

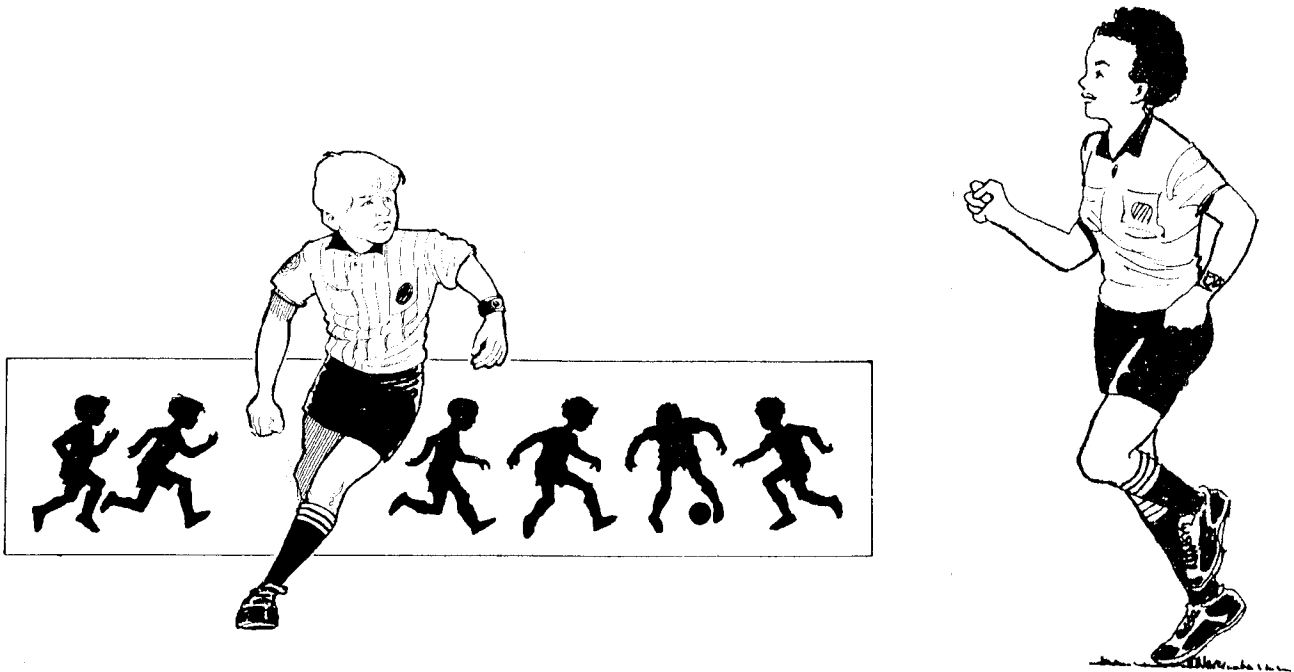


SANTA CLARA YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE



HOME | CALENDAR | SITE MAP

If You Like To Keep Busy, You're Gonna Love Being A Center Referee



Better Positions.....Better Decisions

In any soccer match, the Center Referee is almost always concerned about his/her positioning:

- ***at kick off
- ***while the ball is in play
- ***at a corner kick, goal kick, free kick, throw in, pk, substitution
- ***when a player gets hurt

Before dealing with positioning and why Center Referees follow certain patterns, there's something that you should know about this position.

>>>>It is a position of Leadership<<<<

Center Referee leadership begins 30 minutes prior to your first game of the day where several initiatives will be taken:

***meet Assistant Referees, *introduce yourselves by name*

***lead your officiating team on the *field inspection*(includes corner flags, nets and close attention to goals being anchored). Note: if goals are not anchored, game cannot start. Home team Coach must take care of this. Should you have less than 30 minutes to work with, always double check to see if goals are anchored-don't take anything for granted when dealing with this player safety issue.

***along the way from one goal to the other, you can *inspect & clear the touchlines*

****meet the Coaches*, introduce your officiating team, obtain signed game card and/or player passes, get game ball(s), review length of half & substitution rules

***conduct a *Pre-Game Conference* with AR's

***conduct *Coin Toss*-winner chooses which goal to attack; other team has kick off

****Referee walk onto the field & handshake*-send AR's to check the goals/nets one last time before taking their position on the touchline. Even though you checked them earlier, players have been shooting at goal and running into them, etc. while you finished your other duties.



Your Whistle: "...it's not what you said...it's how you said it..."

