

# Soccer Offensive Strategies

By Andre Botelho - "The Expert Soccer Coach"

Let's face it, before we get into the soccer offensive strategies, let me just remind you of some basic things regarding putting up together an effective positioning system.

One of the best and most effective soccer positioning systems is the 4-4-2 soccer system.

I know this may look pretty obvious for you, but you should make sure that you form your team keeping in mind the following:

**For Defense:** Largest Players



*This doesn't mean that a 'candy' player can't become a good attacker.*

**Midfield:** those players who have impressive passing, vision and crossing ability

**Upfront:** the fastest players of your team

*Click play below to see fantastic combinations between midfield players and attackers...*



Video URL: <http://www.youtube.com/v/7ortWLYEYnM&hl>

However, this is no hard and 'stone printed' fast rule, but such formations usually work better and can make the difference at more competitive matches. If you're just beginning and don't know how to assign the players positions based on their needs and physical characteristics, you can start by utilizing the following formation, based on the 'size' of the players.

**At the back:** largest/strongest players

**Midfield:** great passing and ball control players

**Upfront:** smallest and fastest players

When you place players with small heights upfront, it can be very helpful when your team is looking for a penalty or a free kick. This is because it has been proved that referees are usually on the side of players with little heights.

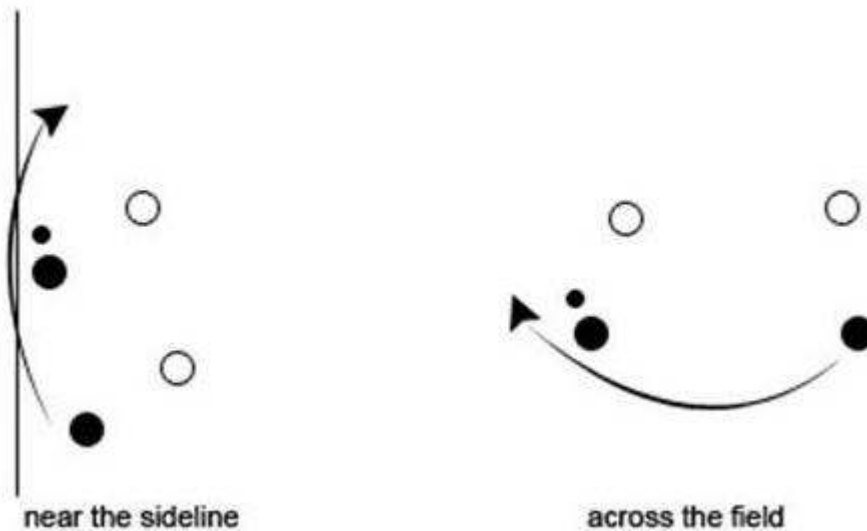
### **A Team That Has Better Ball Possession Becomes Offensive**

A soccer team that does NOT have the ball is defense, the team that does have possession of the ball is offensive. As the soccer coach, you must ensure that your team is able to improvise on soccer tactics and be creative when they play offense.

There is no tailor made offense strategy for specific situations – rather, you must teach your team players a variety of strategies that they can adapt, depending on the particular situation.

**1. One of the deadliest offensive strategies is the “overlapper” used by top soccer players.**

When the flank has free space, beyond the player with the ball, the overlapper is very effective for offense. If it is applied at the wing, the opponent defenders cannot cover it. If the overlapper is tried across the field, it disperses the opponent's defense.

