

Week 4 Practices 7 & 8

<u>Drill/Activity</u>	<u>Objective/Suggestion</u>	<u>Time</u>
Bring it in	Gather the team to discuss practice plans for the day	5 minutes
Some warm-up activity	Warm up stretch legs, arms, shoulders, neck & midsection	5 minutes
Coaches Instruction -Cradling	Looking for opportunity to get the girls to start switching hands during their cradle	2 minutes
(Drill 1) Stick Trick	Getting a feel for the stick	2 minutes
(Drill 2) - Competitive Figure 8s	Gaining comfort with switching hands while running -keeping head up while cradling & running	5 minutes
Coaches Instruction - Ground Ball	Basic instruction on the fundamentals	2 minutes
(Drill 3) Boxing out		
(Drill 4) Team Ground Ball Challenge	More experienced girls try with opposite hand	3 minutes
(Drill 5) Ground Ball Tag	Ground balls under pressure	5 minutes
Coaches Instruction - Passing & Catching	Basic instruction on the fundamentals	3 minutes
(Drill 6) Partner passing (everyone should have a new partner each practice)	Passing & Catching	7 minutes
(Drill 7)Work the Point	Catching, Passing & Shooting	10 minutes
(drill 8) open space - in Square	Getting girls to move off the ball and look for adjacent passing	
Water break		2 minutes
Coaches Instruction - Hot-spots - positions	Instruction on positioning on offense	3 minutes
(Drill 9) Open space with Hot spots	Getting players familiar with hot spots	5 minutes
Water Break		2 minutes
Coaches review of positions - offense & defense	Focus on movement from hot spots with cuts, learning to look at a hot spot for an open player.	10
Drill -	Some defensive focused drill	
(Activity) Half field scrimmage with stopping for direction from coaches	Introducing game simulation to kids	15
		90 minutes

Coaches Instruction - Cradling

Purpose:

Provide guidance for proper stickhandling, the key to a strong lax player

Coaching Guidance:

Cradling can be a very personalized style. There are basics that are required, but encourage the girls to be creative to find a technique that works well for them.

Cradling Instruction:

Holding the Stick

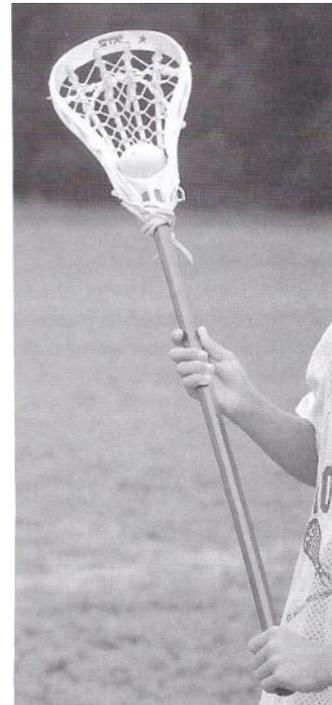
- Soft hands while gripping the stick.
- The top guide hand is placed one-third of the way down the stick
 - Top hand is the guide & does most of the work when cradling
 - The stick rests lightly in the palm of the top hand and is controlled by the fingertips
- The bottom hand is the control hand and is placed at the bottom of the stick

Stick position.

- When first learning to cradle, the stick should be held at a slight angle on the side of the body by the ear (almost parallel with the body).
- the more relaxed and comfortable they are, the better.
- Two hands on the stick. It's important that players keep both hands on the stick while cradling. This allows for better control of the stick and the ability to pass or shoot quickly.

Rocking motion

- The motion of the fingers and wrist of the top hand curling together should be smooth and controlled.
- The top hand swings the stick from ear to nose, back and forth, using more wrist motion than elbow motion.
- The bottom arm holds the stick in front of the body and controls the base of the stick
- The arms are relaxed and away from the body
- Emphasize a smooth rocking motion so that the ball does not bounce around in the pocket.
- Ideally, the ball is cradled in the top half of the pocket by the shooting strings.
- Remind your players to relax their upper bodies and not to stiffen up their arms when cradling.