***The sound of your whistle should break the silence quickly. With the whistle in your mouth, your tongue on the opening, build up pressure and let it out with a pop. This is different from releasing air into a balloon or blowing out candles. The sound of your whistle will reflect the seriousness of the situation. How loud and for how long will depend on the reason for using it.

In any soccer match, at any age or playing level, with or without Assistant Referees, as Center Referee, you'll be taking 100's of *initiatives*...just on positioning alone.

Why do we start with POSITIONING?

Proper positioning sets the stage for good game management(of players) and puts the Center Referee(CR) in the best location to see fouls, and to manage restarts. It also gives us very good opportunities to make eye contact with the Lead Assistant Referee(AR) and to keep the ball between the CR and the Lead AR as often as is possible.

Good positioning goes hand in hand with improving FOUL RECOGNITION, which automatically includes RESTARTS.

Once we understand positioning, and practice it in games, our attention can shift to foul recognition, restarts, and player/game management.

Note:

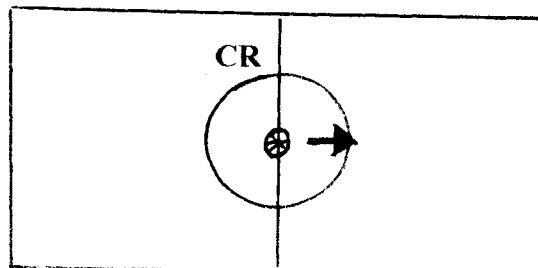
Some *initiatives* will be easy to take while others will demand maximum speed to get where you need to be. *Initiatives* is another way to describe *decisions to reposition*. You'll soon figure out when that speed is needed, but we want to caution you that speed isn't the only tool that makes things happen. And, speed on a smaller u8-10 field is not the same as positioning and speed on a full size field.

Understanding & getting good at positioning on smaller fields will build the right habits & instincts to take with you to higher level games on larger fields.

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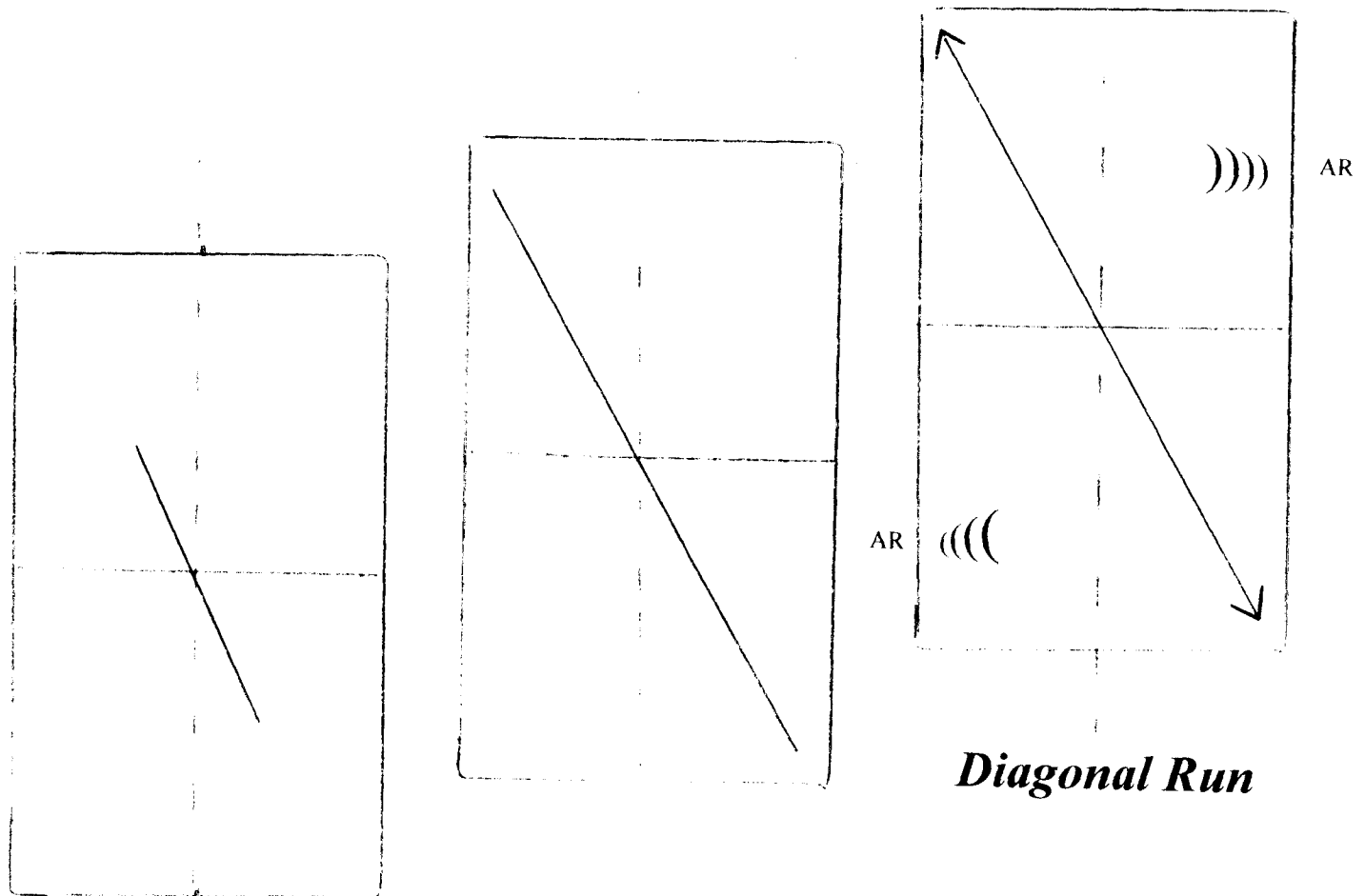
Positioning

