



EXTERNAL MANAGEMENT SUMMARY / VERSION 1.0

Beyond Physical Performance

Introducing The Situational Performance Framework™

A football-first method for understanding, analysing and developing the quality of Football Actions in context.

CLOSE THE GAP. 2% → 10% BREAKTHROUGH PLAYERS.

Beer Flik / Forward Football

01 / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive summary

Elite football knows more than ever about the athlete. The next opportunity is to connect that expertise to the footballer.

Distance, sprint exposure, accelerations, strength, training load and recovery have transformed physical preparation. They remain essential. But they do not, by themselves, explain whether a player recognised the right moment, supported the Playing Principle, selected the right solution or created the next desired Football Situation.

The Situational Performance Framework™ provides a shared language for that wider performance question. It connects physical output with the cognitive, technical, tactical and situational processes that drive a Football Action. Its unit of analysis is not the isolated sprint, pass or duel, but the quality of that Football Action in its football context—and the Football Situation it creates next.

CORE THESIS

Football performance becomes meaningful when we connect the Football Situation, the required Game Understanding, the quality of the Football Action and the next Football Situation.

The framework is a method in development, not a finished universal scoring system. It is designed to be challenged and refined with coaches, analysts, performance practitioners, academy leaders, researchers and technology partners.

02 / MISSION AND POSITIONING

Mission and positioning

The mission defines the outcome. The framework defines the method.

MISSION

Close the Gap—from an estimated 2% to 10% breakthrough players progressing from academy football into sustainable first-team contribution.

Positioning statement

The Situational Performance Framework™ redefines football performance by connecting physical output with the cognitive, technical, tactical and situational processes that drive Football Actions.

What it is—and what it is not

- It is a football-first analysis and development method.
- It broadens physical performance expertise; it does not replace it.
- It starts from the team's Game Model, Playing Style and Playing Principles—not from the available data field.
- It connects team patterns to individual player contribution.
- It is not yet a validated universal rating or automated truth engine.

03 / THE PERFORMANCE GAP

The performance gap

We have become highly capable at measuring visible output, while much of the football logic behind it remains under-analysed.

A sprint can be fast and still be late. A completed pass can be technically accurate and still ignore the most valuable forward option. A high-intensity press can produce impressive physical data and leave the team disconnected. Conversely, an off-ball movement may create decisive space without touching the ball or appearing in conventional event totals.

CURRENTLY STRONG	NEXT OPPORTUNITY
Physical capacity and load	Football Action Quality in context
Distance, speed and exposure	Recognition, intention, choice and execution
Isolated event outcomes	Recurring action-situation patterns
Team totals and player totals	Contribution to Playing Principles
What happened?	Why did it happen—and what should improve next?

The issue is not that physical data is unimportant. The issue is that it is too often treated as performance itself rather than as one essential part of a complete Football Action.

GAME-FIRST QUESTION

Did the player's contribution help create the Football Situation the team wanted, according to its Playing Principles?

04 / SHARED FOOTBALL LANGUAGE

Shared football language

Simple terms make the method usable across coaching, analysis, research and technology.

TERM	WORKING DEFINITION
Football Situation	The dynamic arrangement of ball, players, space, time, pressure, phase, score and other relevant match conditions at a given moment.
Football Action	A purposeful football behaviour by one or more players that changes, maintains or attempts to change the current Football Situation.
Game Understanding	The ability to recognise what a specific Football Situation requires in relation to the team's Game Model, Playing Style,

TERM	WORKING DEFINITION
	Playing Principles, role and match context.
Game Model	The coherent description of how a club or team intends to play across phases and recurring Football Situations.
Playing Style	The recognisable identity of how a team seeks to play.
Playing Principles	Practical shared intentions that guide behaviour in recurring Football Situations without prescribing every movement.

05 / FOUR PRINCIPLES

Four principles

The framework rests on four pieces of football logic.

