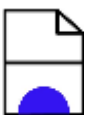


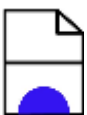
This is just a summary from a real 167-page long APC playbook, with some features and sections from our Personalized Playbooks, so coaches can taste the quality of this product. If you are interested on getting your own customized playbook, please contact penaltycorneranalytics@gmail.com





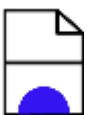
MONTANA VIPERS

**ATTACKING PENALTY CORNER:
OFFENSIVE PLAYBOOK 2025**



SECTION I : INTRODUCTION

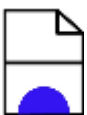
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF PENALTY CORNER ANALYTICS



MONTANA VIPERS



GOALS & PRINCIPLES



2025 GOALS

This playbook is the foundation of our offensive set-pieces preparation, providing the structure and strategies necessary to excel in one of the game's most decisive moments. To give context, in 2024:

- 2 of the 4 NCAA Final 4 teams were on the Top10 for APC scoring rate.
- 70% of the Division I conference champions were on the Top25 for APC scoring rate.

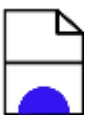
This is not coincidence; penalty corners are becoming more and more important every year, and there is a clear tendency:

GOOD CORNER EXECUTION TEAMS = CHAMPIONSHIPS.

We are going to set some general goals for this year, and on the chart in next page, we will also set specific and numerical goals:

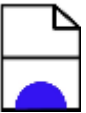
1. Maximize Scoring Opportunities: turn penalty corners into consistent and reliable goal-scoring chances.
2. Promote Tactical Variety: equip the team with a wide diversity of plays to use in different scenarios depending on the opponent.
3. Adapt To Opponents: continuing with previous point, adjust tactics to counter different defensive setups and adapt to in-game scenarios.
4. Ensure Flawless Execution: align all players with clear roles and responsibilities for seamless coordination.
5. Capitalize On Rebounds: many top APC teams reached good rates through corner rebounds.
6. Improve Individuals Knowledge: by deepening players' understanding of APC strategies and execution, they will grasp the reasoning behind each play, leading to smarter decisions and better overall results.

We believe that this last point is the most important of all; we want to make every player an expert on corner executions, as that can also give us better feedback from inside, which can help us adjust the corner call (we all work together, and all points of view will be heard, always respecting the coaches' decision-making).



	2024	2025 GOALS
APC CONVERSION RATE (%)	08%	17%
TOTAL OF CORNER GOALS	06	19
GOALS SCORED OFF REBOUND	02	05
AMOUNT OF BROKEN CORNERS	11	07
NCAA APC CONVERSION RATE RANKING	68	25

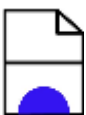
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF



PRINCIPLES

1. Professionalism In Preparation: players are expected to approach penalty corners with the mindset of elite athletes. This includes studying the playbook, understanding their roles and coming to practices and into the games ready.
2. Relentless Precision: every action, from the insert to the shot, going through all off-ball movements and motions, must be executed with exactness. Small margins make the difference between success and failure.
3. Endless Possibilities: the playbook's variety ensures adaptability, giving us the tools to execute creative and unpredictable plays in any situation.
4. Commitment To Excellence: success requires full focus during corner practices, attention to details, and continuous improvement in every aspect of offensive penalty corner execution.
5. Anticipate The Unexpected: within this playbook we cover nearly every possible scenario, including when things do not go as planned, like broken corners or rebound situations. We want to be prepared, even when plan A does not go as expected, we will have a plan B and a plan C.

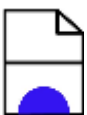
By following these principles, our team will deliver penalty corners with discipline, creativity, and **professionalism**.



