

Positional Training Games



Direct from
Xabi Alonso's
Training Sessions

6. Build Up and Creating Opportunities to Score 9v9 (+2) 6-Goal Game with Changing Conditions



Practice Description

- In this 9v9 (+2 Jokers) game, the aim is to **break the lines of pressure and create space to score a goal** through effective combination play. The reds start with possession after the coach's pass.
- The **zones have rules which change so the players can work on different tactics**.
- To start, no defending team players are allowed in the *Build Up Zone*. Later, they are encouraged to high press in there.
- To start, players must score from within the *End Zone*. Later, they must score from outside the *End Zone*.
- Alonso adjusts the team shapes during play**, starting with a 4-2-3 from Bayer's 4-2-4 build up shape (**see this diagram + pages 64-65**). He is also seen changing the size of the *Build Up Zone*.
- If the blues win the ball, they try to score. If the ball goes out of play, a coach plays a new ball in immediately.

Source: Xabi Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen training session at Bayer 04 Leverkusen Training Ground - 2023

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