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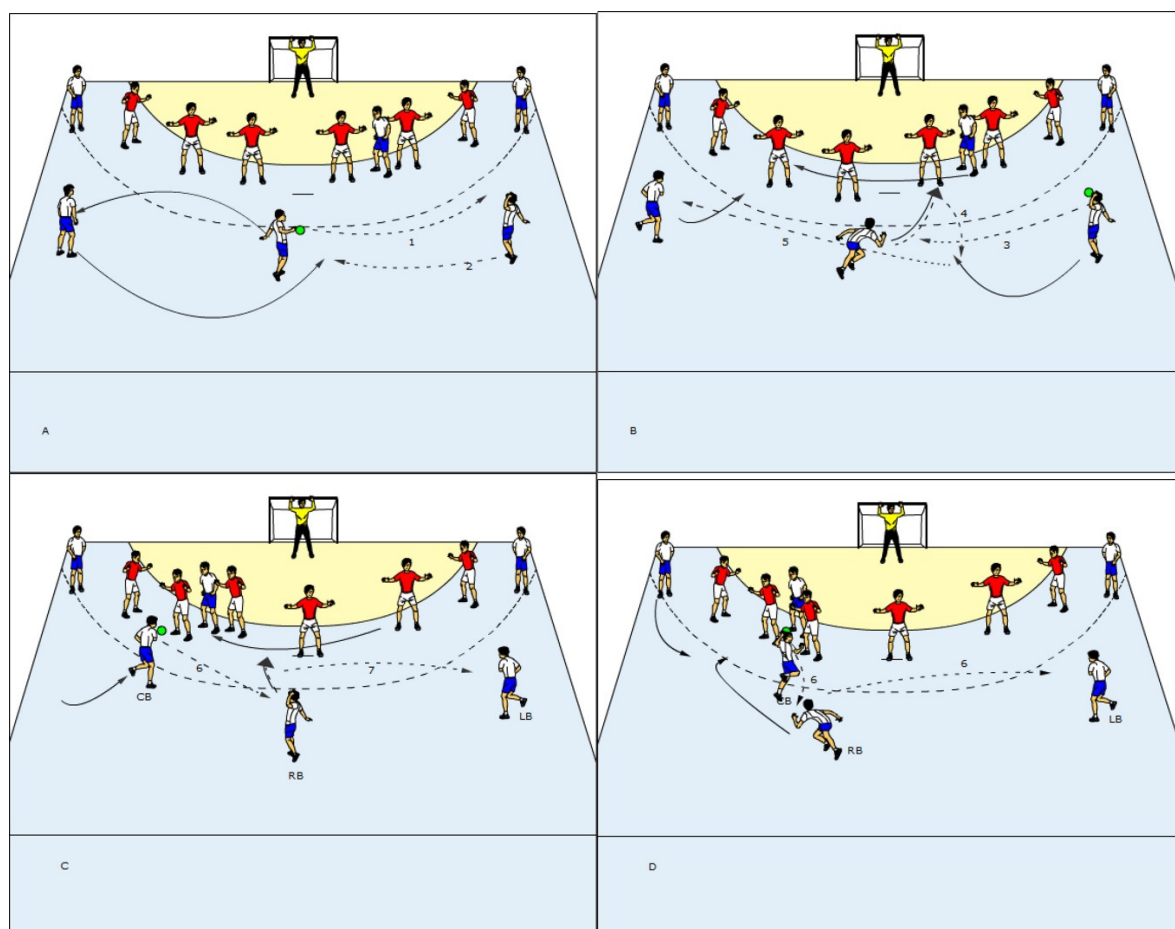
Title: Attack vs. 6:0 zone defence (close defence).

