

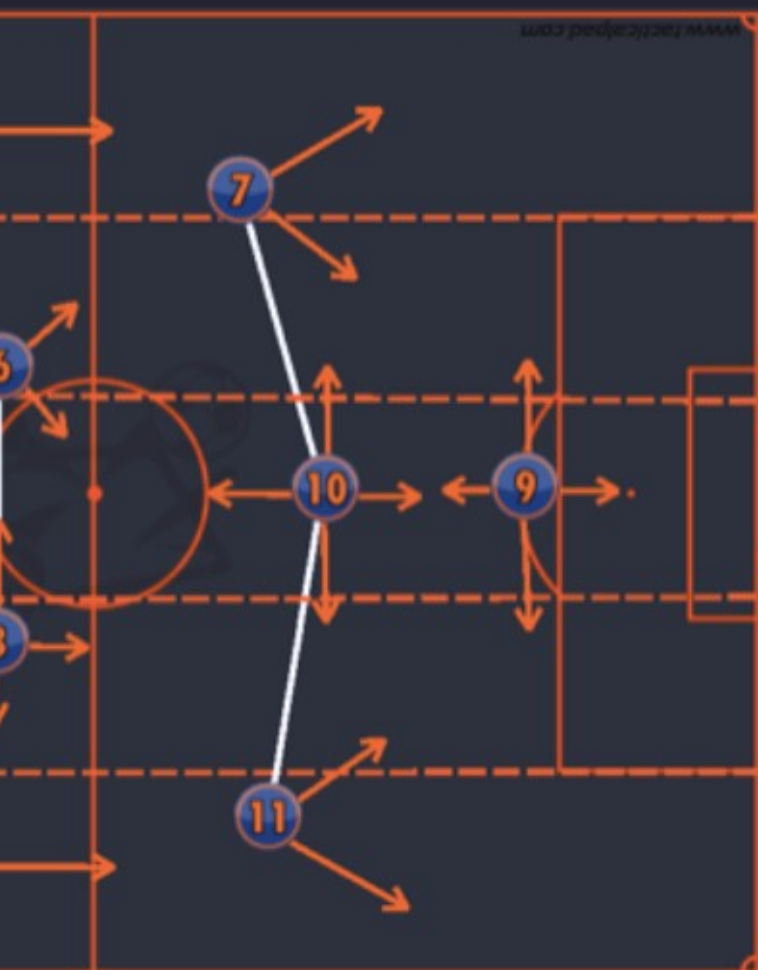
STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE 4-2-3-1

THE 4-2-3-1 IS ARGUABLY THE MOST FLEXIBLE FORMATION IN FOOTBALL
IT CAN SHIFT TO A NUMBER OF OTHER SHAPES WHEN IN SPECIFIC
MATCH SITUATIONS (4-4-2, 4-3-3, 4-5-1, 4-4-1-1)

NATURAL STRENGTHS

TYPICAL SET-UP

STRENGTHS



- THE 4-2-3-1 IS A VERY FLEXIBLE STRATEGY THAT CAN ADAPT ITS SHAPE TO FIT A SPECIFIC MATCH SITUATION.
- THE 6&8 OFFER ADDED PROTECTION TO THE BACK FOUR, AND CAN COVER MORE SPACE LATERALLY TO SCREEN THE DEFENCE.
- THE DOUBLE PIVOT OFFER GOOD PASSING ANGLES WHEN BUILDING THE ATTACK FROM DEEP.
- THE NUMBER TEN IN THIS SYSTEM IS THE LINK FROM THE DEEPER MIDFIELDERS TO THE FORWARDS. THE SYSTEM PROMOTES A NATURAL NUMBER 10 POSITION IN ZONE 14.
- THE WIDER PLAYERS (FB&WM'S) ACT AS A PAIR FOR EXTRA DEFENSIVE COVER TO PROTECT AGAINST AN OVERLOAD OUT WIDE.
- THE FB'S CAN BE GIVEN MORE LICENCE TO ATTACK WITH THE INCLUSION OF TWO DEEPER MIDFIELDERS.
- WM'S CAN INVERT TO CREATE OVERLOADS IN THE HALF-SPACE WITH WIDTH OFFERED BY FB'S.
- THE CF IS SUPPORTED BY THREE ATTACKING MIDFIELDERS.