



PLAYING THE

GK-4-3-3 NUMBER 6

COACHING THE GK-4-3-3 WITH A NUMBER 6

Most teams using this formation now use the specialist defensive midfielder with Barcelona and Chelsea being the most famous recent examples.

A staggered 4-3-3 involving a defensive midfielder (usually numbered four or six) and two attacking midfielders (numbered eight and ten) was commonplace in Italy, Argentina, and Uruguay during the 1960s and 1970s.

Below are some coaching tips which will be useful when discussing your players

1. The number 6 must always want to be on the ball in a “playmaker role”
2. When both full backs attack, the number 6 must create a defensive three
3. The number 8 and 10 players must go beyond their markers to receive
4. The full back, wide player and attacking midfielder rotate positions to receive
5. If the ball is on the opposite wing, the wide player comes off the line.
6. Its important that the midfield is made up of different types of player
7. The number 9 must be free in movement and be willing to receive to feet
8. When making a pass, the player passing must make a forward run off the ball
9. When defending, the team must become compact and narrow to force outside
10. Now the ball is outside, the team must squeeze across to apply high pressure
11. The number 6 is now used to screen the two centre backs

THE STRENGTHS OF PLAYING GK 4-3-3 WITH A NUMBER 6

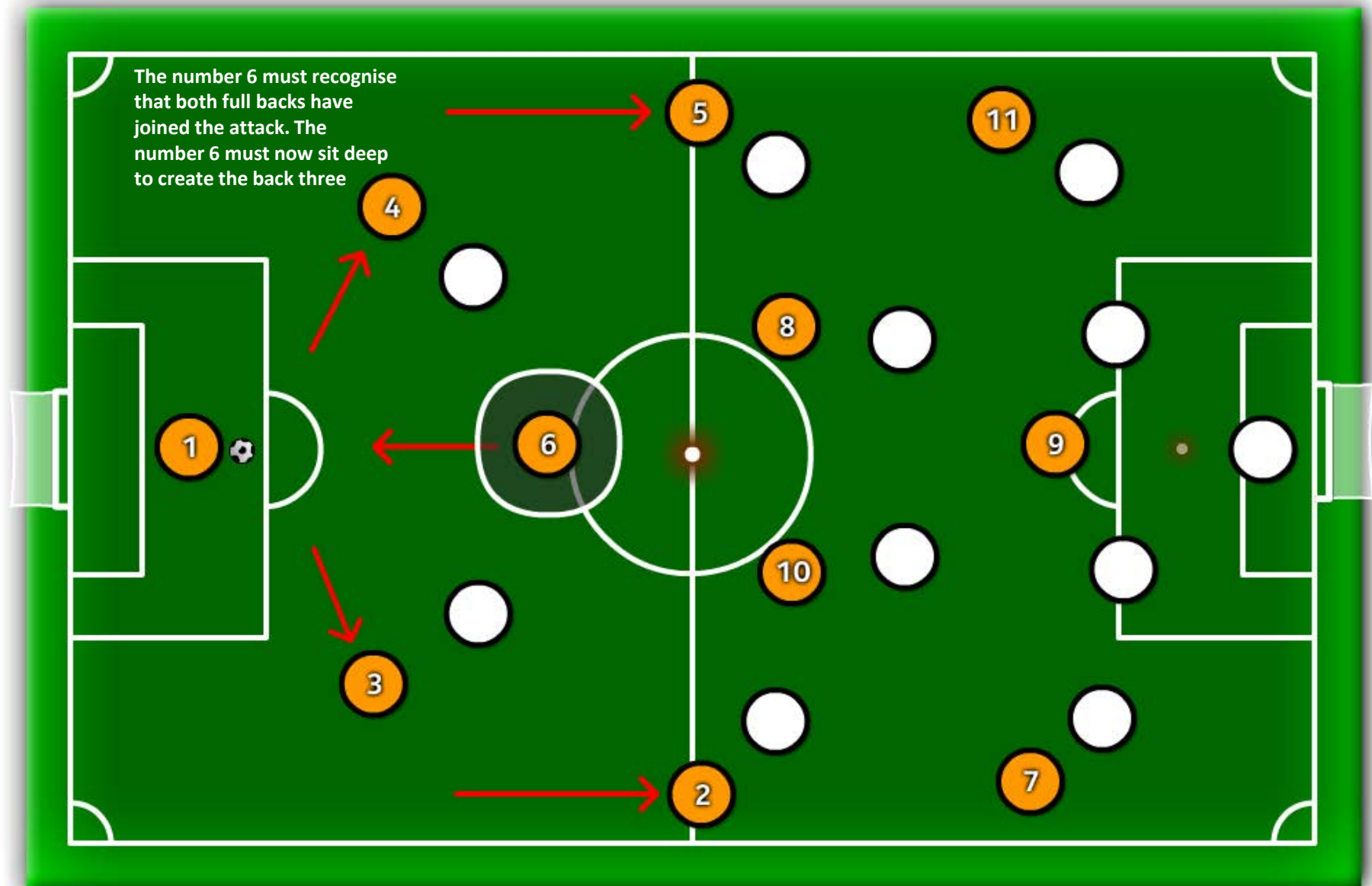
Attacking:

- Three attackers allow the team to attack quickly when the ball is won
- Allows the team to play more direct as there are more players to play to
- Difficult for defenders to mark all players
- Allows the team to attack with numbers
- Space on the outside for the fullback to get into
- Full backs can get forward to support the attack and still leave 3 defenders
- Full backs can create numbers up situations in wide areas