Introduction

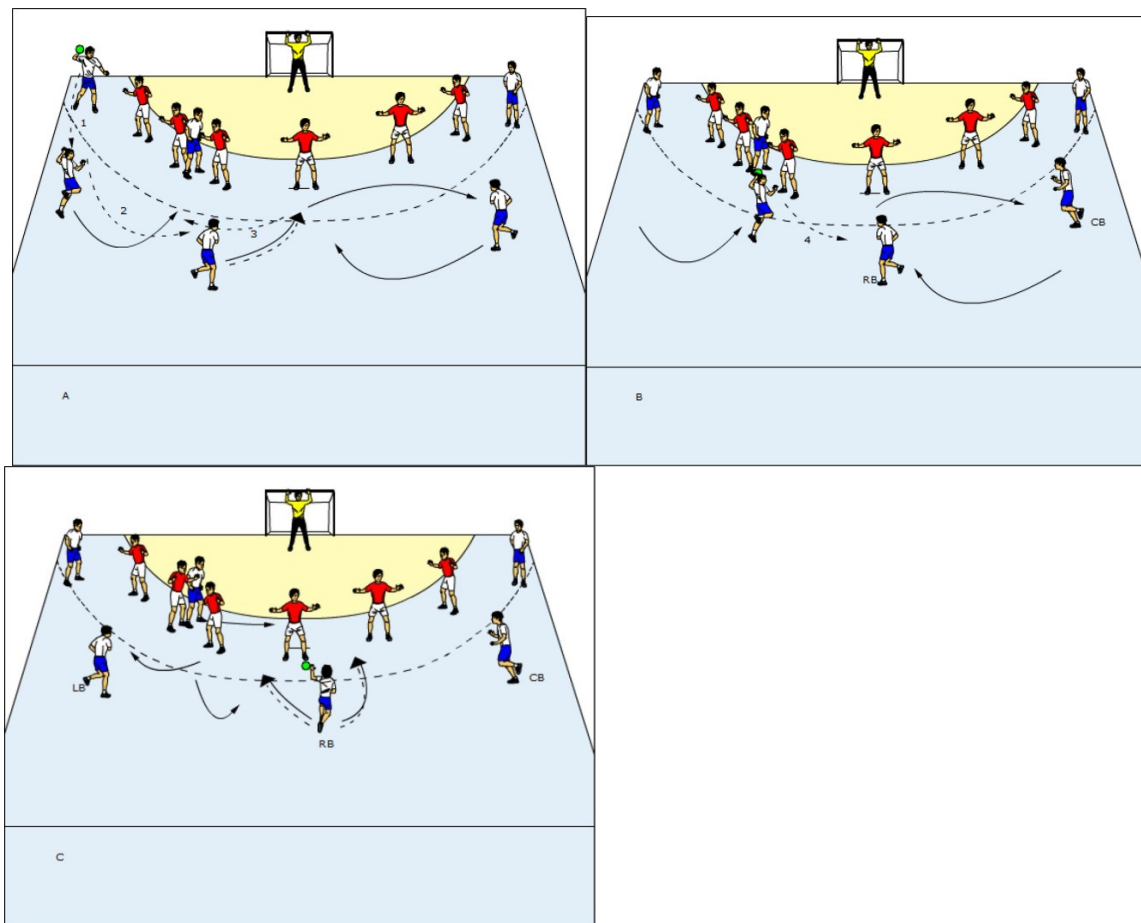
In this contribution basic attack tactic vs. 6:0 zone defences will be represented. Focus will be on the team tactic operations. Attacking tactic appropriate for different zone defences can be very different to each other. Thus for the game against close defence systems is characterised by several changes of positions between back court players, many consecutive passes from piston movement, crossing, return passes and sometimes even transition to second pivot (even if that is more convenient for the attack against open defence systems). I'll try to present basic tactical solutions from every above described area. By all tactical combinations is very important position of the pivot that support back court players actions. Excellent ball handling and god agility of attackers (piston movements) is necessary for execution of all tactical means used against zone defence.

1. Changing positions among back court players.

Two examples are presented.