- A stiff, rigid cradle will lead to the ball popping out and lots of frustration! A smooth, fluid cradle will allow the ball to remain in the stick.
- The full cradle, or **ear-to-ear cradle, should be reserved for dodging through defenders.**
- The more subtle **ear-to-nose cradle allows players to pass and shoot**

Drill- Stick Trick

Sunday, February 26, 2012

2:50 PM

Get the girls to put the ball onto the back of their stick

Try popping the ball into the air and catching it the basket

Try repating this from the basket catching on the back-side of their stick

Run 2, 1 minute sessions getting the girls to count how many than can do in a minute
or how many in a row they can do

Drill - Figure 8 Cradle

Purpose:

Cradling while running

Keeping your head up & looking around

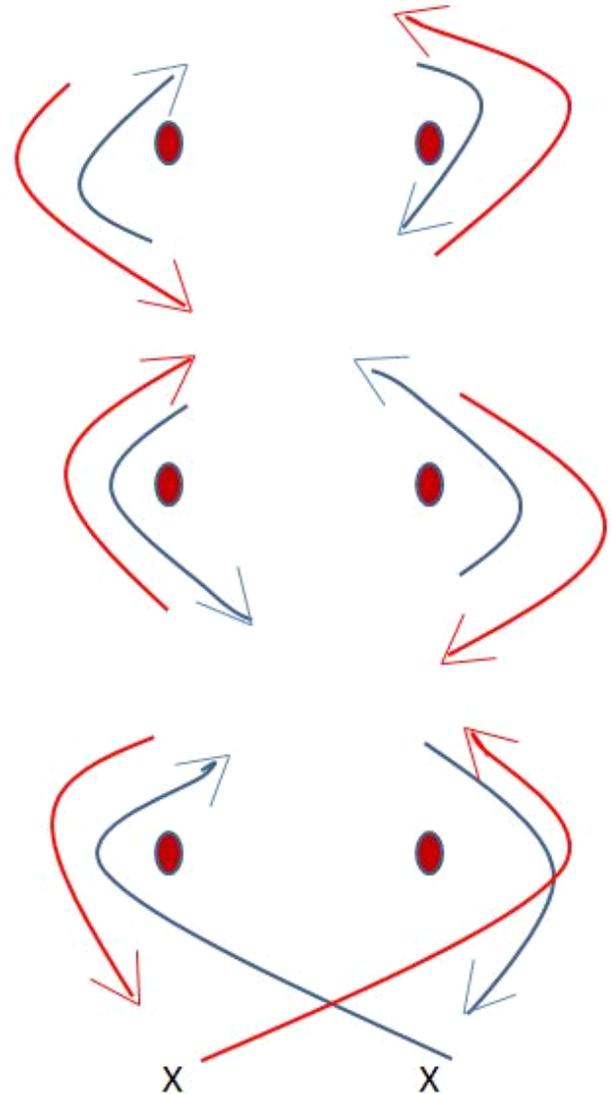
- Important for a game, but more important on the drill not to run into the other player

Equipment:

Cones

Drill:

1. Divide the girls up in to even teams
2. Set up 3 pairs of cones 10 yards apart (see diagram)
 - a. Cone
3. When the whistle blows, team 1 runs to their right going around the cone that is in front of Team 2.
 - a. After passing the cone they cut back in towards the 2nd set of cones running around the cone now on the opposite side
 - i. Advanced girls should try to switch hands so that their stick is on the opposite side of their body from the cone.
 - 1) Others should look to progress this way as the season moves along.
 - b. After passing the 2nd cone, they run around the far cone on the other side
 - c. They then repeat this crossing pattern on the way back.
4. When they get to the next girl, they flip it to their teammate who then repeats the pattern.
5. The first team to finishes, wins



Coaches Instruction - Ground Balls

Purpose:

Teaching a skill that will be a large part of the game, especially at the youth level.