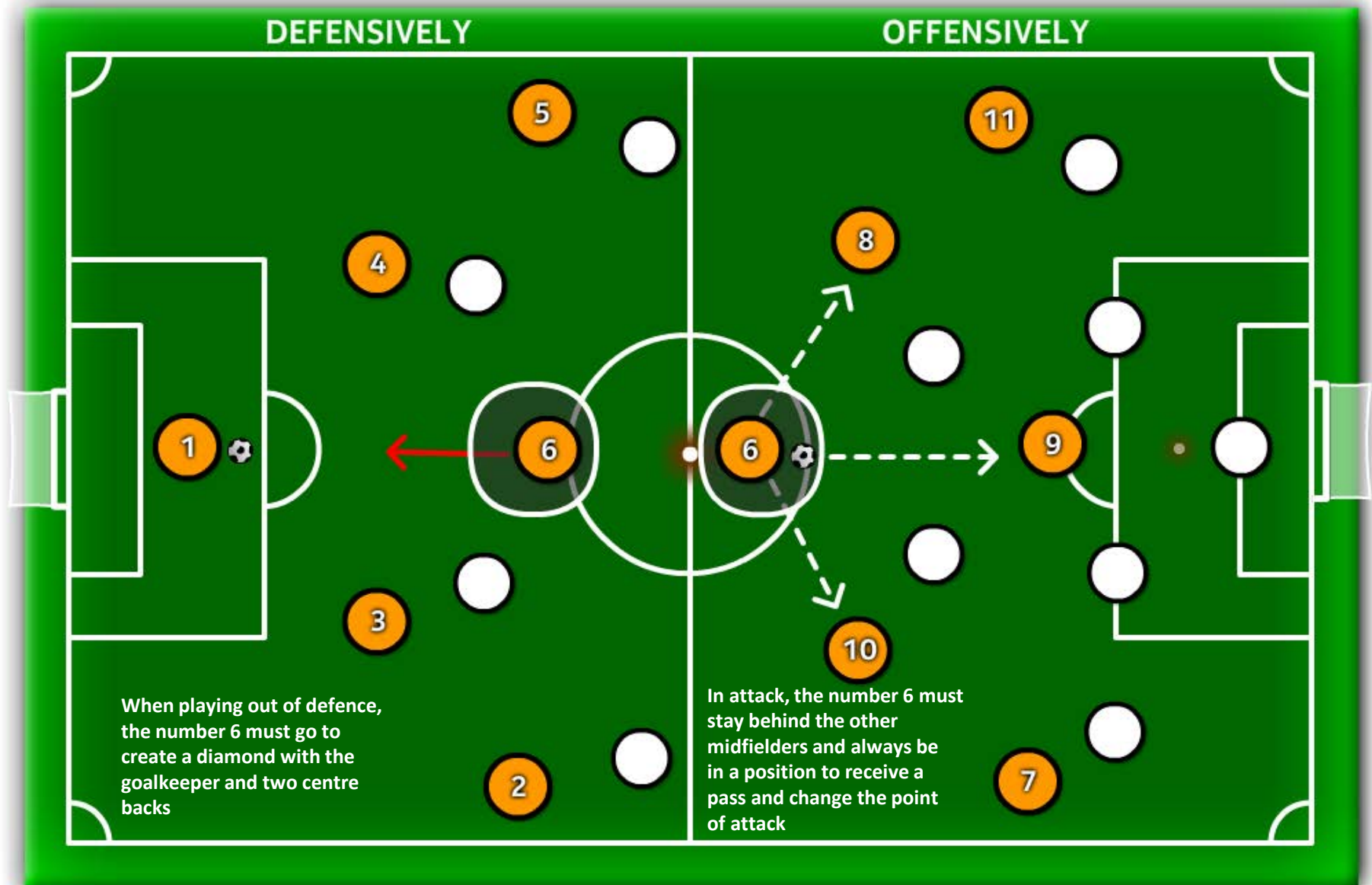
Defending:

- The 4 defenders cover the width of the field easily
- The defensive midfielder is able to screen the back 4 defenders
- The 2 wide forwards can drop into make a 5 man midfield
- Allows the team to play high pressure when teams try to play out of the back
- Allows teams to put pressure on players that are not able to play long passes

