front of them and don't neglect their defensive duties. They also need to provide passing options out wide for the central midfielders.
- Good game management of the transitions between defense and attack.
- Good off the ball movement from the team's forwards.
- Disciplined wide forwards who support the midfield and fullbacks when the opposition are attacking.
- A specialized holding midfielder who sniffs out danger, covers gaps left by the fullbacks, and helps the team to keep its shape.
- Wide players and forwards who create width and depth to give the central midfielders enough space to influence the game.



# Qualities and demand's

	PHYSICAL	TACTICAL	DEF. TECHNICAL	OFF. TECHNICAL
CB	HEIGHT/ STRENGTH/ SPEED/ AGRESSIVNESS	ORGANIZATION/ CONTROLE/ FOLLOW/ COVER	MARKING/ HEADERS/ ANTICIPATION/ CLEARENCES/INTERCEPT	PASSING/ LONG BALL/ HEADERS
FB	POWER/ SPEED/ STAMINA	SUPPORT/ PRESSING / RUN OFF THE BALL/ COVER POSITION	TACKLES/ HEADERS/ ANTICIPATION/ CLEARENCES/INTERCEPT	RUN WITH BALL/ CROSSES/ CUTBACK/ LONG BALL/ DRIBBLE
HM	POWER/ SPEED/ STAMINA	COVER/ CONTROL POSSESSION/ FLOW BALANCE/ SWITCH	TACKLES/ HEADERS/ INTERCEPT/DUELS	LONG BALL/ PASSES/ SHOTS/ DRIBBLE
CM	POWER/ SPEED/ STAMINA/ AGILITY	PRESS/ CONTROLE TEMPO/ SWITCH/ INFILTRATE/ PENETRATE	DUELS/ TACKLES/ HEADERS/	CROSSES/ BREAKING PASS/ KEY PASSES/ DRIBBLE
WM	POWER/ SPEED/ STAMINA	OFF THE BALL MOVES/ SUPPORT/ PRESS/ DELAY/ DICTATE	TACKLES/ ANTICIPATE/ INTERCEPT/ DUELS	CROSSES/ DRIBBLES/ HEADERS/ SHOTS/ RUN WITH BALL
FW	POWER/ SPEED/ STAMINA/ AGILITY	PRESS/ DICTATE/ DENY/ CREATE SPACE	DUELS/ BLOCKS/ ANTICIPATE/ OFF THE RUN	DRIBBLES/ SHOTS/ PASSES

# PROFILES and RESPONSABILITIES



**FB**

**CLASSIC**

**OFFENSIVE**

**INVERTED**

**SPACE  
EXPLORER**

## IN POSSESSION

Movement into a wider position to receive  
Look to play into the next unit or ATT

Combination play and movement  
- (underlap/overlap)

**Crossing and dribbling**

## OUT OF POSSESSION

Recovery Runs (2v1)  
Adopt a more compact

structure Block crosses (Force backwards)  
Challenge aerially

Aggressiveness & Interception

Awareness of distance to press

**Minimize space increase between units Limit passing lanes**

## ATT/ TRANSITION

Defending 1v1

Invite opposition to press to positional space to ATT

Dictate tempo of the game

**Support ATT (Overlap, underlap/inverted)**

## DEF/ TRANSITION

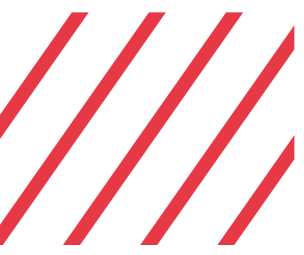
Delay to slow the opposition

Deny to reorganize

The decision to press or protect

**Get behind the ball**

# PROFILES and RESPONSABILITIES



**CB**

**LEADER**

**SWIPPER**

**INITIATOR**

**AERIAL  
THREAT**

**STEALER**

## IN POSSESSION

Able to receive under pressure

Maintain possession in tight areas

Confident to break lines.

Balance and Depth

Create an overload in MID

Switch the Play  
Diagonal Play

**Long balls in-behind**

## OUT OF POSSESSION

Communicate changes in team shape

Identifying and communicating threats (opposition or spaces)  
Team work

communication to progress with play

Dominant in 1v1 (Ground & Aerial)

**recover possession swiper**

## ATT/ TRANSITION

Secure the first pass if possible

If under pressure can we relieve pressure by playing long

**Build possession progressively**

## DEF/ TRANSITION

Knowledge of slowing opposition ATT

Maintaining good balance and team structure

Awareness's of long passes in-behind

Communication

**Marking**

# PROFILES and RESPONSABILITIES



**DM**

**BOX TO BOX**

**HOLDING**

**DISTRIBUTER**

**SWIPPER**

## IN POSSESSION

Offer support and depth

Break line with passing/running with ball

Set up/build the attack

switch of play

The movement to create space or receive Ball circulation.

**Numerical advantage centrally.**

## OUT OF POSSESSION

Press & Cover & Sweep

Dominate and recover possession

Deny opposition time and space

Delay counter attack

Force opposition to area of strength

Set up press triggers

**Protect team shape**

## ATT/ TRANSITION

Defensive Awareness

Support the attacking

Recycle possession

**Exit speed**

## DEF/ TRANSITION

Offer balance and support to the play

Interceptions

**Minimize any space between units.**

# PROFILES and RESPONSABILITIES



**CM**

**ADVANCED  
PLAY MAKER**

**CHANCE  
CREATOR**

**TREAQUARISTA**

## IN POSSESSION

Influencing possession play  
Offer depth and cover  
Penetrate opposition lines  
Find the spare player  
(through, around or over)  
Creating overloads  
  
Rotations in MID  
Switching the play to find openings  
  
Create opportunities through  
Z.14  
**Ball circulation.**

## OUT OF POSSESSION

Delay and force the  
opposition to play backwards  
  
Quality of communication  
and scanning to minimize  
threats  
  
Anticipate long /diagonal  
passes  
  
Dominate duels  
  
Operating as units to  
minimizing passes in-  
between  
  
**Press - dictate**

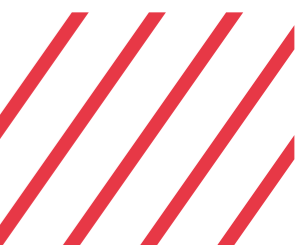
## ATT/ TRANSITION

Quick penetrative passes to  
de-structure opposition  
  
Variety of passing to maintain  
possession.  
  
Anticipate tactical scenarios  
  
**Exit from pressing zone**

## DEF/ TRANSITION

Slow opposition play in order  
to recover the shape  
  
Being flexible to cover  
positions/spaces whilst  
recovering  
  
Recovery Runs  
  
**Force opposition to play  
under pressure**

# PROFILES and RESPONSABILITIES



**WM**

**CLASSIC  
WINGER**

**INSIDE  
FORWARD**

**1v1  
EXPLORER**

## IN POSSESSION

Confident in RWTB/Dribbling

Create space for others by stretching the opposition unit

Variation of movement

Varied crossing i.e. deep, byline, ground etc.

**Creative and skillful play to create goal-scoring opportunities**

## OUT OF POSSESSION

Protect team shape i.e. slide inwards

Work rate to decrease passing lanes for the opposition

Press opposition to strength zone

Double up on opposition players with FB

**Mark, Press, Intercept, Cover**

## ATT/ TRANSITION

Anticipate tactical scenarios

Create overloads

Quick penetrative passes to de-structure opposition

**Run off the ball.**

## DEF/ TRANSITION

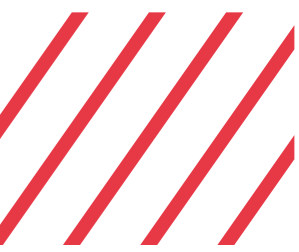
Recover into a protected position behind the ball.

The angle of the press to minimize options for opposition

Contribute as a unit to manage the spaces and distances.

**Dictate - delay**

# PROFILES and RESPONSABILITIES



**FW**

**TARGET  
MAN**

**MOBILE  
FINISHER**

**COMPLETE  
FORWARD**

**POACHER**

**REFERENCE**

## IN POSSESSION

Moves to create a face in front and in behind oppositions.

Maintain possession when possible

If needed protect possession to allow the team to support

Variate movement to create space in front

**Force opposition defensive line back to create space in front.**

## OUT OF POSSESSION

Counter press to force the opposition to player quicker

Interceptions Anticipate any mistakes

Delay and deny opposition time and space

Force opposition to play to a particular area of strength

**Minimize passing options and space**

## ATT/ TRANSITION

Forward runs in the channels or in- behind centrally.

Combination play to maintain possession

Hold up play

**Stretch opposition defensive line**

## DEF/ TRANSITION

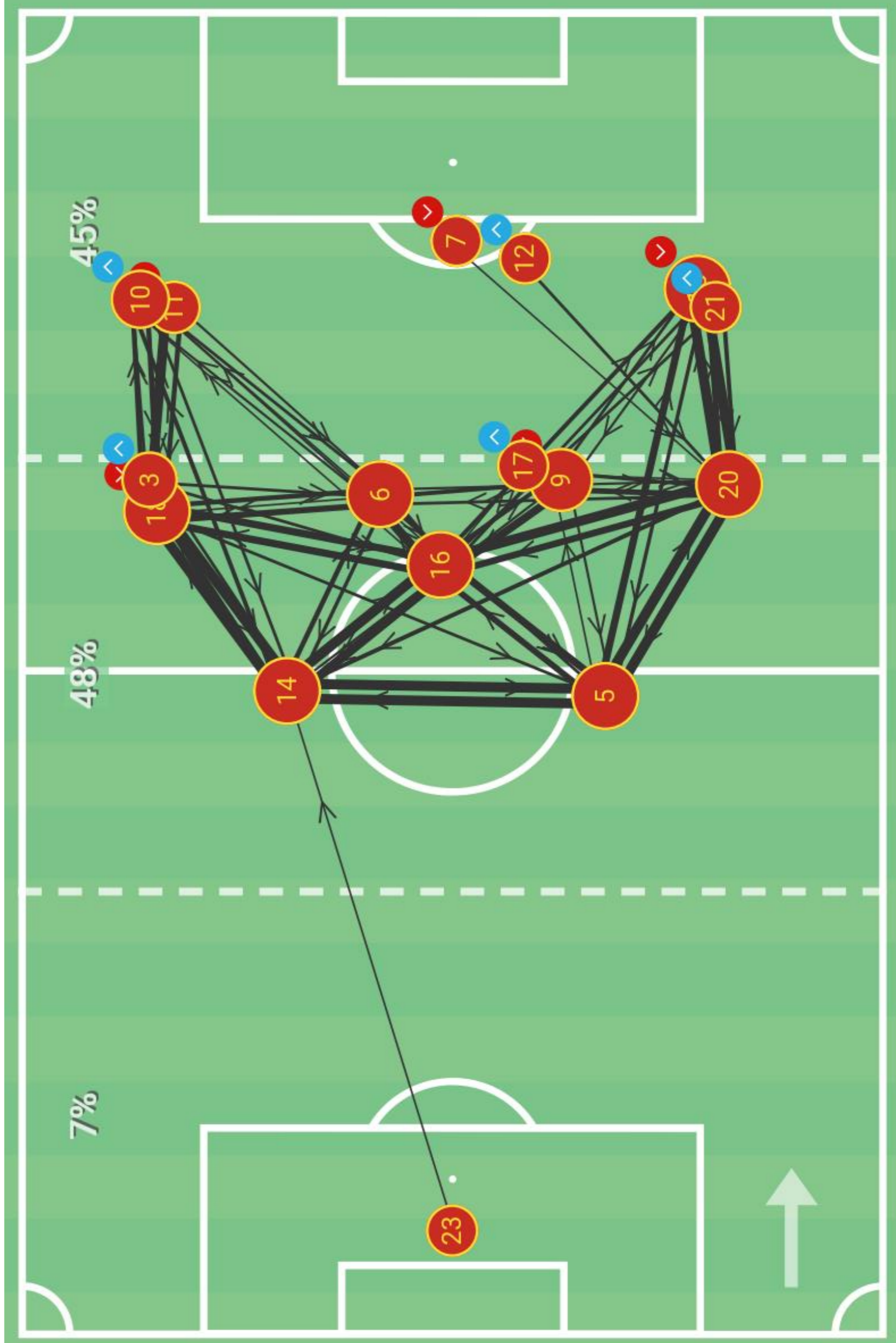
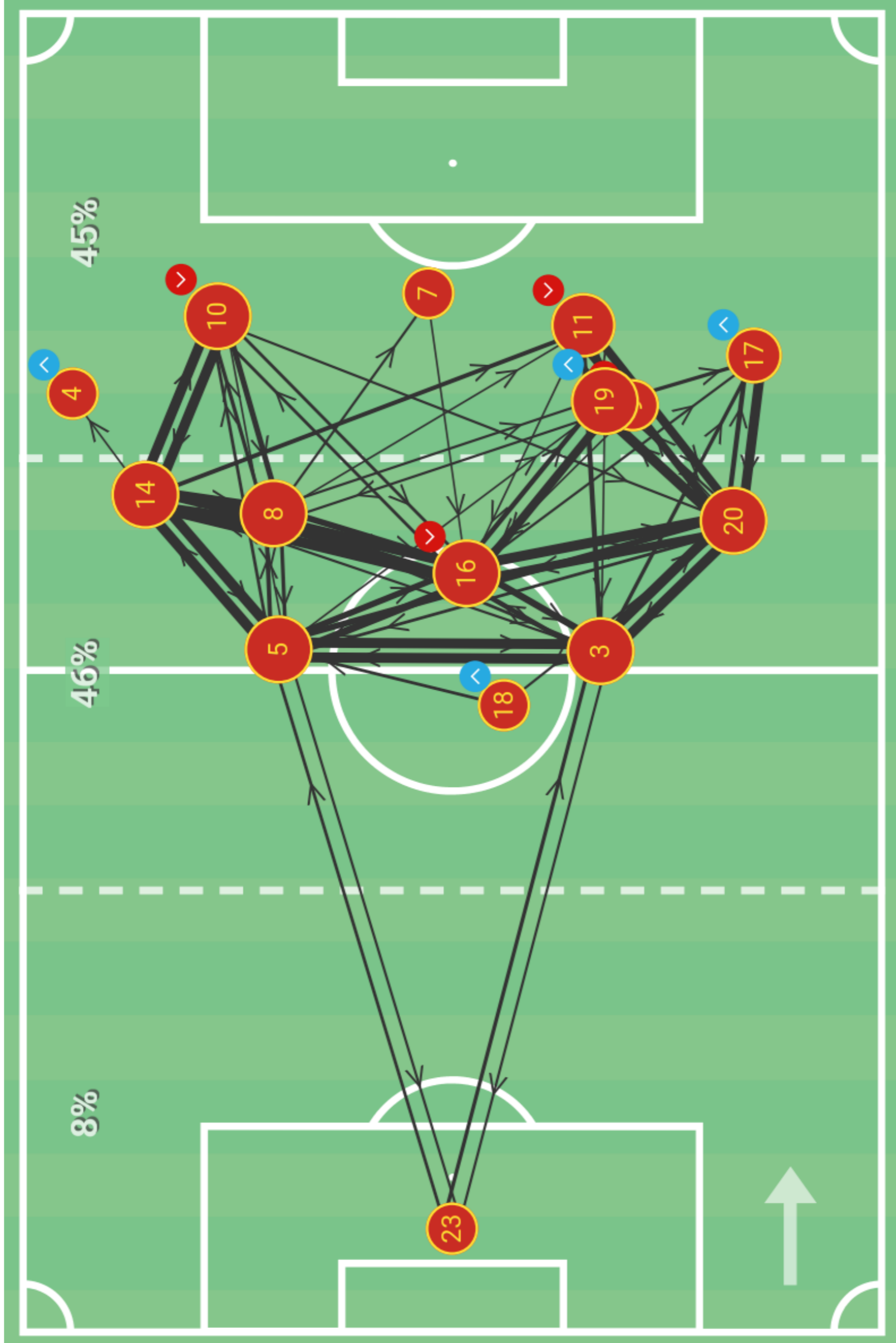
when to press or recover after losing possession