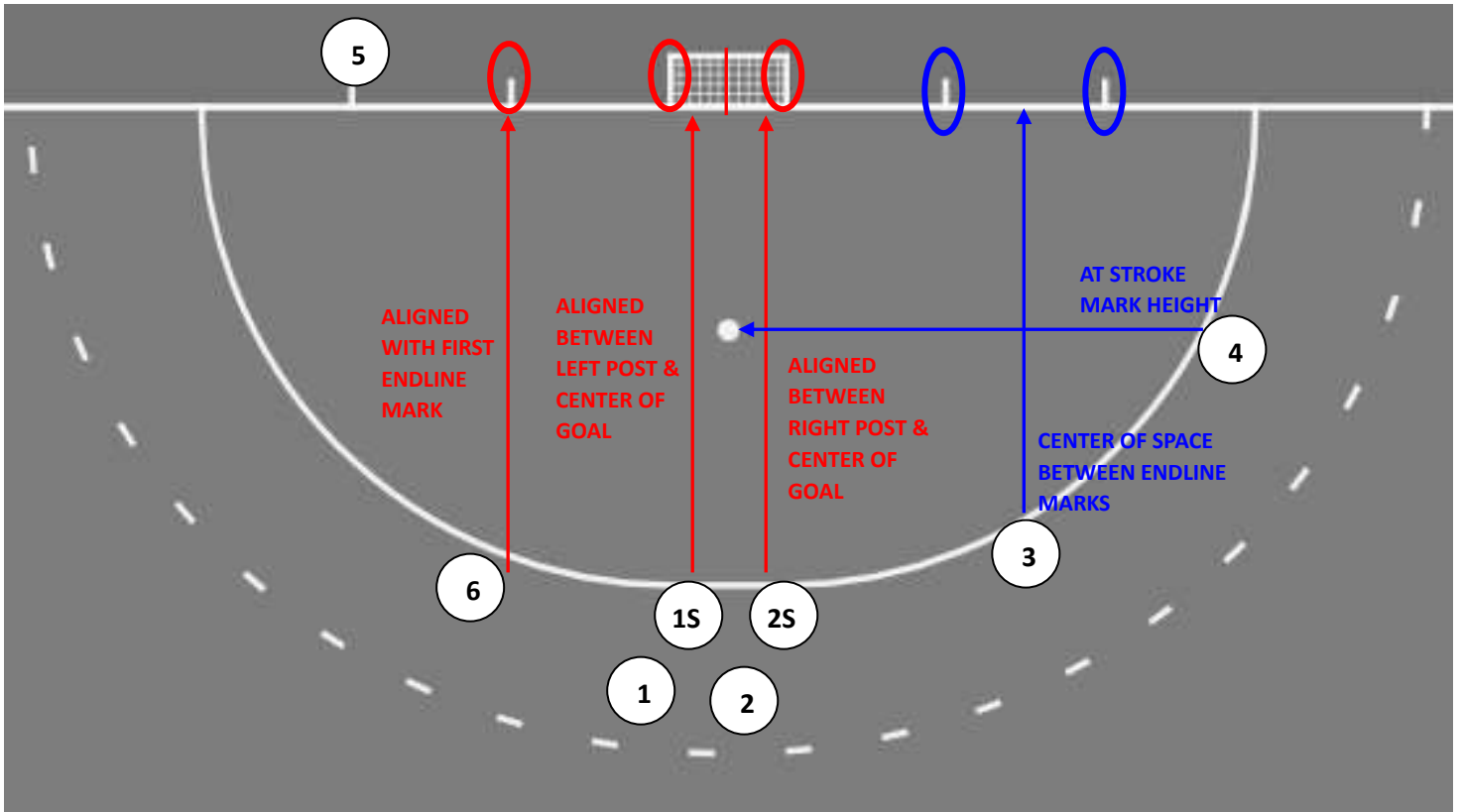
MONTANA VIPERS



OFFENSIVE FORMATIONS & BASIC TERMINOLOGY



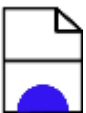
DOUBLE BATTERY FORMATION



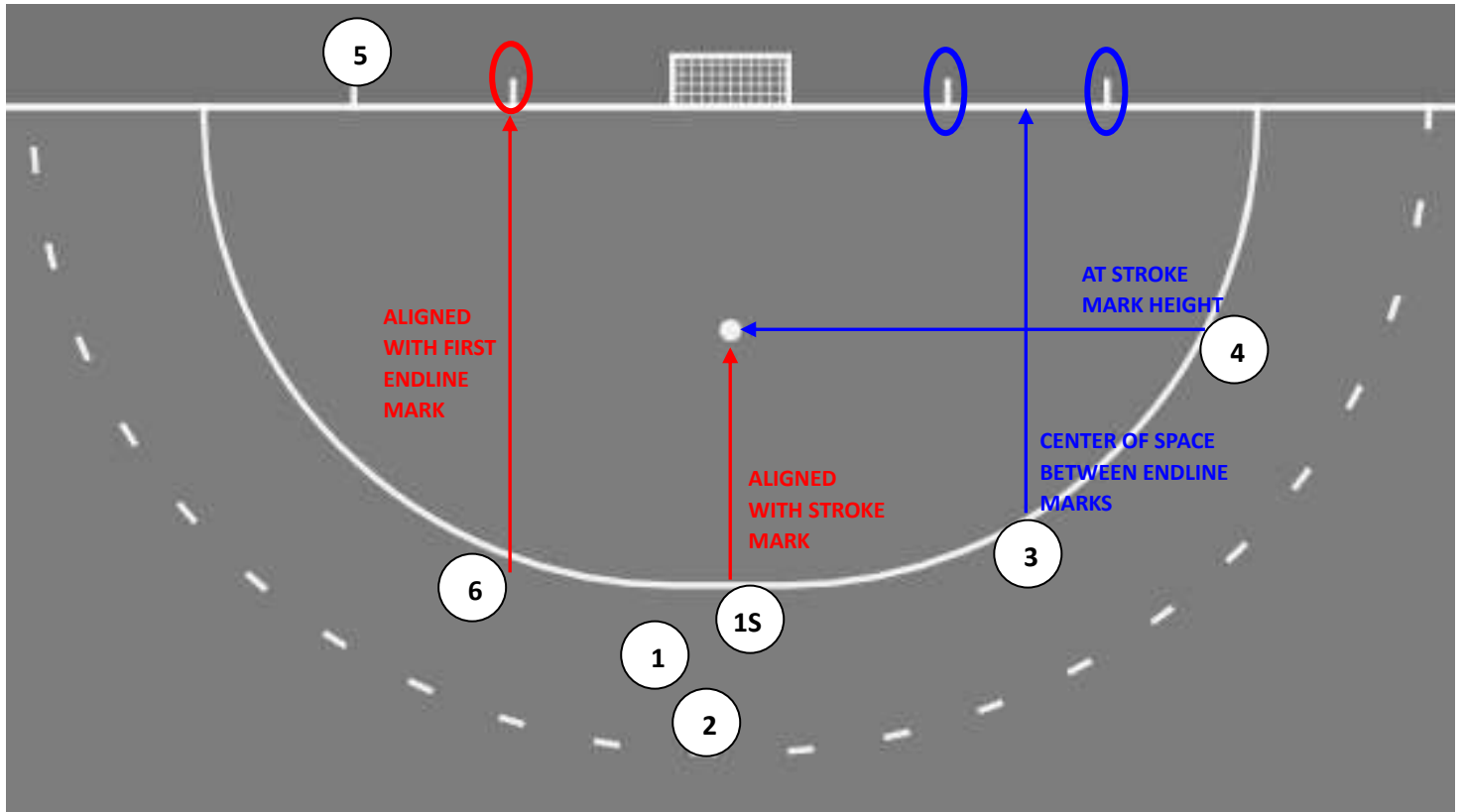
OFFENSIVE TERMINOLOGY

- 1 : STRIKER ON 1st BATTERY
 - 1S : STICKSTOPPER ON 1st BATTERY
 - 2 : STRIKER ON 2nd BATTERY
 - 2S : STICKSTOPPER ON 2nd BATTERY
 - 3 : HIGH RIGHT-SIDE PLAYER
 - 4 : DEEP RIGHT-SIDE PLAYER
 - 5 : INSERTER
 - 6 : SHORT
- COMPOSE 1st BATTERY
- COMPOSE 2nd BATTERY
- COMPOSE RIGHT-SIDE PLAYERS

1st and 2nd battery alignments are from the perspective of the stickstoppers' backhand (point of contact with the ball) and the short's (6) alignment is with her stick forehand (point of contact). On the other hand, the right-side players (3 and 4) alignments are with their bodies.



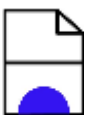
SINGLE BATTERY FORMATION



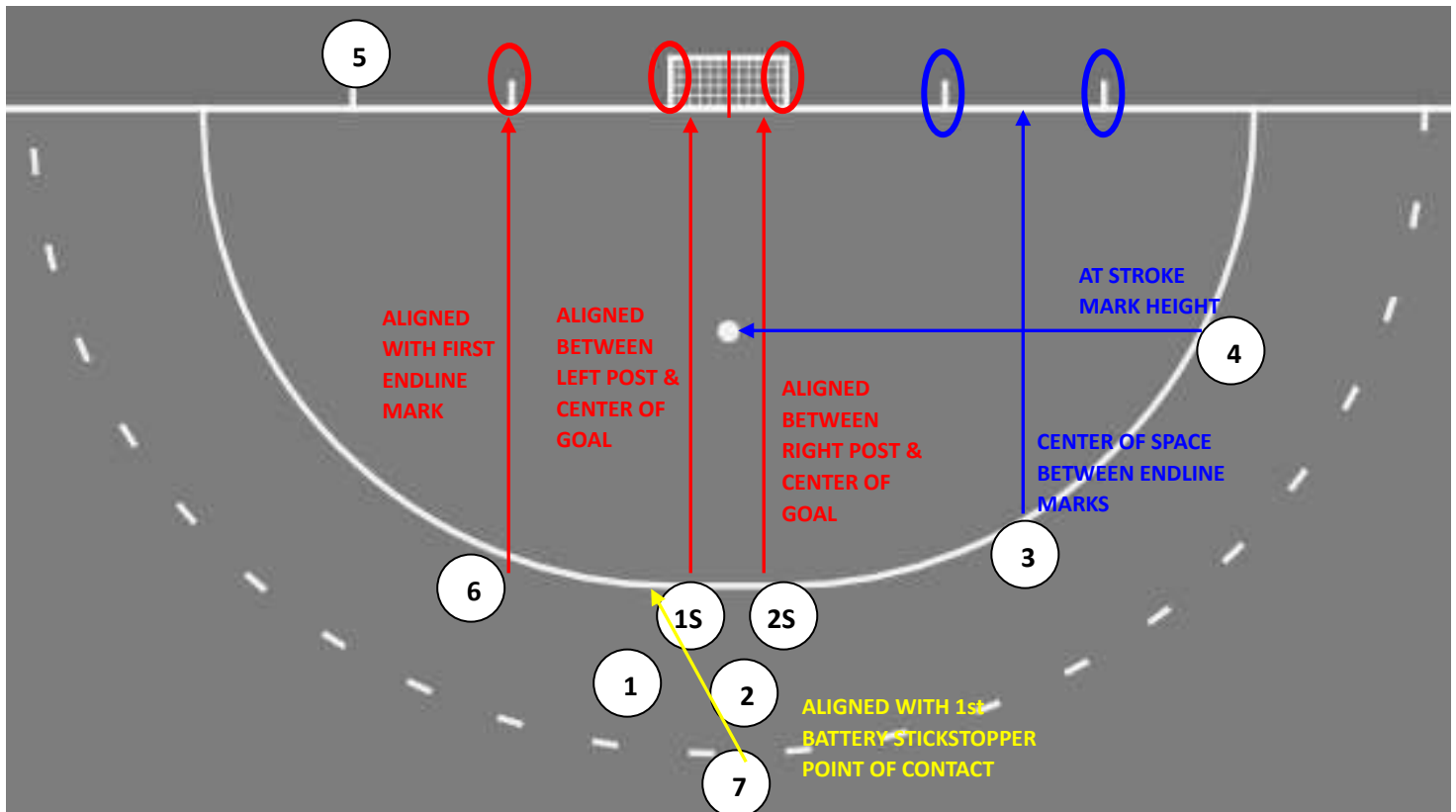
OFFENSIVE TERMINOLOGY

- 1 : 1st STRIKER ON BATTERY
 - 1S : STICKSTOPPER ON BATTERY
 - 2 : 2nd STRIKER ON BATTERY
 - 3 : HIGH RIGHT-SIDE PLAYER
 - 4 : DEEP RIGHT-SIDE PLAYER
 - 5 : INSERTER
 - 6 : SHORT
- } COMPOSE BATTERY
- } COMPOSE RIGHT-SIDE PLAYERS

Battery alignment from the perspective of the stickstopper's backhand (point of contact with the ball) and the short's (6) alignment is with her stick forehand (point of contact). On the other hand, the right-side players (3 and 4) alignments are with their bodies.