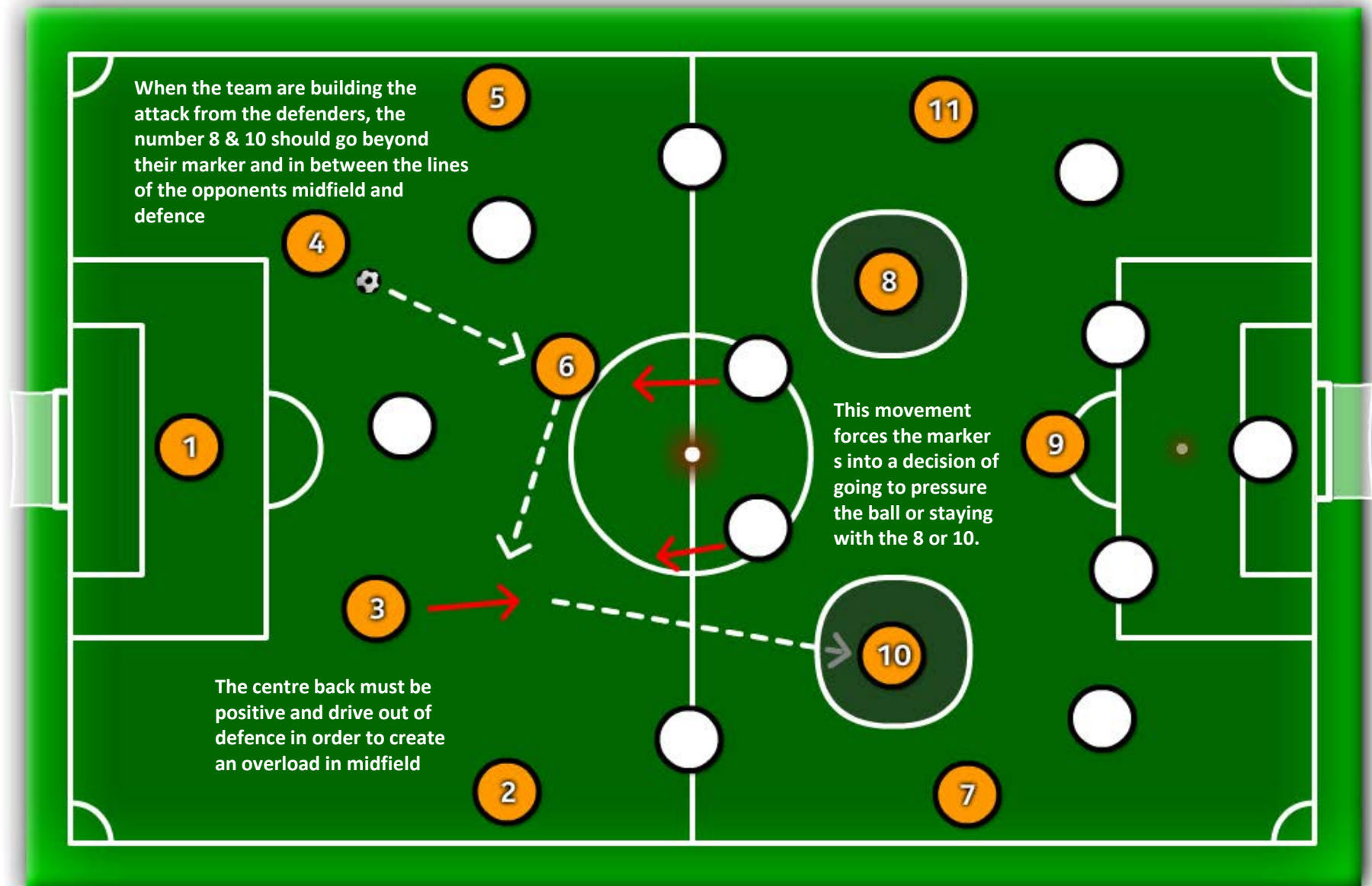
The number 6 must always want to be on the ball, the “Playmaker” role



When both fullbacks attack, the number 6 must create a defensive three



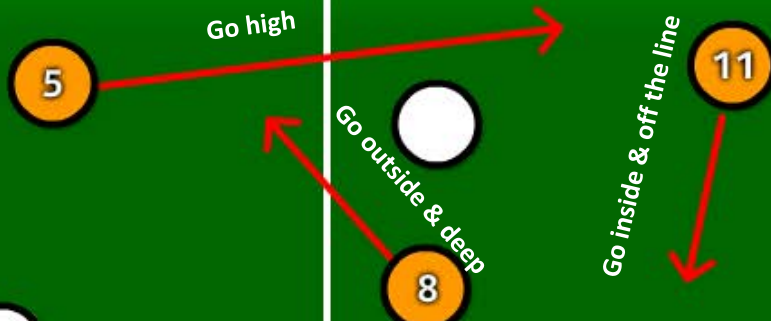
The number 8 and 10 must go beyond their defensive makers to receive



The full back, wide player and attacking midfielder rotate positions to receive

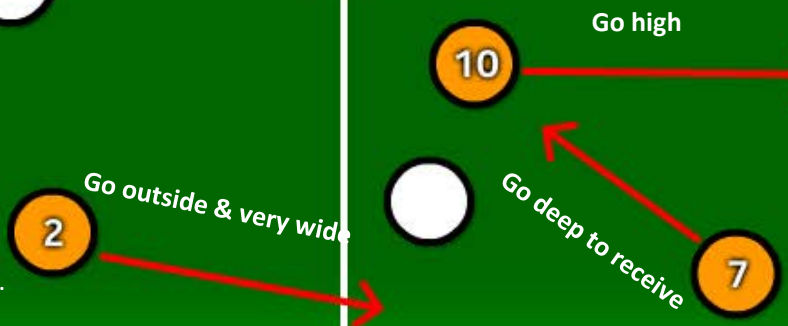
Example 1

As the centre back steps out of defence. The number 5 goes high and the number 11 goes inside. Finally, the number 8 pulls into a deep wide position to receive

