

****Attacking Mode****

****Defending Mode****

Attacking "With" the ball – A Player in possession of the ball

Attacking "Without" the ball – Other Players "Without" the ball

Defending – All Players

Before you attempt to control the ball; Look forward first; glance at the opponents goals; Analyse all your possible options; Work through the logic; Be alert; do not hesitate to make your decision; think quickly; remember your team's game plan; take action.

Before you attempt to support the player on the ball; Look forward first; ; glance at the opponents goals; Analyse all your possible runs/options; Work through the logic; Be alert; do not hesitate to make your decision; think quickly; remember your team's game plan; take action.

Together with your team mates you must try and win the ball back as quick as possible; You don't want them mounting organised attacks; Analyse all your possible runs/options; Work through the logic flow as stated below; Be alert; do not hesitate to make your decision; think quickly; remember your team's game plan; take action.

Once your team has "Lost" possession of the ball revert to the Defensive Mode logic flow.

Once your team has "Regained" possession of the ball revert to the Attacking Mode logic flow.

Subject: Penetration
Scoring



1 Player

Once your team has "Regained" possession of the ball:-

Question to ask yourself:

Can I Score?

Decision "Yes" or "No"
If the answer is "Yes" then take this action;
If the answer is "No" then ask yourself the next question.

Subject: Penetration
Scoring - Follow Up
Scoring



1 Player

Once your team has "Regained" possession of the ball revert to the Attacking Mode logic flow.

Question to ask yourself:

Can I make a forward run at the goal mouth and score a goal;

Decision "Yes" or "No"
If the answer is "Yes" then take this action;
If the answer is "No" then ask yourself the next question.

Concentration & Balance in Defence

Once your team has "Lost" possession of the ball:-

Opponents will try to stretch the defence and unsettle the balance wherever possible; They will be trying to mount an attack with scoring in mind by either a long range attempt; splitting the defence with a penetration ball; or mounting an organise Team Set-Play attempt to score;

The defending team: (Prioritising) (The 3rd, 4th defender and all other players other than the 1st & 2nd defender)

Subject: Penetration
Penetration
Scoring



1 Player

Question to ask yourself:

Can I play a pass to a player who is in a scoring chance?

Decision "Yes" or "No"
If the answer is "Yes" then take this action;
If the answer is "No" then ask yourself the next question

Subject: Penetration
Penetration - Receive Pass
Scoring



1 Player

Question to ask yourself:

Can I make a forward run at the goals and receive the pass;

Decision "Yes" or "No"
If the answer is "Yes" then take this action;
If the answer is "No" then ask yourself the next question.

The 3rd, 4th defender and all other players:-

A team effort is required by all players; Look back first; Glance at your own Goals; The Goal mouth must be protected first; normally the goal keeper is there but in a case where the keeper is out of their goals players must retreat and run back as quick as possible to protect the Goal Mouth and their Goalkeeper; other players must then retreat and run back to the other key dangerous areas around the Goal Mouth e.g. the 6 yard and 18 yard box; and nearby surrounding dangerous close areas; while this is happening the 1st & 2nd defender must run to the immediate area of where the ball is which is also dangerous. Concentration occurs when players compact a certain area and pick up threats when opponents are near; Retreating back and taking up critical space allocated must be done quickly;

Subject: Creativity/Mobility
Team Set-Plays
Scoring (Improvisation)



1 Player

Question to ask yourself:

Can I play a pass that will start our set plays?

Decision "Yes" or "No"
If the answer is "Yes" then take this action;
If the answer is "No" then ask yourself the next question

Subject: Creativity/Mobility
Team Set-Plays - Participate
Scoring (Improvisation)



3 Players

Question to ask yourself:

Can I make a forward run and participate in this team set-play?

Decision "Yes" or "No"
If the answer is "Yes" then take this action;
If the answer is "No" then ask yourself the next question.

Retreating, Sliding and Shuffling "across/along" the field in a coordinated manner helps keep the defensive shape; Applying pressure and restricting space in an organised structure will stop opponents from scoring and winning the ball; regaining possession of the ball will occur more times than less;

Remember, The closer the opponents reach your own goal mouth the tighter and flatter the marking; Urgency to mark closer is a must; Winning the ball is critical; Blocking an attempt to score is paramount;

Subject: Movement with the ball
Passing
Maintain Team Possession



1 Player

Question to ask yourself:

Can I play a pass to a player so we can hold possession?