01 Every Football Action creates a new Football Situation.

Even maintaining possession changes time, pressure, orientation, positions or available options.

02 Game Understanding guides interpretation.

Players respond through their understanding of role, opponent, score and team intention.

03 Football Action Quality depends on three interacting capabilities.

Situational Speed, Decision Making and Situational Accuracy shape how the situation is solved.

04 Evaluation is always relative to the team's football.

The Game Model, Playing Style and Playing Principles define what is desirable in context.

IMPORTANT DISTINCTION

There is no context-free “best” Football Action. The same pass, press or run can be right for one Playing Style and wrong for another.

06 / THE ACTION-SITUATION CYCLE

The Action-Situation Cycle

A match is an ongoing loop: each Football Action changes the context for what happens next.



FOOTBALL SITUATION → FOOTBALL ACTION → NEXT FOOTBALL SITUATION

The grey centre represents the Football Action—the object of analysis. The loop represents the continuous relationship between Football Actions and Football Situations. The Playing Style and Playing Principles determine whether the next situation is desirable.

This gives coaches a repeatable learning unit: What was the situation? What did our football require? What did the player choose and execute? What did it create next?

07 / FOUR HUMAN PERFORMANCE CAPABILITIES

Four Human Performance Capabilities

Game Understanding gives direction; three interacting capabilities shape the quality of the Football Action.

Game Understanding

The guiding capability: what does this Football Situation require from us—and from me?

- Role and team intention
- Opponent behaviour and match context
- The relevant Playing Principle

Situational Speed

Every form of speed that contributes to solving the Football Situation.

- Recognition, anticipation and processing
- Physical movement and transition speed
- Ball-handling speed, circulation and tempo adaptation

Decision Making

The selection of an action from the available or perceived options.

- Pass, dribble, shoot, hold, sprint, press, cover or delay
- Risk relative to the team's intention
- Choice under pressure, fatigue and changing context

Situational Accuracy

The precision with which the player perceives, positions, times and executes.

- Positioning, body orientation and timing
- Direction, weight, speed and curve of a pass
- Precision of a press, duel, cover action or first touch

08 / FROM TEAM PATTERN TO PLAYER CONTRIBUTION

From team pattern to player contribution

The team pattern provides the context. Football Action Quality makes individual contribution visible.

Team performance is not the sum of eleven isolated ratings. Football Actions are relational. A run may create space for a teammate; a press succeeds because cover and distances are connected; a pass changes options for several players at once.

LEVEL	KEY QUESTION
Team pattern	Which recurring Football Situations do we create, allow or fail to solve?
Playing Principle	Does the chain of Football Actions express the football we intend to play?
Player contribution	Which players are involved, through which Football Actions and with what effect?
Development	What should be repeated, adapted or trained next?
PERFORMANCE DEFINITION Individual performance is the quality and consistency of a player's contribution to relevant Football Situations—not merely the volume of physical output or completed events.	

09 / ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

Analysis methodology

The method begins with the team's football and ends with coachable insight.

1. Define the Game Model, Playing Style and relevant Playing Principle.
2. Select a recurring or strategically important Football Situation.
3. Describe the situational conditions: ball, space, time, pressure, phase, score and opponent behaviour.
4. State the required Game Understanding in coach-friendly language.
5. Identify the Football Actions—including off-ball contributions and relevant non-actions.
6. Review Situational Speed, Decision Making and Situational Accuracy.
7. Assess the next Football Situation created by the chain.
8. Aggregate comparable Football Situations and identify recurring patterns.
9. Translate the insight into feedback, training design and follow-up measurement.

Chain Analysis

A chain connects a starting Football Action to a later target outcome. For example: successful interception → forward pass → high-zone entry → shot. The analysis can distinguish a strict next-action link from events occurring within the same possession.

WHY CHAINS MATTER

They show where a Playing Principle succeeds or breaks, how often the pattern occurs, which players contribute and what Football Situation the chain creates next.

