

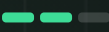
MATCH PREPARATION · COACHING STAFF

# Liverpool v Manchester City

Premier League · 11 October 2026 · Liverpool at home

ATLAS READ

Manchester City arrive with the stronger five-match process: they have generated 2.00 xG per match and conceded 1.11, while taking all 15 available points. Their edge is real but not complete: Liverpool have produced 1.84 xG per match, and City's 5–3 win over Sunderland exposed a recent defensive ceiling that Liverpool should try to reproduce rather than treat City's record as untouchable.

 Confidence **medium** — conclusions are supported, but the sample calls for confirmation

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| 04 | The current City are more efficient defensively than the late-season reference, not necessarily less exposed to volume |
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## RISKS

- R1** City's main danger is not possession alone but a high-quality chance volume, led by Haaland and supplemented by multiple creators.  
2.00 xG and 3.40 big chances per match; Haaland has 20 shots and 4.10 xG, while Cherki has 12 key passes.
- R2** City have been particularly decisive after the interval, including a strong late-game scoring record.  
They scored 8 of their 13 goals in the second half, with 4 in the 76–90+ period and none conceded in that period.
- R3** Liverpool cannot assume City's defensive record will hold if the match becomes open; City conceded 2.79 xG against Sunderland in their latest match.  
That was more than double City's 1.11 xG conceded average across the five-match sample.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- O1** Liverpool have a credible route to match City's chance creation and should turn that into a more clinical final product.  
Liverpool create 1.84 xG per match but have scored 7 goals from that output, with goals per xG at 0.76.
- O2** Set pieces are Liverpool's clearest relative attacking strength in the available comparison.  
Liverpool average 0.62 set-piece xG per match, compared with City's 0.41.
- O3** City's defensive improvement is based on expected-goals quality rather than a reduction in shot volume, so repeated attacks still matter.  
City concede 11.80 shots per match this season, up from 9.20 in the previous five-match reference, despite xG conceded falling from 1.47 to 1.11.

## ACTION POINTS

- A1** Prioritise the protection of City's open-play chance creation: it accounts for 1.60 of their 2.00 xG per match, and Haaland plus Cherki combine finishing and chance supply.
- A2** Treat Haaland as the primary shot-volume threat, but do not build the whole plan around him alone: Cherki, Semenyo and Foden all carry meaningful creative or expected-goal output in the current sample.
- A3** Use set pieces as an attacking priority. Liverpool's 0.62 set-piece xG per match is their strongest relative edge over City's 0.41; rehearse delivery and second-phase execution accordingly.
- A4** If the coaching staff confirm the relevant game-state cues on video, test whether City can be drawn into a match with repeated high-quality exchanges; Sunderland created 2.79 xG against them in the latest fixture.
- A5** Keep the game-management plan active through the final quarter-hour. City scored 4 goals and conceded none in the 76–90+ period across these five matches.

Action points are guidance built from the evidence in this report. They are not behaviour observed on the pitch: the decision to adopt each one belongs to whoever knows the day-to-day context.

## HOW FAR THIS READ GOES

— — — Confidence **medium** — conclusions are supported, but the sample calls for confirmation

