

2016 EHF "Rinck" Convention Open Master Coach and Licensing Course

3:2:1 ZONE DEFENCE

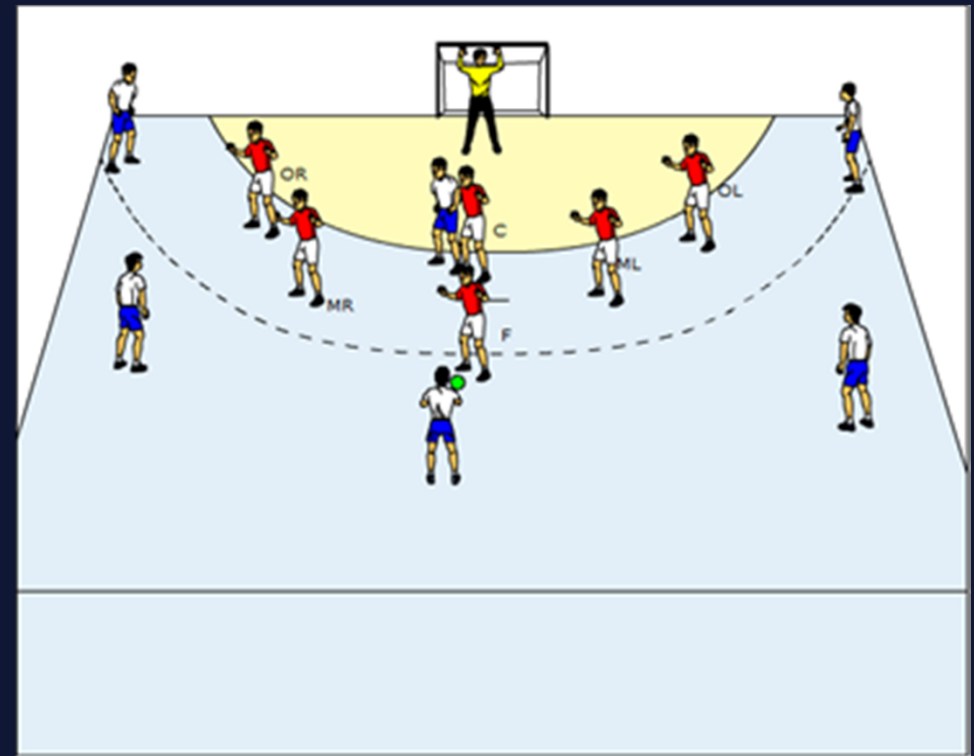
Marko Šibila

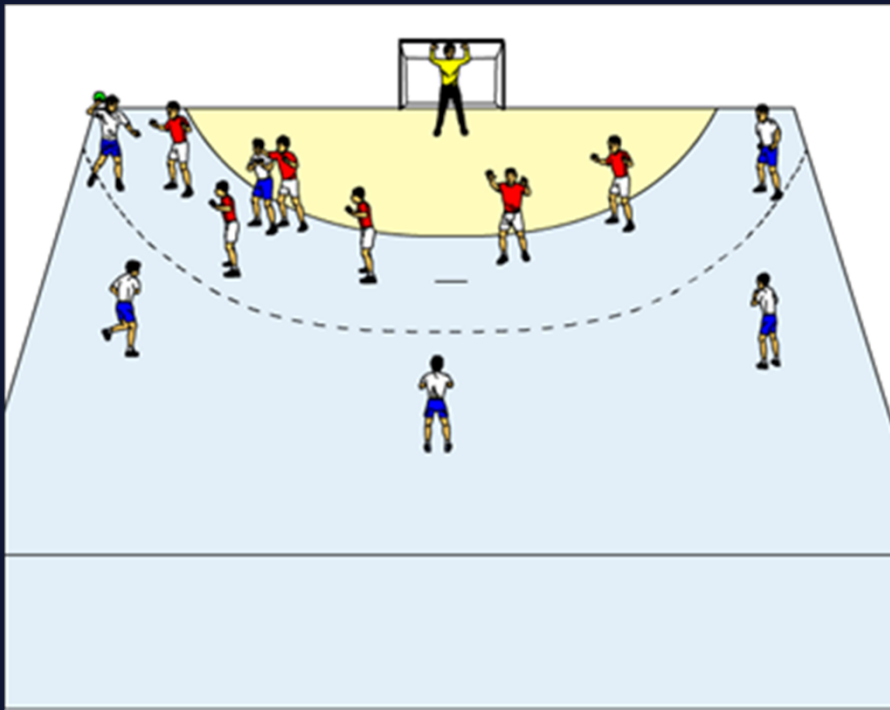


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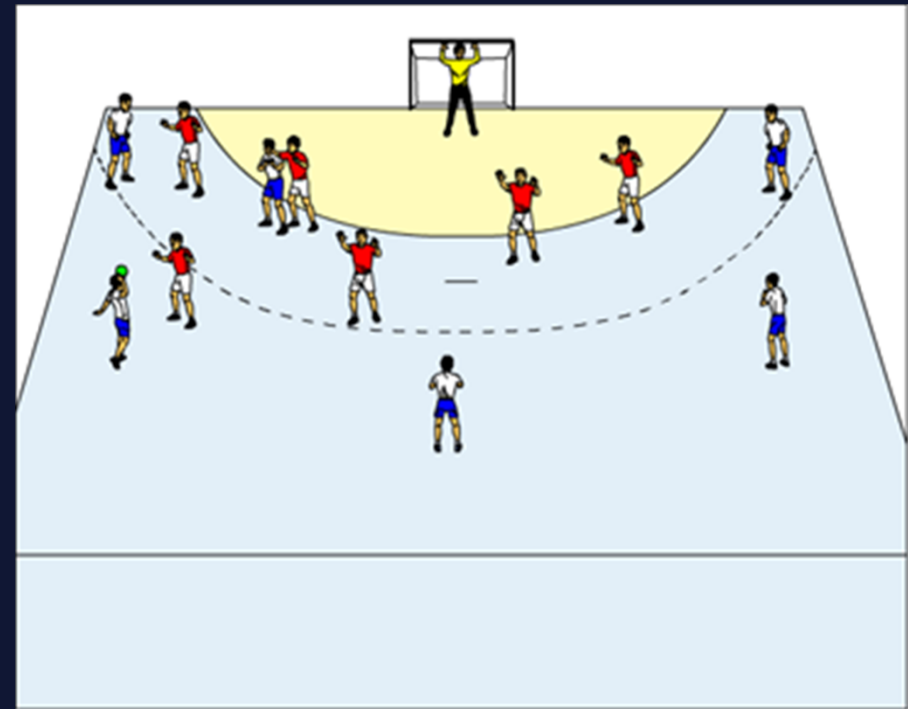


- Zone defence 3:2:1 is considering as an open zone formation, because some of the players already in their basic (initial) position stand apart from the six meters line, moved forward in a playing field. Players stands in their basic position in three lines (some authors describe it as two lines) and formed a kind of triangle.





Player's basic position in 3:2:1 zone defence when the ball is on the wing.



Player's basic position in 3:2:1 zone defence when the ball is in the possession of the back player.



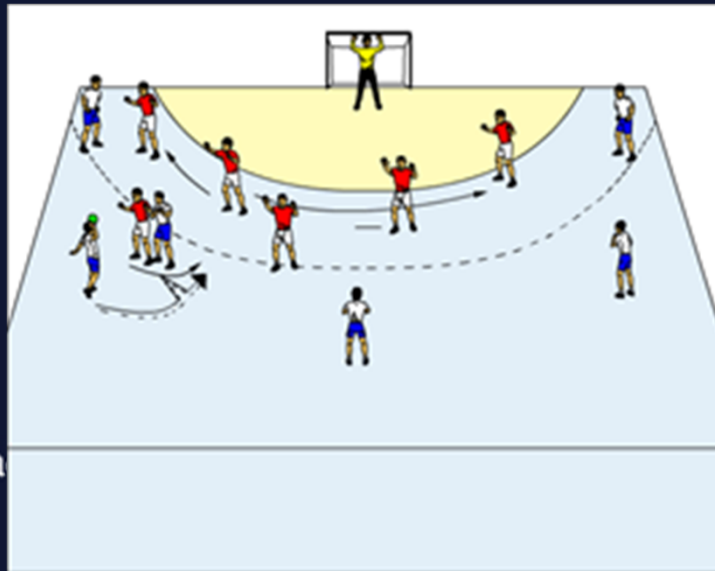
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- This defence formation demands, a part of an excellent individual performance, very good collaboration among all players (team and group tactic).
- All the players have to respect certain rules at their actions. Only in this case we can aspect success with this defence.
- The main task of the OR and OL is to provide a good width of the zone and to prevent shoots from the wing position.
- With this purpose they use especially side acting along the six meters line.
- Rarely and only as an exception (when they have to correct the mistake of other players) they act also in depth.
- So they don't have a task to hinder a pass between back player in attack and wing player.
- They have a very important role at guarding the pivot player, especially when he moves in a very width position.