Ok...Ready for Kick Off?



4.

With 3 referees managing the game, the CR must hustle to cover territory where there is no steady presence of an Assistant Referee

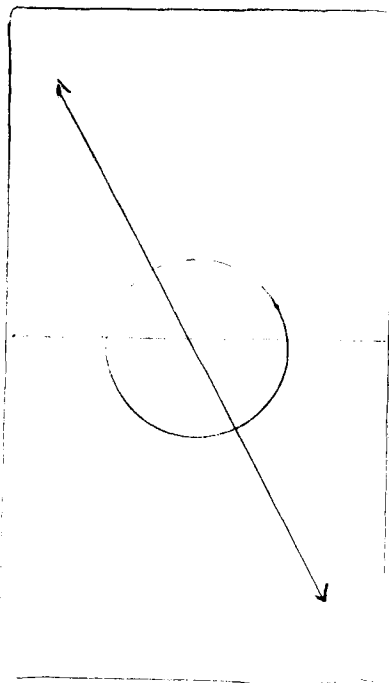


Observation:

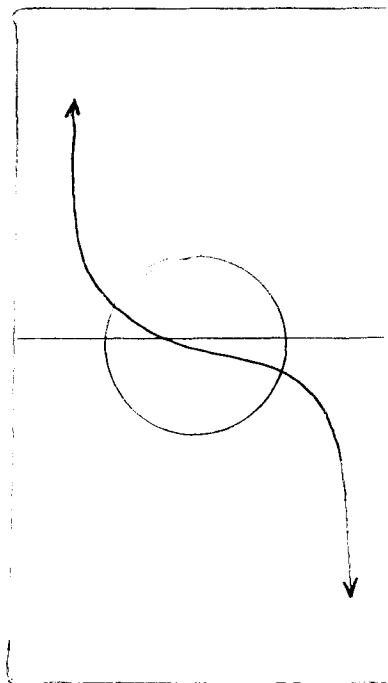
While the diagonal run might look rigid, like a railroad track, it is not that way at all during most of the game.

Upcoming illustrations will show flexible variations from the diagonal run.

'standard' diagonal run



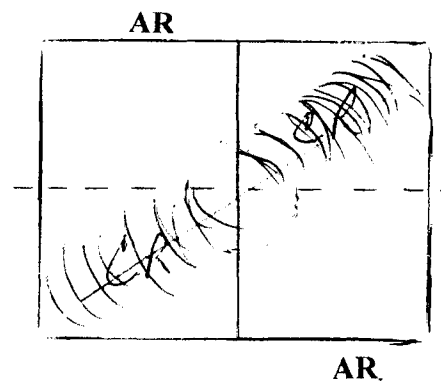
'lazy S diagonal run'