Most of the plays at the youth level involve picking up balls, so this must be stressed early

- *Let the girls know that this will make them a better player than most if they are good at this because if you can pick up the ball better than everyone else, you will have the ball more often which will make you a better cradler, passer and player.*

Teaching Ground Balls

1. Get along side the ball by putting your right foot (right handed players) slightly ahead of the ball
2. Position your head above the ball
3. Bend knees to get very low (NOT BENDING AT THE WAIST!!)
4. With the stick almost parallel to the ground push forward through the ball with the bottom hand (knuckles scraping)

Drill - Ground Ball Box Out

Purpose:

To teach the players on how to get advantageous position during ground balls

Coaching Guidance:

Use of the body is sometimes a foreign concept to players who are often reluctant to use their body to physically prohibit the competition from gaining an advantage.

It should be stressed what is and is not allowed when using your body and how to get the proper position.

Drill:

1. Divide the teams into two lines.
2. Throw the ball out 5-7 yards and yell go
3. The first girl to the ball is to box out the other player
4. If the defender can hold off the offensive player for 5 seconds they win
5. If the offensive player gets the ball, they win
6. Repeat this through the line a few times.

Drill - Team Ground Ball Challenge

Purpose:

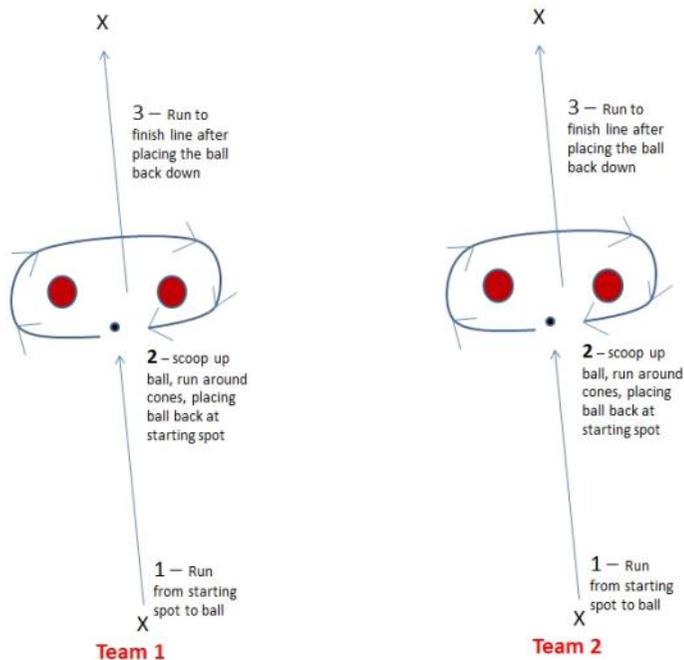
Picking up ground balls while on the move and bringing it to a control position

Equipment:

Cones & Balls

Drill:

1. Divide the girls into equal number of teams & have them line up one behind the other facing forward
2. About 5-7 feet in front of each team, place two cones side by side separated by 3-5 yards.
3. Place a ball on the ground in front of the girls in between the two cones
4. When the whistle blows, the first girl should run to the ground ball, running through the ball when she picks it up.
5. Have the girls bring the ball up to a cradle until they have control of the ball
 - a. Coach that the fewer cradles required the faster they can control the ball
6. With the ball under control, run around two cones have the girls place the ball back on the ground for the next girl
7. Once the ball is on the ground, the next girl in line runs to repeat this action
 - a. Coach that the closer to the original spot that they place the ball, the less their next teammate has to run to get the ball, saving the team time.
 - b. Also coach that the more they control the ball in the cradle and the better they can control the ball on the way down, the less their teammate will have to run to get the ball.
8. Repeat until the first team wins



Coaches Instruction - Passing

Friday, February 03, 2012
10:54 PM

Passing

Passing a lacrosse ball is similar to throwing a baseball. The same techniques are used to release the ball accurately.

When throwing a baseball.