Minimize passing line

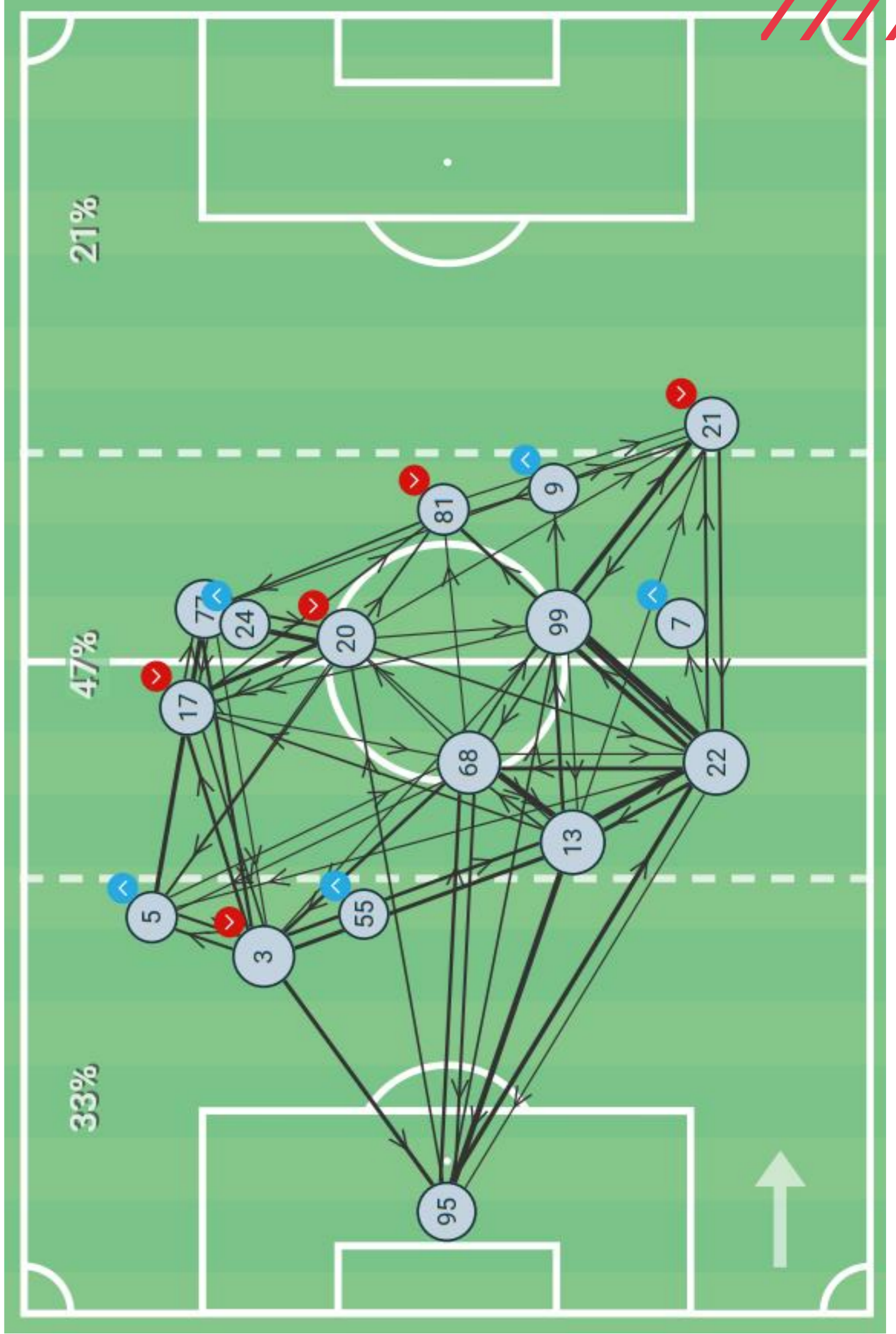
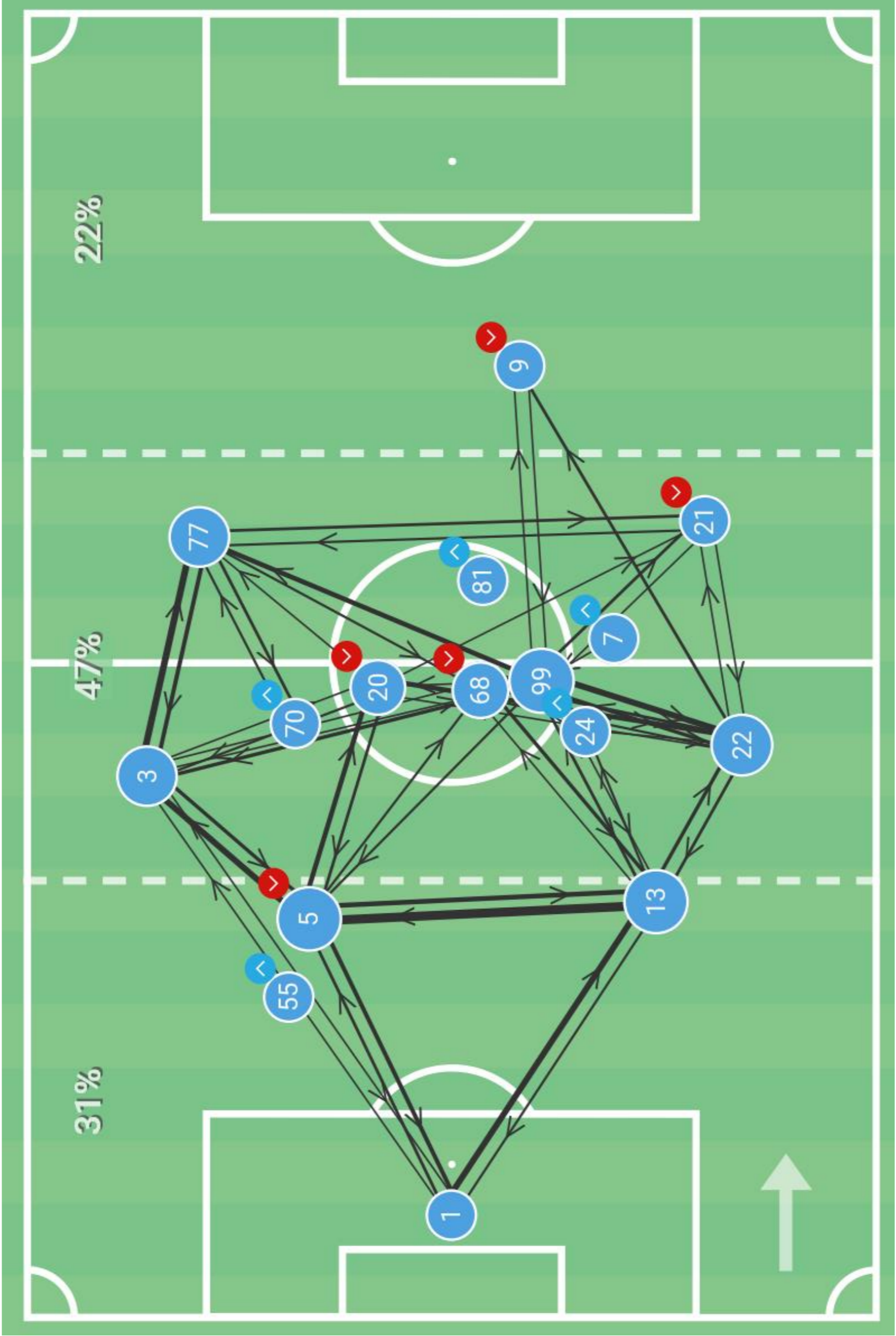
Aggressive with the press centrally.

**Maintain a high position when possible**

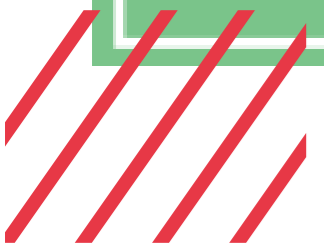
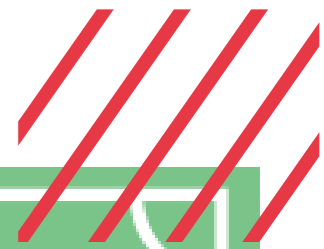
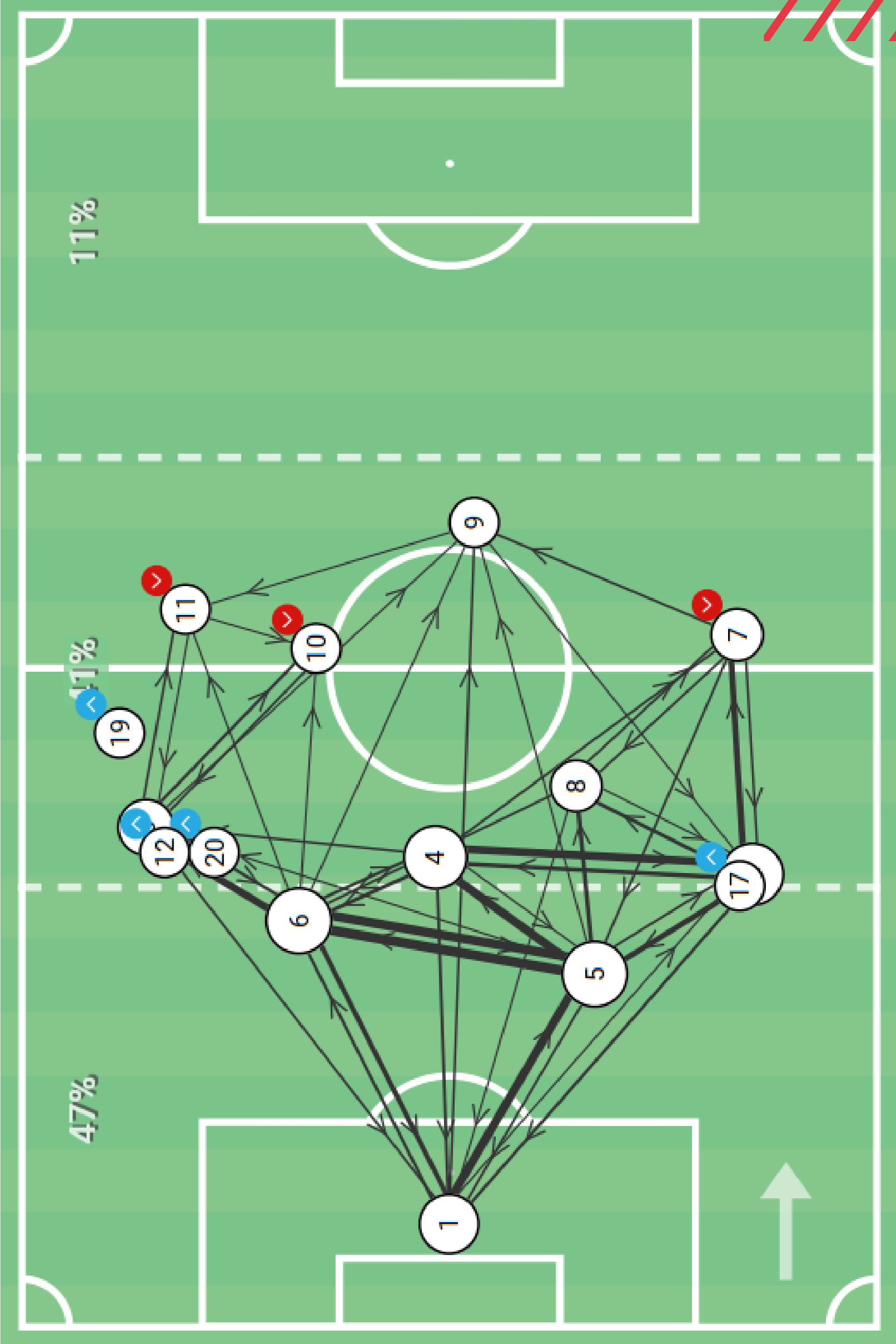
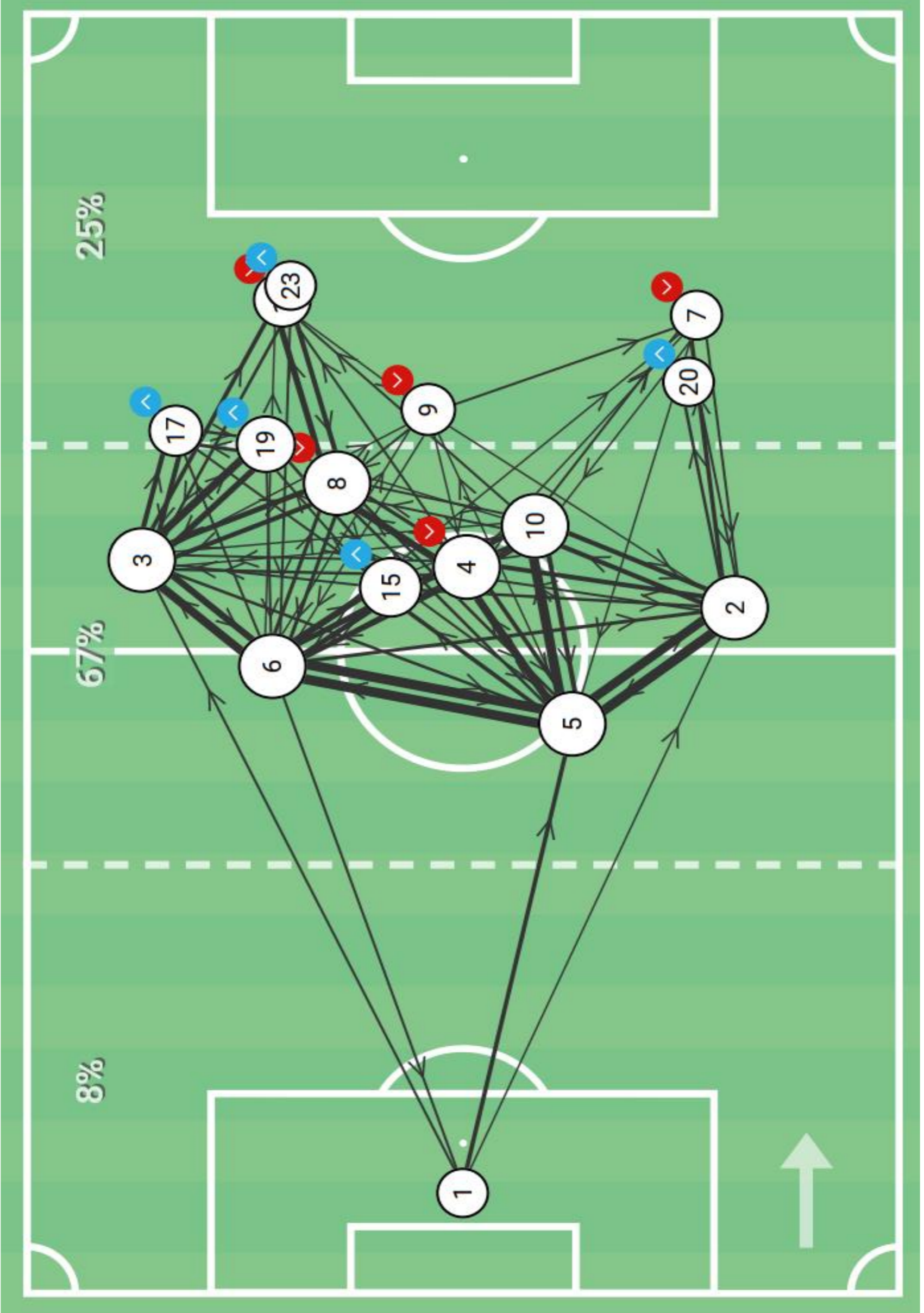
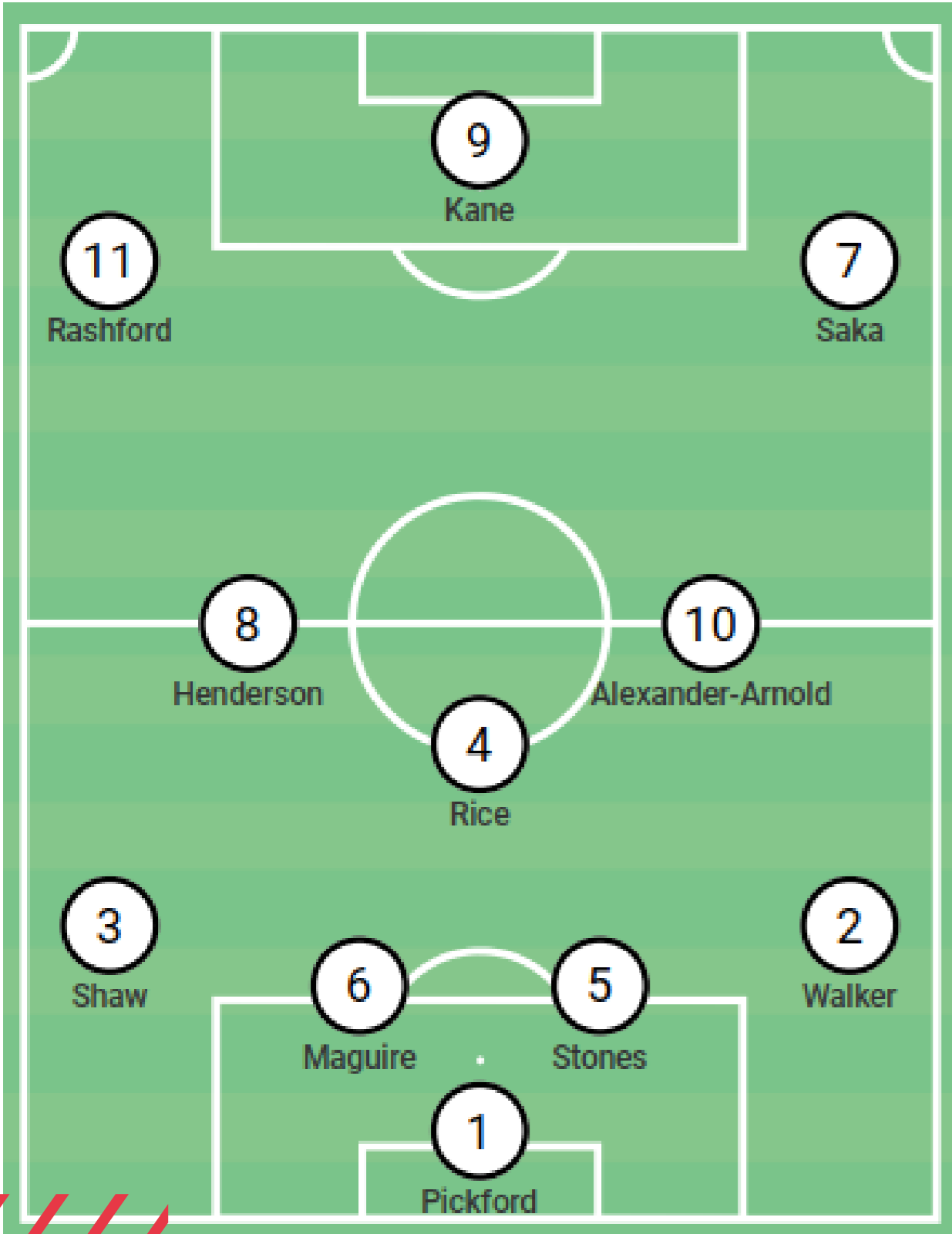
# Connection's



