



# GK-2-4-2 vs. 3-4-1 Defensive Press Tactics (Game Model 9v9) - J. Sells

Category: Tactical: Defensive principles

Difficulty: Difficult

Am-Club: New Mexico Rapids Soccer Club

Technical / Coaching Directors, Albuquerque, United States of America

## GK + 2-4-2 v 3-4-1 Defensive Press Tactics (35 mins)

### Organization:

GK + 2-4-2 defend 3-4-1 Formation to big goal w/counter goals. Working in 3/4 of the field. Coach always starts a new ball to offensive team attacking large goal.

### Directions/Coaching Points:

**A.** GK + 2-4-2 starts off with line of confrontation just over top of attacking half midfield circle inviting other team to play short and attempt to build play. Two forwards (9 & 10) communicate (decide) on who is pressing center back and which way they want to force the opposition. Coach should recognize which opposition outside back is weakest and force play (trigger pass) to that outside back (even in younger ages).

**B.** Once opposition 4 (center back) plays "trigger" pass is to opposition 3 (left back), Defensive 7 (right wing) should know to try and jump the pass and 1st touch after cutting touchline off (not allowing long pass down line to opposition 11 (left wing) or 9 (Center Forward) intentionally forcing the opponent central into tackling / interception zone (indicated by blue area). Weak side 7 (left wing) need to tuck in to provide cover and balance.

**C.** Central Midfielders (6 & 8) on the defensive team at this point should be marking tightly the oppositions 6 & 10 (central midfielders) and looking to intercept or steal possession of any central passes played by opposition back three into central midfield area (indicated by blue zone). At the same time two central defenders (5 & 4) should be communicating at passing off the opposition center forward (9) and providing cover to each other, so any long entry ball is difficult for center forward (9) to deal with and maintain. Central defenders will often times have numerical advantage with the system with 2v1 scenario.

### Directions / Coaching Points

-Central Midfield players need to understand importance of defensive responsibility, structure (defending in 4's) and play will be forced into their area in midfield and attacking thirds of the field.

-Forwards (9 & 10) must understand defending in 2's and pressure cover as well as idea of "channeling" (cutting field off). Both forwards should be aware and have idea of the forward not directly pressing the opponent needs to drop off into central "pocket" between oppositions backline and midfield lines to create defensive overload in midfield.

-Two Central Defenders must understand passing player off and pressure and cover responsibilities in overall team group press and well as defending in 2's.

### \*Important:

-Defensive team must be patient and compact with opposition center back in possession. Inviting opposition center back (4) to play wide to either outside back (3 or 2). WE DO NOT WANT OPPOSITION PASSES PLAYED BETWEEN OUR 7 & 8 AND 11 & 6.

-If opposition can rotate ball out of initial defensive press players must look to reorganize centrally, get compact and look to rotate press to other side of the field quickly and aggressively utilizing same defensive structure, rotations and idea. Tactical positional intelligence of wide players will be critical.

-Our best players should be playing up the spine of our teams in the 6, 8, 10, 5, 4 and 9 positions.