- Center defender's primary task is to guard a pivot player (in collaboration with other players).
- At the same time C also help other players in emergency cases - he's some kind of corrector and leader of the defence ("libero").
- In principle he's actions are limited to movements beside six meters line.
- Even when pivots try to blockade MR, ML or F defenders. C can remain beside the six meters line and control the situation from that position. In this case MR, ML and F defenders are obligated to avoid blockade and act properly against their back court attacker.

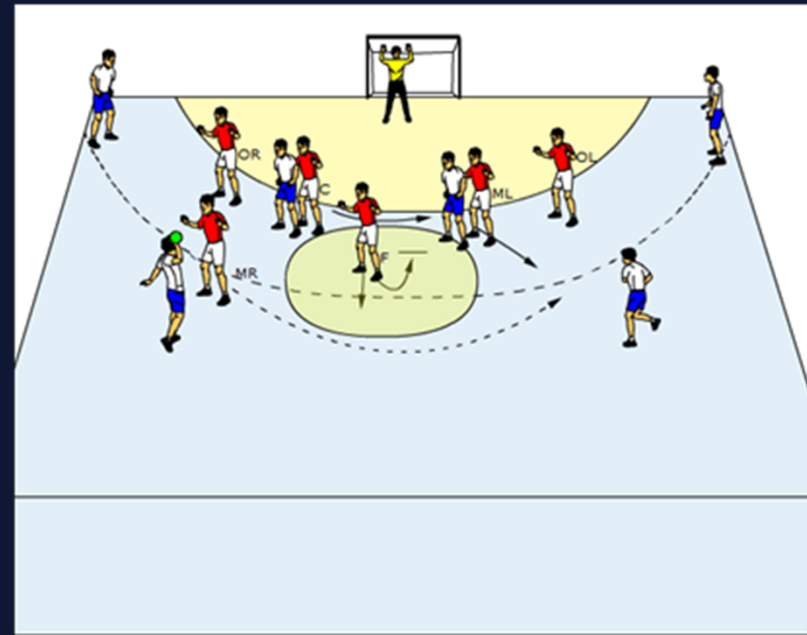


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- The very special problem of this defence formation is the transformation of attack in a play with two pivots. Even when one of the attackers simply runs in that create great problems.
- In that case defenders have to change a little beat their motion and tasks if they want to keep the efficiency of defence.

Collaboration among defenders has to be excellent, especially by guarding pivot players. First task of the defenders is to make difficult run in of the attackers. They can perform that action with their bodies in accordance with rules. The main aim of this action is that attackers arrive at a right position with a certain delay.