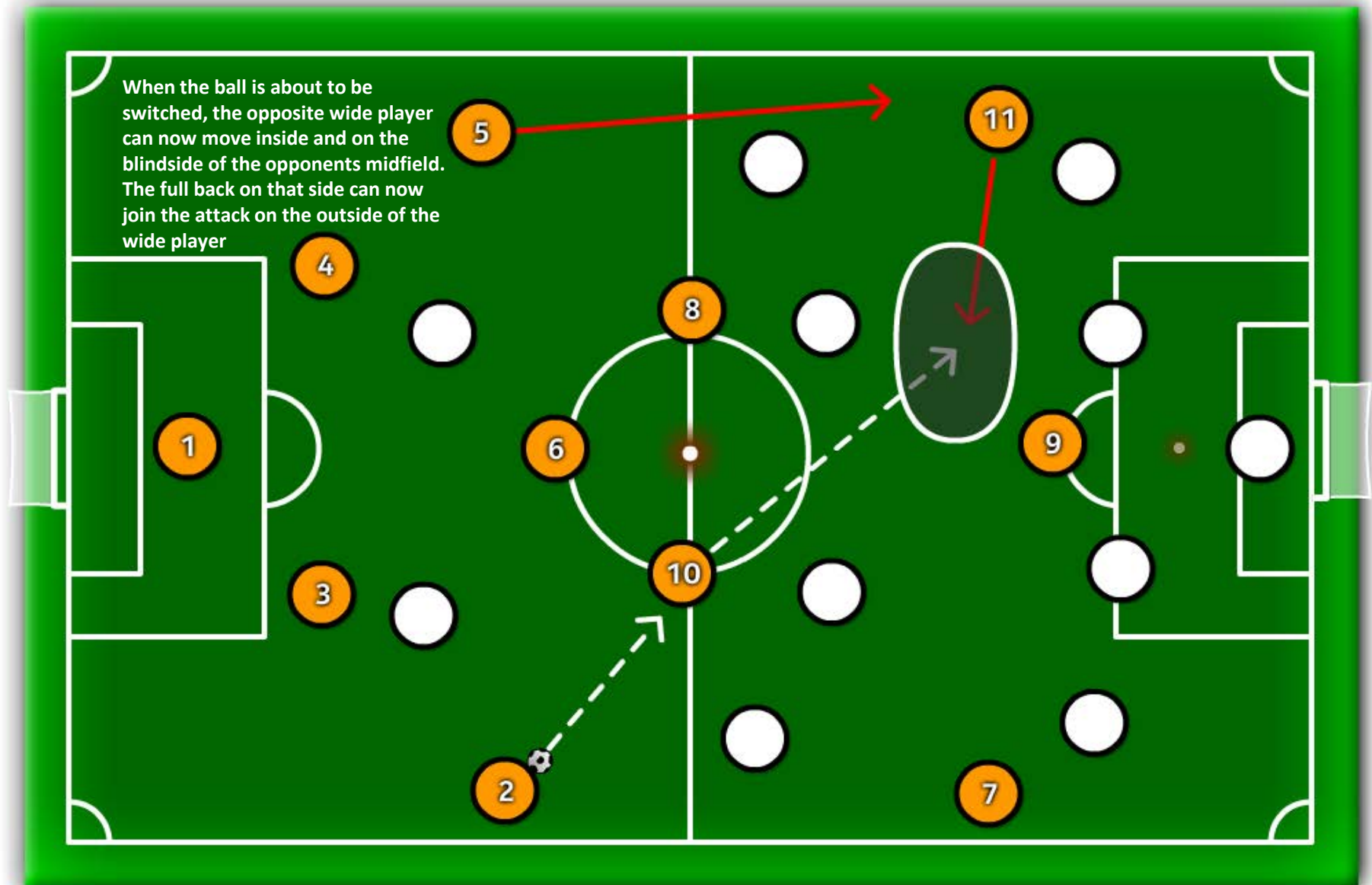


Example 2

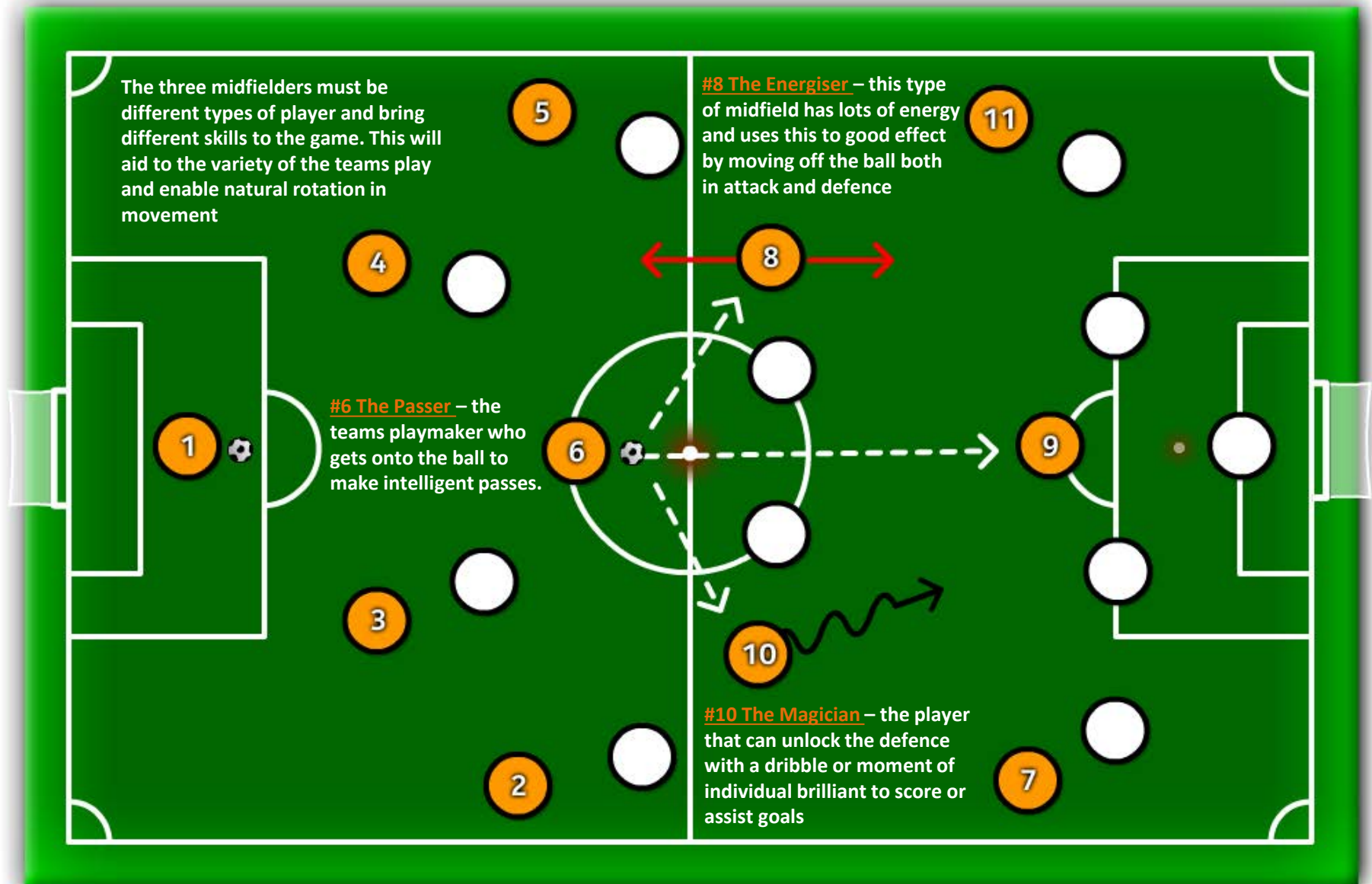
As the centre back steps out of defence. The number 2 goes high and wide and the number 10 also spins and goes high into the forward line to "pin" the defenders. Now the number 7 is free to come deep to receive the ball