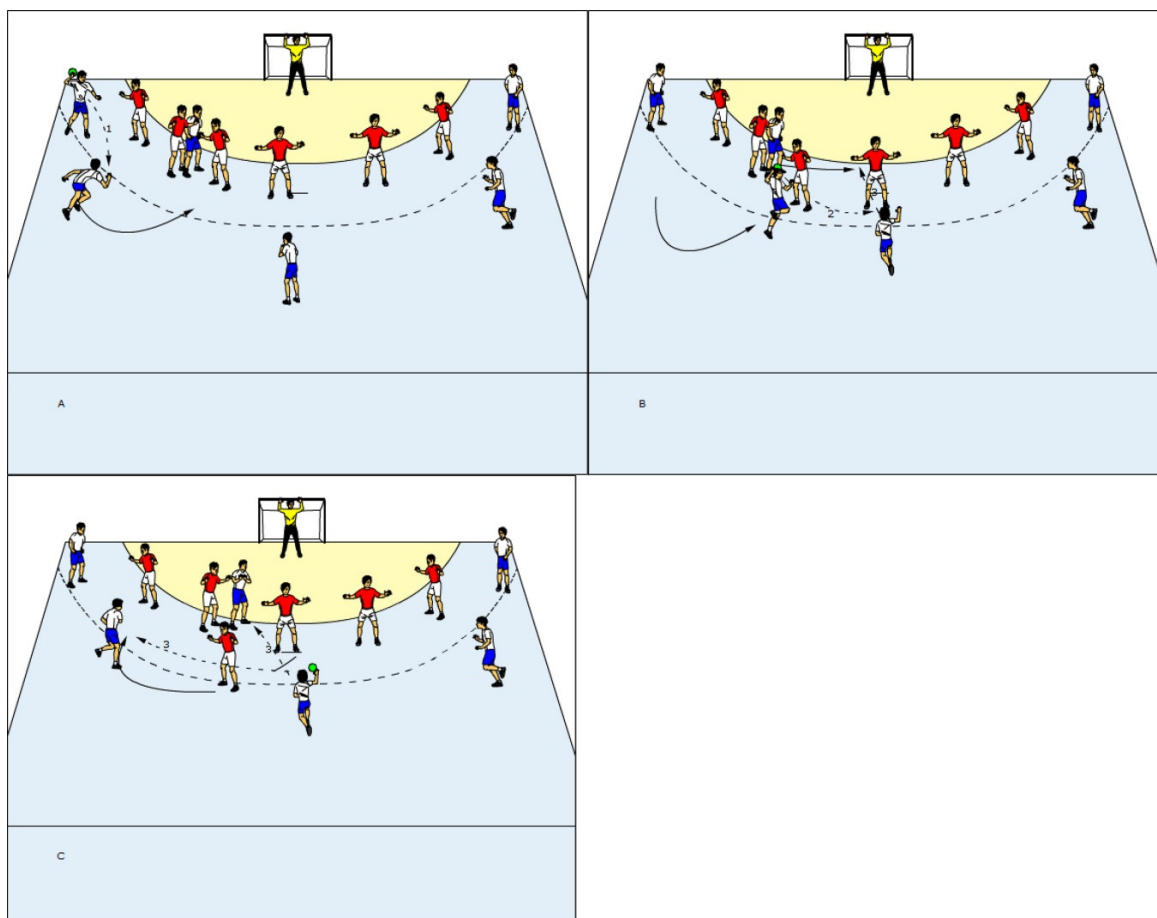


Example 1: Pivot's position is between ML and CL defender. CB attacker passes the ball to the RB and change position with LB who runs into the center of the playground. RB passes the ball to him and then they try to execute crossing (Figures A and B). RB continues attack with the pass to CB (who is on the position of the LB). In this moment is very important that P try to run behind defenders and reach the position behind mid-right defender. There are many variations for continuing attack – CB passes the ball to P or make return pass to RB or even cross with the RB on the position of LB (Figures C and D). All these actions create logic situations in which attacker can chose correct decisions according to the reaction of the defenders.