# Connection's



# Connection's



# Attacking Strategies



## BUILD UP FROM THE BACK

From middle lane

Vertical play

Side to side movement

3<sup>rd</sup> man concept

One side movement

Vertical play

Long ball- target man

Long ball- into space



# MIDFIELD PROGRESSION

## Attacking Strategies



Breaking lines

Around

Flanks combinations

Through

Between the lines

Over

Depth move in behind

Combination play

Wide rotations

Central rotations

Interchange positions

Creating overloads

One-two

3<sup>rd</sup> man concept

Switching play

Controlled - slow

Direct - fast



## FINAL THIRD

### Patterned

Numerical superiority

Qualitative superiority

Overload to isolate

Through ball

Combination play

### Crossing

Wing crosses

Pre-wing crosses

Early crosses

Half-space crosses

After back passe

Cut back – Cut front

### Shooting

Inside the box

Outside the box

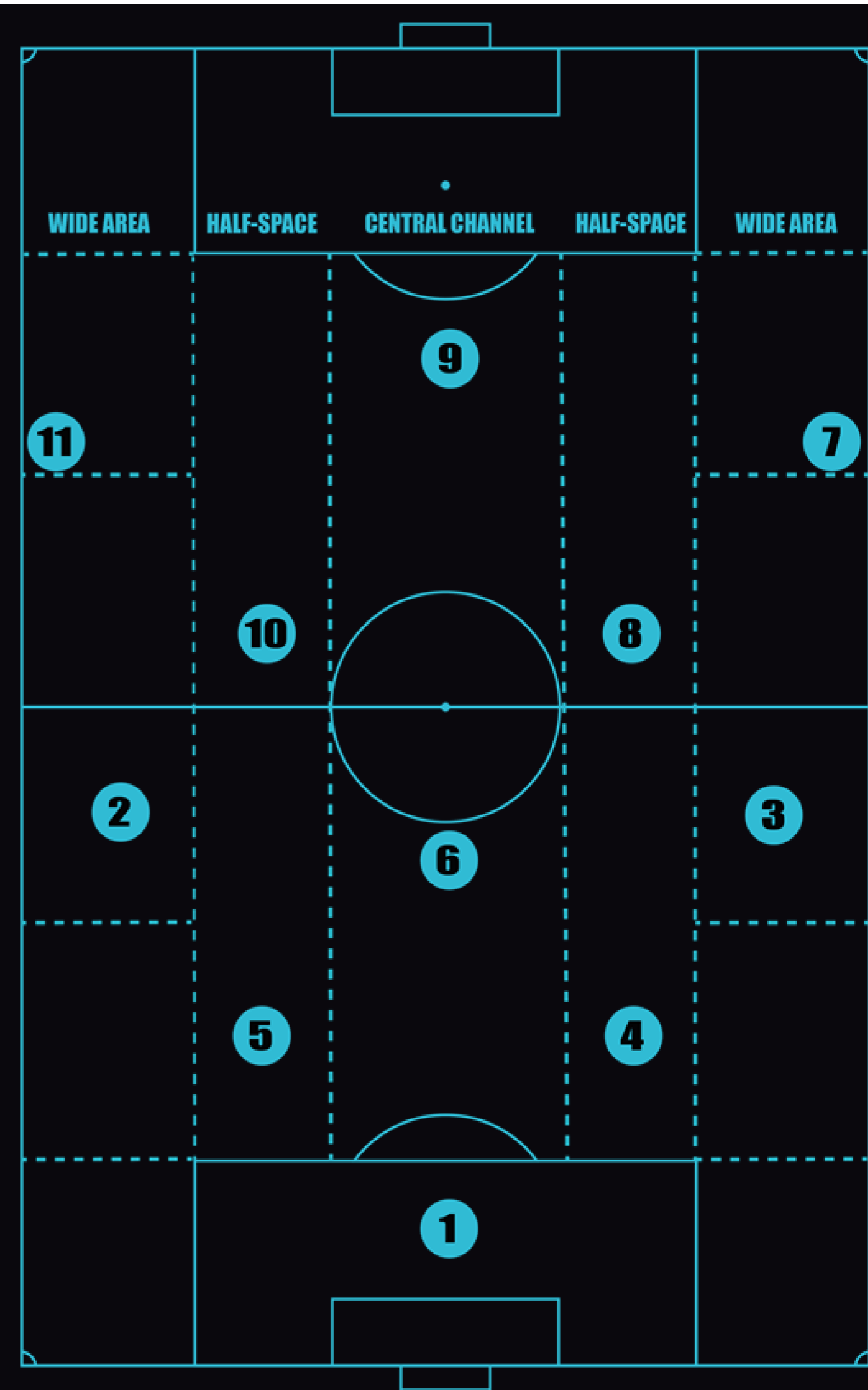
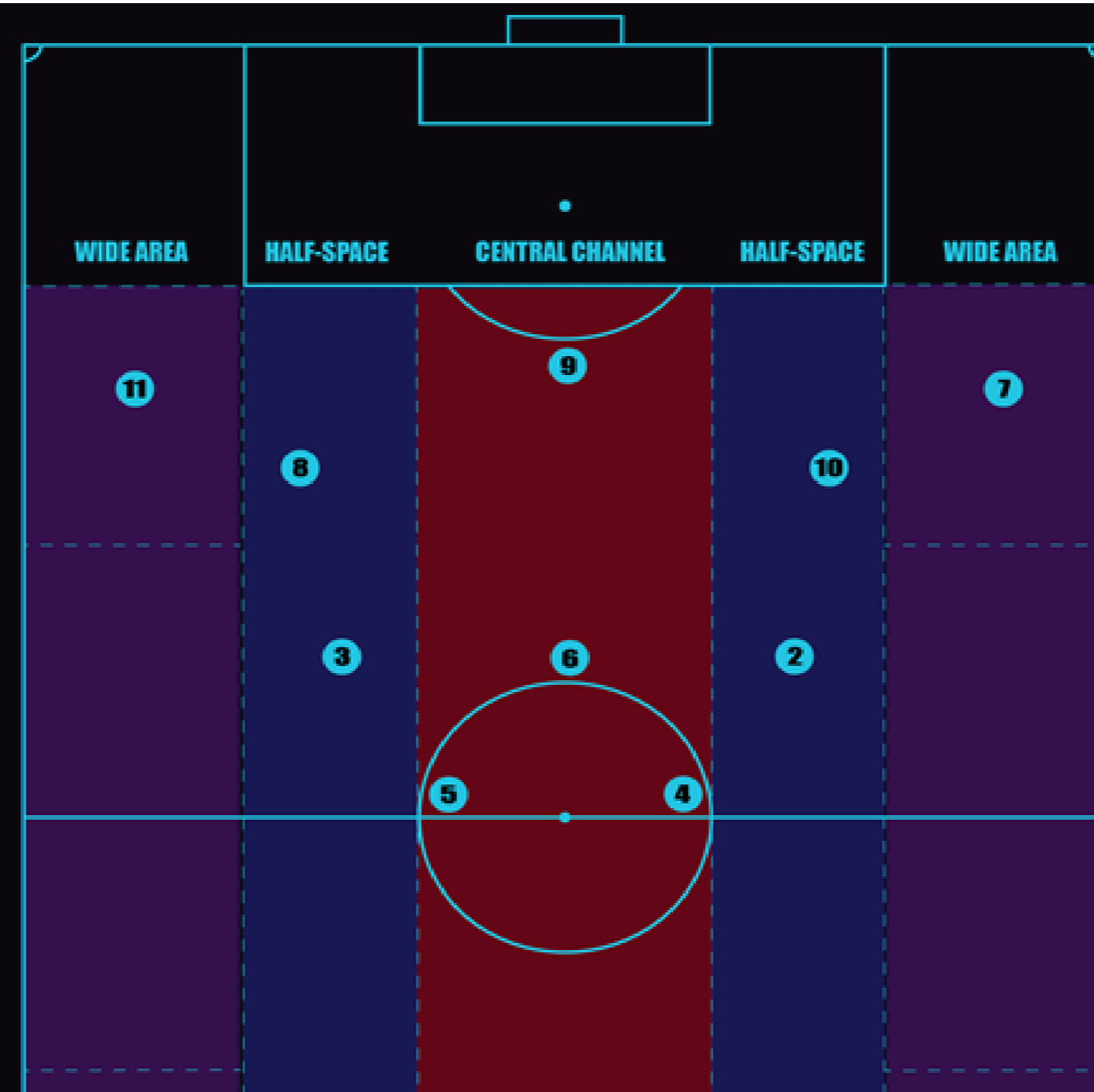
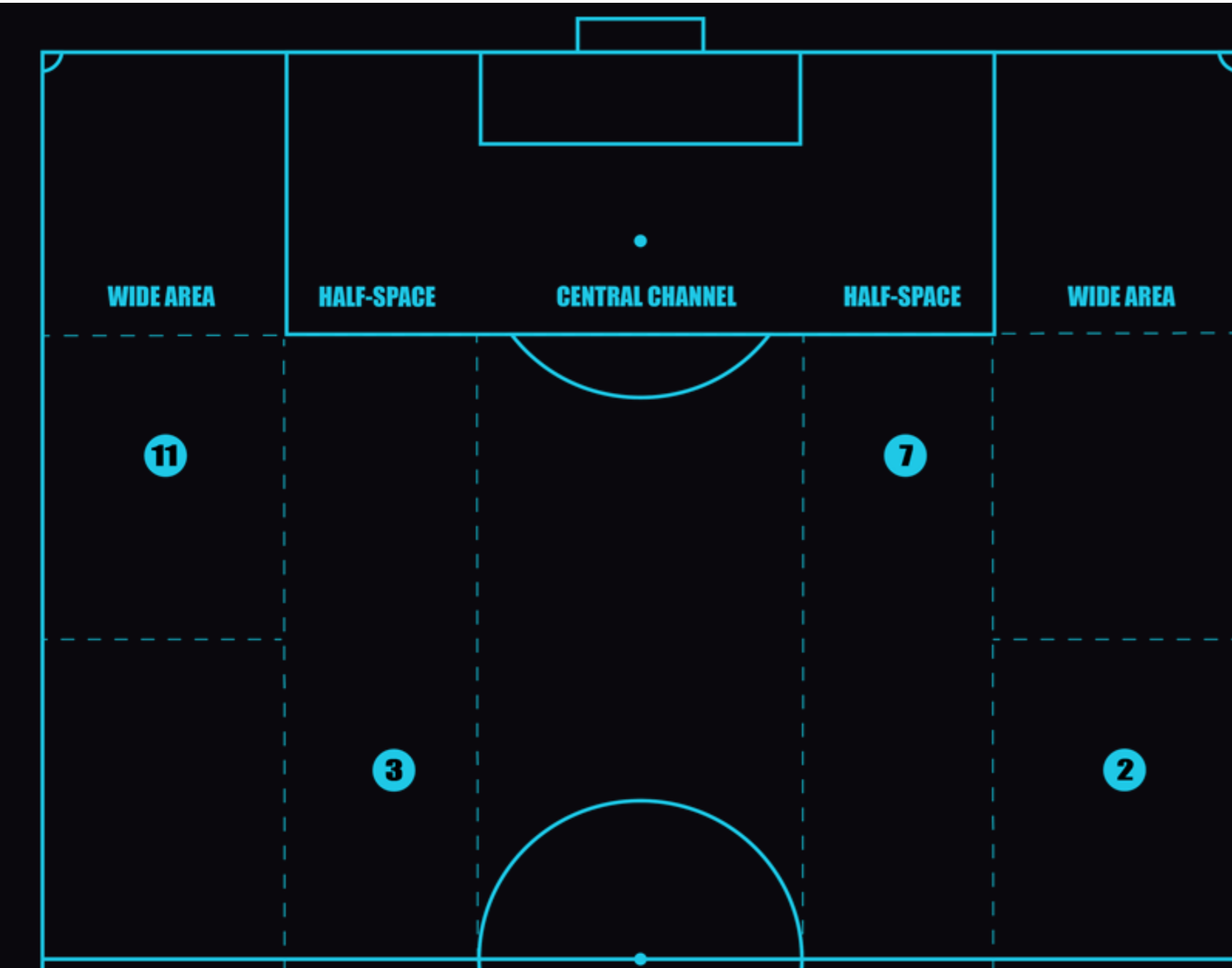
From wide angles