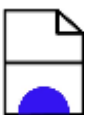
EXTRA PLAYER FORMATION



OFFENSIVE TERMINOLOGY

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 : STRIKER ON 1st BATTERY - 1S : STICKSTOPPER ON 1st BATTERY - 2 : STRIKER ON 2nd BATTERY - 2S : STICKSTOPPER ON 2nd BATTERY | } | <p>COMPOSE 1st BATTERY</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 : HIGH RIGHT-SIDE PLAYER - 4 : DEEP RIGHT-SIDE PLAYER | } | <p>COMPOSE 2nd BATTERY</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 : INSERTER - 6 : SHORT - 7 : EXTRA STRIKER ON 1st BATTERY | } | <p>COMPOSE RIGHT-SIDE PLAYERS</p> |

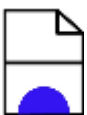
Extra player is behind the dotted line and aligned with the stickstopper on 1st battery (point of contact). Extra player is used for non-straight plays, with the intention of allowing strikers to aim for the net on the initial shot.



MONTANA VIPERS

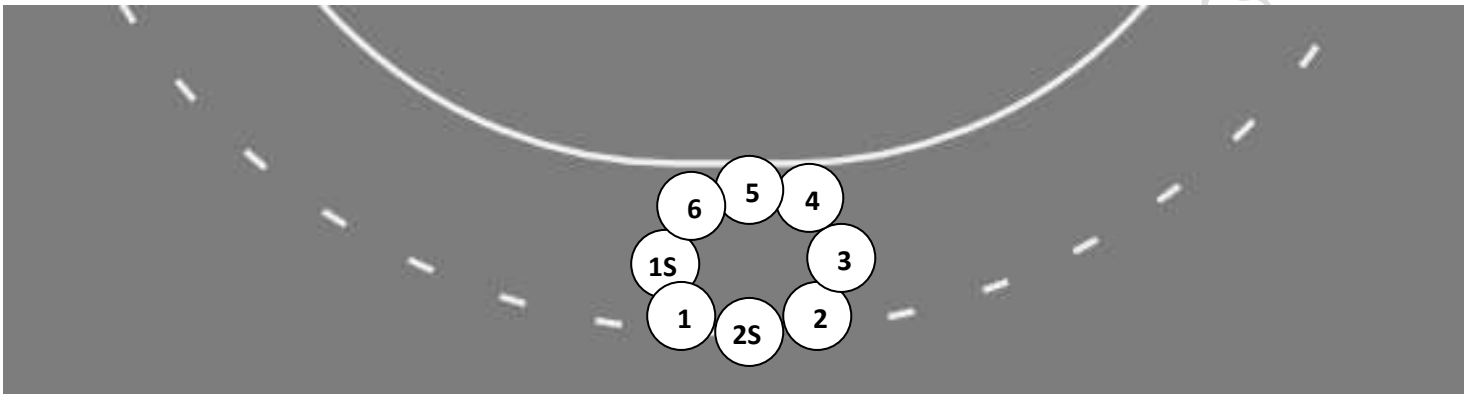


HUDDLE & INSERTING MOTIONS

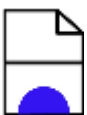


HUDDLE MECHANICS

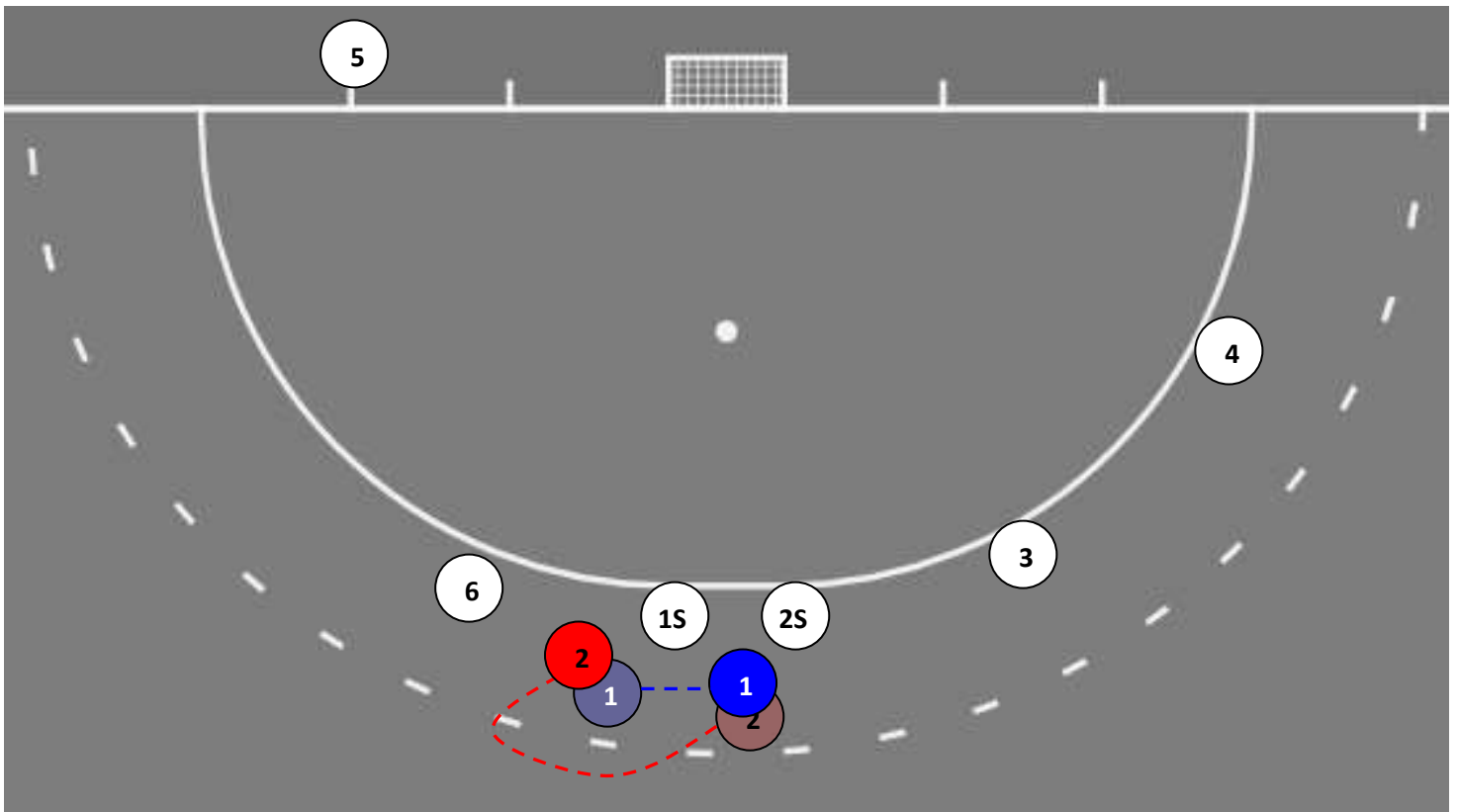
1. Inserter (5) is the reference for the huddle and always sets it up at the edge of the circle with her back turned to the goal.
2. Players on the huddle form a circle following the same numerical order as when they set up for the corner (shown in this picture).



3. Before coach gives the play call, the inserter must make sure that they have the appropriate number of players on the huddle for the penalty corner formation (if double battery: 8 players, if single battery: 7 players, etc.)
4. If any players are missing on the huddle, another player must be called by the inserter to complete the formation.
5. Once the huddle has all players for the formation, the inserter will look up to the coach, who will call the play to be executed. Inserter will communicate the play to the rest of the huddle.
6. Inserter must give a “thumbs up” to coach communicating that she got the play right, before getting her head back into the huddle to share the play call with the rest of the unit.
7. “Ready-Break” followed by a clap, is the signal by the inserter to leave the huddle.

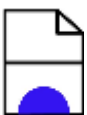


STRIKERS SWITCH



EXECUTION AND OBJECTIVE

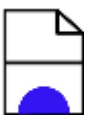
After players are set up and ready for the insert, players 1 and 2 (striker on 1st battery and striker on 2nd battery) switch positions. Important that inserter waits until strikers start the motion to insert. This is done with the purpose of making the play call less predictable, as when opponents scout, they might anticipate some corner executions based on the strikers' setup. When switching, player 2 will be crossing behind player 1.