4 sample windows · 6 stated limits — see Sources

## — BY THE NUMBERS

### Manchester City in four numbers

2026/2027 season averages

**15 out of 15  
points**

Record

5 matches in 2026/2027

**2.00**

xG created per match

13.6 shots

**1.11**

xG conceded per match

11.8 shots conceded

**63.2%**

Possession

88.2% pass accuracy

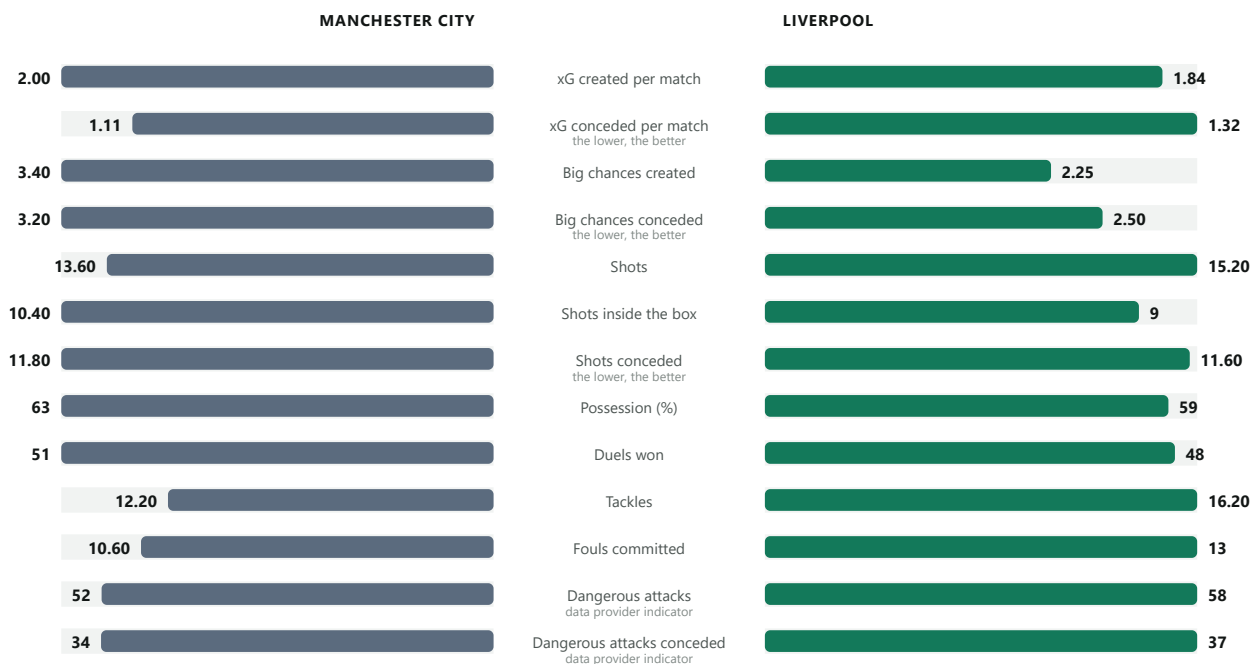
## 01 City hold the stronger baseline, but Liverpool are close enough to make chance quality decisive

City's five-match advantage comes from the balance of their output: 2.00 xG created and 1.11 conceded per match, against Liverpool's 1.84 and 1.32. They also create more big chances, 3.40 to Liverpool's 2.25, although Liverpool's figure is available for four of the five matches only.

The key pre-match point is that Liverpool are not facing a side that has separated itself by chance creation alone. Liverpool have taken fewer points and scored fewer goals, but their xG level remains close enough that the match can turn on execution in the decisive moments. City's 13 goals from 2.00 xG per match also represent finishing above expectation over a short sample, with goals per xG at 1.30; Liverpool's equivalent figure is 0.76.

## How the two teams have been playing

Current-season average per match for each team



The two samples come from different schedules: opponents and conditions are not the same. The comparison indicates a trend, not direct superiority. The final two rows are proprietary indicators from the data provider.

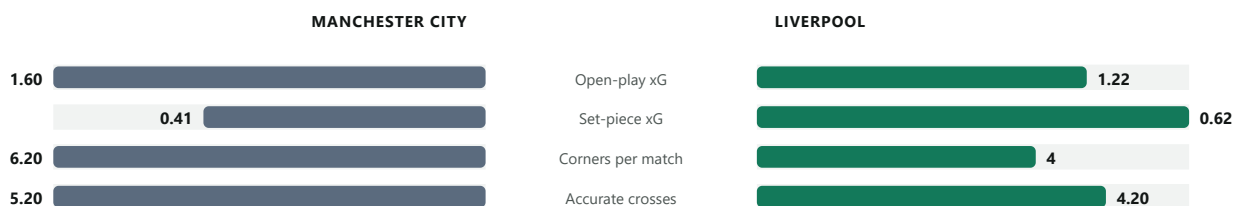
## 02 City's threat is built mainly through open play and concentrated around a small group of high-output attackers

Open play supplies most of City's expected threat: 1.60 of their 2.00 xG per match comes from it, while set pieces account for 0.41. That makes Liverpool's control of City's regular attacking sequences more important than simply limiting corners, even though City average 6.20 corners per match.

Haaland is the clearest finishing reference, with 5 goals, 20 shots and 4.10 xG in 450 minutes. Cherki adds both scoring and creation—3 goals, 1.16 xG, 12 key passes and 3 big chances—while Semenyo has supplied 10 key passes and 2 big chances. Foden's 1.52 xG and 7 key passes in 219 minutes make him another high-impact option if selected; no published line-up or availability update is provided for this fixture.

### Where the danger comes from

Average per match



20% of Manchester City's xG comes from set pieces.

