

TACTICAL SITUATION 5



Rotations and Unbalanced Attacking Structures

Content from Tactical Analysis of Luis Enrique's Paris Saint-Germain team in Ligue 1 and Champions League matches.

The analysis is based on recurring patterns of play observed within Luis Enrique's PSG team. Once the same phase of play is observed multiple times across many matches, the tactics are seen as a pattern. The analysis included is built from examples of the team's tactics being used effectively, taken from specific matches.

Each action, pass, individual movement with or without the ball, and the positioning of each player on the pitch including their body shape, are presented.

The analysis is then used to create a full progressive session to coach this specific tactical situation.

Vertical Rotations to Pull Defenders Out of Zone-14 and Create Space to Shoot



Zone-14: Central area outside the penalty box, regarded as the most dangerous zone for shooting and creating chances.

Vertical rotations in the attacking third are a key tactical element of PSG under Luis Enrique. The forward (**F - Dembélé**) moves into the centre while a central midfielder or winger surges into his position.

This tactic is designed to pull the opposing centre back (and potentially the defensive midfielder) out of position and out of the key central "**Zone-14**."

If players follow Dembélé's dropping back movement, space opens up (highlighted) in the most dangerous area outside the box.

PSG's central midfielders (LCM - Fabián and RCM - Neves) and wingers (LW - Kvaratskhelia and RW - Doué) are always ready to exploit this space.

In these moments, the quality of the defensive midfielder's (**DM - Vitorinha**) pass is crucial.

SESSION 5 BASED ON THE TACTICS OF LUIS ENRIQUE

Rotations and Unbalanced Attacking Structures



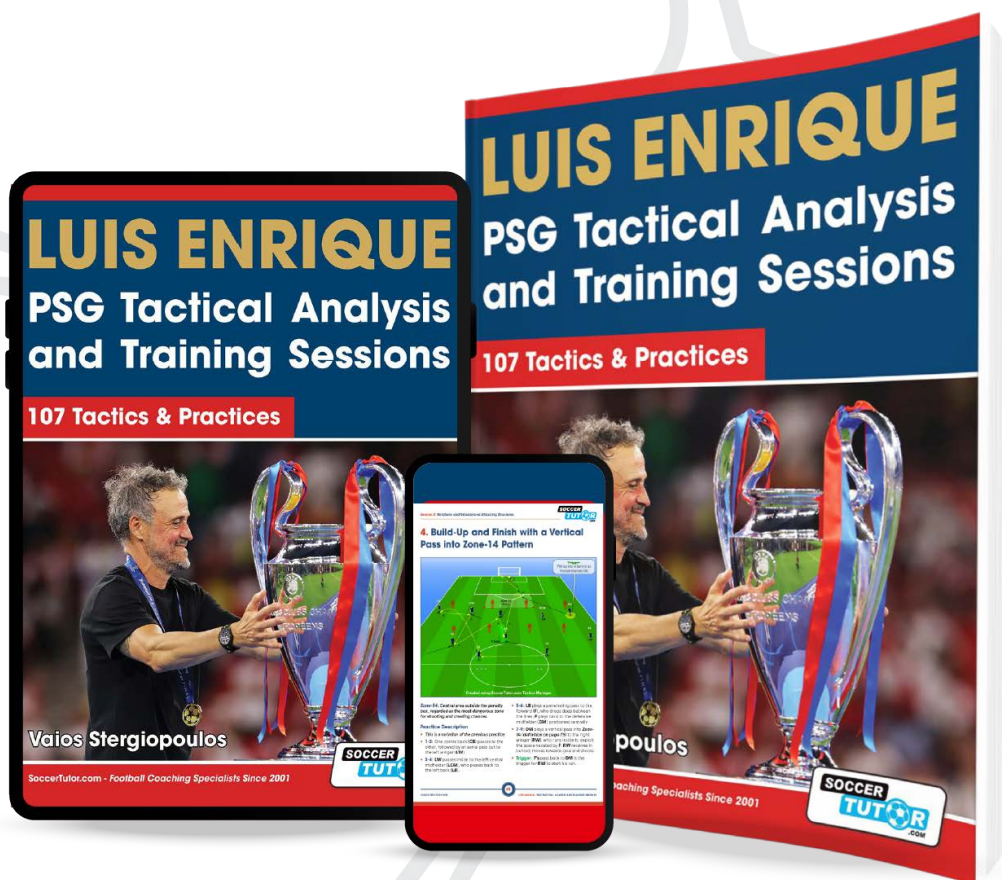
4. Build-Up and Finish with a Vertical Pass into Zone-14 Pattern



Zone-14: Central area outside the penalty box, regarded as the most dangerous zone for shooting and creating chances.

Practice Description

- **This is a variation of the previous practice.**
- **1-2:** One centre back (CB) passes to the other, followed by an aerial pass out to the left winger (LW).
- **3-4:** LW passes inside to the left central midfielder (LCM), who passes back to the left back (LB).
- **5-6:** LB plays a penetrating pass to the forward (F), who drops deep between the lines. F plays back to the defensive midfielder (DM) positioned centrally.
- **7-9:** DM plays a vertical pass into **Zone-14** (definition on page 75) to the right winger (RW), who runs inside to exploit the space vacated by F. RW receives in behind, moves towards goal and shoots.
- **Trigger:** F's pass back to DM is the trigger for RW to start his run.



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