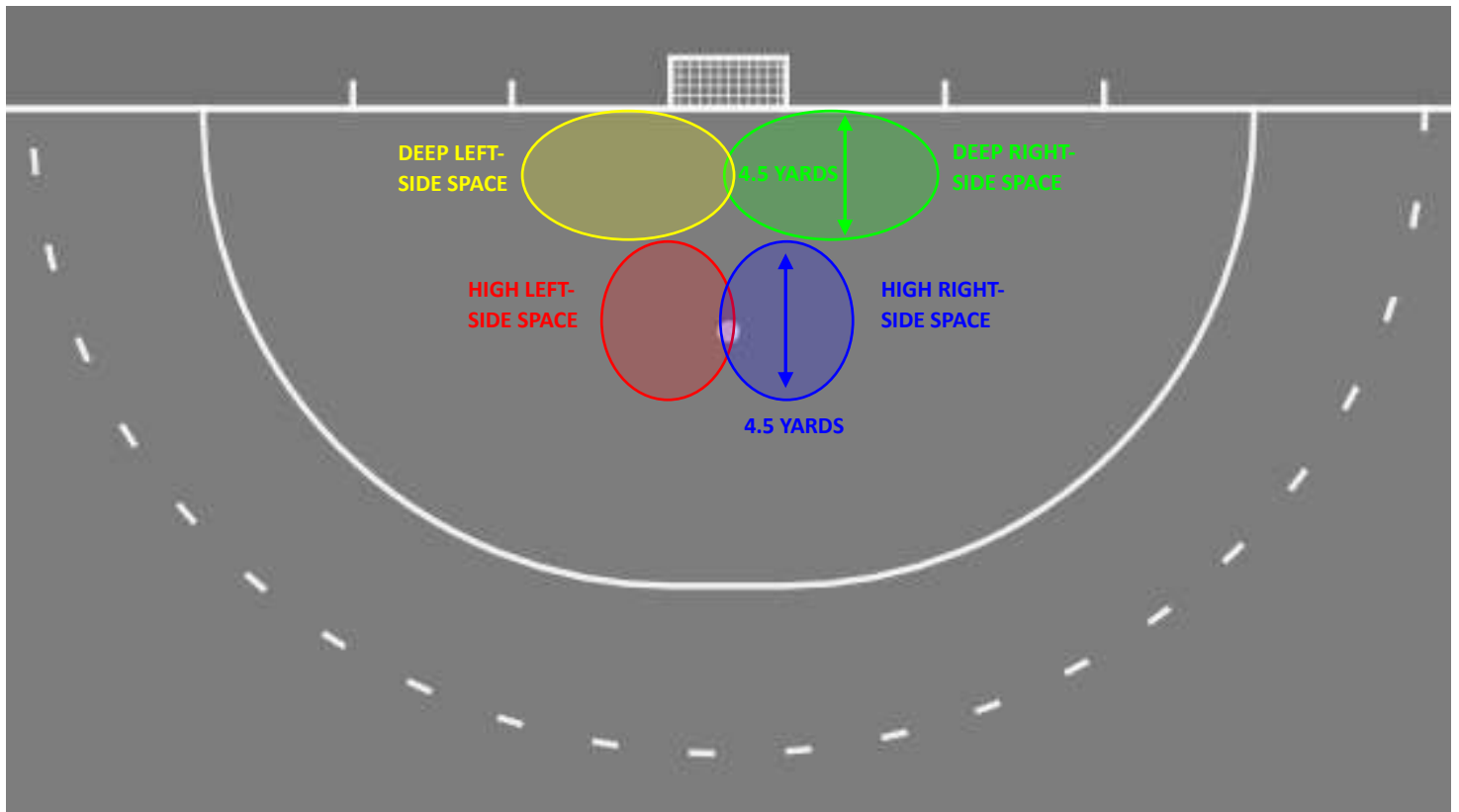
MONTANA VIPERS



GENERAL TERMINOLOGY & DEFENSIVE RECOGNITION



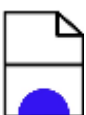
CIRCLE DEFLECTING ZONES



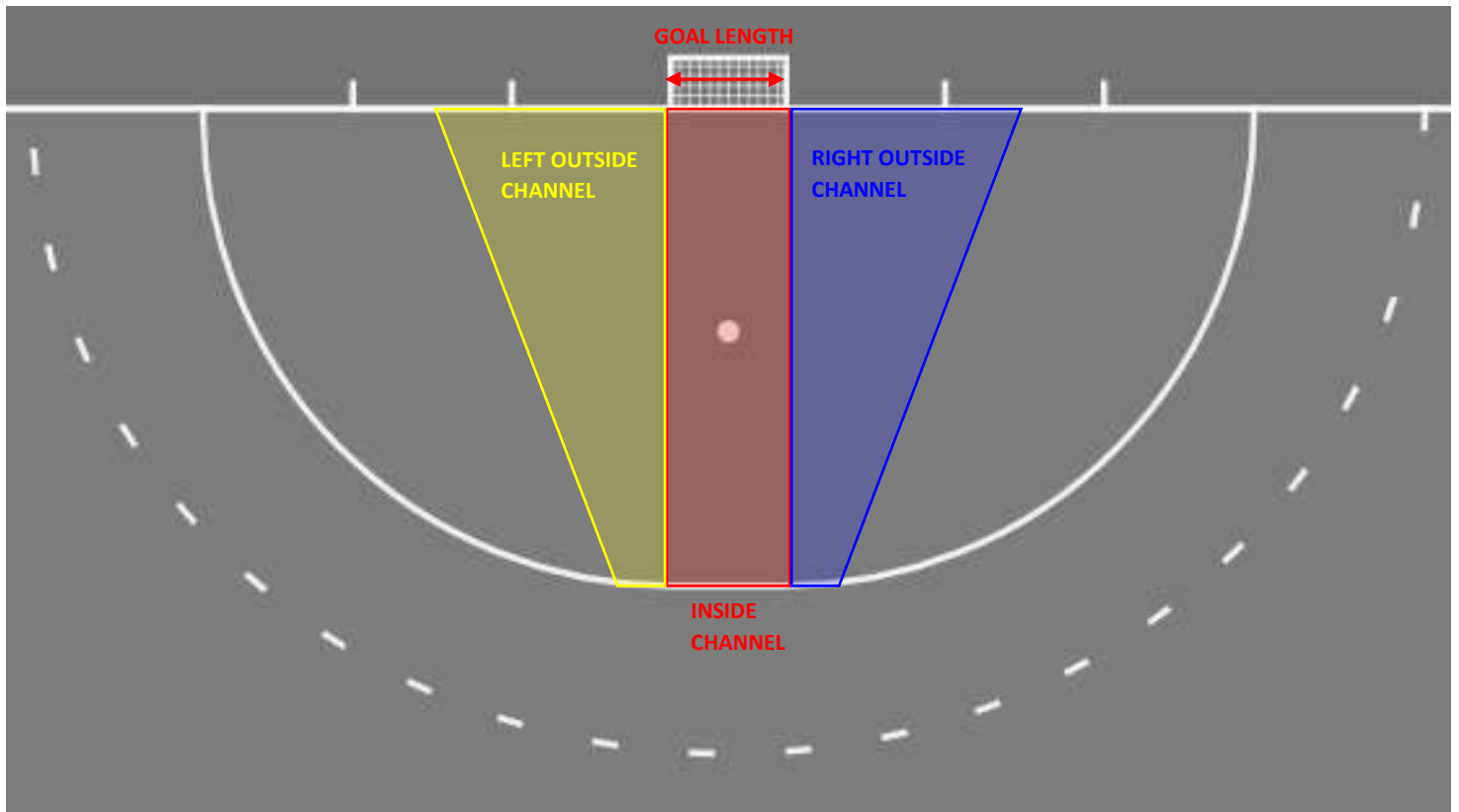
Right-side deflecting/tipping spaces are exploded through forehand tips, while the left-side spaces are used through backhand deflections.

Top spaces are narrower as they typically (not always) are exploded on the inside channel (shown in coming pages). The deep spaces are wider, as attackers typically can find tips on the inside and outside channels.

All 4 of these zones are referenced and used as finishing spaces, as they are exploded on the finishing stage of the corner.