1. a player rotates her hips and shoulders
2. reaches back with her throwing arm holding the ball above her head (not pushed from her chest),
3. steps toward the target with her opposite foot,
4. rotates her hips and shoulders toward the target and into the pass,
5. snaps through the pass with her wrist,
6. follows through, completing the rotation of the hips and shoulders.

The same technique applies when throwing a lacrosse ball.

Make it a habit to keep your players moving while passing; movement will help with accuracy and momentum behind the ball.

1. **Set the feet.**
 - a. The player begins by facing her passing partner.
 - b. Passer's feet should be offset about shoulder-width apart.
 - i. A right-handed player has her left foot in front of her right foot; a left-handed player has her right foot in front of her left foot.
2. **Rotate the hips and shoulders.**
 - a. The passer rotates her hips and shoulders so that her shoulders are perpendicular to her passing partner and reaches back with her stick (similar to when throwing a ball).
 - b. The top hand should be back and above the head (not in front of the body by the chest).
3. **Hand and arm position.**
 - a. The passer's top hand slides about a third of the way down the stick. The thumb of the top hand is extended up the shaft of the stick, which helps the passer throw accurately.
 - b. The bottom hand (positioned in front of the body) is at the bottom of the stick and provides the power for the pass.
 - c. The passer's arms are relaxed and away from her body, not in tight by her sides.
4. **The push-pull motion.**
 - a. The passer reaches back so that the head of her stick is behind her head and about 6 inches above her shoulder.
 - b. The bottom hand must stay in front of the body and at chest height. If the bottom hand is raised higher than that, the stick will become parallel with the ground and the ball will either roll out of the pocket behind the passer or go straight up in the air on the release.
 - c. The passer steps forward with her opposite foot (shifting her weight from the back foot to the front),
 - i. drives the bottom arm forward
 - ii. execute a push-pull motion by using her top hand and arm to push the stick forward while the bottom hand and arm pull the stick toward the body.
 - 1) This motion makes the stick perform like a lever and produces direct, accurate passes. Encourage the passer to snap her wrist through the push motion as if she were throwing a ball.
 - iii. The follow-through of the stick should be across the body to the opposite hip—not under the armpit.
5. **Completing the pass.**
 - a. As the passer steps into the pass and is completing the push-pull motion
 - i. shoulders and hips are rotating through the pass
 - ii. her top arm should extend in the direction of the person she's passing to.
 - b. The step forward, the rotation of the hips and shoulders, the snap of the wrist through the push-pull motion, and the follow-through of the stick across the body (to the opposite hip) **give the pass its power.**
 - c. **The accuracy of the pass is affected by the follow-through of the stick.**
 - i. If the follow-through is toward the ground, the pass will be low.
 - ii. If the follow-through is high, the pass will probably sail over her partner's head.
 - d. Encourage your player to point with her stick (on her follow-through) exactly where she wants the pass to go, and her passes should be accurate.

Drill - Partner Passing

Purpose:

Introduce passing to a target (the partner's stick head which should be above her shoulder).

Coaching Guidance:

Coach the girls to keep their feet moving on the pass and catch, with one foot in front of the other; asking for the ball to the side of their head; and rotating their shoulders on the pass and catch.

Drill:

1. Position partners in two lines about 7 yards apart facing each other.
2. Partners pass the ball back and forth, starting with two hands on the stick for the catch and pass.
3. Partners pass with two hands on the stick, first a right-handed pass and catch and then right/ left-handed. (use dominant hand)
 - a. *Girls who want to want to try or may be more advanced - pass with two hands on the stick for the catch and only their off-hand on the stick for the pass.*
4. Partners make long passes to one another. They keep backing up to see how far apart they can be and still throw and catch without dropping the ball
 - a. *Emphasize to players that they should rotate their hips and shoulders, step into the pass, and snap their wrist to get greater distance on the ball.*

Advanced Drills - Use based on skill set of the team

5. Partners pass the ball with two hands on the stick and *only 1 (right or left) hand on the stick for the pass.*
6. Partners pass with quick sticks by receiving the ball and passing it back all in one motion.
7. Partners pass with quick sticks, using the back of the stick.
8. Partners pass using flip passes.
9. Partners pass using behind-the-back passes.
10. Partners pass using reverse-stick passes.
11. Partners catch and pass between their legs.
12. Partners pass with high lob passes, catching first with two hands and then with one hand.
13. Drill continues for 10 to 12 minutes.

