

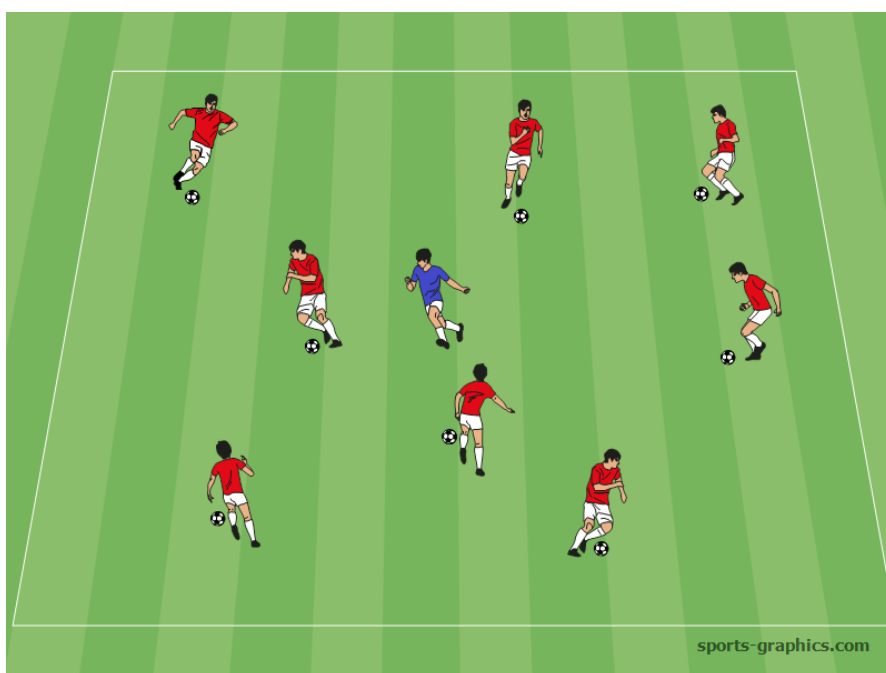
MAN IN THE MIDDLE FITNESS

To improve endurance for players to work at a higher intensity for longer periods

PHYSICAL

Conditioning

Aerobic Endurance



Set up an area 35x35 and give all players apart from one a ball.

The player without a ball is the Man in the Middle and their job is to win the ball from the players who are dribbling with the ball in the area.

The Man in the Middle will try to tackle, win the ball, force players out the area etc.

When successful, the running player must stand still with their legs apart and can only be freed if another player passes a ball between their legs and crawls under and through.

Regularly swap roles.

This is a continuous training practice ideal for early pre-season conditioning, active recovery sessions, or general aerobic work. Keep assessing the workload and duration to ensure maximum benefit for the players.

Ensure the level of physical activity is age and fitness level appropriate.

Important note: Overloading appropriately with adequate recovery will improve performance. Over training with inadequate recovery will result in decreased performance and burnout.

VARIATIONS AND PROGRESSIONS

Each practice can be varied to adapt to the needs of players. Simple changes can increase or decrease the challenge. Examples such as changing the rules, the size of the area, overloading the advantage of one team, varying the focus, or setting team challenges will keep players motivated and all attribute to good coaching methodology.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

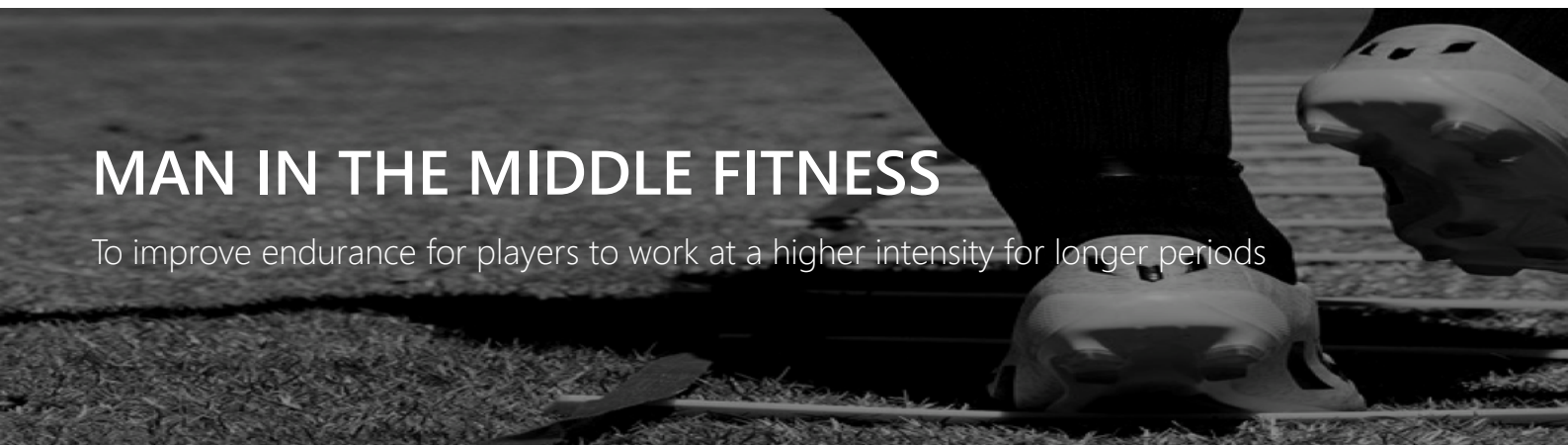
- To increase the capacity of muscle efficiency specifically used in football for prolonged periods.
- To maintain overall quality of performance.

KEY FACTORS

- Overload
- Progression
- Recovery
- Specific
- The coach must be flexible

FOCUS AREAS

- As the body adapts into a comfort zone, progress training by increasing the intensity or duration to overload.
- Endurance training must be strenuous enough to overload the aerobic system to take the body out of its comfort zone.
- Ensure players are moving the ball with quality.
- Ensure recovery and avoid over training or progressing too quickly.
- Ensure that players are moving the ball quickly.
- Ensure training is specific to football when possible.
- Keep planning flexible to allow players time to recover or lighten intensity for a week if necessary.



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