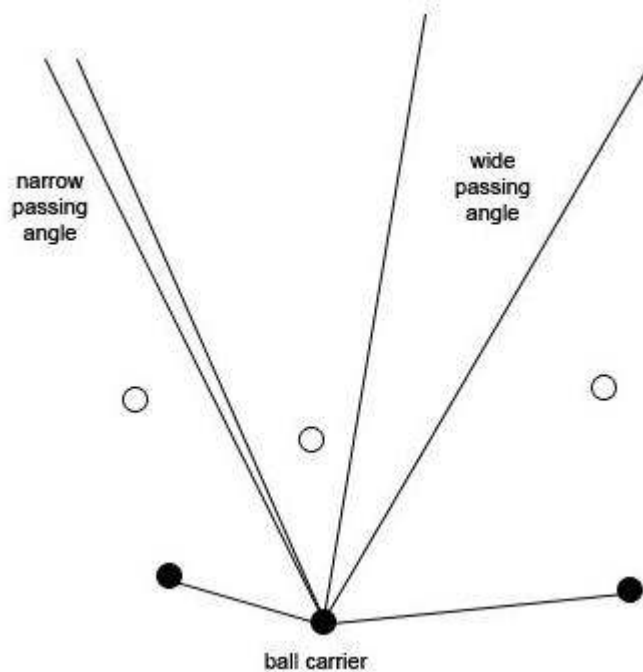


**2. The next offense strategy is by varying the angles of passing.**

When your team players are on offense, the sooner can the ball be passed, dribbled, controlled distributed, etc. This kind of strategic playing calls for a high level of skill and dexterity from your players.

Players can also defend more easily against teams that stay together at the time of attacking. In the diagram, when your supporting team players are far off, you have more options and wider angles.

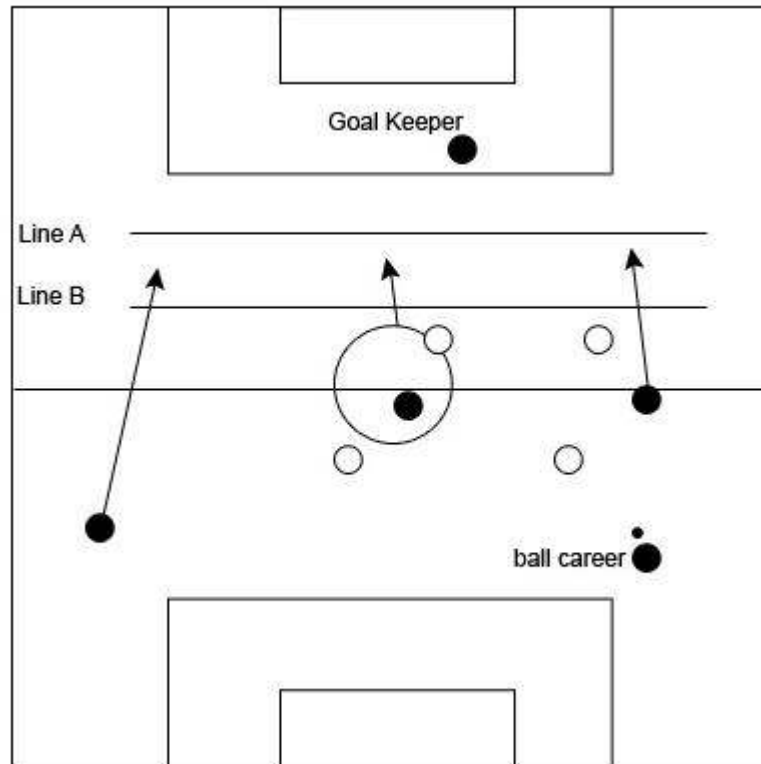
In addition, this makes it tougher for the opponent defense because it means more space to cover and therefore more effort.



### 3. A third offense strategy you can use is this one...

When the opponent defenders are marking your team players, which are on the offense, your team has two options. The conservative way to deal with this is to check back to the ball.

Another option is to just charge ahead. Since they can't just rush forward because of the 'offside rule' the ball must be played over them first. According to the pace of the attackers, the ball must be aimed at 10 to 30 feet behind Line B, which is the last line of opponent's defense or within 20 feet of Line A where the goal keeper is.



The offensive team advance towards the between Line A and Line B just before the player with the ball passes the ball. This puts the offensive at the lead, since the opponent fullbacks will need time to turn around and come.

Now I want you to go and try to implement some of these ideas and then come back to me and send me a feedback email about how it went...

Bye bye now... I'm looking forward to getting your feedback on the strategies above.



Dedicated to improving your coaching skills,

*Andre Botelho*  
*"The Expert Soccer Coach"*

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**P.S.** If you would like to view the soccer coaching resources and tools discussed in this Newsletter please visit <http://www.soccerdrillstips.com>