Ground - volley

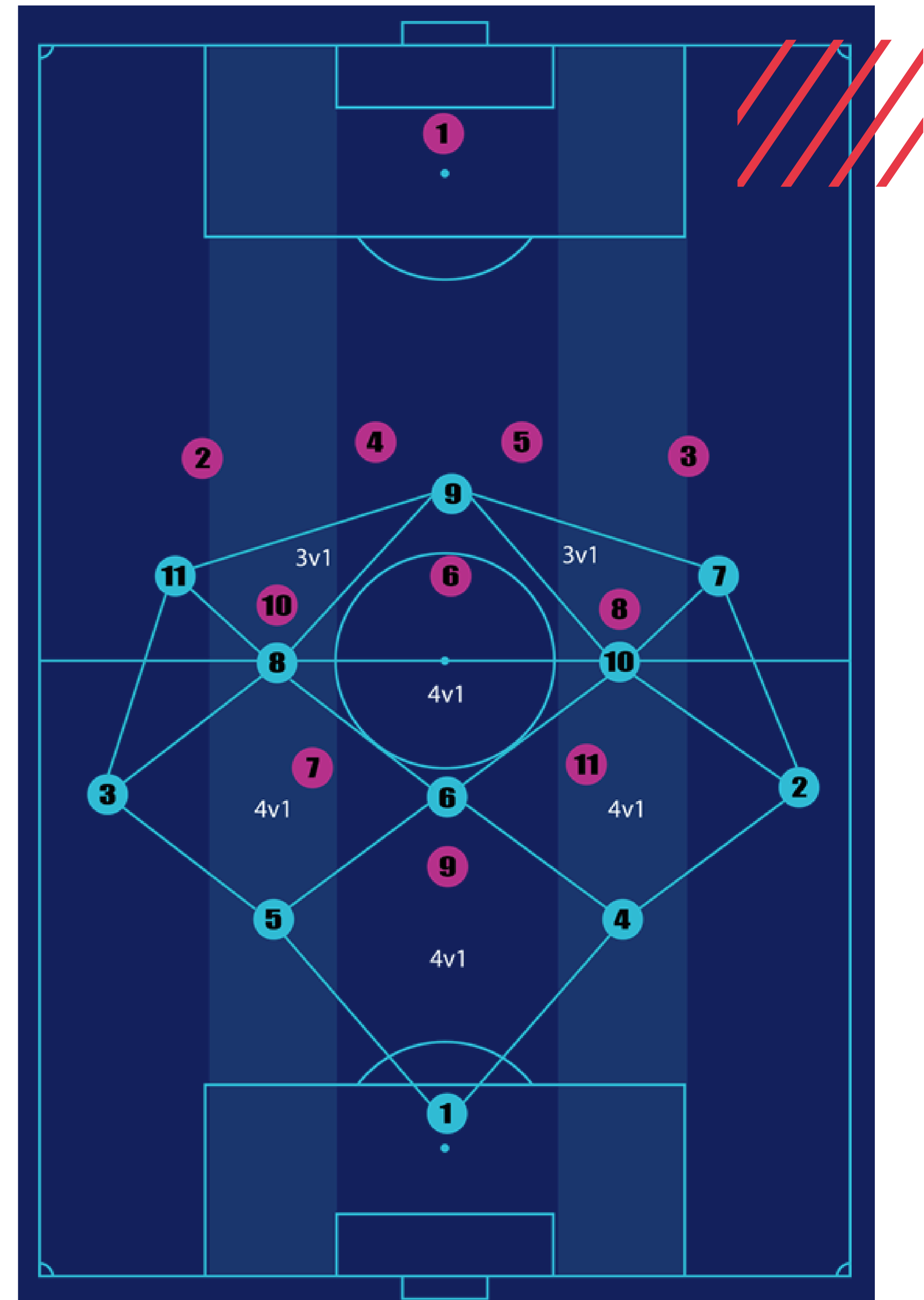
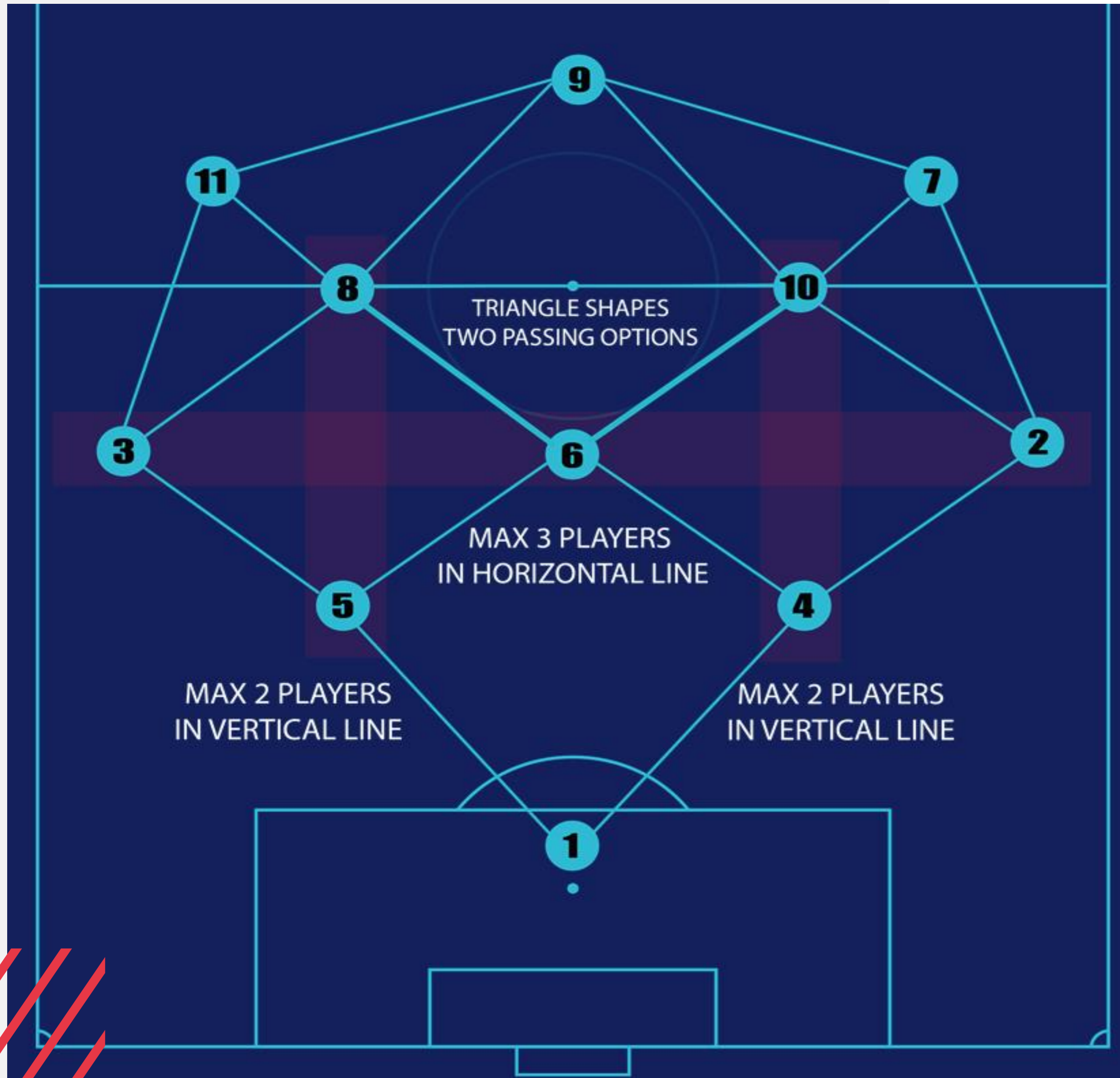
Attacking  
Strategies



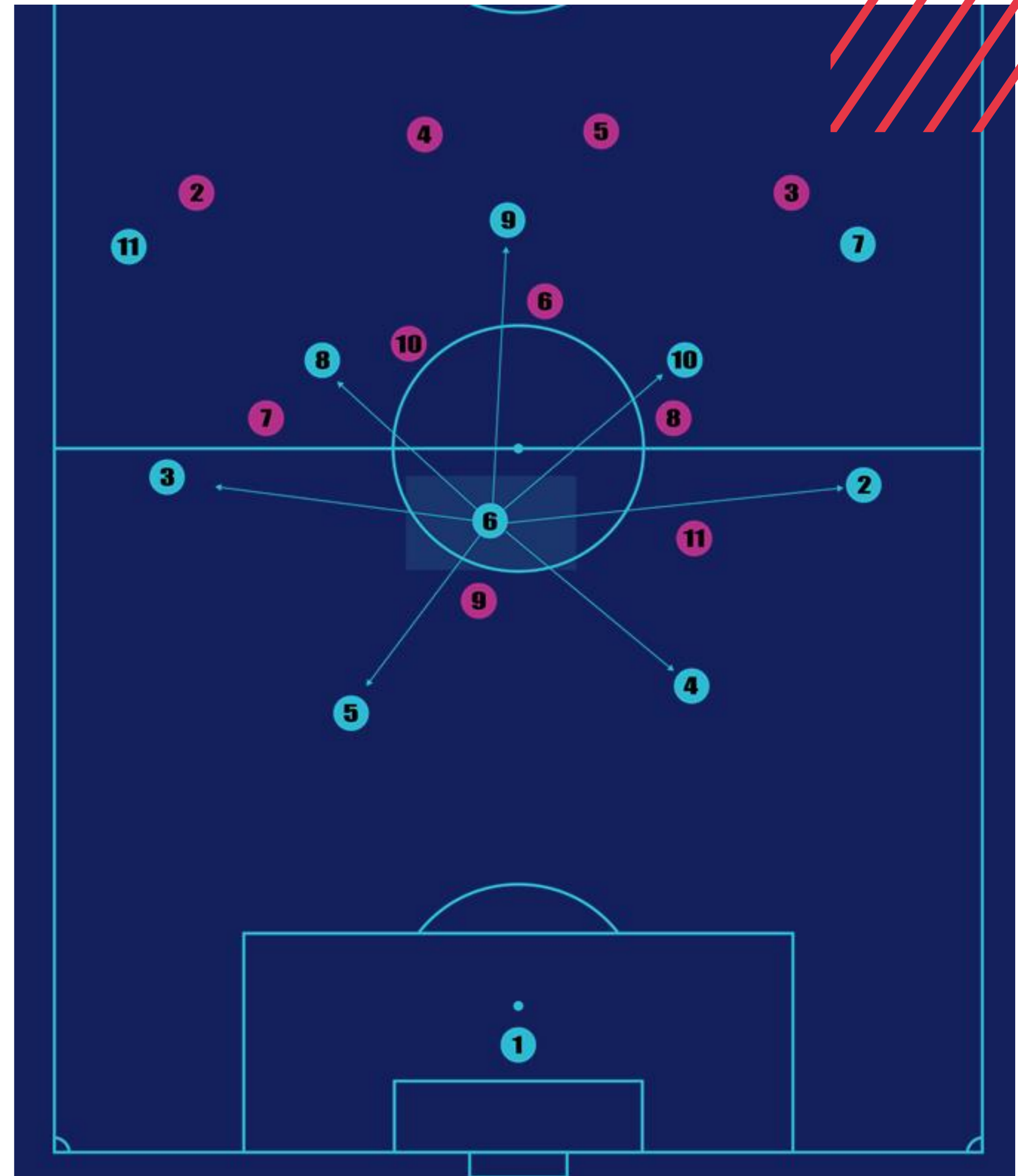
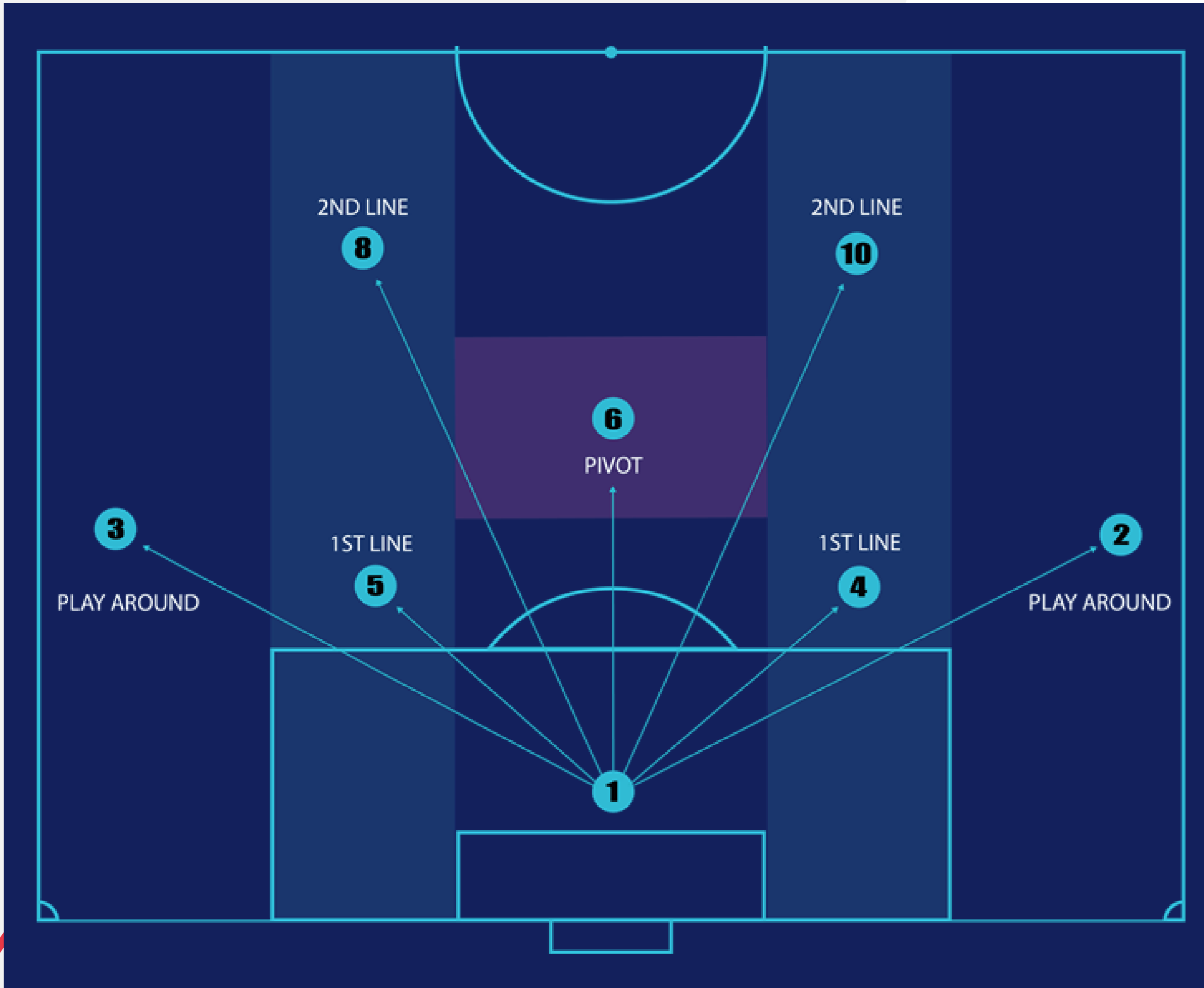
# POSITIONING