Both have the same goals

**You needn't pick one over the other
In some games, you'll use both**

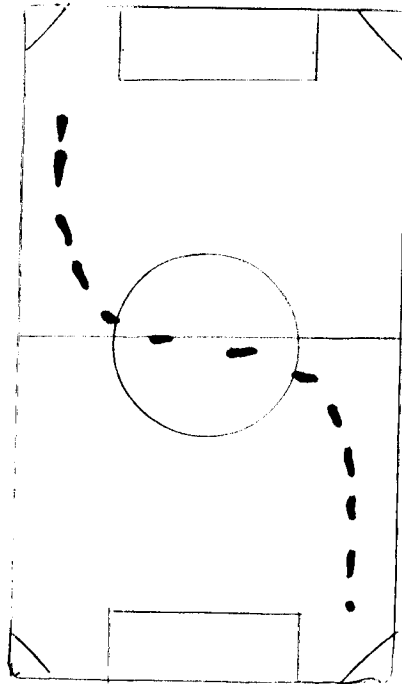
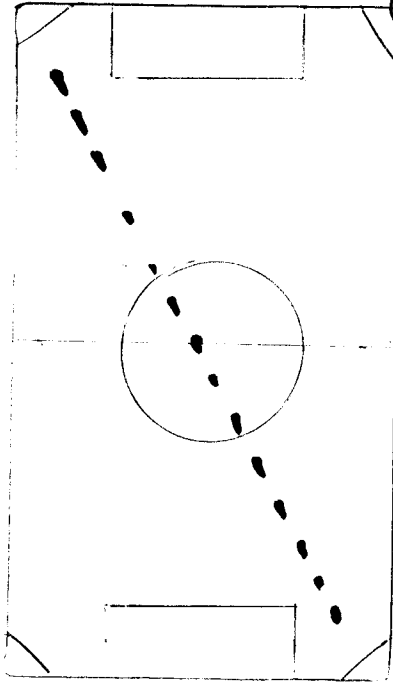
- *cover field efficiently**
- *cross through middle of field quickly**



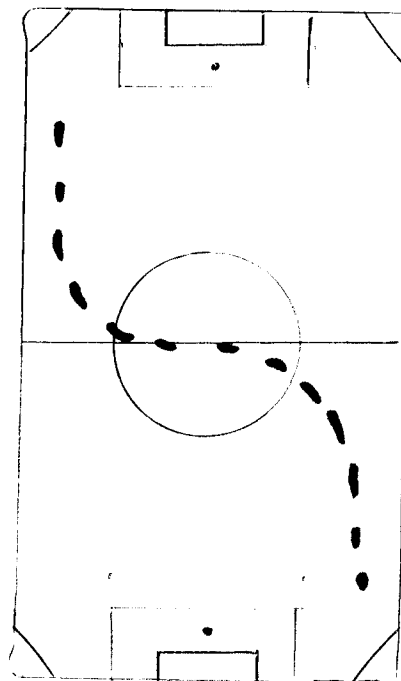
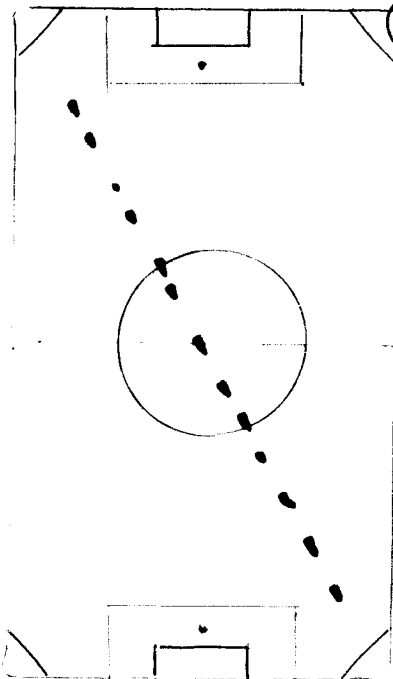
Both patterns are efficient ways to cover areas of the field that do not have the steady presence of an Assistant Referee.

6.