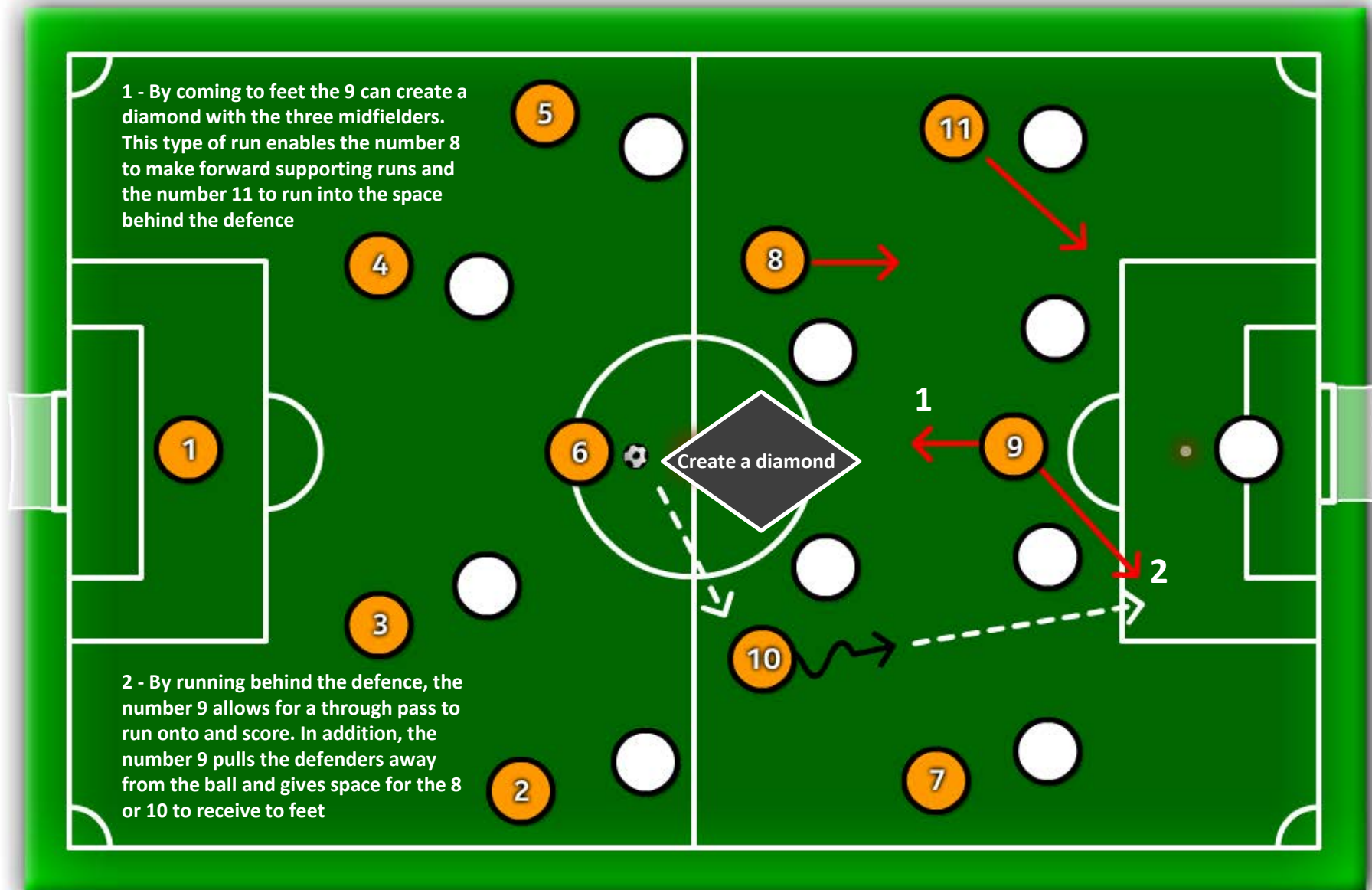
If the ball is on the opposite side, the wide players come off the line