# NETWORK



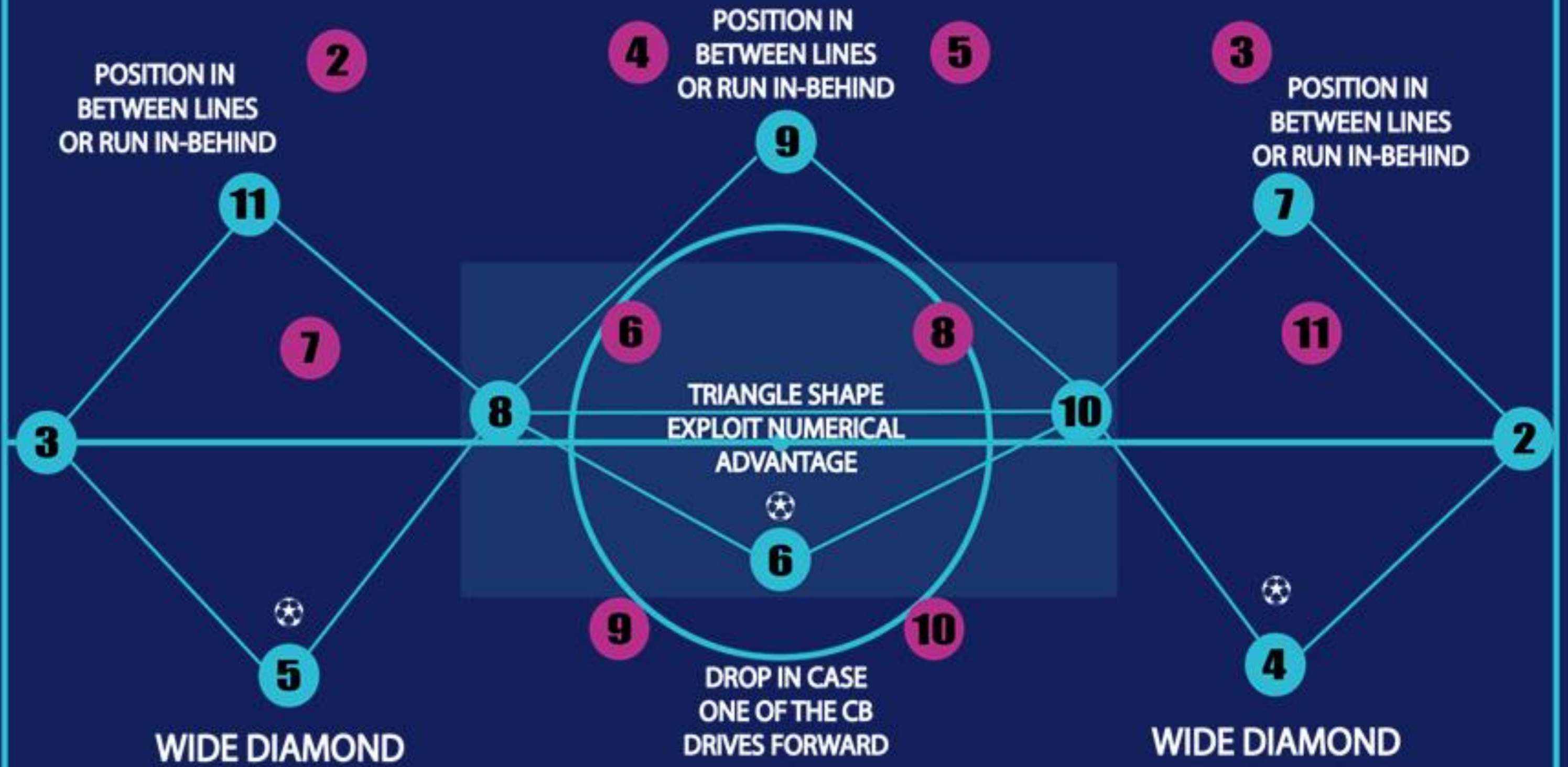
# CONNECTIONS



# BUILD ATTACK FROM THE BACK



# BUILD ATTACK FROM THE MID-THIRD



# FROM THE FINAL - THIRD



# SHAPE- BALANCE / FULL BACKS



FULL-BACKS TO GO HIGHER AND HELP CREATE  
NUMERICAL SUPERIORITY IN MIDFIELD



FULL-BACKS TO GO HIGHER AND OVERLAP WITH  
WINGERS



# PATTERNS OF PLAY



# VERTICAL PLAY

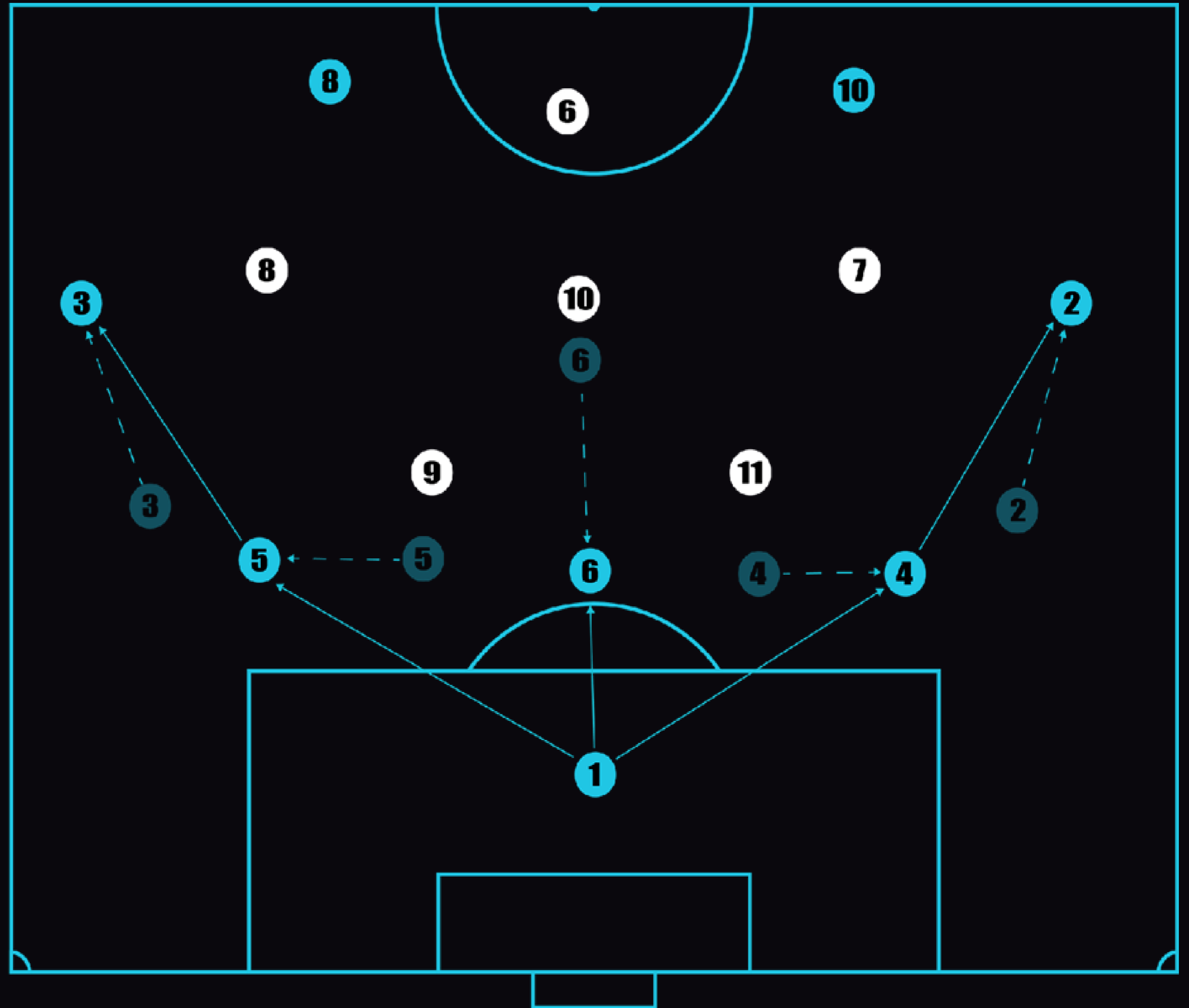
- HORIZONTAL CIRCULATION
- CREATING SPACE
- ROTATION MOVE
- INFILTRATE BETWEEN LINES
- BREACKING PASS





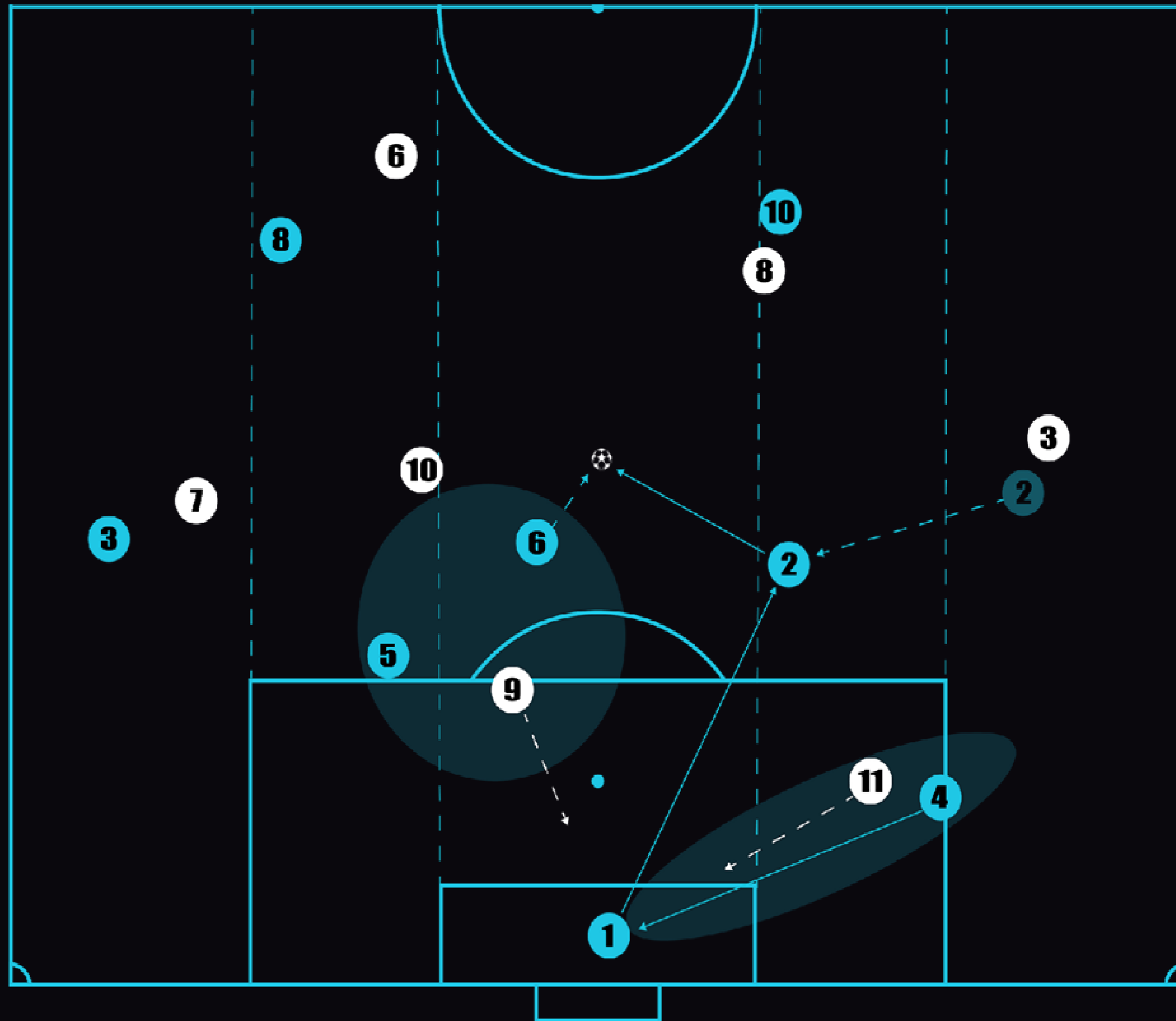
# LA SALIDA LAVOLPIANA

Ricardo La Volpe



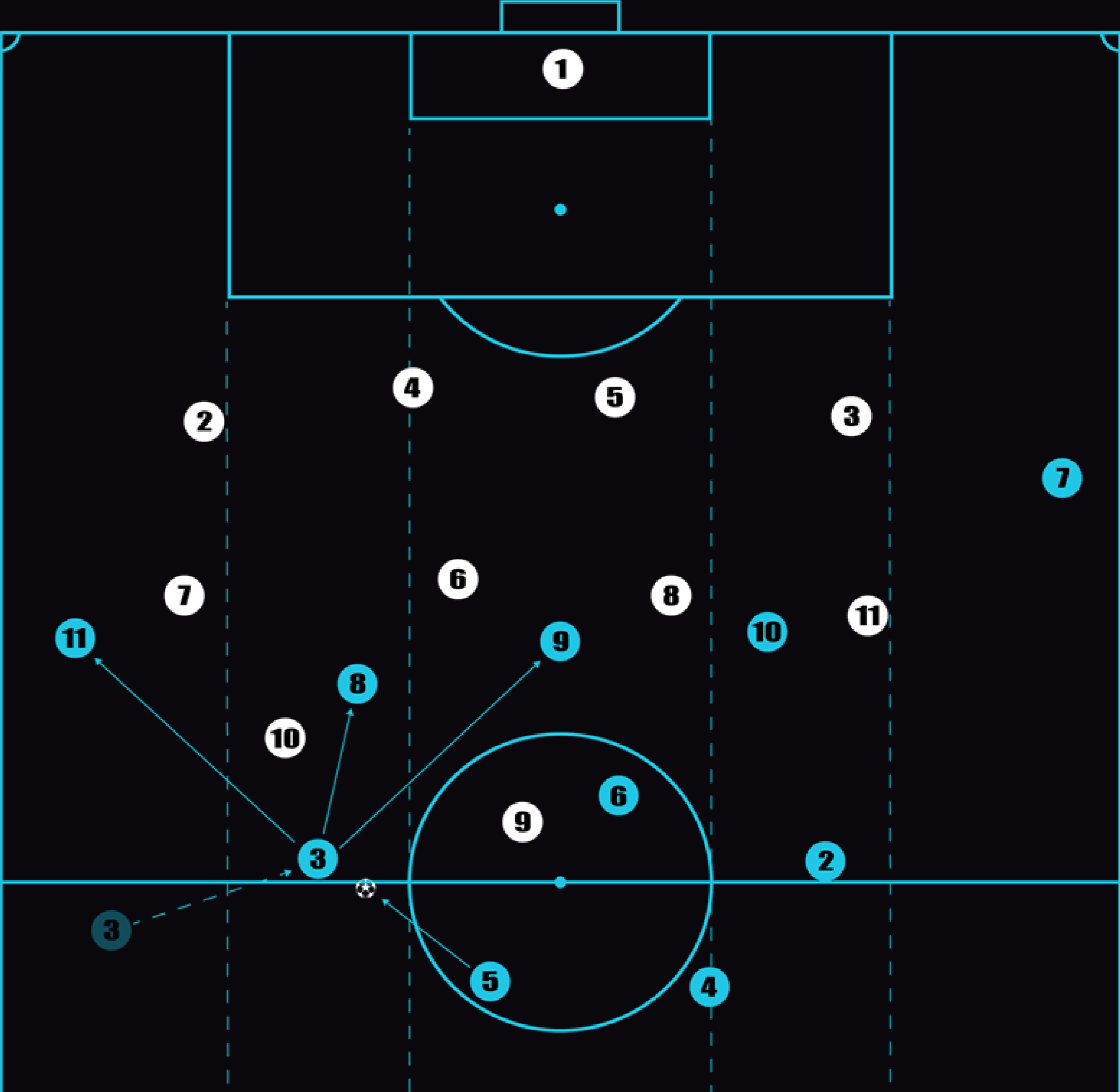
# MID - CHANNEL PROGRESS

Guardiola's



# PASSING OPTION'S

Cruyff





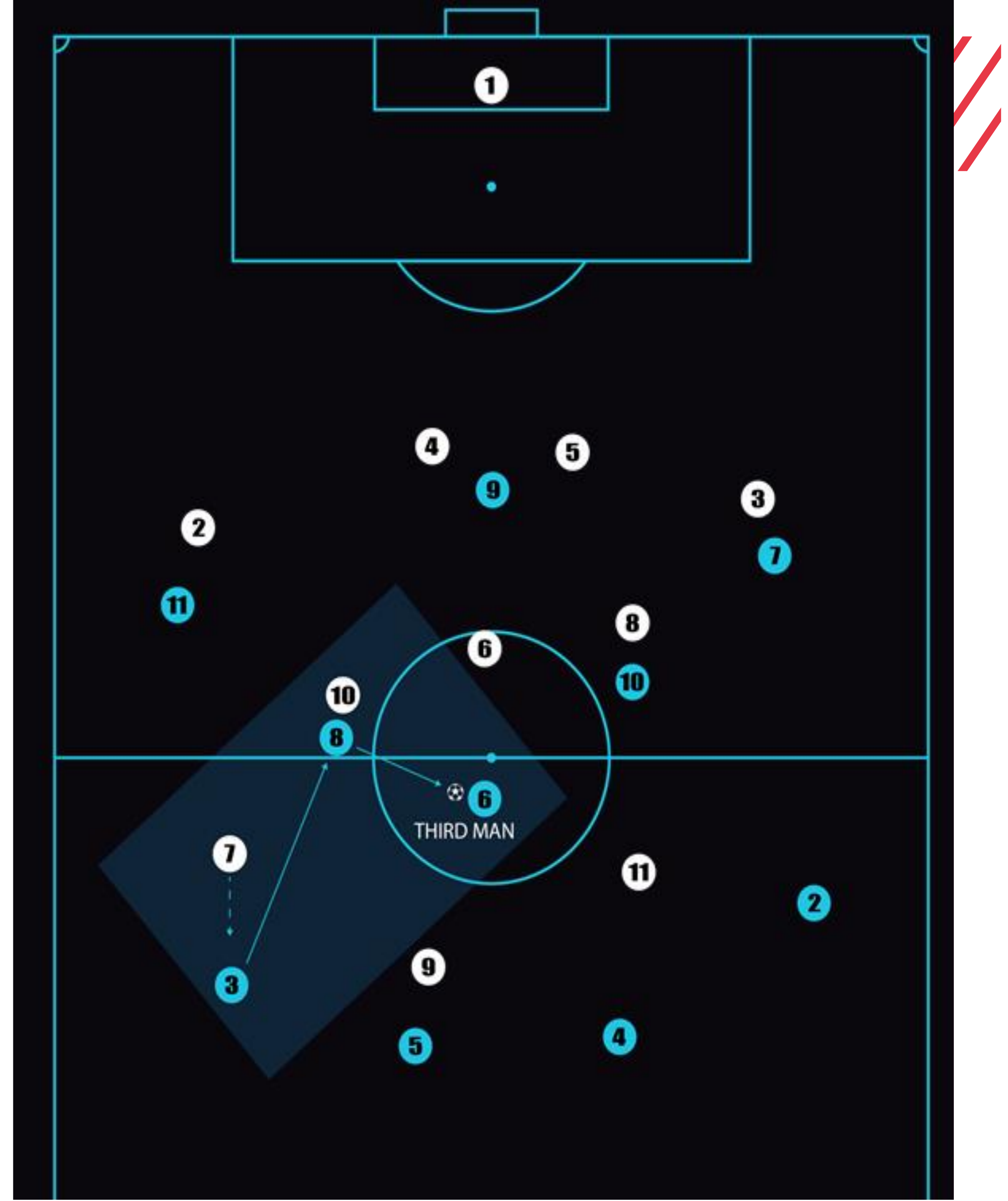
# THIRD MAN CONCEPT

"Third-man is impossible to defend."