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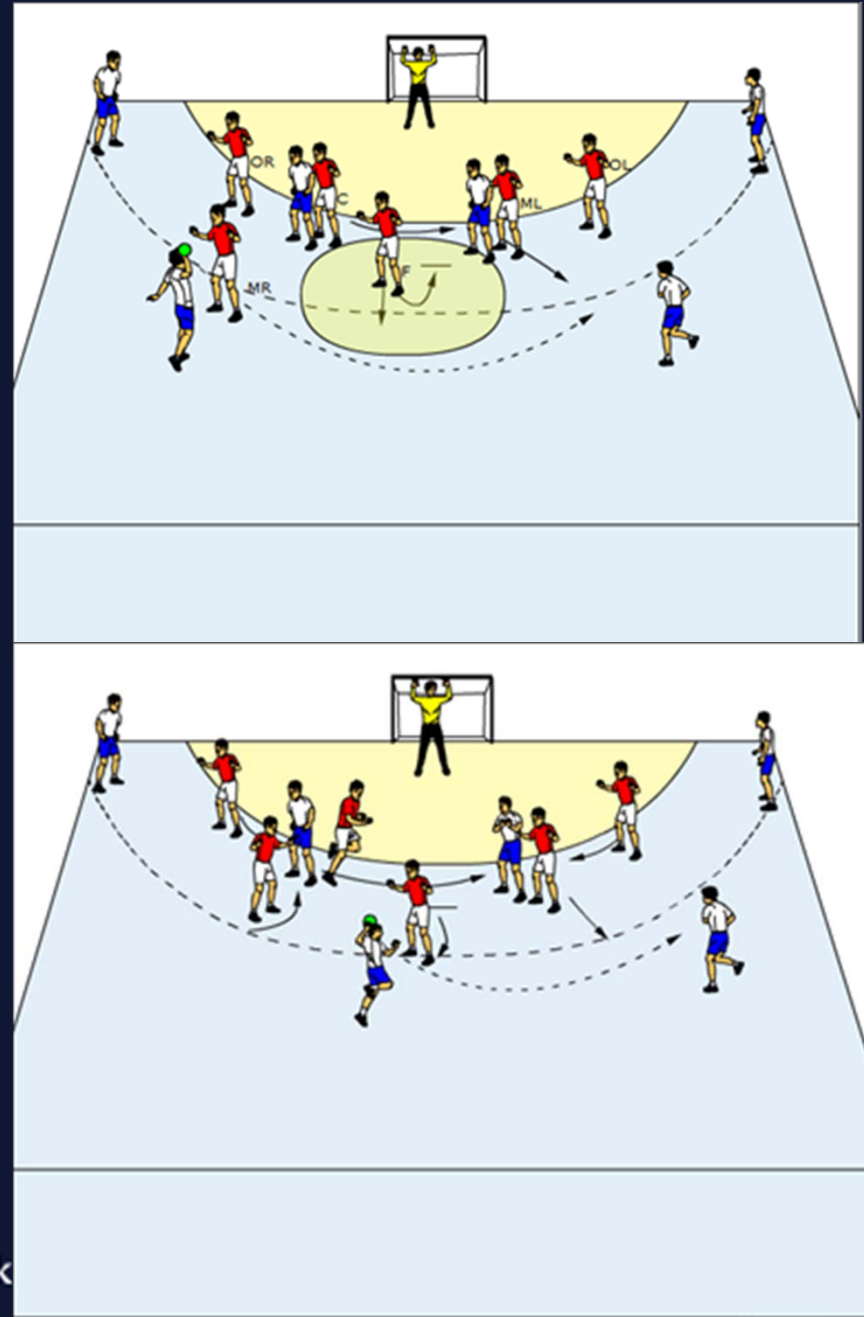
The role of F defender changes the most and became very special.

Usually he remains without an opponent against whom he has to act, because in the middle of the playing court is empty place (CB is on a pivot position).

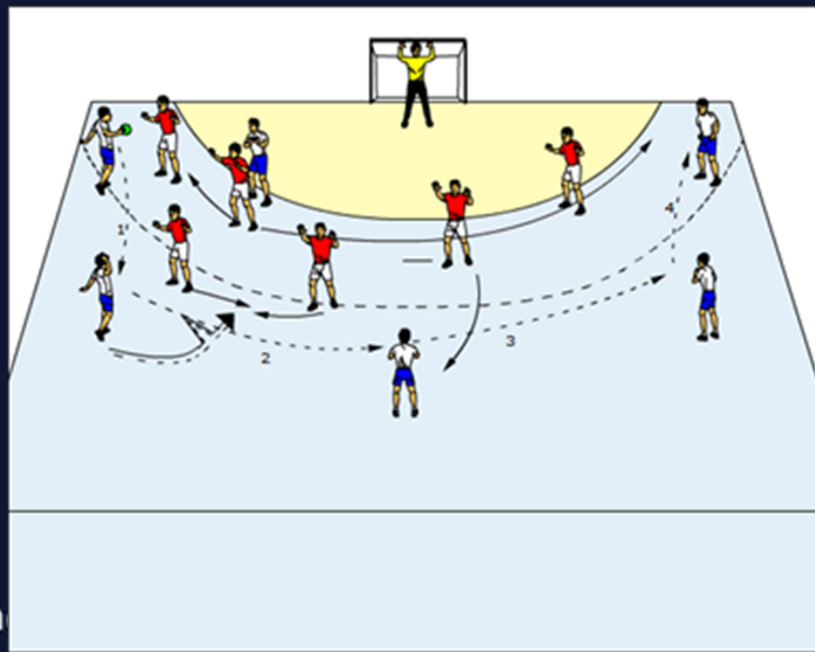
But he has many different tasks which he has to fulfil. In the first moment he has to move back towards a six meters line (7-8 m) and help to prevent the pass to a pivot player who is on the diagonal position.