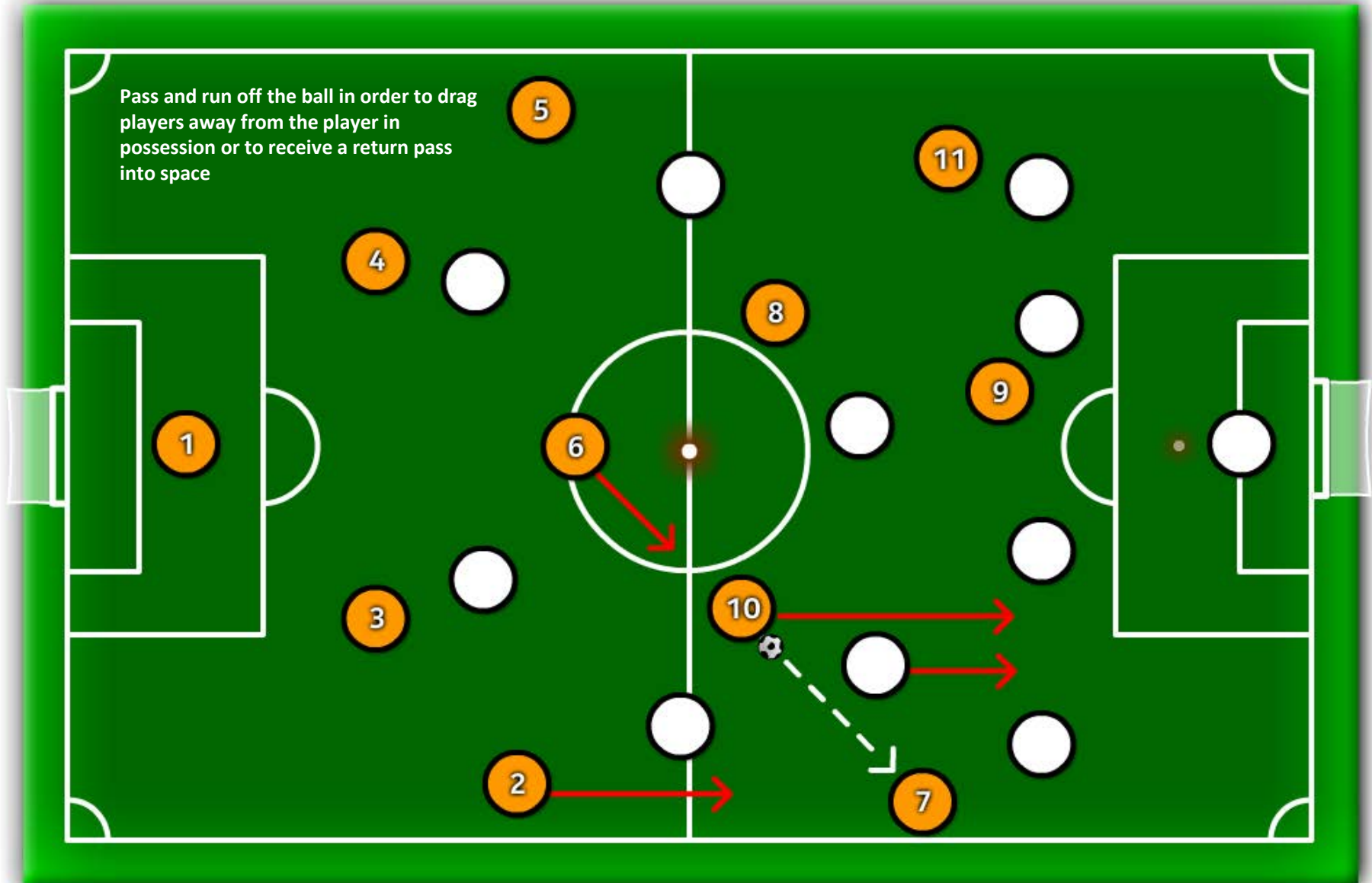
It is important that the midfield is made up of three different types of player