No ARs



ARs



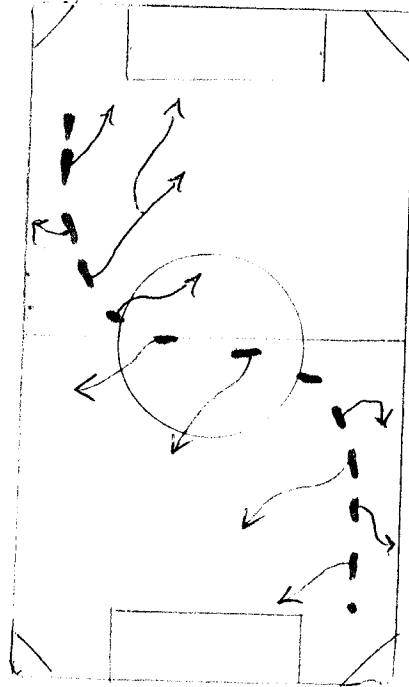
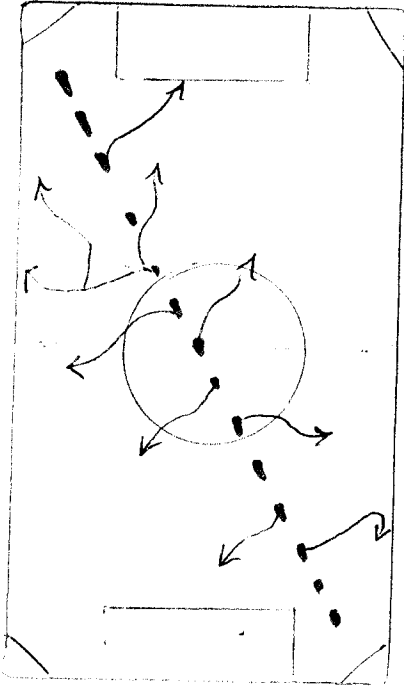
AR

AR

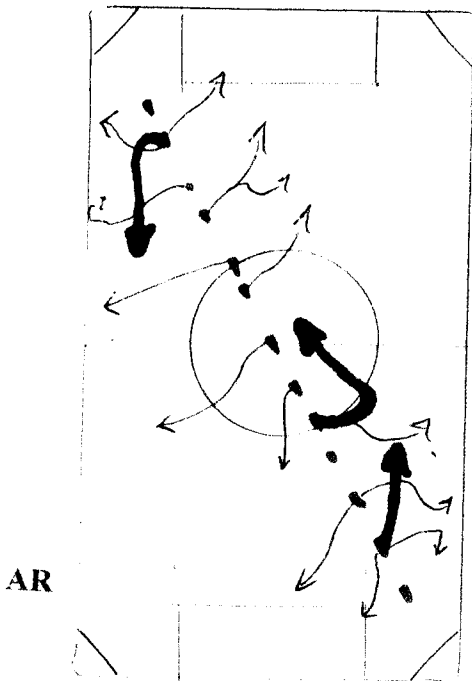
AR

AR

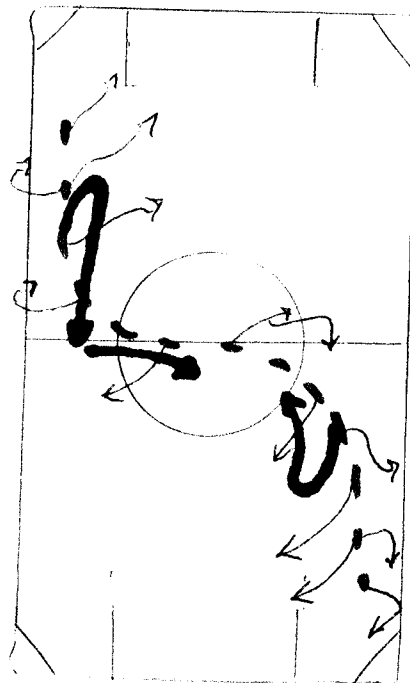
CR knows that smart decisions for positioning will rely on gut feelings, knowledge of how teams play, the CR's athletic ability.



The CR will leave & return to the diagonal run path as often as is needed



AR



AR

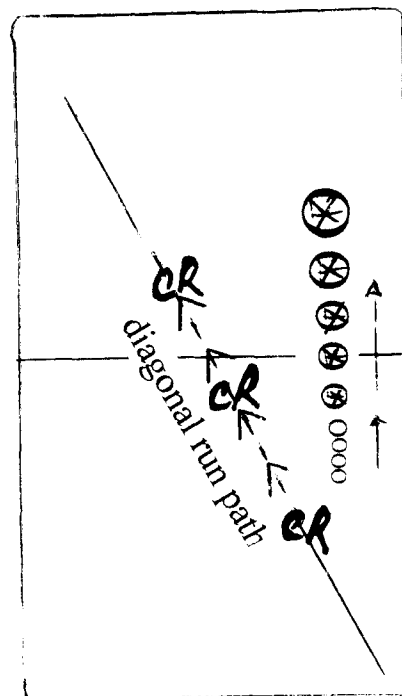
AR

Game Situations and the Diagonal Run Path

8.