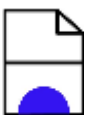


CIRCLE CHANNELS

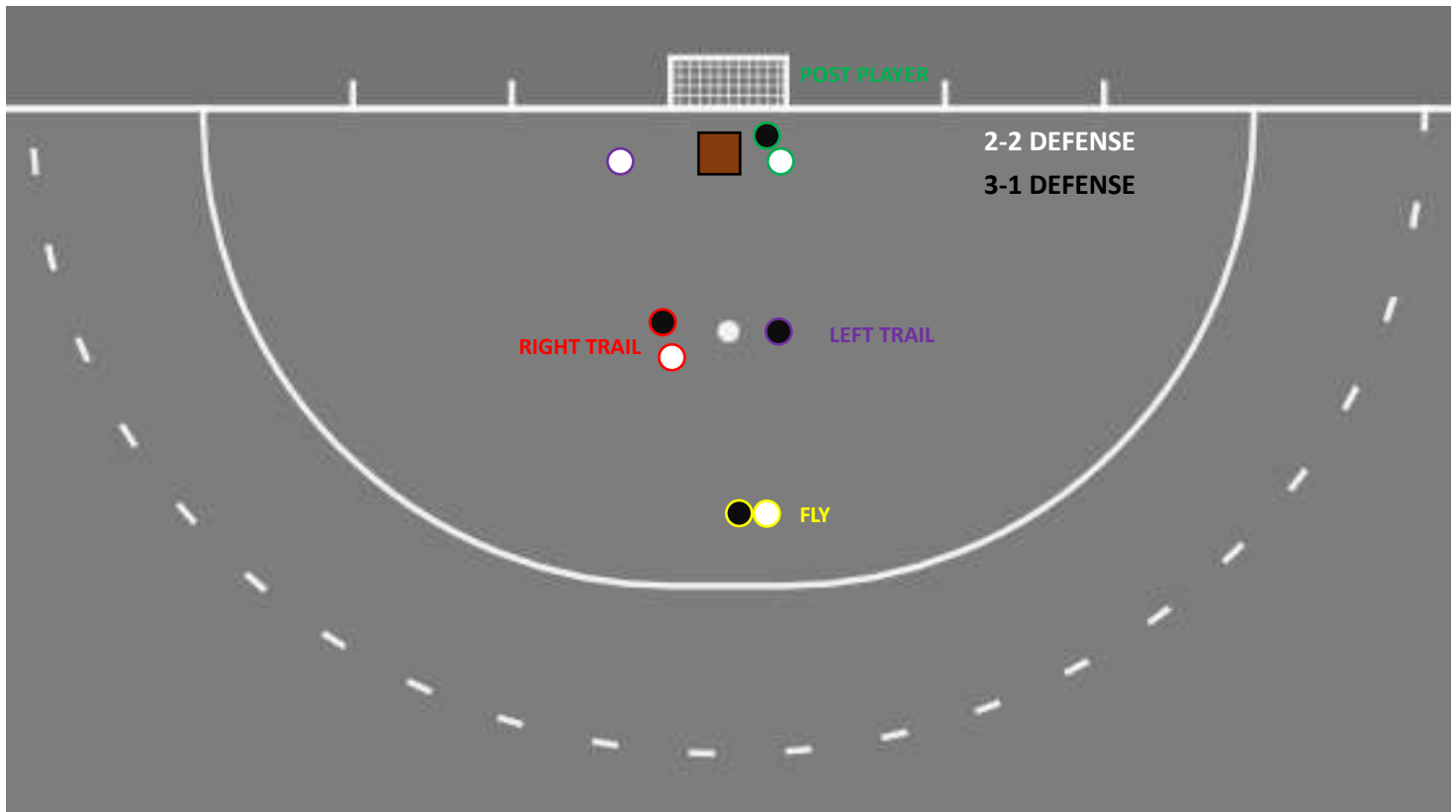


These channels will be referenced and used on the setting up stage, since they are like the roads where the ball will drive to get to the destination: intended tippers, shooting positions, etc.

It is extremely important that every player memorizes and understands each of the terms shown in the previous 3 pages, since this terminology will drive our playbook from here on.



DEFENSIVE RECOGNITION

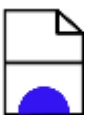


Defensive units use 4 players & a goalkeeper, with the 2-2 and the 3-1 as the most common formations. These formations are determined by the number of defenders on each side of the ball: 2-2, 2 defenders on each side; 3-1, 3 defenders on right-side and 1 on left-side. Despite that, there are many different potential variations that can be used, which generate different shapes and defensive blocks.

Although coaches will notice and scout these tendencies, it is also important that players are able to recognize these shapes live, so they can adjust mid game and give an inside perspective to the coaching staff.

The defensive block shape is determined by the position of the defenders, where each player is the vertex of the resulting square/triangle.

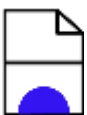
In the next pages we will cover some of the most common block shapes.



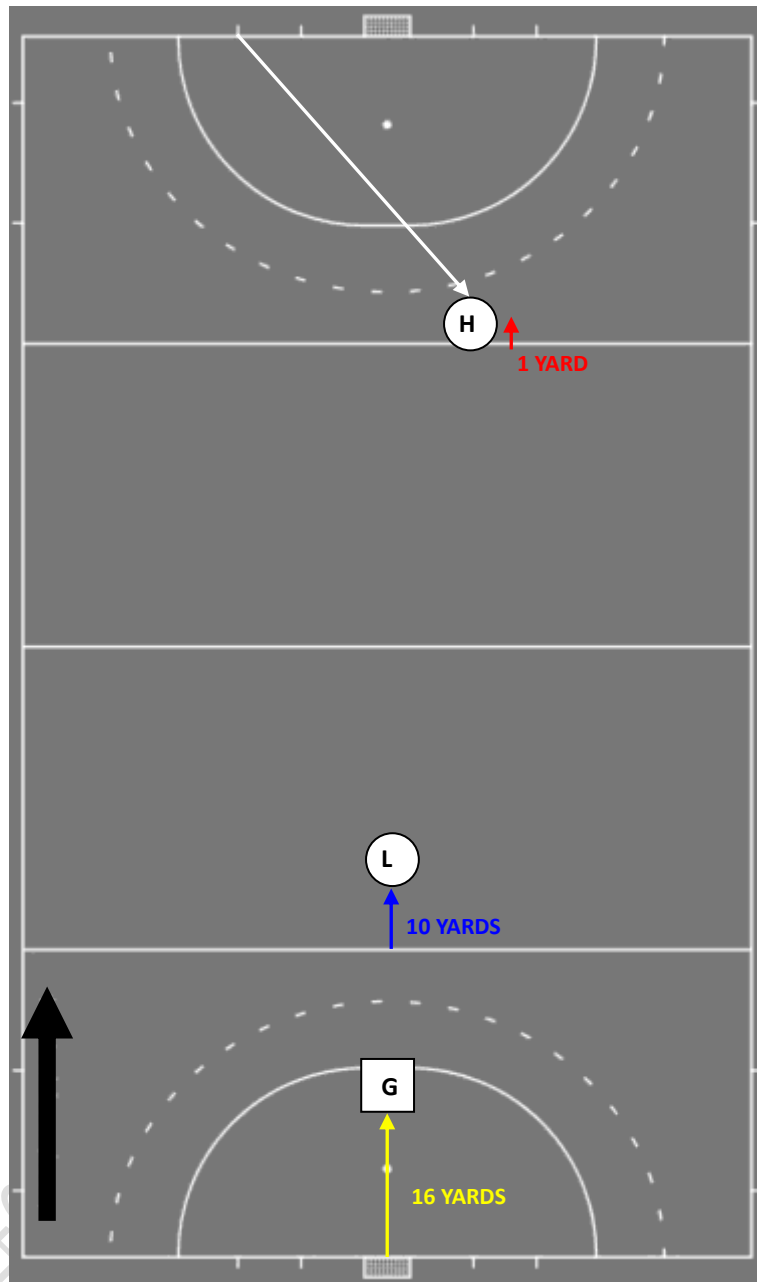
MONTANA VIPERS



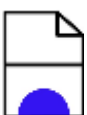
BACKFIELD ROLES



DOUBLE BATTERY BACKFIELD POSITIONING

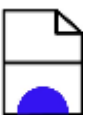


	HEIGHT	WIDTH	PURPOSE
H	1 yard in front of the 25 line	In line with inserter and battery	Cut the ball if stickstopper is unable to stop it
L	10 yards in front of our own 25 line	Aligned with center of the goal	Defensive prevention, avoid potential counterattacks
G (Goalkeeper)	At edge of the circle	Aligned with center of the goal	Can get out of the circle to cut potential long balls