10 / A TRANSPARENT EVALUATION LANGUAGE

A transparent evaluation language

E / P / N / Ne provides a working qualitative scale without pretending to have validated precision.

RATING	MEANING	INTERPRETATION
E — Exceptional	Directly creates the strongest defined principle-consistent Football Situation.	Clear, high-value contribution.
P — Positive	Advances or enables the desired route.	Useful contribution or connector.
N — Neutral	Maintains stability but does not sufficiently advance the principle.	Neither clear progress nor clear break.
Ne — Negative	Breaks a feasible route or creates an adverse next Football Situation.	Contribution conflicts with the defined intention.

The scale should never be applied to isolated outcomes without validating context and opportunity. A forward pass is not automatically positive; a backward pass is not automatically negative. The relevant question is what the Football Situation offered and what the Playing Principle required.

11 / TECHNOLEON

Technoleon

Technology operationalises the framework by turning event data, video and recurring chains into situational intelligence.

Technoleon is not the framework. It is the application layer that helps coaching and analysis staff define relevant chains, inspect the Football Situations behind the data and connect team patterns to individual player contribution.

- Build club-specific chains from tagged Football Actions.
- Show where patterns continue, break or produce target Football Situations.
- Identify which players contributed to each stage of the chain.
- Open the video evidence behind every Football Action.
- Compare patterns over time, by opponent, score, zone, role or match phase.
- Translate patterns into training questions and development priorities.

PRODUCT PRINCIPLE

Technology should reveal football patterns and support decisions—not replace football judgement.

12 / THE PERFECT CHOICE AND RESEARCH

The Perfect Choice and research

Research should challenge the framework's definitions, measurement and causal claims.

The Perfect Choice provides an important research and practical development base. Forward Football has worked with researchers connected to Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam's Human Movement Sciences domain to explore relationships between acting under pressure and individual visual-cognitive and football-relevant capabilities.

This does not mean the complete SPF scoring model is already scientifically validated. The next research agenda includes operational definitions, classification reliability, capability measurement, football-specific transfer, sensitivity to fatigue and intervention, and the relationship with sustainable first-team contribution.

EVIDENCE STANDARD

Practice generates testable questions. Research must be allowed to confirm, refine or reject the assumptions behind them.

13 / PRACTICAL USE

Practical use

The framework should improve Monday morning, not only the conference slide.

Six-question clip review

10. What was the Football Situation?
11. What did our Playing Principles require?
12. What did the player recognise and understand?
13. How did Situational Speed, Decision Making and Situational Accuracy shape the Football Action?
14. What new Football Situation did the Football Action create?
15. What should we repeat, adapt or train next?

Implications by role

ROLE	PRACTICAL OPPORTUNITY
Coach	Connect video feedback and training design to recurring Football Situations.
Performance practitioner	Link load and physical output to the Football Actions that produced them.
Data or video analyst	Move from event totals to chain patterns and player contribution.
Academy director	Align development language and first-team readiness across age groups.
Researcher	Test definitions, reliability, transfer and causal assumptions.
Technical director	Connect methodology, recruitment, analysis and performance around the Game Model.

14 / INVITATION TO COLLABORATE

Invitation to collaborate

v1.0 is intended to start a professional discussion—and a programme of practical testing.

Forward Football is inviting clubs, coaches, performance staff, analysts, academy leaders and researchers to challenge the language, apply the method to real Football Situations and help define the evidence required for the next version.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What should the next era of Performance Analysis look like if we want to develop football from within—starting with the game itself?

Possible next steps

- Download and discuss the Foundation Paper and this Management Summary.
- Join an introductory webinar or practitioner roundtable.
- Explore a club-specific pilot using selected Playing Principles and Chain Analysis.
- Contribute research, cases, classification feedback or validation expertise.

THE SITUATIONAL PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK™

Powered by Forward Football / Applied through Technoleon / Informed by The Perfect Choice