

CHAPTER 2: PRE MATCH SET-UP



Confucious -

"Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure."

CHAPTER INTRODUCTION

We want to give you the best opportunity to win before the match has even begun. If you go into the game with an understanding of teams, formations, and tactics then you give yourself the upperhand on the opponent. Read this chapter carefully and refer back to this area when you find yourself in a cold streak.

Top Teams To Use

1. Real Madrid
(Spain - Liga BBVA)



2. FC Bayern
(Germany - Bundesliga)



3. Barcelona
(Spain - Liga BBVA)



4. PSG
(France - Ligue 1)



5. Manchester City
(England - Barclays PL)



International: Brazil

4.5 Stars: Arsenal
(England - Barclays PL)

4 Stars: Udinese
(Italy - Serie A)

3.5 Stars: Santos
(Brazil - Brasileao)

3 Stars: RB Salzburg
(Austria - Bundesliga)

2 Stars: R Chorzow
(Poland - Ekstraklasa)

1 Star: Burton Albion
(England - League 2)

Team 1 • Real Madrid • 5 Stars

Key Additions: Isco & Gareth Bale

Offensive Scouting Report:

- Bale and Ronaldo form the most dominant attacking duo in FIFA 14
- Di Mari and Modric are great passers

Defensive Scouting Report:

- Khedira and Alonso can be easily blown past by a faster player
- Ramos is great against headers in the box



Real Madrid Line-Up

Formation: 3-5-2



Name	Position	OVR
Casillas	GK	86
Pepe	RCB	82
Sergio Ramos	CB	86
Marcelo	LCB	83
Alonso	RDM	85
Khedira	LDM	84
Di Maria	RM	86
L. Modric	LM	87
K. Benzema	CAM	85
G. Bale	RS	87
Cristiano Ronaldo	LS	93

Team 2 • FC Bayern • 5 Stars

Key Additions: Mario Götze and Thiago Alcântara

Offensive Scouting Report:

- The star player is Franck Ribery with deceptive dribbling and quick feet; he is a nightmare for opponents.
- The weakest point in their attack is the striker Mandzukic.

Defensive Scouting Report:

- Key to their performance is the left-back David Alaba.
- Counter-attacks often start with the speedy Lahm.

Formation: 4-2-3-1



FC Bayern Line-up

Name	Position	OVR
Neuer	GK	86
Lahm	RB	87
Boateng	RCB	81
Dante	LCB	84
Alaba	LB	81
Schweinsteiger	RDM	88
Kroos	LDM	84
Robben	RAM	88
Muller	CAM	85
Ribery	LAM	90
Mandzukic	ST	83

Team 3 • Barcelona • 5 Stars

Key Additions: Neymar

Offensive Scouting Report:

- Messi is the warrior at the heart of the Barca offense
- The offense is built around high percentage passes all over the pitch

Defensive Scouting Report:

- The defenders like Pique have the skills to play like forwards on other teams
- Dani Alves can cover the entire right side of the pitch

Formation: 4-3-3



Barcelona Line-up



Name	Position	OVR
Valdes	GK	83
Alves	RB	84
Pique	RCB	86
Mascherano	LCB	84
Alba	LB	82
Busquets	CDM	85
Fabregas	RCM	86
Iniesta	LCM	89
Messi	CF	94
Pedro	RW	85
Neymar	LW	84

Team 4 • Paris Saint-Germain • 5 Stars

Key Additions: Edison Cavani & Marquinhos

Offensive Scouting Report:

- Ibrahimovic is one of the best finishers in the game
- Cavani's weakness is in passing

Defensive Scouting Report:

- They are strong in the air with defending against headers
- Silva is one of the best CB's in the game
- All defenders have high marking ratings, allowing the computer control the players more often



Formation: 4-1-3-2

Paris Saint-Germain Line-Up



Name	Position	OVR
S. Sirigu	GK	85
Marquinhos	RB	78
Alex	RCB	82
Thiago Silva	LCB	89
Maxwell	LB	77
T. Motta	CDM	80
Lucas	RM	83
B. Matuidi	CM	83
E. Lavezzi	LM	85
Z. Ibrahimovic	RS	91
E. Cavani	LS	87

Team 5 • Manchester • City 5 Stars

Key Additions: Fernandinho & Jesus Navas

Offensive Scouting Report:

- Agüero and Navas provide speed up front
- They are not great at shooting from long distances

Defensive Scouting Report:

- Lescott's a liability to the defense with a lack of speeding and heading.
- Clichy is the only defender that can be overpowered by the attacker



Manchester City Line-Up

Formation: 4-1-3-2



Name	Position	OVR
J. Hart	GK	85
P. Zabaleta	RB	82
V. Kompany	RCB	86
J. Lescott	LCB	81
G. Clichy	LB	81
Jesus Navas	CDM	84
Fernandinho	RM	81
Y. Toure	CM	86
David Silva	LM	88
E. Dzeko	RS	83
S. Agüero	LS	87

Top Formations

Attacking: 3-5-2



Counter-Attacking: 4-1-3-2



Defensive: 5-4-1



Attacking Formation: 3-5-2



Teams: Bayern Munich and Real Madrid

Strengths: This formation congests the middle of the pitch making it difficult to keep possession.

Weaknesses: Your backline can be torn apart easily because of their lack of support.