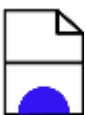


SECTION II : PLAYBOOK

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF PENALTY CORNER ANALYTICS



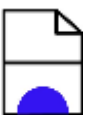
Most pages from this section cannot be shown due to the intellectual value from its content. Only certain pages from the end of the playbook (that do not follow our Personalized Playbook system and style) could be shown. If you are interested on getting your own customized playbook, please contact penaltycorneranalytics@gmail.com



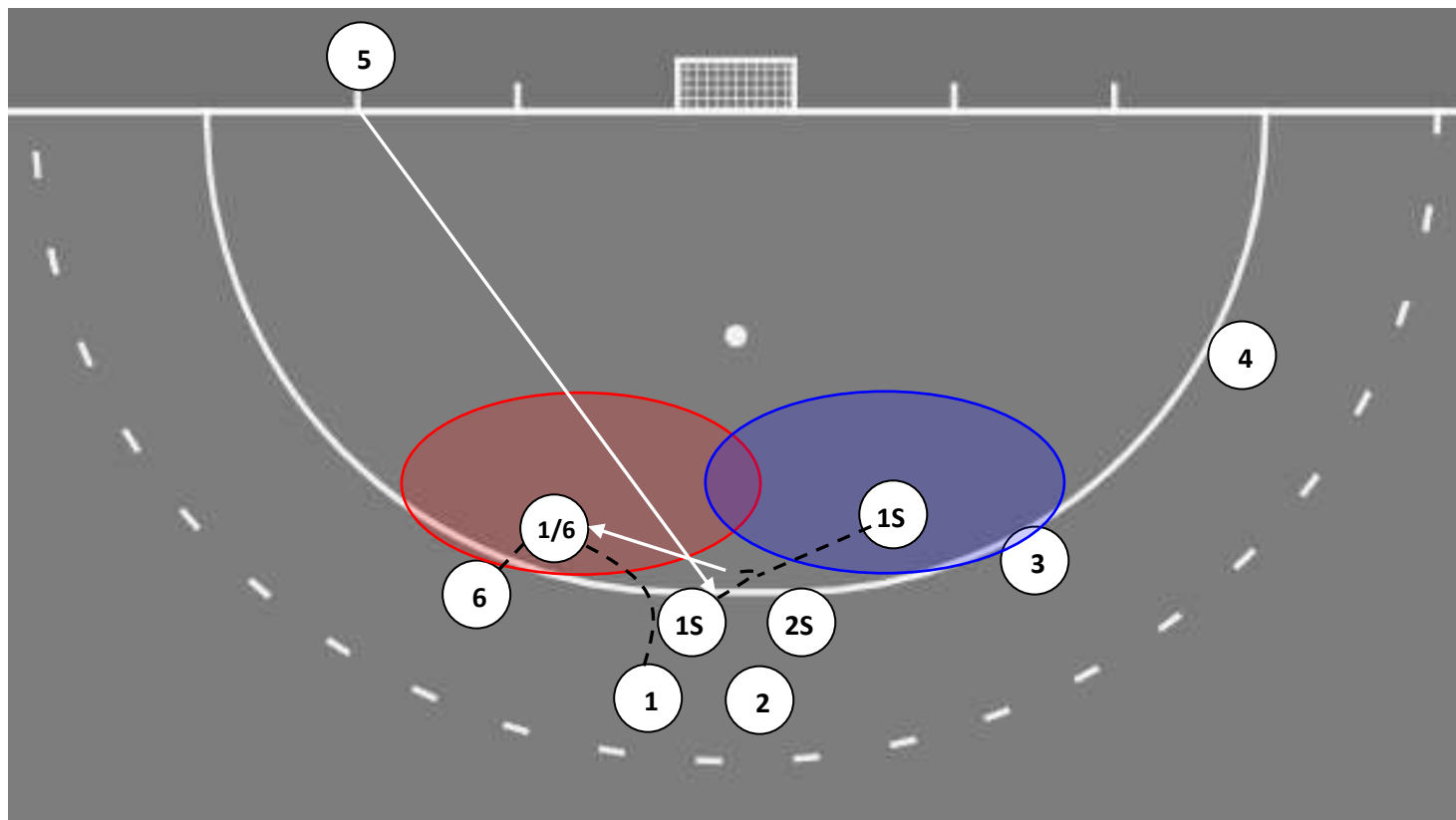
MONTANA VIPERS



BROKEN PLAYS



MISSED INSERT RIGHT ON 1st BATTERY



If 5 misses the insert right, to the point where stickstopper has no other option than stopping the ball on her forehead, the corner will be considered broken. On that moment we will start the broken protocol:

- Empty top right-side space
- Passing option at top left-side space

Therefore, 2 & 2S regardless of what the original corner call was, will empty the top right-side space, even getting out of the circle if needed. On the other hand, if on the original corner call, 6 was meant to stay at top of the circle, she will keep that position, being a passing option for 1S; but if 6 has left the top left-side space, 1 will fill that position, becoming the passing option for 1S.

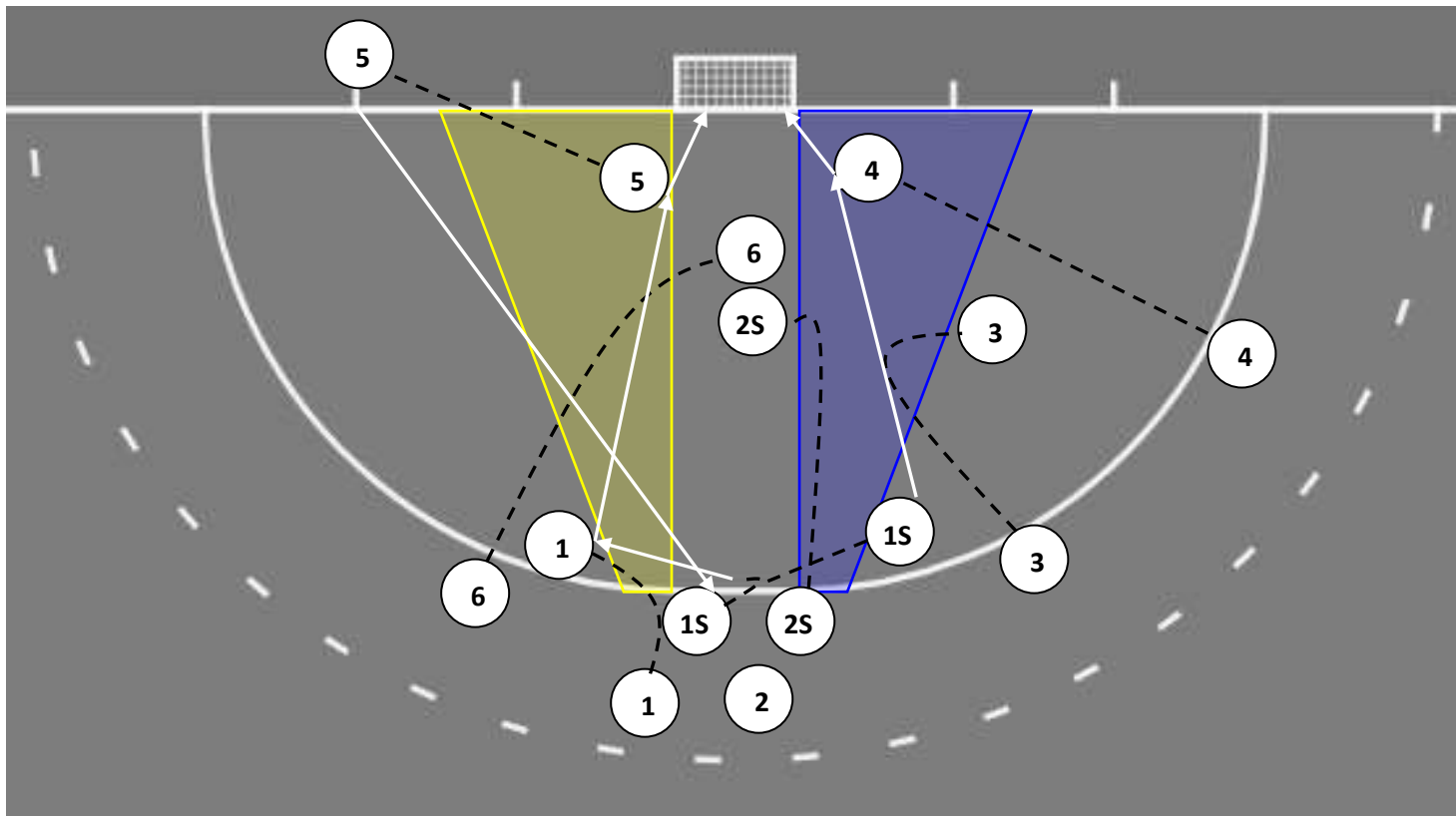
This set of motions, are done with the intention of giving an overall structure to the now broken corner, where the set piece is now an audible play that depends on 1S. She will always take the first couple of steps dribbling to top right-side, but from there she can:

- Dribble to top right-side space, until opening shooting line (hit/sweep)
- Push pass to top left-side space option

1S must call out loud that it is a broken corner to activate the protocol for everyone.