He also has to master the space at the center of the playing court.

So if the back player makes his penetration toward the center he has to move very quickly against him and try to prevent a shoot from distance (9 meter).



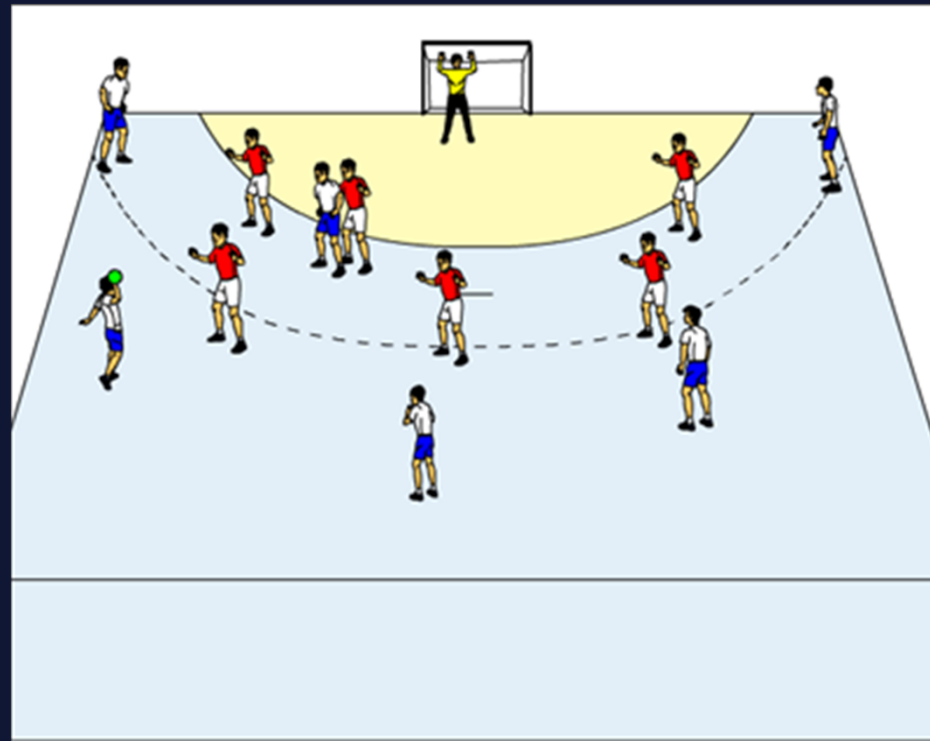
- Players have to respect some basic rules how to help each other when the attackers win an advantage against certain defender.
- Basically MR and ML help OR and OL players if the wing penetrates to center; F help MR and ML if the back court attackers penetrate to center and MR and ML help F defender if central back attacker penetrate between him and F. O defenders should help MR and ML defenders when they are forced to help F. And finally C tries to correct the situation on the line against wing player



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- Beside the described way of acting, players in 3:2:1 zone defence may sometimes situational play more open and more aggressive. It's properly especially when the opponents try to attack without transformation in game with two pivots and back players are not mobile enough.



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Conclusion

- Handball made a great progress in recent years and also 3:2:1 zone defence changed considerably.
- However basic idea how to play this zone defence remained almost the same and is still in accordance with the modern approach how to play an open defence.
- With its basic layout allows defenders aggressive operations against the back court attackers as well as sufficient high density beside the goalkeepers area where the possibility to score the goal is the highest.
- Zone defence 3:2:1 has certain tactical advantages:
 - High aggressiveness toward the back players who can't perform (or are limited) the shots from a distance;



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- Favors of certain type of Goalkeepers who's abilities are appropriate for preventing a shots from wing and pivot position or from the penetration through the defence;
- Faster transition from defence to counterattack in the case of winning the ball, thus players score easier and more often goals in fast attack;
- Quick interruption of opponents attack (when they try to have a fluid ball flow) especially against teams which want to score goals with a shoots from a distance.



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Thank you very much for your
attention!



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