When the ball is played on the right side of the field

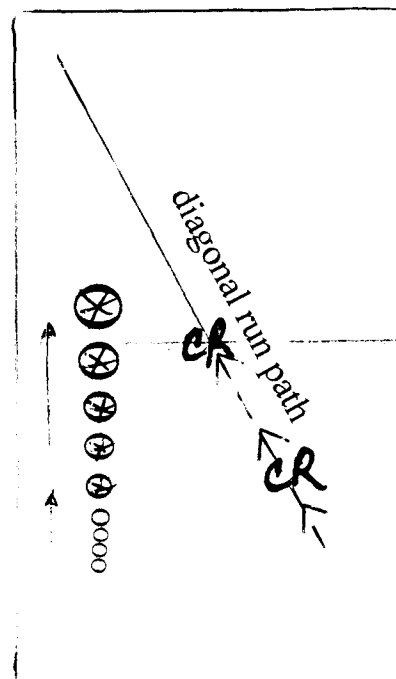
the CR usually follows play to the left of the ball.



When the ball is played on the left side of the field

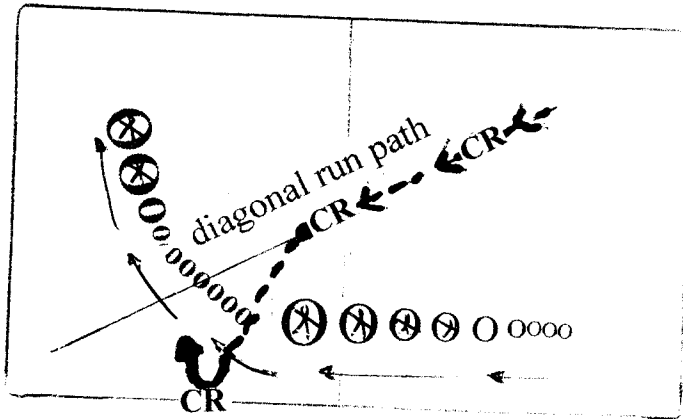
(almost the same running pattern in reverse... but something different happens)

The CR usually follows play to the right of the ball....but *notice that he/she is on a collision course with players and the ball, so, the CR decides to hold up a bit to see what comes next (where the ball is going) before crossing completely over to the other side, or, before going too deeply into his/her quadrant.*



The CR completes his/her transition across the field
 (((when the time is right)))

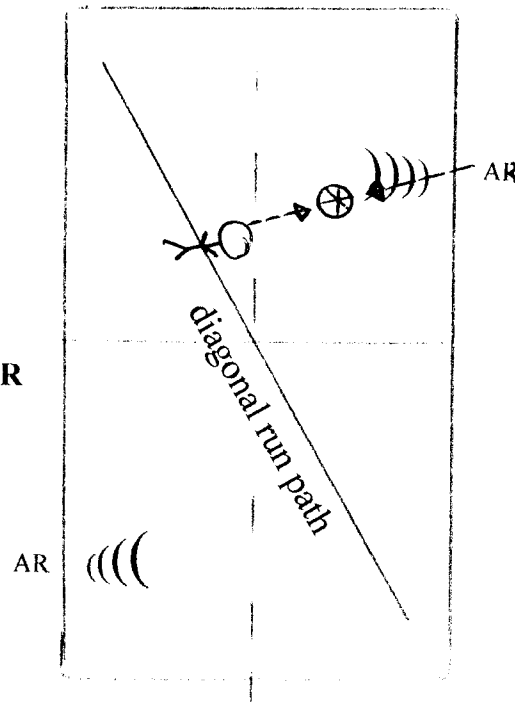
The CR remains flexible on how fast to move, whether to back-pedal or jog or sprint
 AND decides when to leave the diagonal run path
 (((in order to go to the next best position)))



The CR "sees" the best time to cut across the field, usually trailing play, not staying in the middle (active playing area) too long