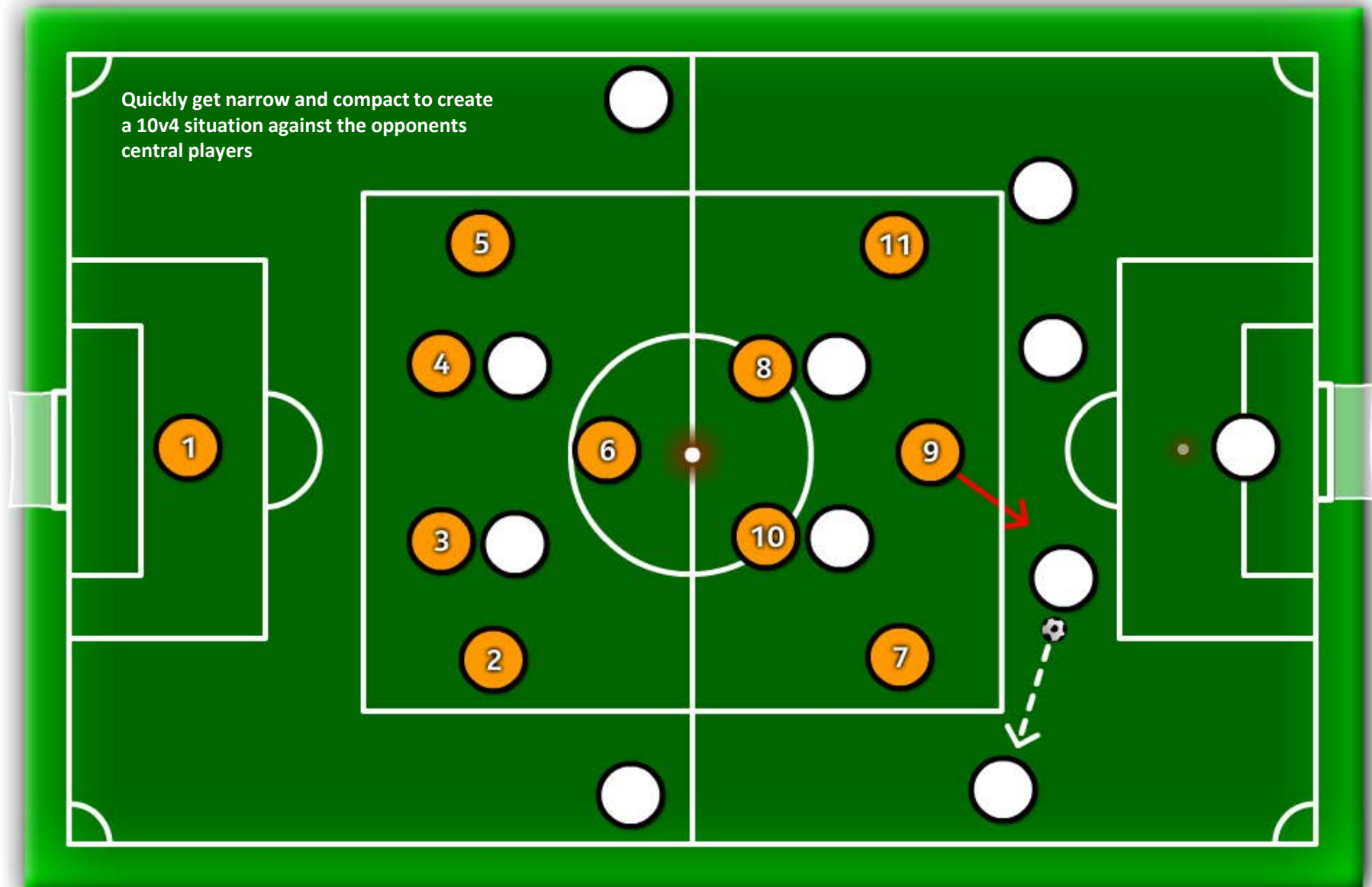
The number 9 must be free in movement and be willing to receive to feet



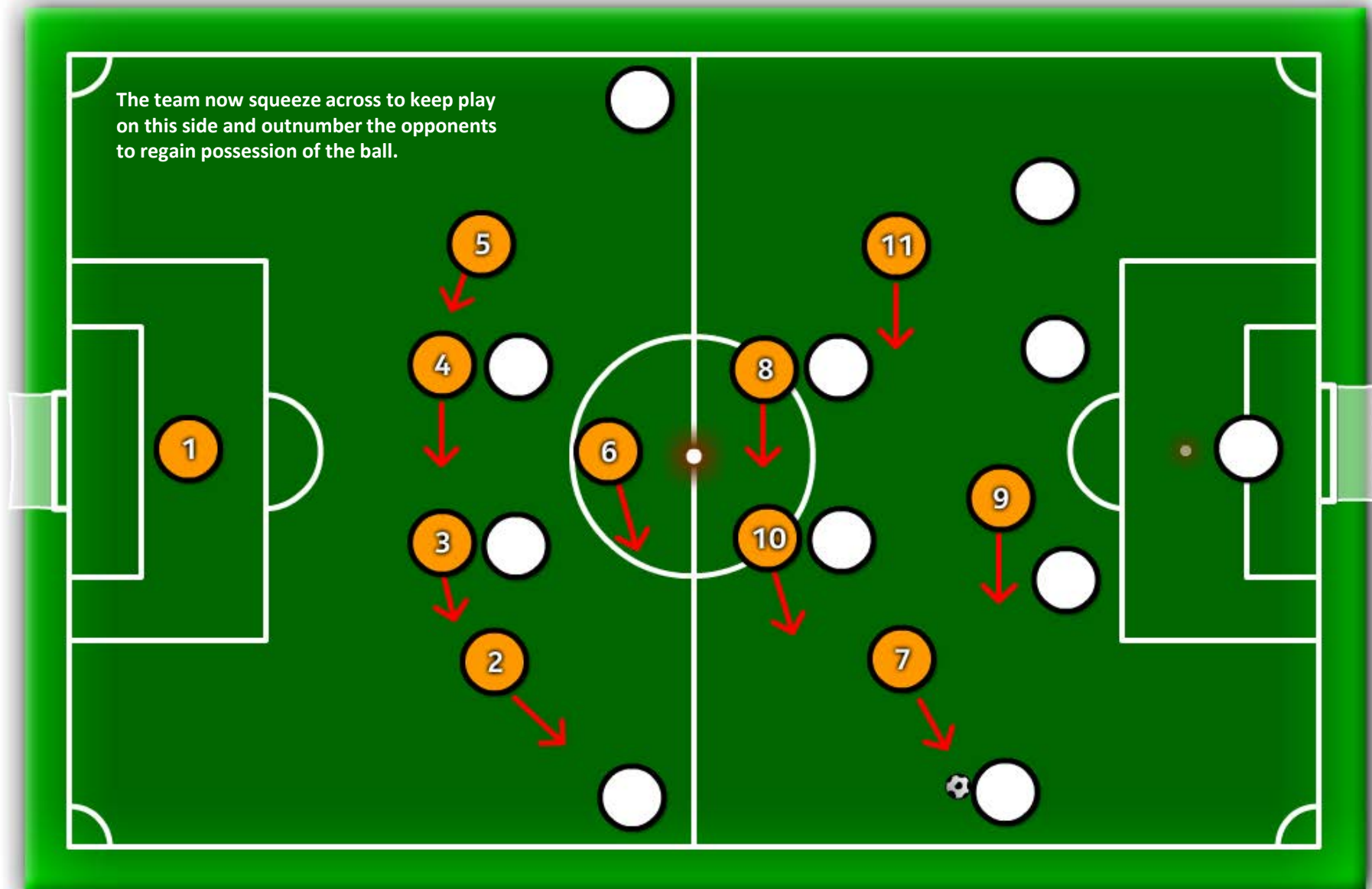
When making a pass, the passing player must make a forward run off the ball