Pasted from <<http://leagueathletics.com/Cpanel/PageEdit.asp?n=65145&snid=jBNB%5F2J3Y&org=westboroughgirlslacrosse>>

Drill - Work the Point

Purpose:

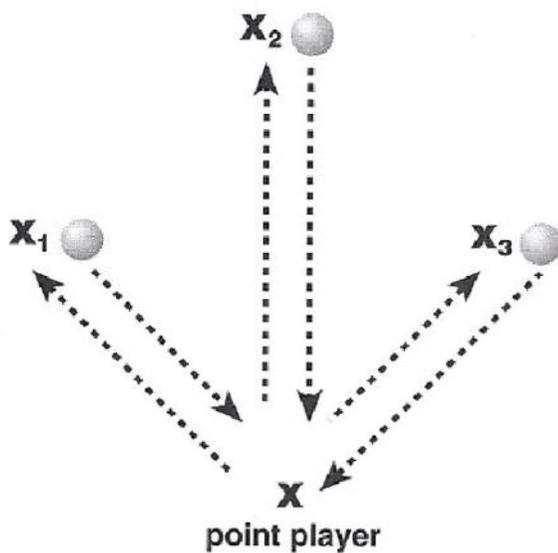
Teaching the fundamentals of passing & catching

Equipment:

3 balls per group

Drill:

1. Have players get into groups of four. Each group forms an 8-by-8-yard diamond.
2. Three players in each group have balls, and one player, the point player, does not.
3. The players with balls take turns passing to the open (point) player, one after another.
4. The open player must keep her feet moving and shift her position so she can catch and pass the ball back accurately to the player who passed her the ball.
5. Drill continues for about 10 minutes.



Drill - Open Space - Basic Concept

Purpose:

Getting girls comfortable to move away from the player with the ball and finding an open space

Having the girls look for a quick pass after someone makes a cut

Passing on the move

Equipment

1 Ball
4 Cones

Coaching Guidance

Help stress the importance of keeping your head up while you have the ball. When a teammate makes a move or a cut, that is when they are most likely to be open and ready to receive a pass.

Drill:

1. Set up 4 cones in a square
2. Divide the girls up into groups of 3 placing each girl at a cone (there should be one open cone)
3. One player has the ball to start (marked by X)
4. The player with the ball should run to a cone where there is already a girl
5. The player at the cone to where the ball carrier is running needs to move to another cone
6. The ball carrier should make a cut, or dodge or some move around the cone she is running to (to simulate shaking off a defender)
7. Then the player should look to make a pass - ideally adjacent to her position

ADVANCED:

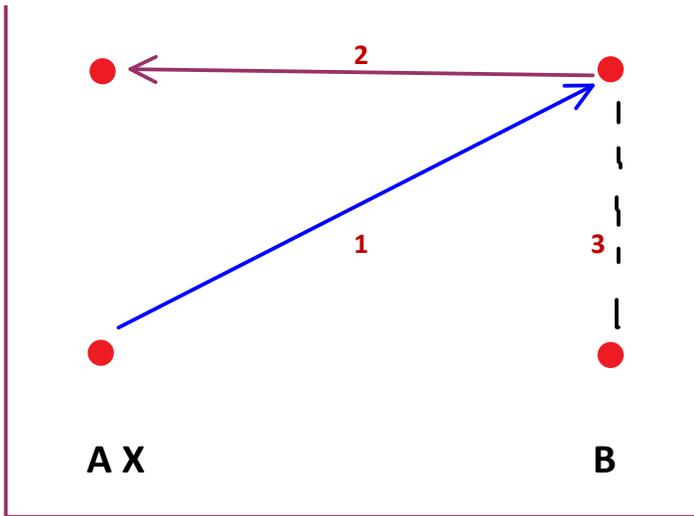
- Have both girls without the ball move - one girl should be moving to where the ball carrier was
- One girl should be moving to the open space that already existed