Example 2: In this case LB (RB) pass the ball to CB who performs a return pass toward him. LB makes a good run in without the ball and receives the ball and try to provoke that RC defender make a step forward – thus deliberate a space for P (Figures A and B). CB and RB change their positions and RB receives the pass from LB (Figure B). RB has than different possibilities to continue the play - to play in different directions with LB, to passes to pivot or to makes a return pass to CB.

2. Return passes.

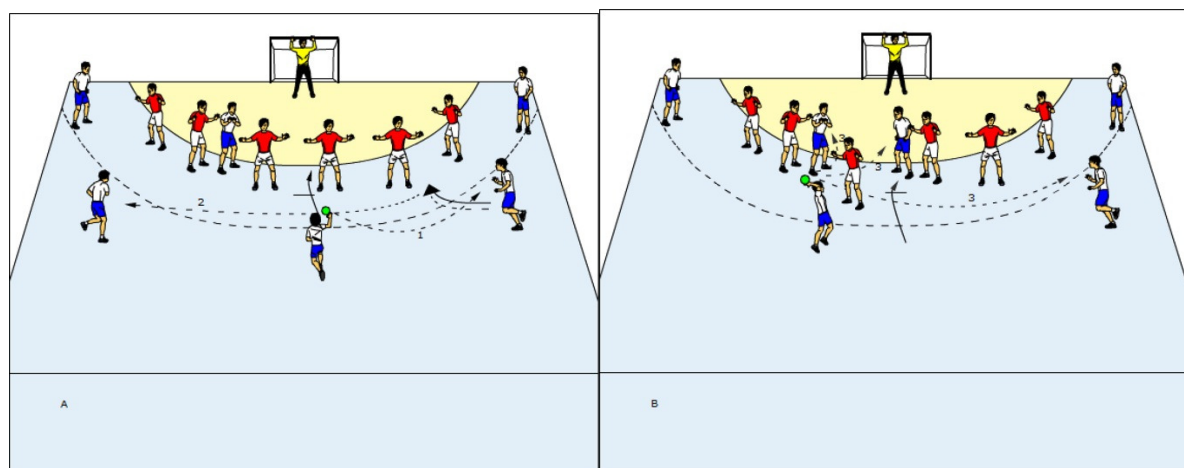


The term ‘return pass’ refers to the passing back of the ball to the team-mate from whom the ball was received. Return passes were regarded as an important tactical action in offence against a zone defence already decades ago. The ball can be passed between back players (e.g. LB – CB – LB), between back players and wings (e.g. LW – LB – LW) and between back players and the pivot (e.g. CB – PI – CB). Development of the game of handball has brought about several variants of return passes and different ways of executing them. Hence, in modern elite handball one can see a great diversity of the types and ways of the execution of return passes by offensive players. Through the use of return passes they take defenders by surprise and turn to their advantage flaws in the action of an individual player or in the concerted action of the team. The creative use of return passes renders the offence less predictable and thus more effective, as the defenders’ capacity to anticipate the course of the offence is limited. The players frequently change the direction of their movement after passing the ball or prior to receiving a pass. The movement of both players taking part in a return pass must be co-ordinated and tactically correct. Following a pass, the passer can move closer to the receiver or move further away from them. The same applies to the receiver – they can move in the direction of the passed ball or in the opposite direction. They can also penetrate in depth, towards the goal-area line. The ability to rapidly change the direction of movement (i.e. agility) is very important, along with the tactical adjustment of an offensive player’s movement in line with the positioning and movement of defenders. Short sprints with efficient acceleration and deceleration actions represent the basis of correctly executed return