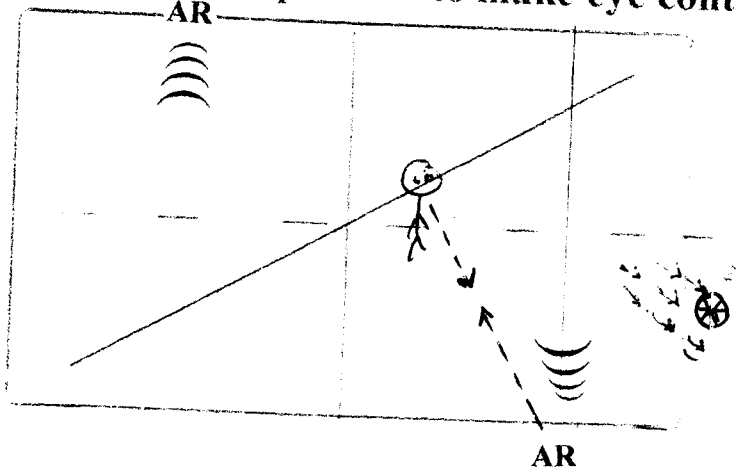
What's a very desirable next best position?

Hint: 2 sets of eyes on play are better than one



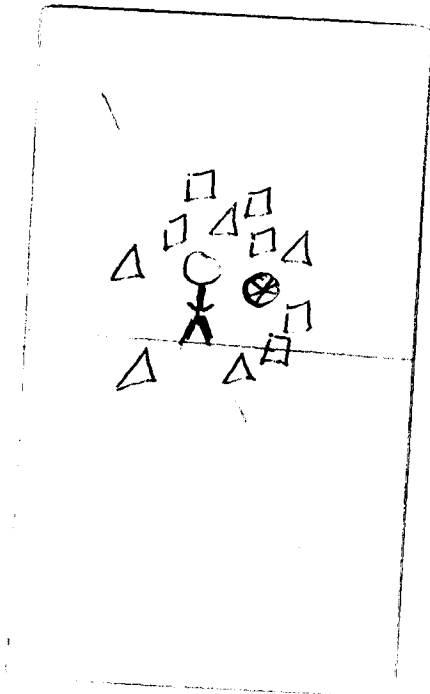
- *cover field efficiently
- *cross through middle of field quickly
- *position self so that ball is between you and Lead AR

The CR is also in a great position to make eye contact with the Lead AR

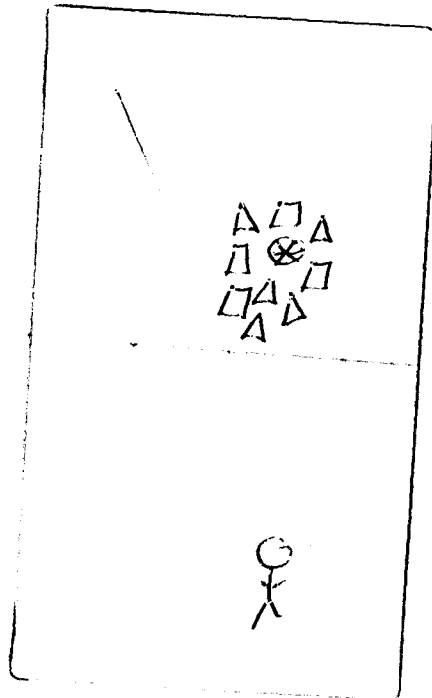


'Close Enough To Play' - 3 views

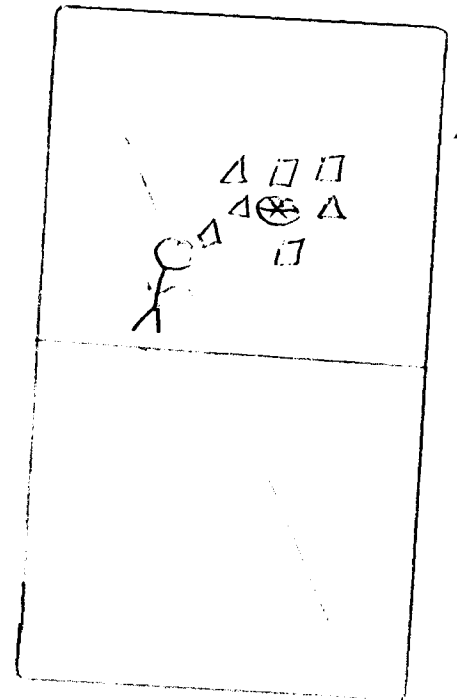
The CR will follow play upfield, attempting to stay "close enough" to play
(((10-15 yards from play on the ball)))



too close



too far away



'just right'