Tips: Use the 2 CDM's to push back effectively making them CB's similar to a 5 at the back formation. The best way to utilize this formation is to pass the ball in your attacking half of the field.

With multiple passing options you can be unpredictable with your attack

How To Beat The 3-5-2

1. ATTACKING FROM THE WINGS

The 3-5-2 formation has no fullbacks which really leaves it open on both wings. The formation also tends to play a high line, leaving it vulnerable for over the top through balls.

2. USING THE EDGE OF THE BOX

When you're in the space on the wings, your opponent will do their utmost to stop a cross from coming in. This means they will be watching the player with the ball, and players in the box. However, there will be a couple of your players around the edge of the box which they won't really be focused on.

The attack starts out on the wing and then there's a pass inside to what's usually the CAM/CF but on the odd occasions it will be a CDM. There is one very important thing to remember when you do this, do not take more than one touch with the player, first time passes are priority. The first pass will drag one of your opponents CDM's out which leaves some space, the pass from your CF will be to your striker, now comes the important part.

3. USING THE FAKE SHOT

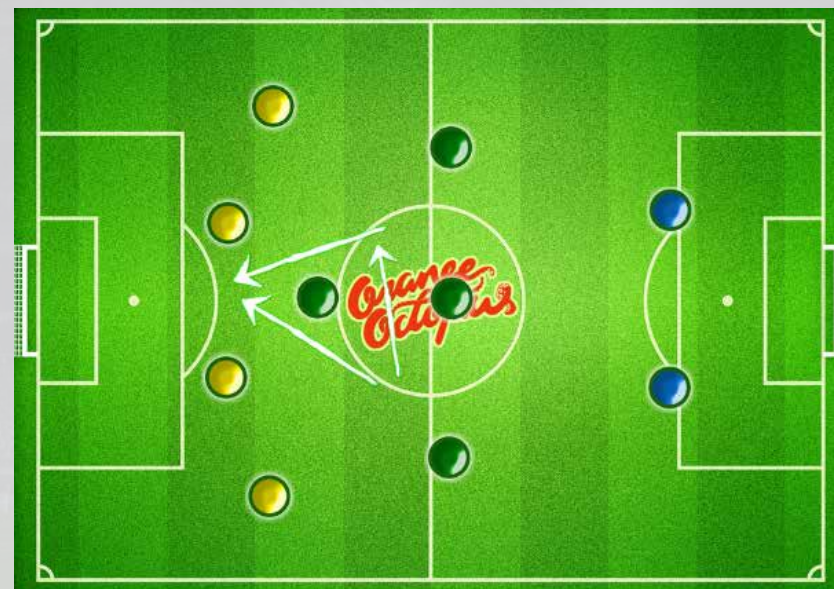
When the ball is going towards your striker, his first touch should be a fakes shot towards goal but away from the defender.

The second you have space and your facing goal, get a shot in.



Counter-Attack Formation: 4-1-3-2

How To Beat The 4-1-3-2



Teams: Paris Saint-Germain & Manchester City

Strengths: The three midfielders play farther forward and more aggressively. The midfielders are best used when setting up a counter attack

Weaknesses: Formation relies on a strong and talented defensive center midfielder.

Tips: This formation is best played very narrow, with vertical passes up the pitch.

BAMBOOZLE THE CDM

This defense relies heavily on the strength and positioning of the CDM. To get around the CDM, bamboozle him by using a skill move or fake shot. When given an opening, strike the ball with your attacker using the finesse shot.

Defensive Formation: 5-4-1



Teams: Playing with a team that is significantly overmatched.

Strengths: The other team has a lot less room to dribble and the number of defenders will surely syphon the attack.

Weaknesses: The 5-4-1 formation is frowned upon in the competitive FIFA scene.

Tips: You will be looking to counter-attack all the time with the one person up top.

How to Beat 5-4-1

1. SWITCH INTO AN ATTACKING FORMATION

You will need an attacking formation such as the 4-1-2-1-2 or the 3-5-2. Or you can switch into an attacking mentality. It does not really matter how poor you are defensively because you will not be tested much on defence.

2. SET TO "COUNTER ATTACK"

Use the D Pad to counter attack. What you want to do is, try and sucker your opponent into attacking. Give them the ball and try and let them get into your third of the pitch. You want your opposition to commit men forward into attack. After receiving the ball you can start your counter attack with a long pass up to your strikers.

3. ATTACKING FROM THE WINGS AND THEN CROSSING

Attacking down the center of the pitch against a 5-4-1 formation is not a good idea because there are too many players there, so attack down the wings. Try to start attacks with the wide midfielder and full back. Teaming up with the full backs is the easiest thing to do as they play down the same side of the pitch as the wide midfielder.



← Good Crossing Area ← Very Good Crossing Area ← Best Crossing Area

Custom Tactics

The most requested section from our readers was custom tactics. However, most tournaments do not allow players to set-up custom tactics and therefore the best players in the world do not use them.

In a normal game, you have the ability to build a custom tactic in the Team Management menu. Here is the recommended Custom Work Rates:

Recommended Custom Work Rates

	Attacking	Defensive
Full Backs	Medium	High
CB	Low	High
CDM	Low/Medium	High
CM	Medium	Medium/High
CAM	High	Low/Medium
Wingers	High	Low
ST/CF	High	Low