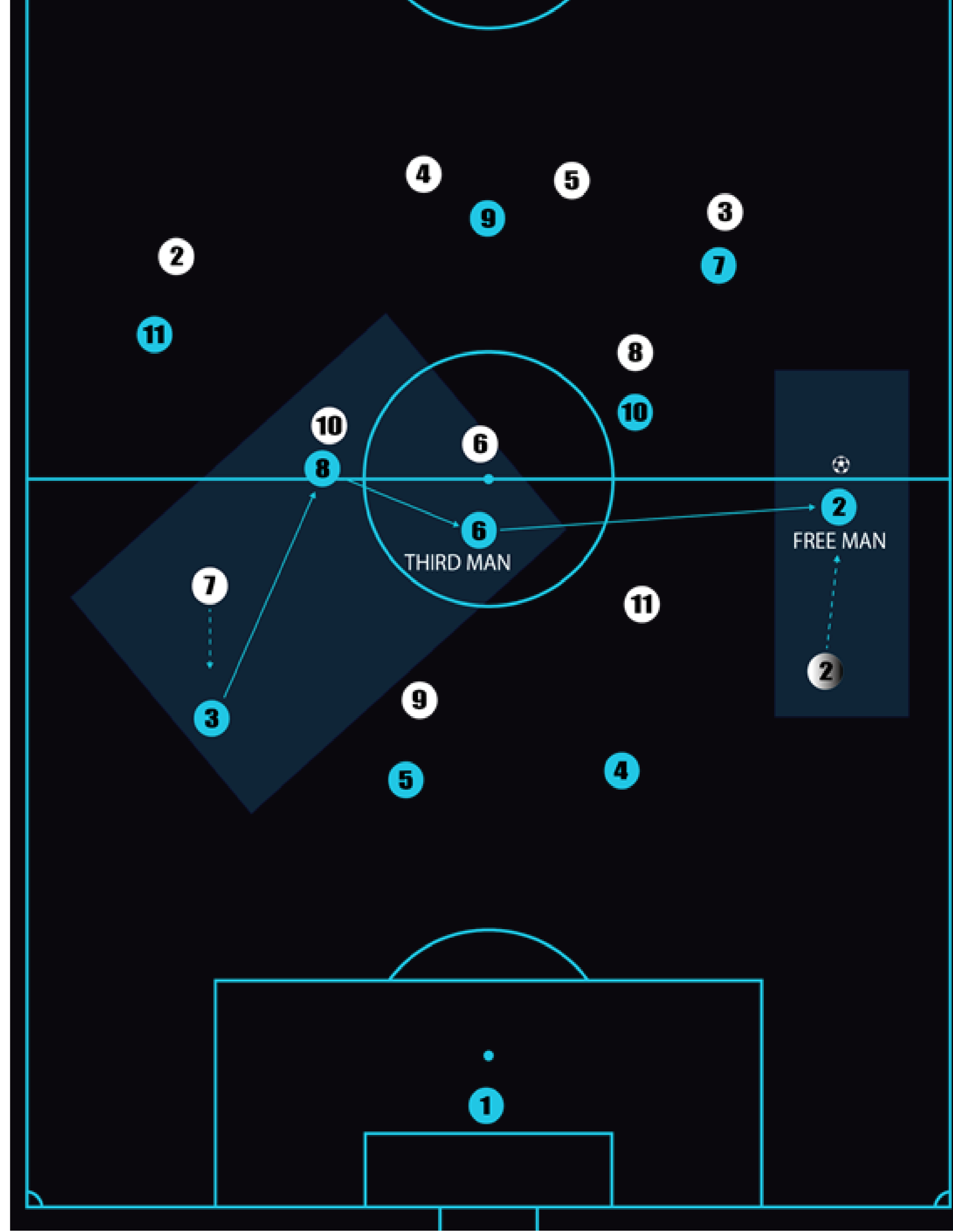
- Pep Guardiola

"Third man is the future of football"

- Marcelo Bielsa

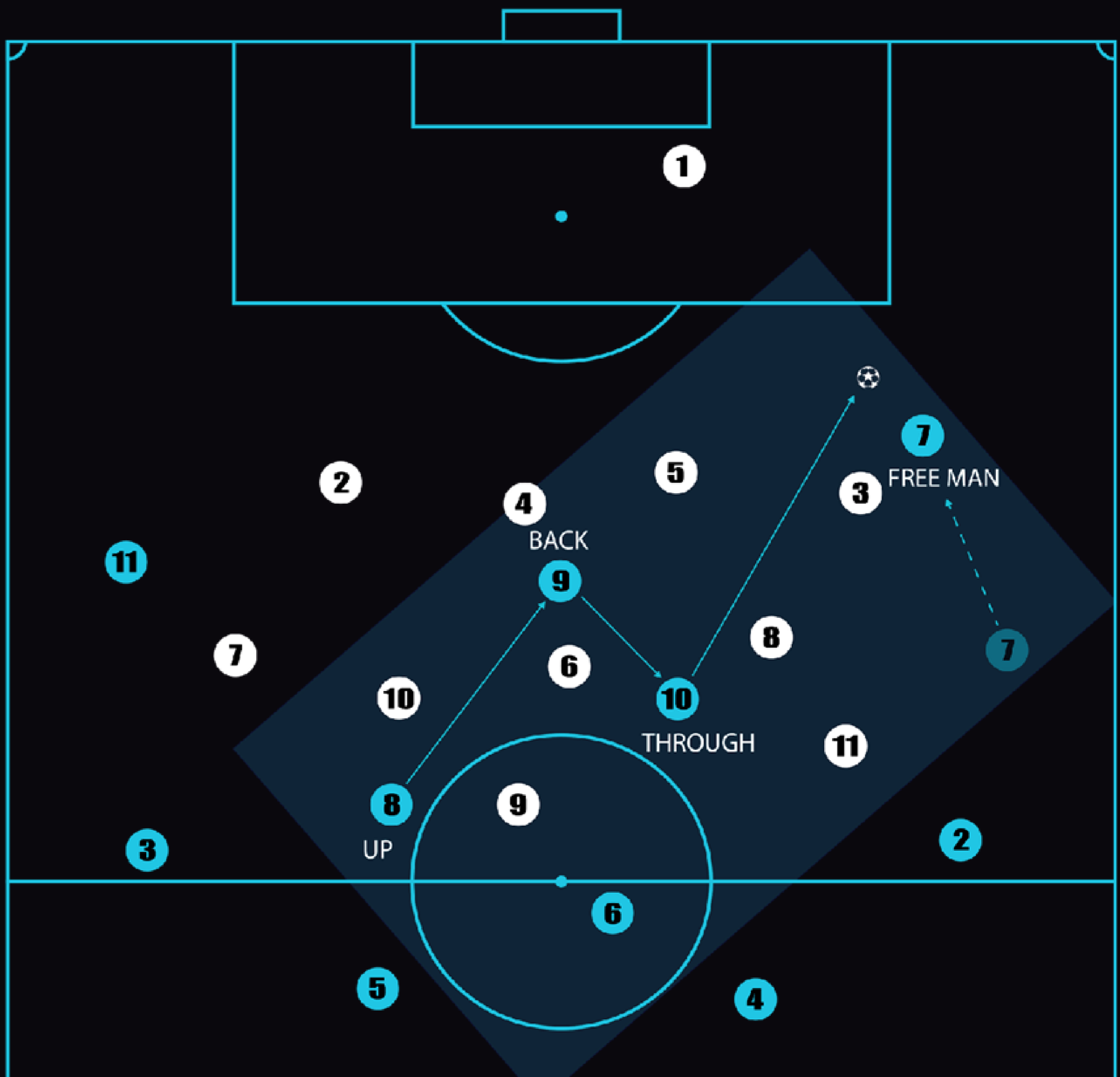


# FREE MAN CONCEPT



# UP BACK THROUGH

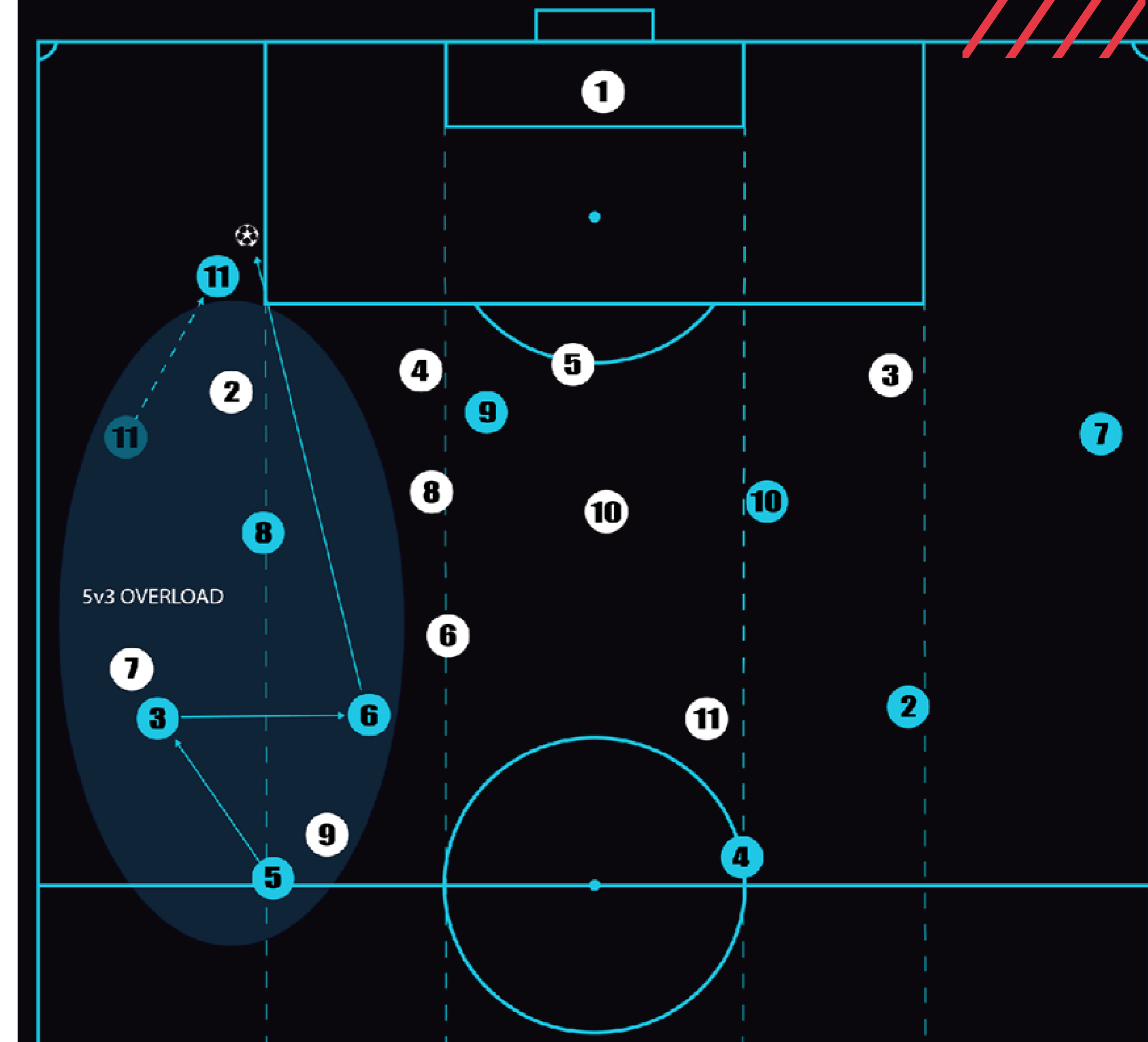
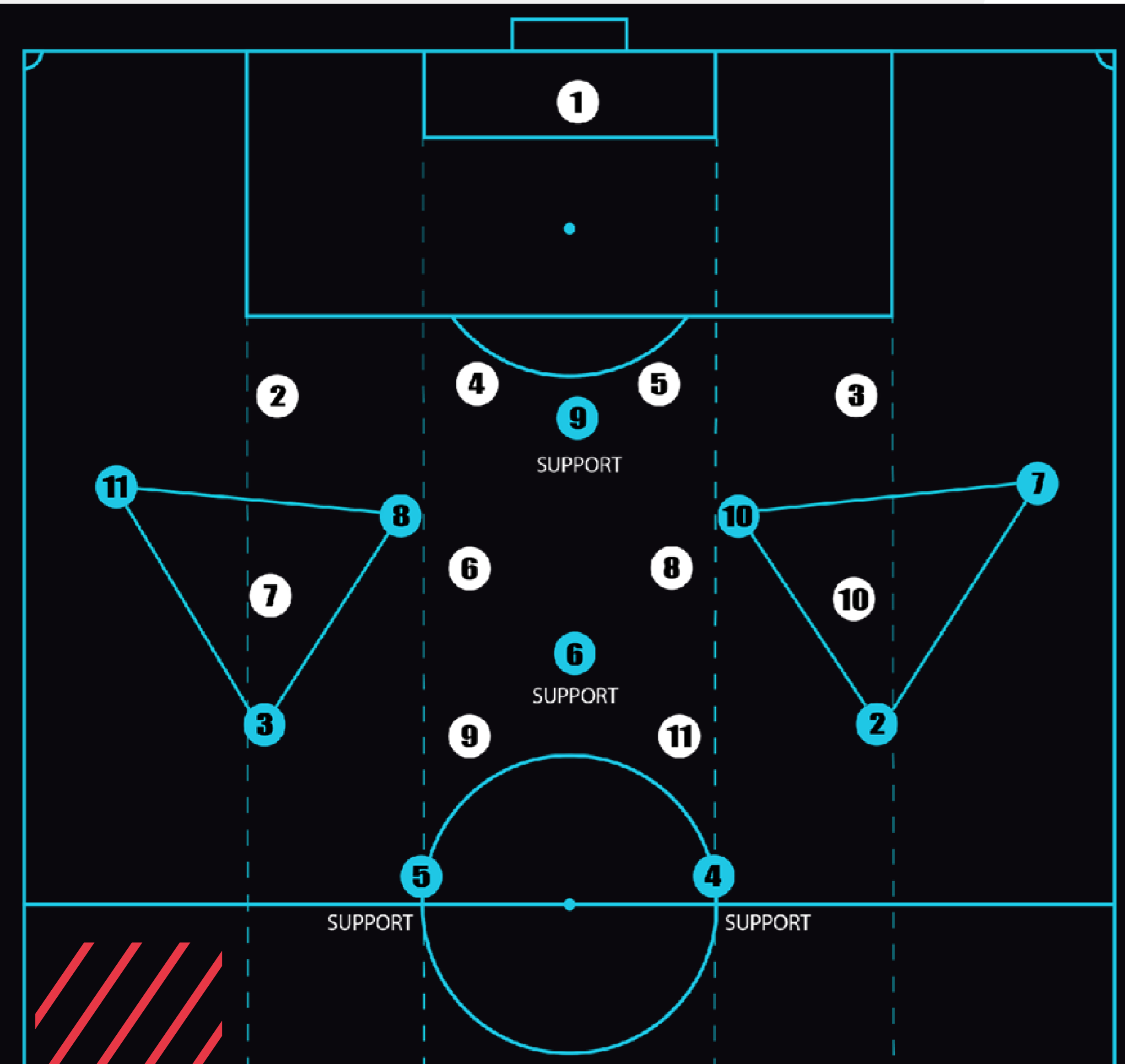
Marcelo Bielsa





