How has shooting changed in football in the past decade?

It would be fair to say that the way football is being played has been completely revolutionized.

Have shots followed suit though?

In this piece we look at key trends about shooting and draw conclusions.

First thing to question is whether the situations from which shots arise has changed. In Graph 1 we plot the for 4 leagues across 8 seasons. We see a remarkable stability across both space and time. Shots arising from open play get about 70 to 80%, from corner around 15%, from Set Pieces aroubs 7% and rest is from Direct Free Kicks and Penalties.

Next, we want to see whether shots arising from passes have changed in the same time frame. The change, if any, has not been remarkable. Serie A has remained relatively stable at around 60%, and the Premier League saw a decline in 17/18 and 18/19 but then rose up again. The greatest change is reflected in Bundelsliga.

So the nature of the shots hasn’t changed that much despite the increasing emphasis on passing, the structural pillars of shot taking remain unchanging.

But how about the precision of those shots? xGoals brought about a revolution in football, coaches wanted footballers to take shots more carefully.