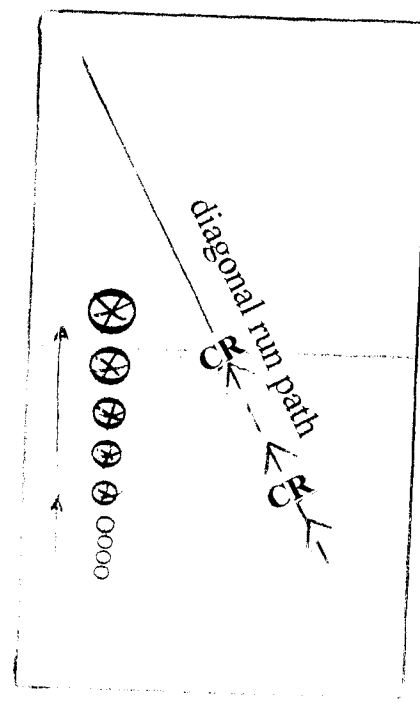
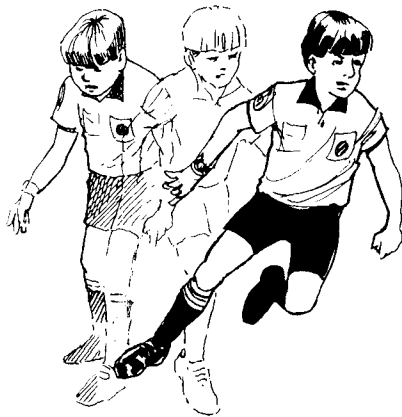
AR

This is a good example of the CR getting ready to take initiative while making decisions on where to move to next.

To transition across the field, the CR might call on his/her maximum speed for just a few yards....depending on the play that has just developed and the skill level of the players.

The CR must remain flexible in movement, that is:

- ***fast break speed
- ***jogging speed
- ***back pedaling
- ***sidesteps
- ***brisk walk



All the while thinking ahead, anticipating what might be the next best position to take.

- *cover field efficiently
- *cross through middle of field quickly
- *position self so that ball is between you and Lead AR
- *at any stoppage, the CR should make eye contact with the Lead AR for sure

If you like to keep busy, you're gonna like being a Center Referee

How to get 10-15 yards from play?

Do whatever it takes: sprint, jog, brisk walk, back-pedal, sidestep

12. Referees, parents, players and coaches respect Center Referees who work hard at being in the right position.

Your Notes & Questions

Set Play Diagrams for Positioning & Signaling

- * USSF Guide To Procedures

How to Get In Touch With Mentors

- * Go to SCYSL website. Click on Referee section. Look at "Library" section, Mentors listed alphabetically. In Arbiter, click on Officials, email them.

How to Get Games With Mentors

- * Go to The Arbiter. Click on MASTER SCHEDULE, click on VIEW SLOTS(at far right). Scroll to bottom to select page with game dates; self-assign to games with Mentors.

How to Get Games as a Center Referee

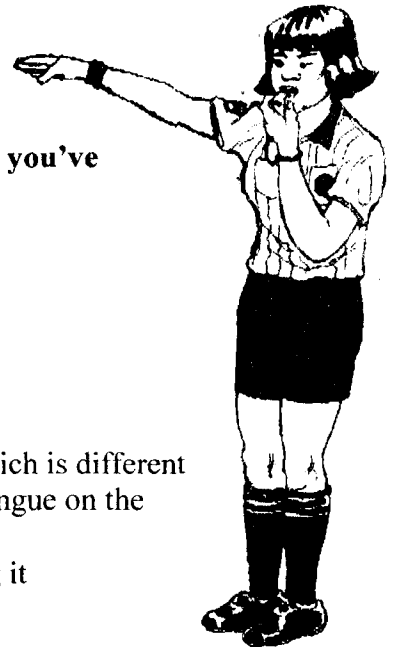
- *Let us know that you've read this training document & that you've talked it over with a Mentor or other seasoned referee
- *Contact your Referee Coordinator or Assignor

How to Get Higher Level Games

- * Check to see if you can self-assign to them, if not,
- * Contact your Referee Coordinator or Assignor

Your Whistle

- * "...it's not what you said, it's the way you said it..."
- * The sound of your whistle should break the silence quickly, which is different from blowing out a candle or blowing up a balloon. With your tongue on the opening, build up pressure...and let it out with a pop.
- * How loud and for how long will depend on the reason for using it



Better Positions.....Better Decisions
Frequent Re-positioning