# SIDEWARD TRINAGLES

# SIDEWARD OVERLOAD



# SIDEWARD ISOLATION

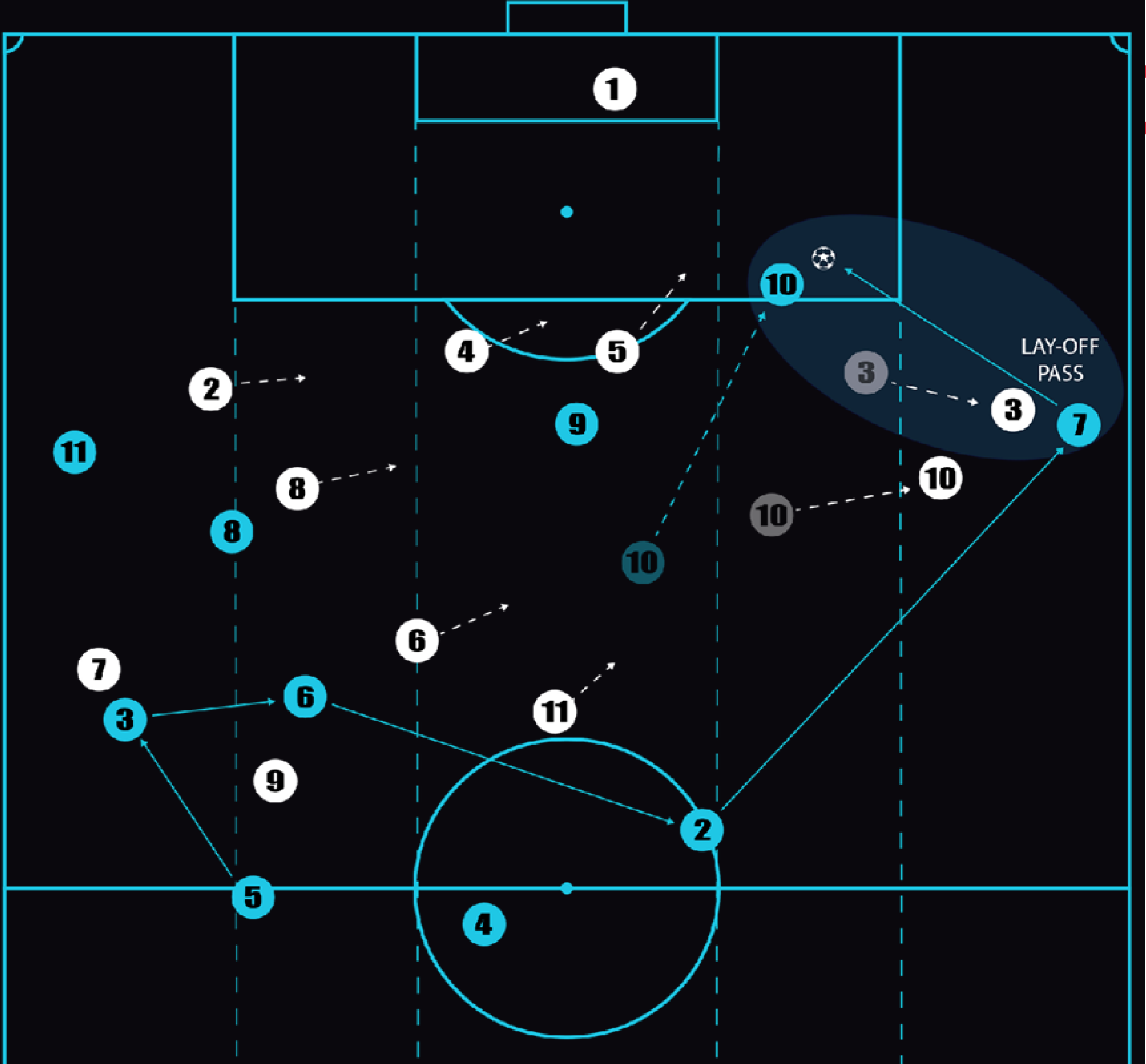
“Move the opponent,  
not the ball.  
Invite the opponent to  
press.

You have the ball on  
one side, to finish on  
the other.”

– Pep Guardiola

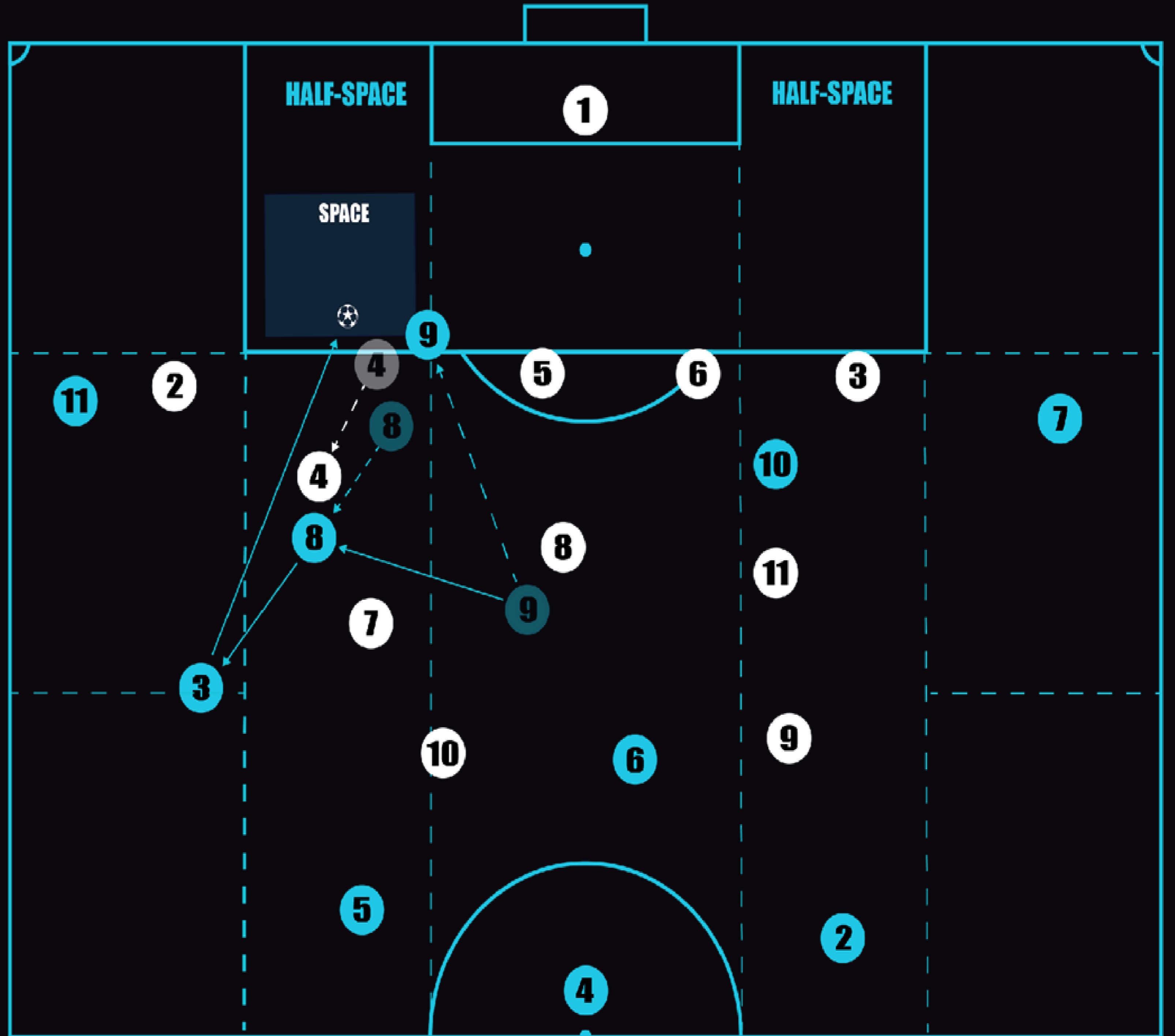


# CONTROLLED SWITCH



# HALF SPACE EXPLORE DROPPING OFF

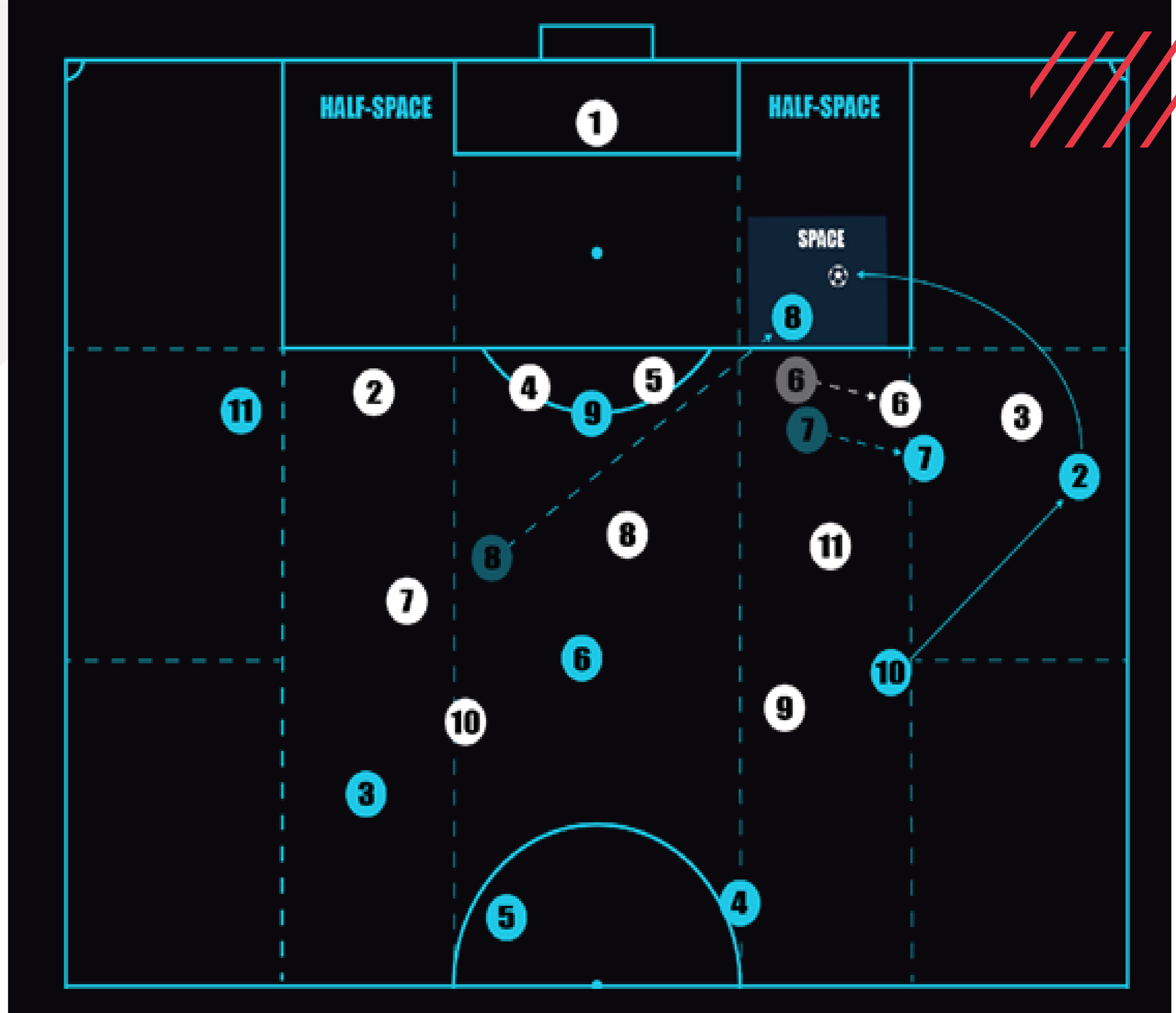
“I look for [the opponent’s] point of weakness, and I try to put [skilled] players in those positions.”  
– Pep Guardiola





