

2014 "RINCK" Convention and the Open EHF  
Master Coach & Licensing Course

# DEFENSE SYSTEMS USED AT THE MEN'S TOURNAMENT OF THE LONDON 2012 OG

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# Participants OG 2013 – Man's tournament

Group A	Group B
FRA	ESP
SWE	CRO
ISL	HUN
GBR	DEN
ARG	KOR
TUN	SRB



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## Final Standing

1. <b>FRA - France</b>	7. ESP - Spain
2. SWE - Sweden	8. TUN - Tunisia
3. <b>CRO – Croatia</b>	9. SRB – Serbia
4. HUN – Hungary	10. ARG – Argentina
5. ISL – Island	11. KOR – Korea
6. DEN - Denmark	12. GBR – Great Britain



## Defence set-play

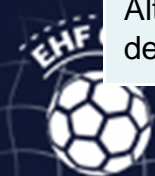
The predominant types of zonal or combined defence formations used by OG 2012 participants:

- 6:0
- 5:1
- Less frequently or only in exceptional cases:
  - 4:2
  - 5+1
  - 3:3



## The predominant types of zonal or combined defense formations in the OG 2012 – ALL TEAMS

Basic defence	6:0	5:1	3:2:1	3:3	5+1	4:2
	DEN	SWE*		KOR	GBR	
	HUN	TUN				
	FRA	ARG				
	ESP	CRO*				
	ISL					
	SWE*					
	SRB					
	CRO*					
Alternative defence	TUN					ARG



## Defence set-play in quarterfinal, semi-final and final matches

<b>Quarterfinal matches</b>		
1.	ISL (6:0) – HUN (6:0)	33 : 34
2.	ESP (6:0) – FRA (6:0)	22 : 23
3.	SWE (5:1) – DEN (6:0)	24 : 22
4.	CRO (6:0) – TUN (5:1)	25 :23
<b>Semi-final matches</b>		
1.	HUN (6:0) – SWE (5:1)	26 : 27
2.	FRA (6:0) – CRO (5:1 and 6:0)	25 : 22
<b>Final matches</b>		
1.	HUN (6:0) – CRO (5:1 and 6:0)	26 : 33 (bronze medal match)
2	SWE (6:0) – FRA (6:0)	21 : 22 (gold medal match)



## Set-zone defence 6:0

- It has grown to almost the whole of Europe (or the world), and is not limited to the more traditional countries (especially Scandinavian countries and Germany).
- In recent years it has developed substantially:
  - Deep aggressive approach to the good shooters – even very tool defenders (very little was left from "blocking" way of playing this zone).
  - Anticipate the development of game situations and the demolition of the concept of co-operation among the attackers - even against attackers who do not have the ball - defenders at position outside- and mid-defender (anticipation, the different "cut" of back and also wing players).
  - Classical performance is upgraded with improvisation.



- Successful are various types of players at different positions - even slightly lower players with lower body weight.
- Almost all teams change at least one player at positions Centre left and Centre right.



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## Set-zone defence 5:1

- Long tradition and high prevalence all over Europe, particularly in Spain, France, and Russia. Very good excepted in rest of the world.
- In recent years without the appropriate development and attention (as opposed to 6:0).
- Remains at the standard solutions from the past:
  - different variants of transformation when opponent's play with second pivot (transition to 5+1 or 4:1 +1 or 4:2);
  - center can acts with a deep, aggressive approach to a dangerous shooter, or acts according to the principles of zone 3:2:1;
  - forward can play very creative;
  - outside players on the opposite side of the ball permanently try to be in a position which prevents long passes from one to another back player (anticipation);
  - successful different types of players at different positions.



## Set-zone defence 3:2:1

- In recent years it's popularity is decreasing – especially in top-level handball,
- Consequently, these zonal defence at the OG 2012 was not used by any team - nor as basic neither as alternative solution;
- It's main qualities - aggressiveness, depth, creativity, offering the attacker (especially back players) shots from difficult situations – are now also in the concept of a zone 6:0 and 5:1;
- In spite of that it will remain important zone defence for the teams which traditionally master this type of defence – it may represent a certain advantage;
- That's why more and more countries involve it as an important part of tactical in technical knowledge in different periods of the young players development - knowledge of playing in the defence of 3:2:1 can help later in other zones.



## Set-zone defence 3:3

- In Europe, in the top handball hardly used;
- Traditionally used by Koreans national teams (even younger age categories);
- Through the play of the defence they try to somehow compensate the lack of height and weight;
- Too much space for skilful attackers with well developed individual and team tactic abilities;
- It'll remain very important for young age categories, but with no future in top level senior handball.



## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Generally play in defence is based on the following principles:
  - Equality by providing the depth, width and density of defence regardless of baseline selected defensive formation;
  - Great aggressiveness and sharpness in the play 1:1, where the offenses are at the limit of the "game against an opponent." The all permitted and impermissible means (pulling and pushing the players with or without the ball, ...);
  - With constant and quick fouls break up organization of attacks and so bring the attackers in time pressure;
  - Anticipation of attackers performance (especially those based on the most typical activities undertaken by individual attackers and the team used), and empathy in their play. This enables the reactions in a due time.



- Great emphasis on the play against the attackers without the ball, which could be dangerous in the following actions - (e.g. preventing or hindering run-in of wing or back players who want to reach the position of second pivot);
- Almost all the best teams have defence specialists who has almost no playing time in attack. They usually cover the most important positions and are pillars who underpinning the operation of their defences.
- Due to the lack of time for the common preparation of the National teams trainers are forced to develop a model of defence play in accordance with the habits of players from their clubs (Example – Sweden played 5:1 with excellent forward Källman who had great experience in this set-defence from his club)



## Return into set-zone defence (transitional phase)

- Basic objective of most teams is to form set-zone defence as soon as possible (quick run into defence to occupy their basic playing positions in the zone defence);
- In the cases when it's situational reasonable players attempt to break the opponent's counterattack already on their half of the court;
- Some teams use a combination - 3 or 4 players try to return as quickly as possible to the starting playing positions in the zone, 2 or 3 players have the task to prevent the development of the counterattack across the playing court;
- Goalkeeper also provide a significant support to the returning players. He leaves his area and tries to intercept a long pass near to goalkeeper's area - despite the change in the rules.



# Goalkeeper

- The role of the goalkeeper is becoming increasingly important;
- Individual preparation becomes more and more important for goalkeepers. Their training often differs significantly from the preparation of the other players;
- In the recent period almost all top teams rely on one excellent keeper even if they have also very good second or third keeper – less changes as in the past;
- Some goalkeepers make better performance when their team play a certain zone defence - e. g. – 6:0;
- Typological differences are getting smaller, the same is valid for the technique and tactics of defending - the different schools merge with each other, collected the best for build-up a universal, global "school" of defending;...



- Empathy in the shooter and "reading" his intentions is based on a different analysis of the shooters abilities, and awareness of shooter opportunities regardless to his position;
- Extremely important is collaboration between keeper and defenders by blocking the shoots



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Thank you very much for your  
attention!



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