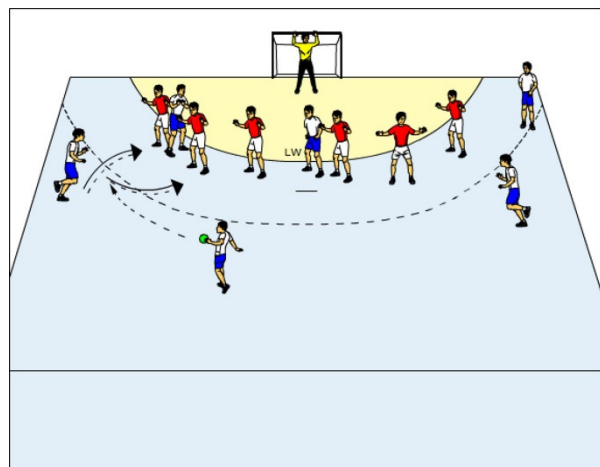
passes. A return pass between LB and CB is presented in a combination with a position of the pivot player who supports the action between LB and CB.

3. Transition to attack with the two pivots.

Even if the 6:0 defense is considered as a closed zone defense there are many tactical options for attack with two pivots (what is more common for attack against open defenses). Two different examples are presented.



Example 1: CB passes the ball to RB and run toward the six-meter line (between right and left center defender). RB, immediately after receiving the ball, passes further to LB who makes a piston movement toward right center defender. With this action he try to provoke defenders step forward and then he try to make a pass to one of the pivots or back to RB.

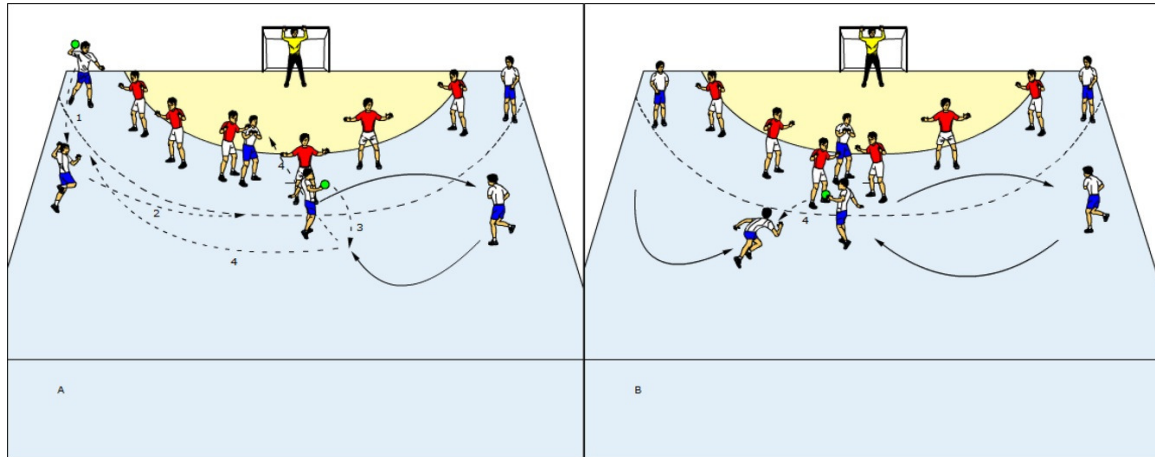


Example 2: In this case pivot's position is between outside right and mid-right defenders. LW is a player who makes a run-in and takes a position of second pivot between right and left center defender. CB passes the ball back to LB and he makes a piston movement toward defense and tries to establish play with a pivot.



4. Crossing.

Perhaps crossing among back court players is the most convenient tactical mean used in attack against 6:0 defense. Many options for crossing are possible. Most common is crossing between CB and LB or RB.



In a present case a simple crossing between CB and RB is described. CB tries to engage left center defender with a feint and passes the ball to RB who runs toward him (Figure A). After receiving a ball RB has a different possibilities (make a simple pass to LB, crossing with LB, return pass to CB, pass to pivot).