# HALF SPACE EXPLORE -CM

DRAGGING OPP  
WINGER-INTSIDE



# Defensive Strategies



**High - block**

**Man to man press**

**Option based press**

**Counter press**

**Mid - block**

**Zonal defense**

**Pressure on the ball**

**Low - block**

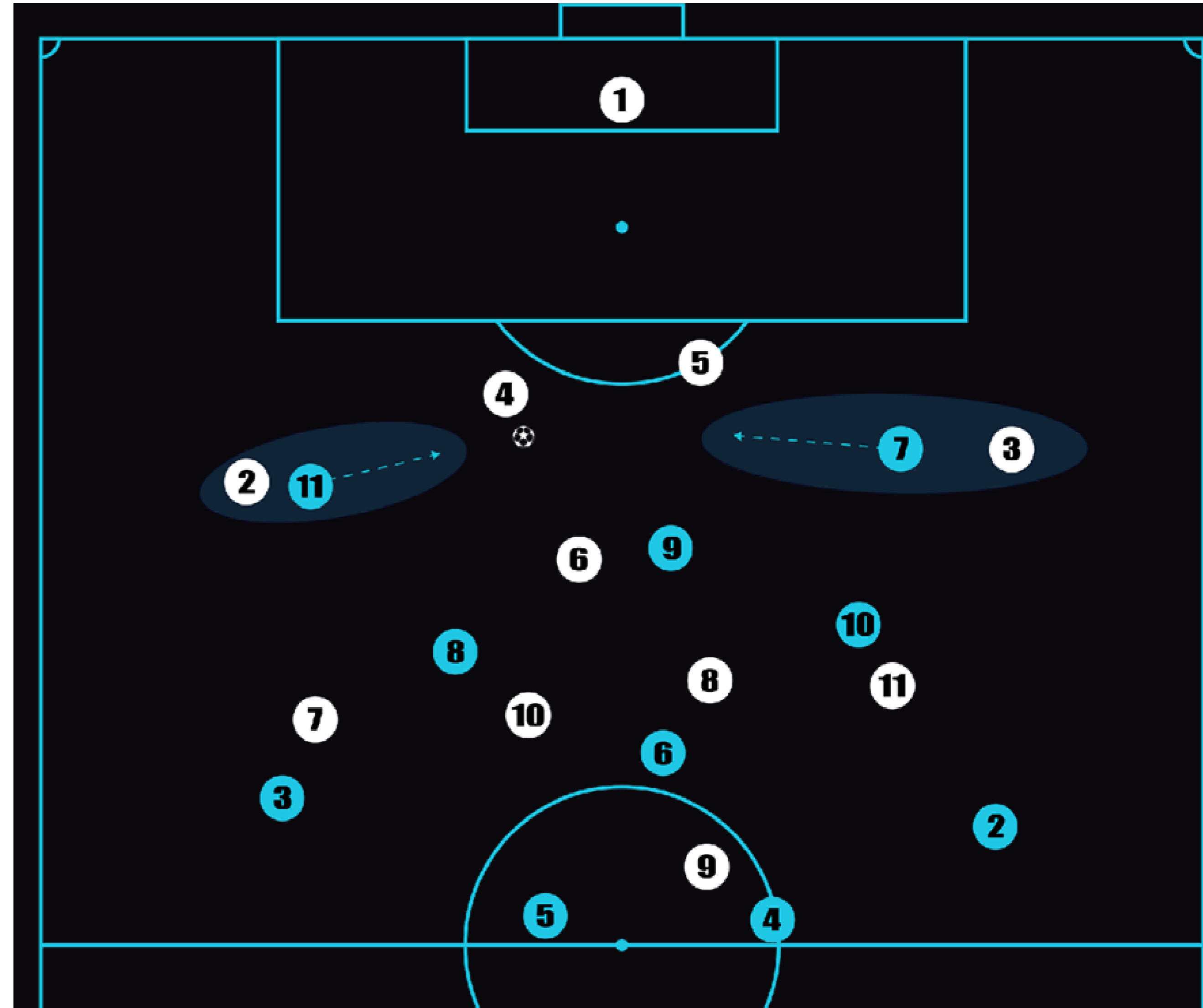
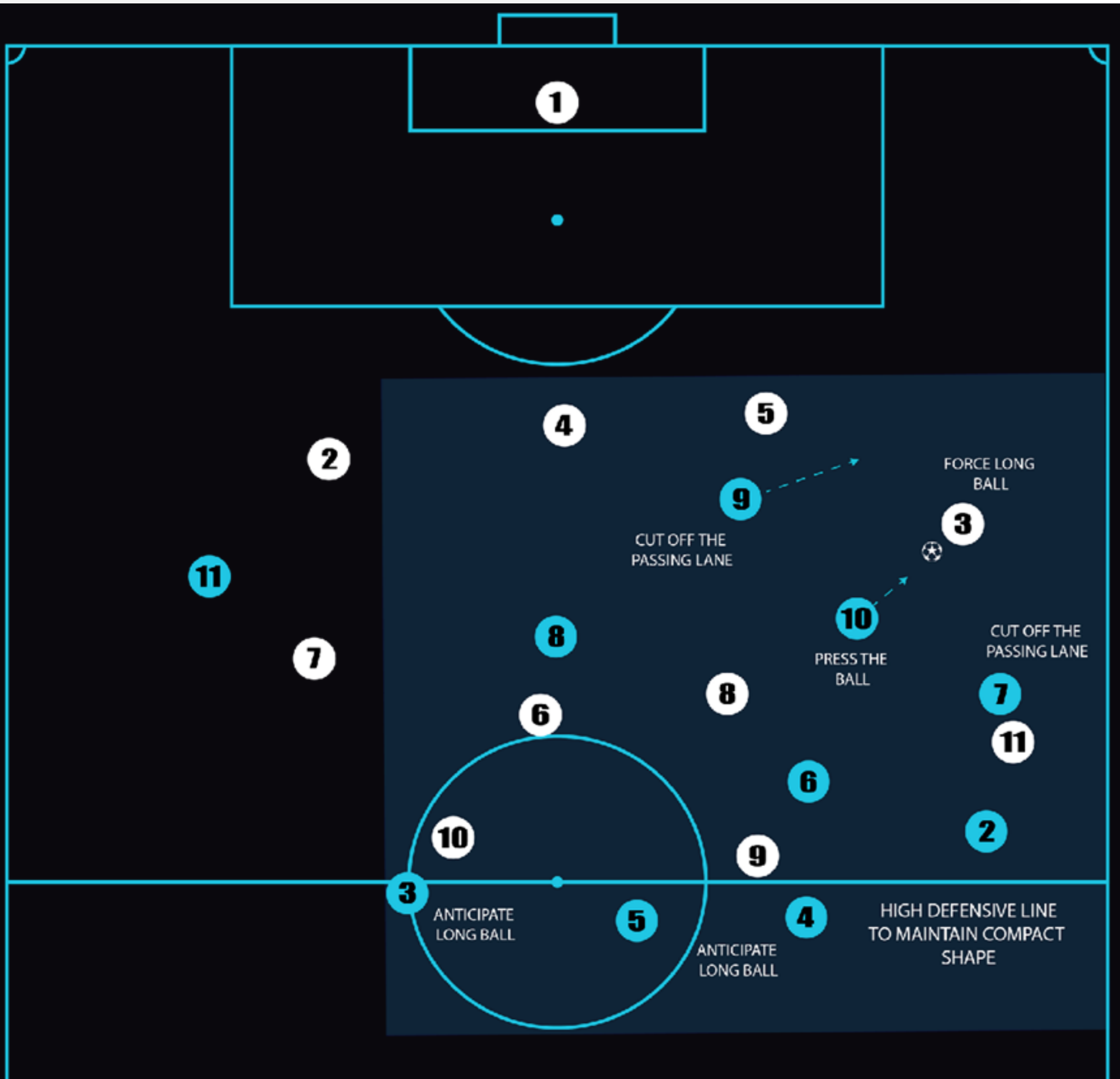
**Parking the bus**

**Pressure on the ball**

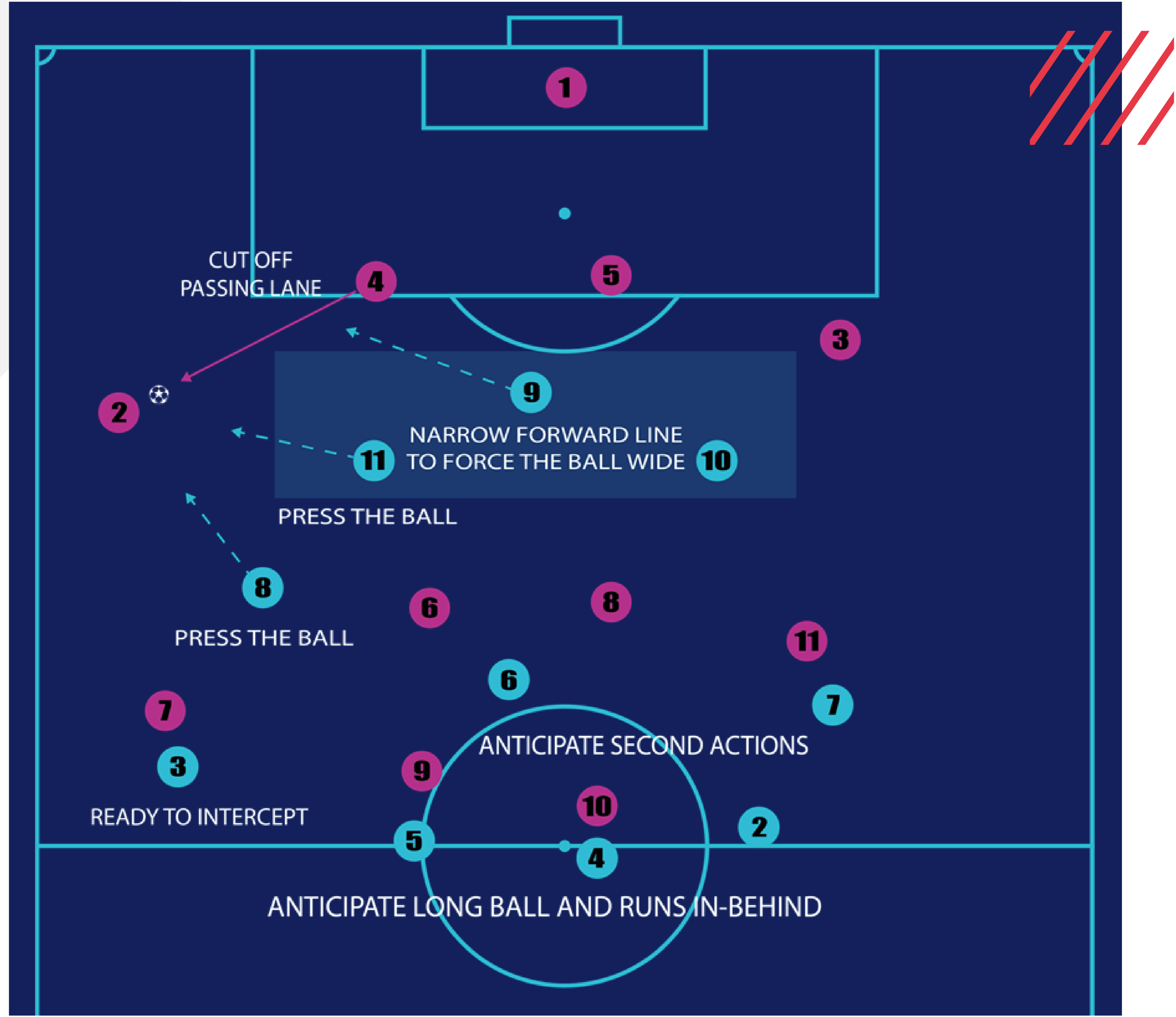


# STRICKER LEAD PRESS

# WINGERS LEAD PRESS



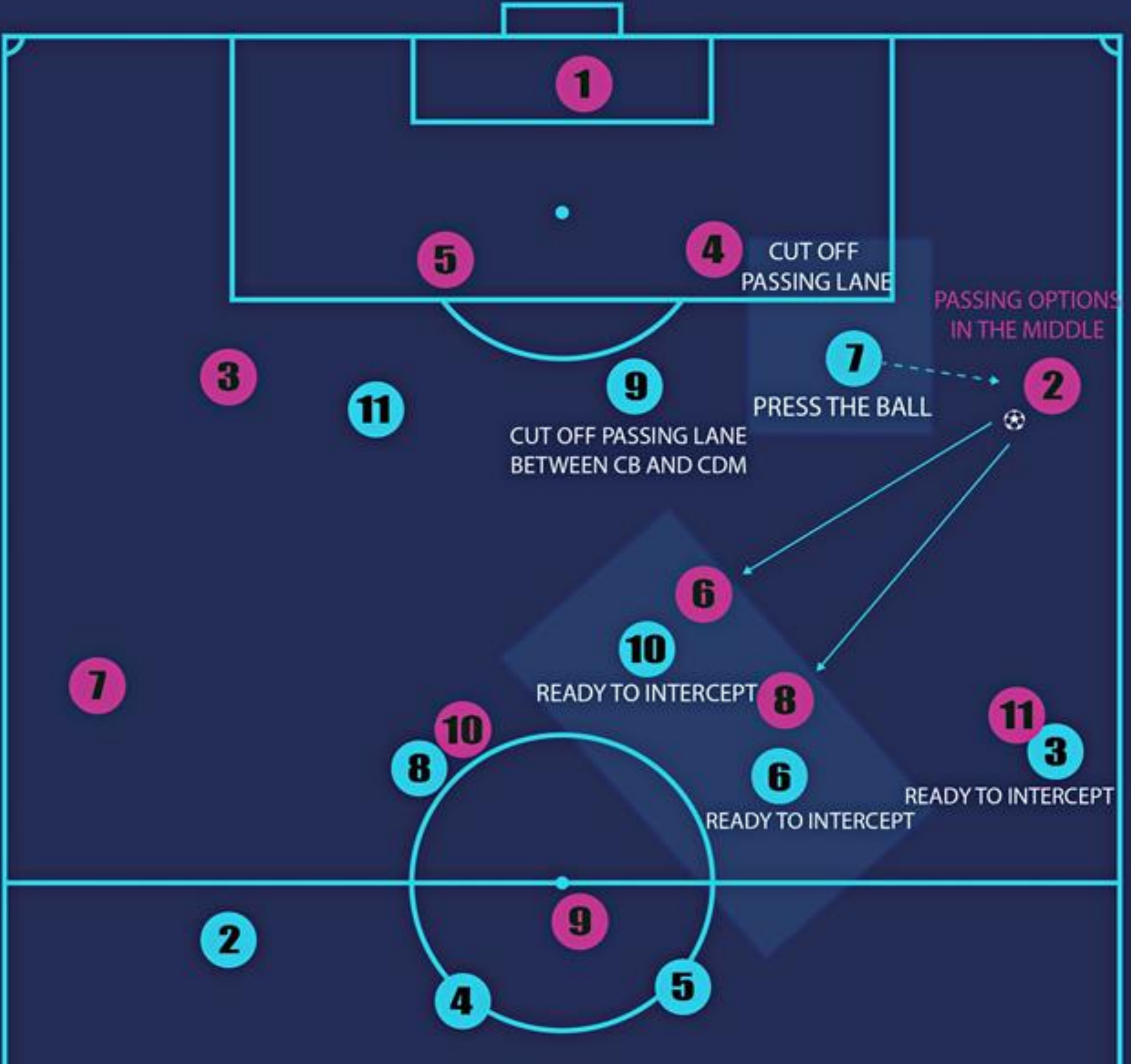
# HIGH PRESS TRIGGERS



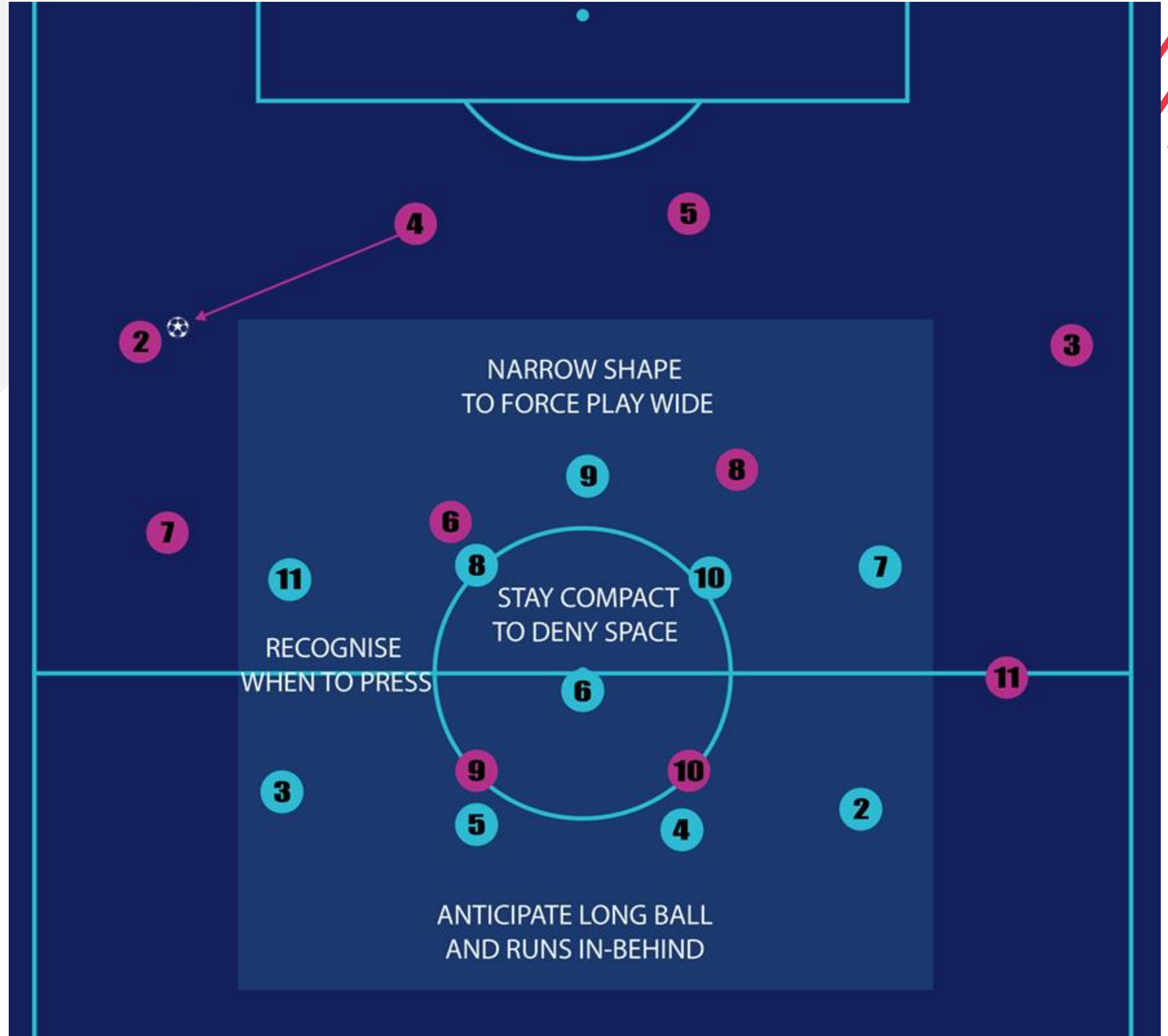
# HIGH PRESS TRIGGERS



# HIGH PRESS TRAPS



# MID- BLOCK SHAPE



# LOW-BLOCK COMPACTNESS





# SYSTEM

of

# PLAY