MISSED INSERT RIGHT ON 1st BATTERY (Part 2)



After either of these options has been executed by 1S, we will activate a couple other sub-audible options for both sides. On top left-side space:

- Touch and shot by receiving player, 1/6 (play name: 11/16)
- One time sweep to left post finding 5's tip (play name: 115Tip/165Tip)

It is important that after the broken protocol is activated, regardless of the original corner call, if 6 was sent to the high left-side space, she has to leave that zone to open shooting line and passing line for 5. On the other hand, 5 has to follow the route of plays like 165Tip (on line from ball to left post).

On top right-side:

- After opening line to goal, 1S shot on goal (play name: 1XR)
- Sweep wide looking for 4's deflection on outside channel (play name: 14D Outside)

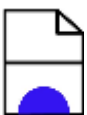
For these audible options, it is key that any player who was meant to be on the high right-side space on the initial call, leaves the outside channel to keep the passing line to 4 open.



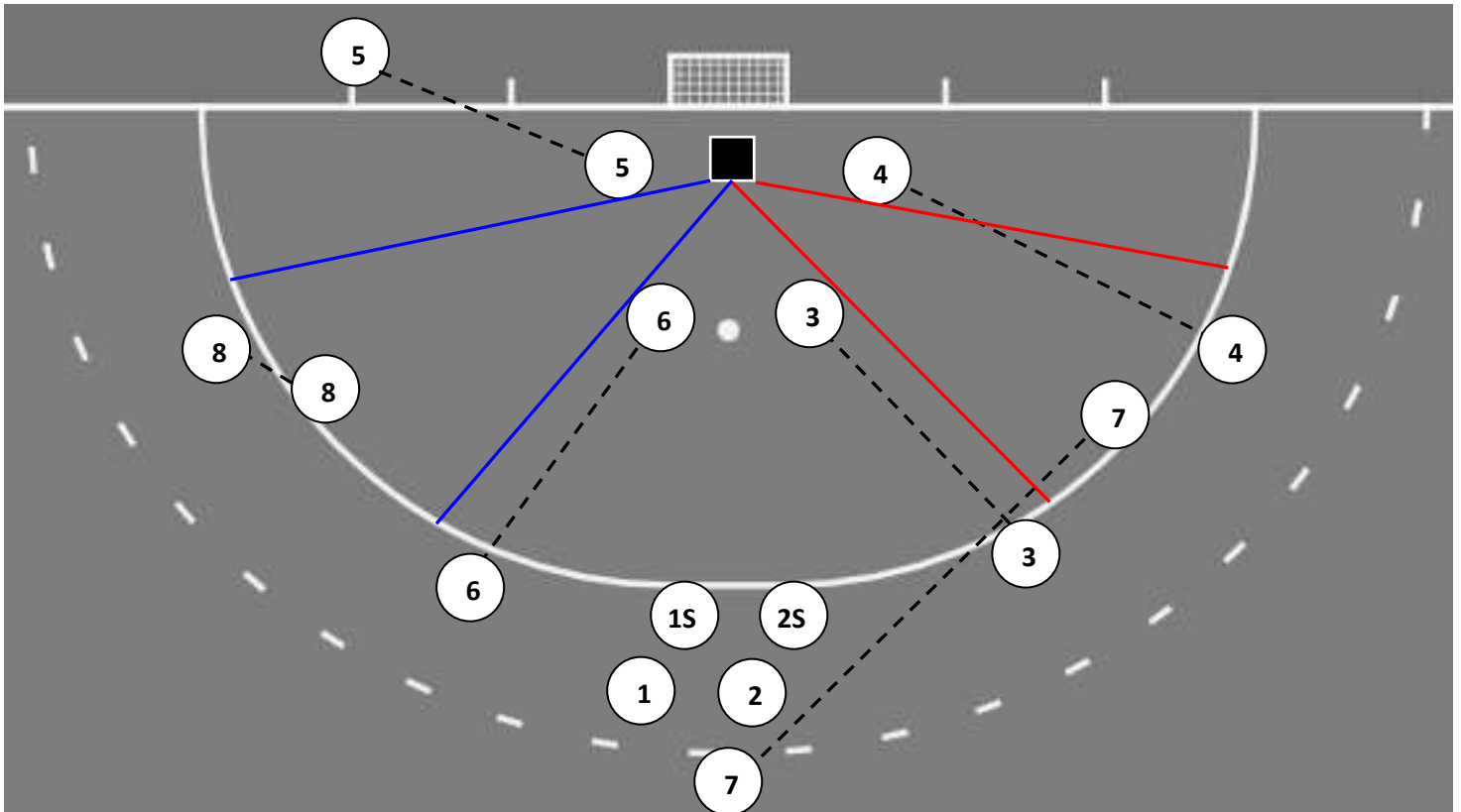
MONTANA VIPERS



MISCELLANEOUS

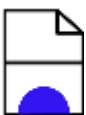


END OF PERIOD CORNERS

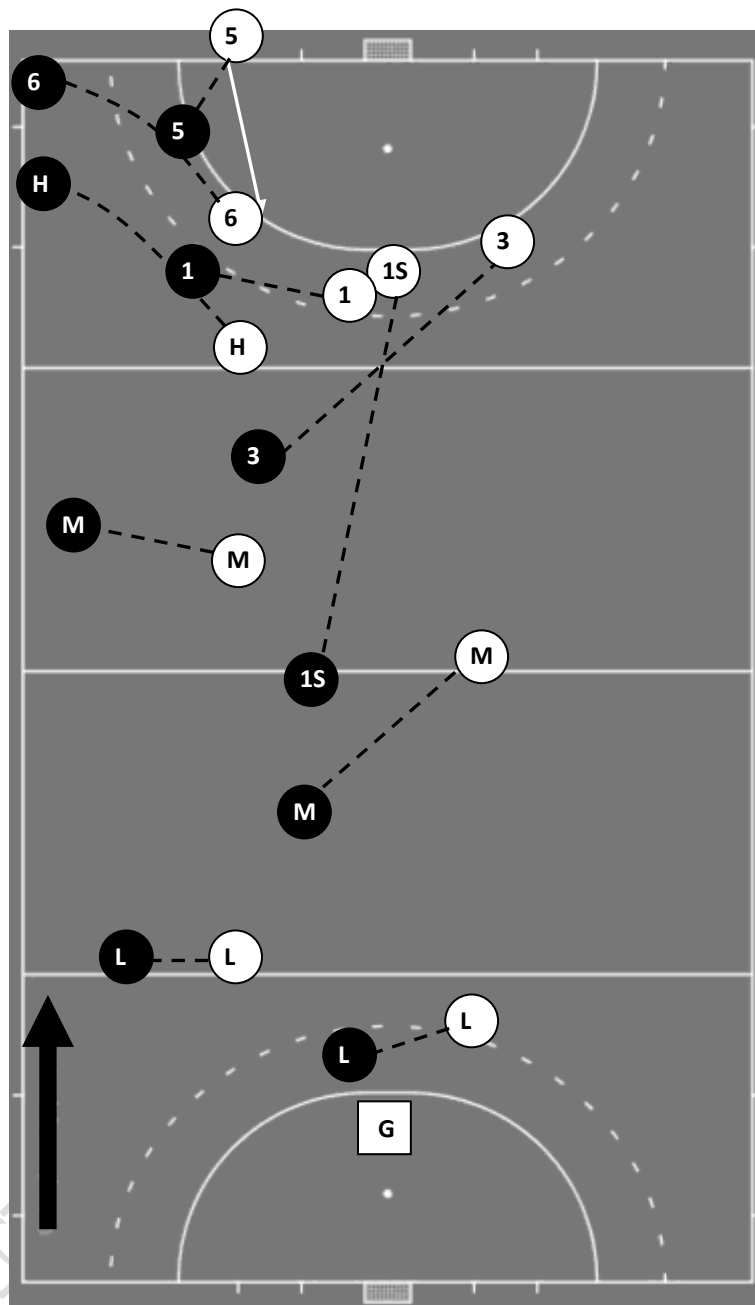


If time on the period is about to expire (under 15 seconds) or has already expired, both backfield players will join the offensive unit as shown on the formations section. Their purpose is to keep the ball inside the circle incrementing the options of scoring off rebound. 7 will start behind batteries, in case there is a miss stop by the intended stickstopper. But as soon as the ball gets to battery, she will have to shift right (mid right-side space) just 1 yard inside the circle. 8 will just move a couple of yards low and 1 yard into the circle. They will always follow these routes, regardless of what the corner call is.

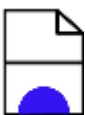
The idea on both sides is to cover the dead angles from the players filling the tipping spaces (3 and 4 on the right side + 5 and 6 on left side). Both, 7 and 8 should look for those dead angles, becoming a second rebounding layer.



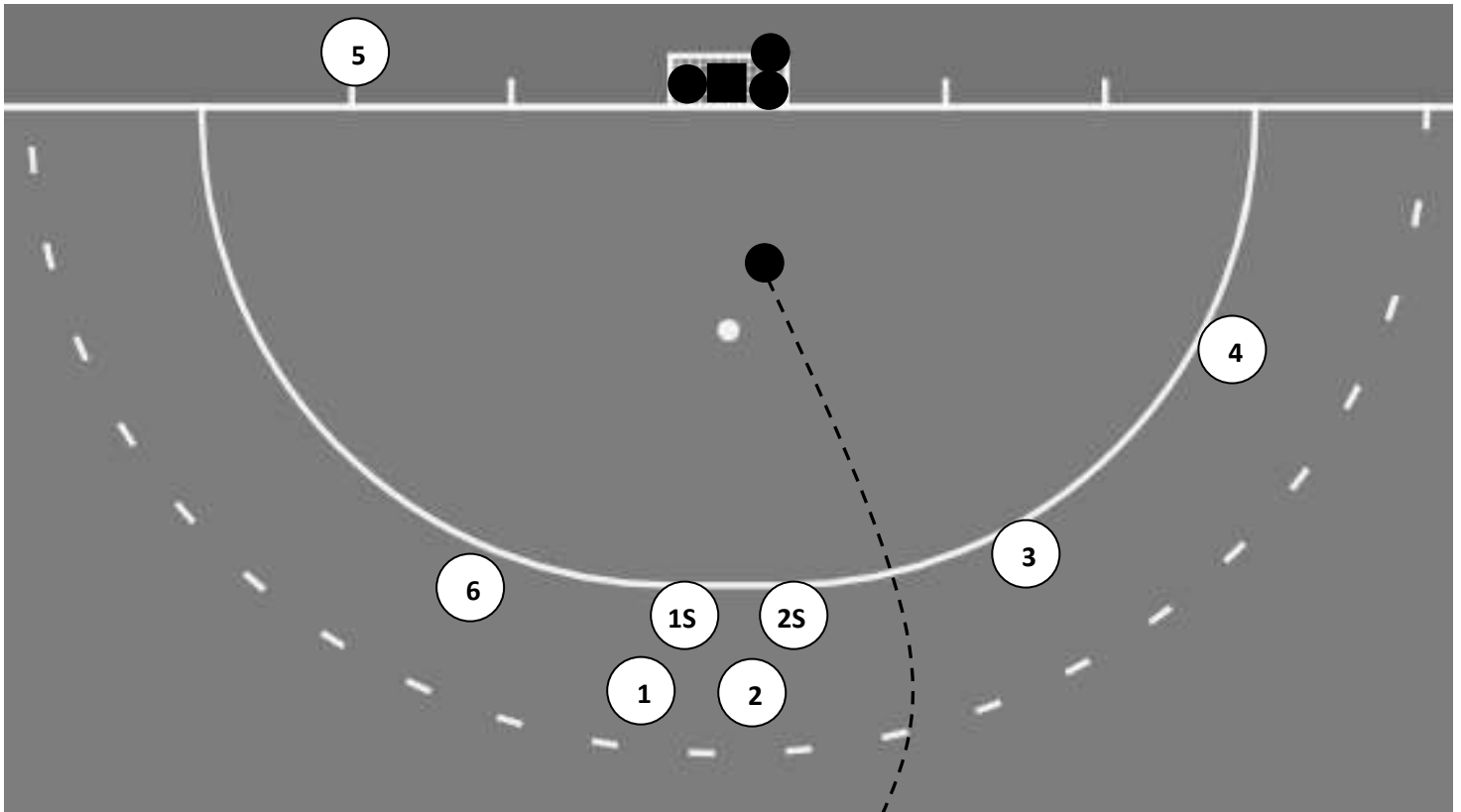
END OF GAME & UP BY 1: KATY PERRY PROTOCOL



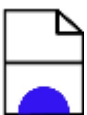
If we are winning by 1 with 25 to 15 seconds remaining on the clock (at the moment of getting the corner), we will activate a “kill time protocol”. This corner will be called by the coach beforehand with the name: Katy Perry. When this is called, ball will be inserted to the short, who will then dribble straight to the closest corner of the field to waste the time remaining. We will use a one battery system with one striker and only one right-side player, bringing extra players to the backfield: two M positions and two L positions (as shown on the picture). The H player will have to be behind the short. On the picture, players on white mark the starting position and on black the ending position for each of them. This protocol will only be activated by the coach and with these extremely precise circumstances (25 to 15 seconds left, up by 1, etc.). On any other situation, this protocol will not be activated, and a regular corner will be called.