Expert:

Have 4 girls at the cones and see if they can all make moves to find a different cone than where they started

- Teaching the concept of constant motion by all players





Coaches Instruction - Hot Spot & Position Instruction (U11)

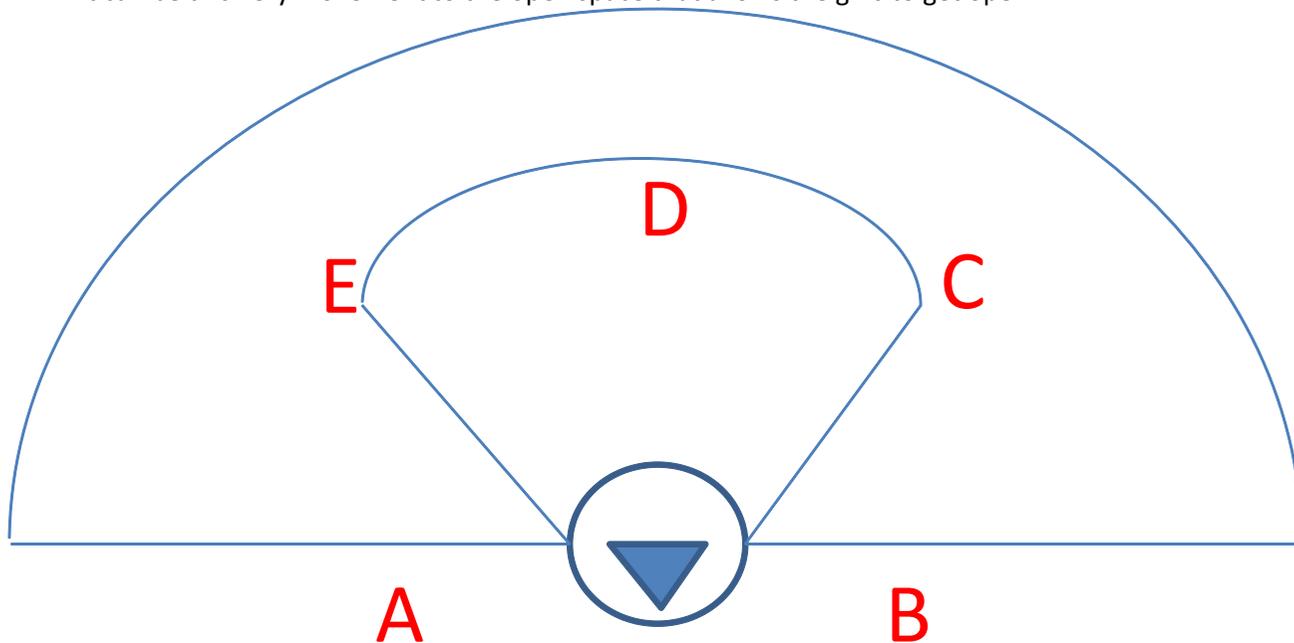
Purpose:

Help the girls identify how to find open space by filling a position that is open. This is especially important for girls who have not played so that they can learn where to go and not feel lost on the field.

Key Coaching Points:

(note - for U11, we are using less hot-spots because there are less players. We are also using letters so that the girls are not confused next year when they are introduced to 7 hot-spots)

1. As a point of reference, the girls need to be made aware of the 8 & 12 meter arcs
2. A challenge for girls new to either sports or lacrosse, the idea of going to "open space" can be difficult to grasp. What was once open space may quickly be filled by another team mate who moved to the space before or at the same time as another team mate.
3. This type of unsettled play can make the offensive side hectic and girls are often at a loss where to go in order to "get to open space"
4. By working with the established "hot spots" the goal is to provide a reference point for the girls to understand basic positioning.
5. Once the girls understand the positions on the field it should be easier to provide the coaching or guidance as to helping the girls determine where to go when they don't have the ball.
6. By looking around at the field, they can see what "Hot spots" are open and move to them. Often it can be this very movement to the open space that allows the girls to get open.