Decision "Yes" or "No"
If the answer is "Yes" then take this action;
If the answer is "No" then ask yourself the next question

Subject: Movement without the ball
Passing Depth/Width
Maintain Team Possession Support



2 Players

Question to ask yourself:

Can I make a run to support the player on the ball in a position "Along" or "Across" the field providing "Depth" in attack?

Decision "Yes" or "No"
If the answer is "Yes" then take this action;
If the answer is "No" then ask yourself the next question.

Delay & Depth in Defence:-

Player 1: (1st Defender – The player closest to the ball)

Close down the opponent as quick as possible; try to STOP them from scoring and DELAYING them from playing a forward pass; apply pressure; don't charge at the player; delay the opponent by "jockeying" with he mission to force the player away from a dangerous area; Do not tackle from behind or commit a foul; Stop the opponent from playing a forward pass; or an attempt at scoring a goal; Once the opponent plays a successful pass; follow that opponents run; do not ball watch; player watch is critical; Mark tight and stop any "Wall Pass" from occurring;

Subject: Movement with the ball
Shielding
Maintain Team Possession



1 Player

Question to ask yourself:

Can I shield the ball until "Support" arrives?

Decision "Yes" or "No"
If the answer is "Yes" then take this action;
If the answer is "No" then "Run"/"Dribble" with the ball; try to unstable and unbalance opponent.

Subject: Movement without the ball
Shielding - Depth/Width
Maintain Team Possession



2 Players

Question to ask yourself:

Can I make a run to support the player on the ball in a position "Along" or "Across" the field providing "Depth" in attack?

Decision "Yes" or "No"
If the answer is "Yes" then take this action;
If the answer is "No" then ask yourself the next question.

Player 2: (2nd Defender – The next closest Player to the ball)

Make a run to support the player; Do not square up with your player; positioning yourself behind the player and not next to the player is critical; This will provide DEPTH IN DEFENCE; Stop a wall pass from occurring and provide immediate support in case the opponent dribbles past Player 1. Provide information as much as possible; you may need to sacrifice Player 2 to commit in order to win the ball once the opponent tries to get past Player 1.

Remember:- The closer the opponents reach your own goal mouth the tighter and flatter the marking; Urgency to mark closer is a must; Winning the ball is critical; Blocking an attempt to score is paramount;

Subject: Improvisation
Movement with the ball
Dribbling
Maintain Team Possession



1 Player

Before you attempt to run or dribble with the ball; make sure you have exhausted the subjects above as stated; This solves the question: When to dribble and when not to.

No question: Run/Dribble with the ball.

If you are successful with the first dribble; then reset your mind set or logic and ask the first question as stated above – Can I score? (Do not attempt to dribble the next player)

Before you attempt to run or dribble past the 2nd player, make sure you have exhausted the subjects above as stated; Work through the logic flow; This action is repeated after each successful dribble.

Subject: Movement without the ball
Dribbling - Depth/Width
Maintain Team Possession



Part 1: 2 Players



Part 2: 2 Players or more

Question to ask yourself:

Part 1: Can I make a run to support the player on the ball in a position "Along" or "Across" the field providing "Depth" in attack?

Part 2: Away from the play – swap positions with another "Non-Active" Player in your Team; This will help generate more movement 'Off' the ball.

Special Note: Several Years back when I decided to coach; I studied a book called: Allen Wade, "The FA Guide to Training and Coaching." The chapter that interested me the most was called "Principles of Play"; I loved this book. Later on; Combining all my experiences with my great coaches; I created a document I called "Logical Decision making Process in Attack (On & Off the ball)

This document has fused, combined the "Principles of Play" with my Logic Flow (Logical Decision making In Attack on & off the ball) to unite the two and form this document. To my mentor & coach: Oscar Montalva (Chilean International); I will never forget what you taught me and the opportunities you gave me at South Melbourne Hellas.



Oscar Montalva (Chilean International); Club: Colo-Colo Captain.

Key Notes:- Do not duplicate roles when supporting runs; if you see a player already in the position you are trying to go to; then work through the logic and ask yourself the next question; Analyse the situation and think through the logic flow and try and make the best action possible; Remember, The closer the opponents reach your own goal mouth the tighter and flatter the marking; Urgency to mark closer is a must; Do not ball watch, follow your opponents run; Priority always in attack is to score a goal and in defence is to stop a goal; The ultimate reward is to win the match. © John "Kokki Kostopoulos"