## Who plays for Manchester City

Cumulative totals in the current season

| PLAYER               | POS | MATCHES (STARTS) | MIN | GOALS | XG   | SHOTS | KEY PASSES | BIG CHANCES |
|----------------------|-----|------------------|-----|-------|------|-------|------------|-------------|
| Gianluigi Donnarumma | GOA | 5 (5)            | 450 | —     | —    | —     | —          | —           |
| Rúben Dias           | DEF | 5 (5)            | 450 | —     | 0.36 | 2     | 3          | —           |
| Marc Guéhi           | DEF | 5 (5)            | 450 | 1     | 0.60 | 3     | 3          | 1           |
| Erling Haaland       | ATT | 5 (5)            | 450 | 5     | 4.10 | 20    | 1          | 1           |
| Antoine Semenyo      | MID | 5 (5)            | 450 | 2     | 0.32 | 7     | 10         | 2           |
| Josko Gvardiol       | DEF | 5 (5)            | 435 | 1     | 0.33 | 3     | 3          | 1           |
| Elliot Anderson      | MID | 5 (5)            | 415 | —     | 0.11 | 4     | 3          | 2           |
| Rayan Cherki         | MID | 5 (4)            | 306 | 3     | 1.16 | 9     | 12         | 3           |
| Abdukodir Khusanov   | DEF | 3 (3)            | 269 | —     | —    | —     | —          | —           |
| Enzo Fernández       | MID | 3 (3)            | 248 | 1     | 0.46 | 5     | 3          | 1           |
| Phil Foden           | MID | 4 (3)            | 219 | —     | 1.52 | 6     | 7          | 3           |
| Matheus Nunes        | DEF | 3 (2)            | 213 | —     | —    | —     | —          | —           |
| Iliman Ndiaye        | MID | 3 (2)            | 206 | —     | 0.15 | 3     | 4          | 2           |
| Nico O'Reilly        | DEF | 4 (2)            | 165 | —     | 0.40 | 3     | 1          | —           |

Sorted by minutes played. Starts in brackets.

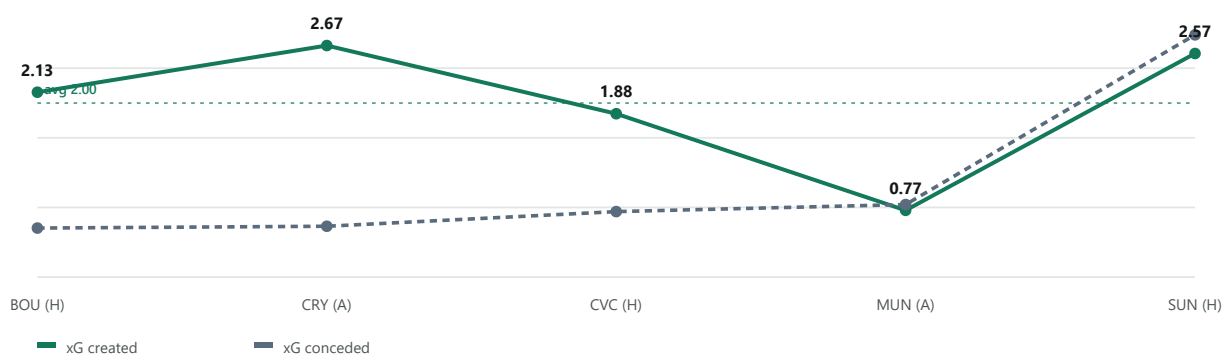
## 03 The Sunderland match showed the route Liverpool need to test, while City's late scoring demands full-game discipline

City's latest result, the 5–3 home win over Sunderland on 20 September, was their most open current-season match: they created 2.57 xG but conceded 2.79. In each of the preceding four league matches, their xG conceded was between 0.57 and 0.83. This does not establish a defensive pattern by itself, but it does show that their overall defensive average can hide a match in which the opponent created repeatedly.

City have also scored 8 of their 13 goals after half-time, including 4 in the 76–90+ period; they conceded no goals in that final period. The distribution is only five matches, so it should be treated as a current-game-state alert rather than a settled seasonal trait. Liverpool should plan for City's threat to remain live after the interval even if the early phases are controlled.

## Manchester City xG, match by match

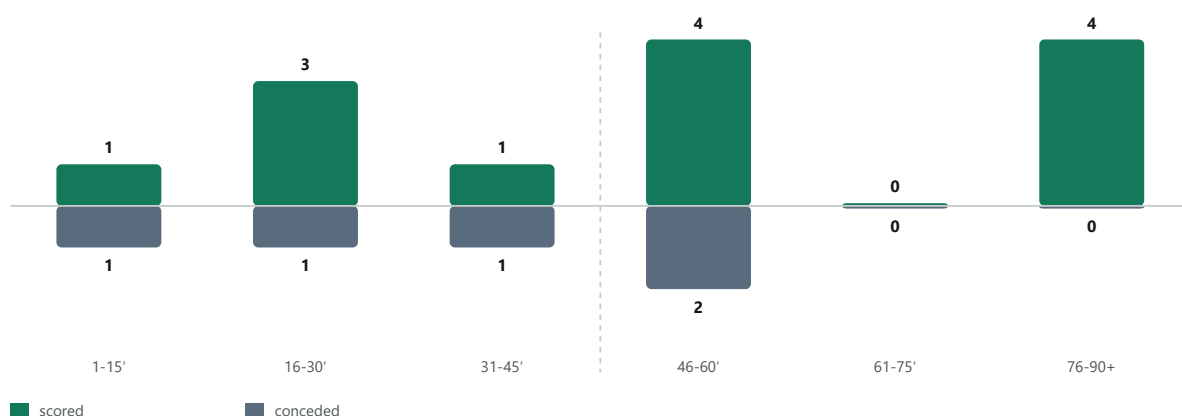
Created and conceded in each current-season match



From left to right, from the oldest match to the most recent.