Drill - Open Space - Using Arc

Purpose:

Getting girls comfortable to move away from the player with the ball and finding an open space

Having the girls look to quickly make a pass after someone moves

Passing on the move

Equipment

1 Ball

4 Cones

Coaching Guidance

Help stress the importance of keeping your head up while you have the ball. When a teammate makes a move or a cut, that is when they are most likely to be open and ready to receive a pass.

Drill:

1. Set up 5 hot spots on the arc
2. Divide the girls up into groups of 4 placing each girl at each hot spot (there should be one open cone)
3. One player has the ball to start (marked by X)
4. The player with the ball should run to a cone where there is already a girl
5. The player at the cone to where the ball carrier is running needs to move to another cone
6. The ball carrier should make a cut, or dodge or some move around the cone she is running to (to simulate shaking off a defender)
7. Then the player should look to make a pass - ideally adjacent to her position

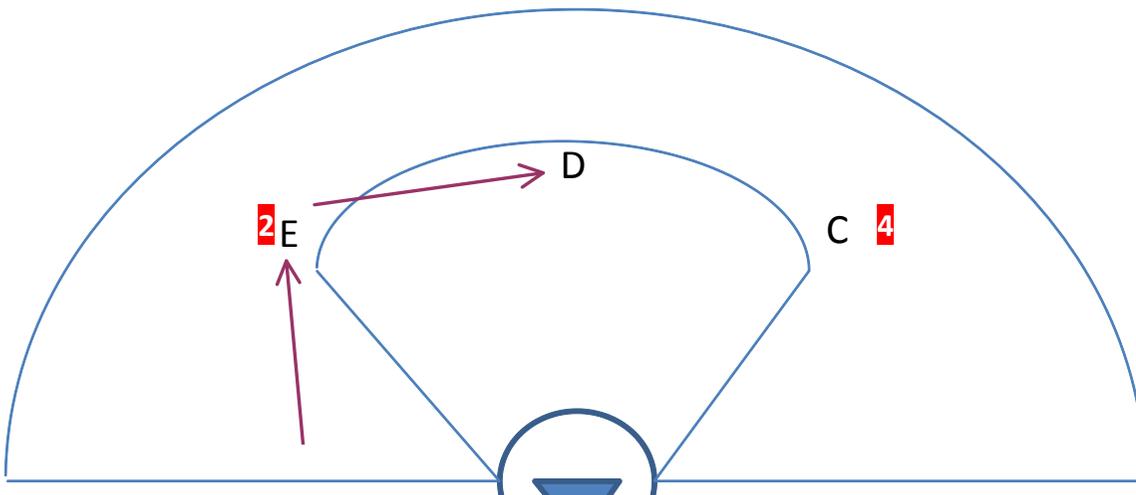
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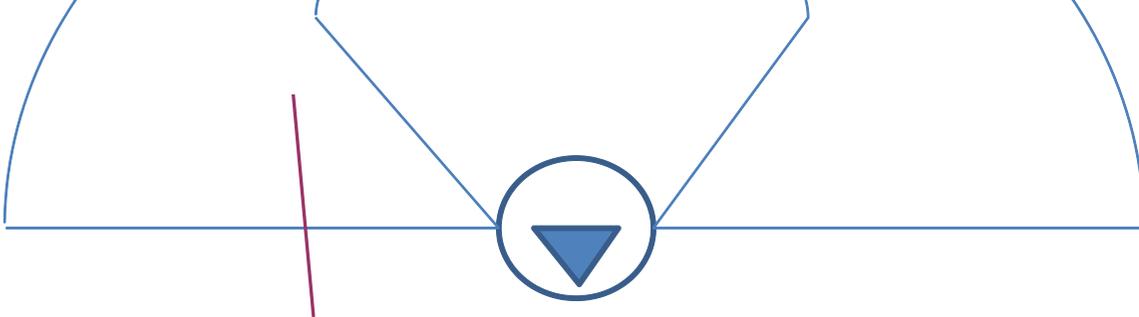
- Have both girls without the ball move - one girl should be moving to where the ball carrier was
- One girl should be moving to the open space that already existed