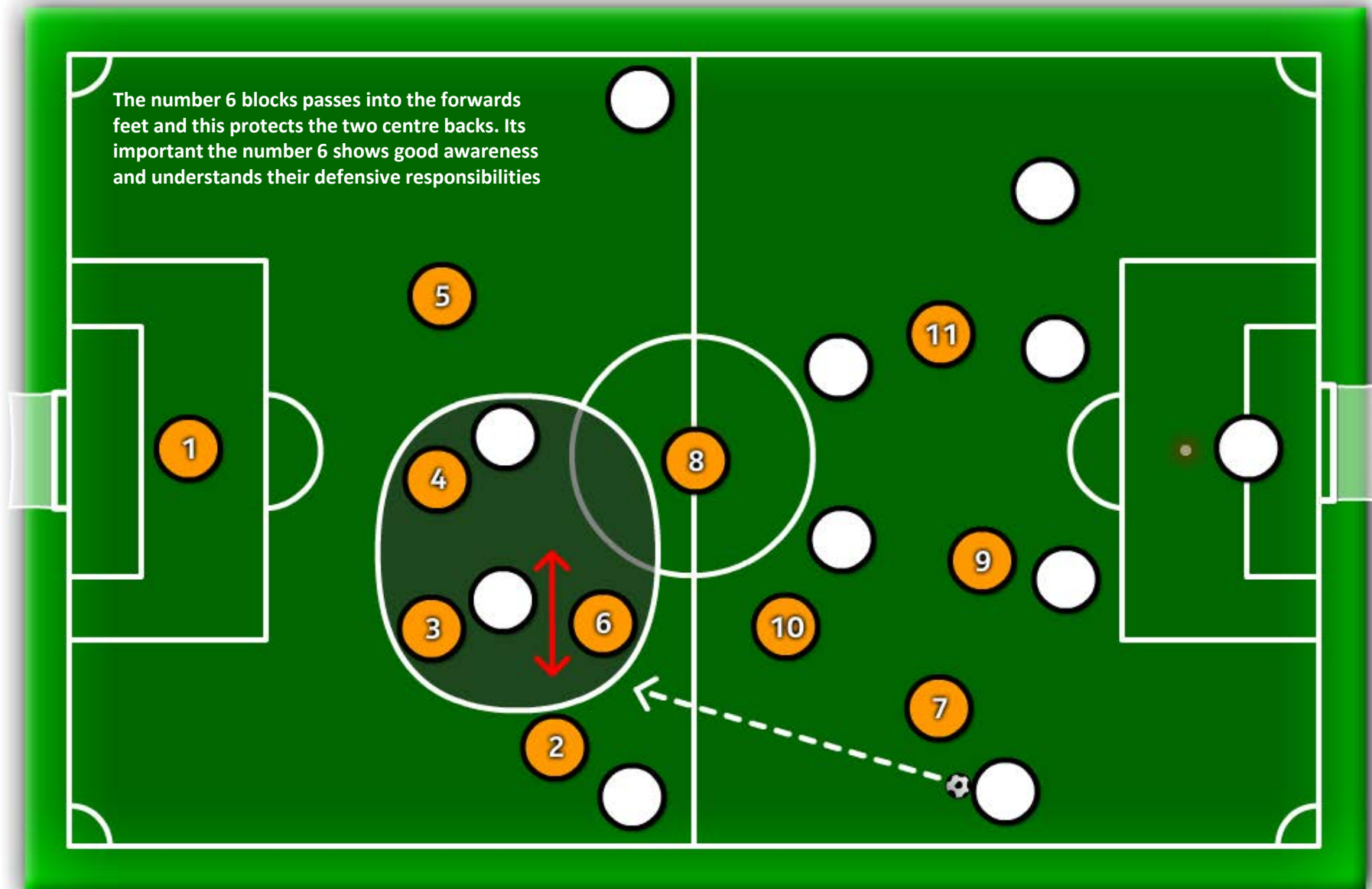
When defending, the team must become compact and narrow and force outside



Now the ball is outside, the team must shift across to apply high pressure



The number 6 is now used to screen the centre backs



FORMATION OVERVIEW

GK-4-3-3 NUMBER 6



STRENGTHS

- Two attacking midfielders
- Natural width and rotations
- Lots of triangle passing options

CONCERNS

- Only one disciplined centre midfielder
- Number 8 & 10 not being close enough to 9

ROTATING THE SHAPE

GK-4-3-3 – Number 10

- The number 10 can easily push forward and the 6 & 8 become the two central midfielders

GK-4-4-2 – Diamond

- The number 9 can drop deeper to create a four player “diamond” midfield with the 7 & 11 becoming two forwards

GK-4-3-2-1 – Christmas tree

- The 7 and 11 drop slightly deeper and pinch inside to play behind the number 9

The above rotations should happen naturally in the game due to player movement



www.academyfootballcoach.com