FLY FALSE START: MICHAEL JACKSON PROTOCOL



If the defending fly commits a false start and gets kicked out of the unit, we will get awarded another corner, but it is possible that on the previous attempt, the defensive unit was able to see where the ball was going to be inserted. That is why whenever the opposing DPC unit has a false start and has to defend with 3 field player and a goalkeeper, the entire attacking unit will look at their coach, who might call a new corner execution given the new situation, or might call out "Michael Jackson"; this means that we are not changing the corner call, and we are sticking to the original execution.



PLAYBOOK ADAPTABILITY

The playbook that has been presented will be the cornerstone of our offensive set pieces for the 2025 season, and it is a resource that players are expected to study daily. Every route, motion, pass, shot, deflection, everything on this playbook has been designed to create a specific setup that will give us the best scoring opportunity on each corner (including rebound setup), which should lead to an overall improvement on corner performance. The level of detail shown on this playbook is the level of detail expected for all players when executing corners (at practice and in games). “Attention to details” will lead our corner preparation in 2025. A lot of plays share similar mechanics and motions (especially off-ball), so although this playbook can look dense at first, you will find it easy to read eventually. If there are any questions regarding any concept, motion, play call, etc., players are expected to ask questions, so coaches can clarify the execution and if needed, adjust some plays (your feedback from inside can be key to improve the play call + execution). If you ever feel overwhelmed by the playbook, we are sure that knowing that the players from the football team are studying between 200-300 page playbooks, will make you feel better.

Despite this, the playbook is subject to changes, and some plays might be added during the course of the season, based on player’s skills, performance and team needs. Also, some routes, and motions can be changed for some specific games depending on the team we are facing and their defensive systems (what may work against one team, may not work for another). That is the second theme that will lead our corner preparation in 2025: “adaptability”. We aim to have the capacity of making slight but key changes from game to game, keeping an overall common corner structure, but that will make a difference game after game. Lastly, although players are expected to study this playbook, before every game, after the pregame scouting work is done, the coaching staff will share with players a potential corner playlist for the game, so they can take an extra look at those corners (again, players are expected to study all of them, so coaches are able to make any call at any point during the season).

