

## **SOCCER INTELLIGENCE FACTORS**

Soccer intelligence is primarily made up of anticipation and decision making skills. Anticipation necessitates the player's ability to read the game and perceive ahead of time what the opponents or team-mates are likely to do. Decision making necessitates that players select and execute an action based on current circumstances on the field of play.

### **THE HOW COMES FIRST**

It's important for coaches to first help players develop the ability to execute skills before worrying about the *when* and *where*.

### **VISION AND AWARENESS**

An important emphasis at BIFC is the need for players to scan their surroundings repeatedly – looking around the pitch at the ball and movement of opponents and teammates, the searching for areas of space that can be exploited or exposed.

### **FAMILIARITY AND PATTERNS**

Players have information entering their visual system continuously throughout a match or training session. This information varies in importance. We need to help players to better recognize important information, particularly as it relates to the visual cues of other players during play. Soccer intelligent players are able to recognize familiarity of patterns as sequences unfold, such as triangles of support, 2v1 situations or gaps between defenders.

### **CONFIDENCE -> UNDERSTANDING -> EXPERIENCE**

### **SECURE THE BALL – SEE THE GAME**

BIFC encourages a possession style of play. Seeing familiarity through patterns in the game is more easily achieved by securing the ball. If the ball is constantly turning over, players are more apt to see chaos rather than patterns in the game. Similarly, if players are constantly fighting to control and secure the ball, chances are their heads will be down staring at the ball, unable to see the game unfolding and patterns developing.

### **WATCH THE GAME**

Soccer intelligence also develops from being an active observer of the game. Attending live matches, watching on TV helps create visual cues and stimulates creative and thoughtful performance that players then look to emulate. We encourage BIFC families to bring the sport into their homes by watching and discussing their game with their learning player.

### **THE INTELLIGENT PLAYER**

At BIFC we believe that a player with a greater understanding and appreciation of the game will ultimately enjoy the game more, and put more practice into improving their game more. We want the BIFC player to see soccer as the beautiful game, enjoying the artistry and elegance that aesthetically pleasing soccer performance brings.