## When the match happens

Manchester City goals by fifteen-minute interval



A total of 13 goals scored and 5 conceded in 5 matches. Small sample: the interval indicates a trend, not a rule.

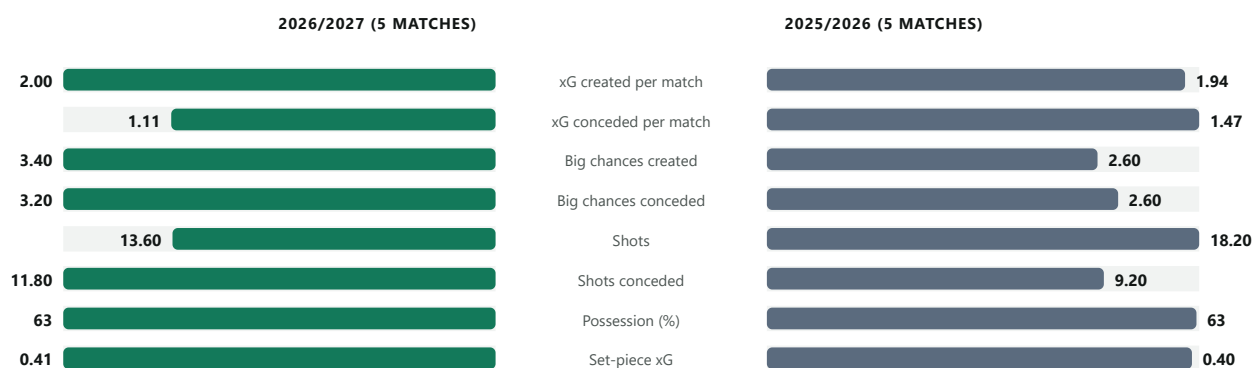
## 04 The current City are more efficient defensively than the late-season reference, not necessarily less exposed to volume

Against the five-match reference from last season, City's attacking process is broadly stable: xG has moved from 1.94 to 2.00 per match and possession has remained almost unchanged, from 62.80% to 63.20%. The meaningful improvement is at the other end, where xG conceded has fallen from 1.47 to 1.11 and big chances conceded have risen only from 2.60 to 3.20 despite the stronger current results.

That defensive improvement should not be read as total control. City now concede 11.80 shots per match, compared with 9.20 in the previous reference, which suggests that the shots they allow have so far been of lower expected value rather than simply fewer. They have started all five current matches in the recorded 4-2-3-1 shape; this is a line-up record, not evidence of their in-game organisation.

## What has changed at Manchester City

Average per match in each season



The previous season is shown as context and is not included in any average in this report. Between one season and the next, the squad, coaching staff and playing style change: the difference between the columns may reflect team improvement, a change in opponents or both.

### SOURCES

- Manchester City — season 2026/2027: 5 matches (23/08/2026 to 20/09/2026). Every key metric in this report comes from this sample.
- Manchester City — season 2025/2026: 5 matches (04/05/2026 to 24/05/2026). Used only as context, never combined with the current season.
- Liverpool — season 2026/2027: 5 matches (23/08/2026 to 20/09/2026). Every key metric in this report comes from this sample.
- Liverpool — season 2025/2026: 5 matches (25/04/2026 to 24/05/2026). Used only as context, never combined with the current season.

### WHAT THIS REPORT DOES NOT COVER

- There is no positional or tracking data. Nothing in this document describes where players were on the pitch, distance covered, measured defensive line height or space occupation.
- The recorded formations show the starting line-up shape, not observed behaviour. They indicate who played and in which role, not the team's organisation in possession.
- There is no map of passes, recoveries or shots by zone. The volume and type of each action are available; its location is not.
- All current-season conclusions are based on five matches, so the report assesses early form rather than a confirmed long-term pattern.
- Liverpool's big-chance data are available for four of the five matches, not the full sample.
- No published line-up, injury or suspension information was provided for either team.

### ABOUT THE MEASURES

Dangerous attacks and the pressure index are proprietary indicators of the data provider, and the exact calculation behind each is not published. In this document they support the read and never carry it alone. Score, goals, shots, possession and expected metrics (xG) have known definitions.

Every number in this document was taken directly from ATLAS sources before writing and is not estimated. Where the source did not measure, the document records absence, not zero. Interpretations and hypotheses are identified as such in the text.