Expert:

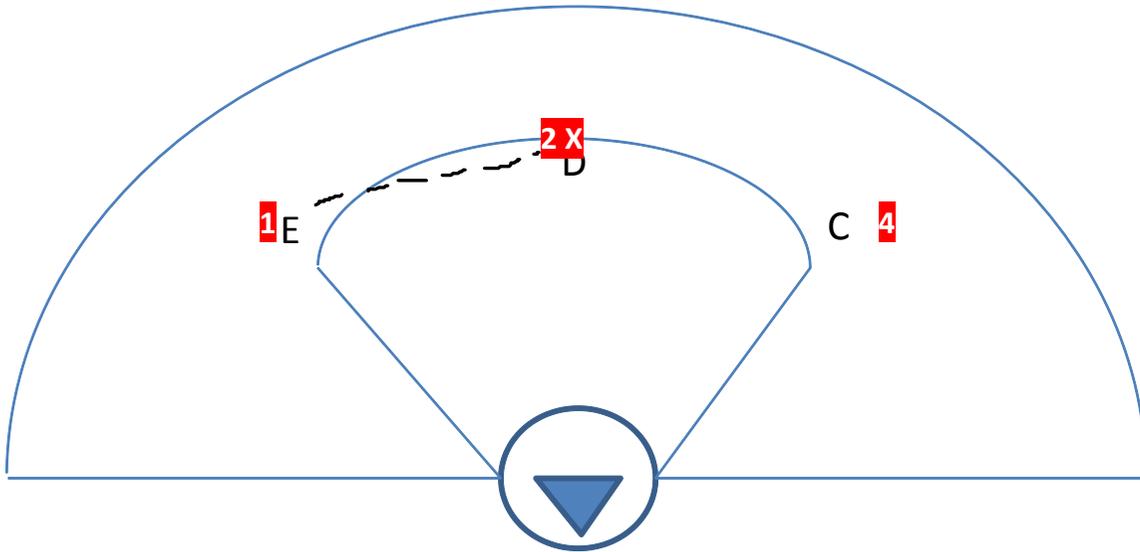
Have 4 girls at the cones and see if they can all make moves to find a different cone than where they started

- Teaching the concept of constant motion by all players





1 X A ← B **3**



1 E **2 X** D **4 C**

3 A B

Coaches Instruction - Offense & Defense Position

Purpose:

To provide instruction on defensive & offensive positions & rules around the crease

Key Coaching Points

In week 4, start working on cutting from hot spots to open space. There should also be

Review Position Instruction

1. Re-inforce positions, roles & responsibilities of Attack, Middies & Defense.
 - a. Attack
 - i. Location on the field
 - ii. Area of movement on offense
 - iii. DOES play defense when the other team has the ball and is trying to clear it upfield
 - b. Middie
 - i. Location on the field & number of mid fielders
 - ii. Plays offense & defense
 - iii. On offense works with attack to move the ball around the net
 - iv. On defense needs to slow down the movement of the ball when the other team is clearing
 - v. On defense needs to work with our defensive players to stop the other team from
 - c. Defense
 - i. Location on the field and number of defenders
 - ii. Primarily plays defense
 - iii. CAN move the ball up the field (to the mid-field line) when we stop the other team

Review how to play defense

1. Stay between your girl & the goal
2. Feet first, stick second - move your feet first to block a girl
3. See your girl & the ball
4. Always get back to protect the front of the net

Review major rules, especially:

1. Introduction of shooting space
2. Introduction of dangerous shot
3. 3 pass rule
 - a. Re-inforcing that a 4th pass can and often should be made
 - b. Also that passing in the defensive zone also counts

Drill - Defensive

1/2 Field Scrimmage