



Positioning

**How to be in the right place,
at the right time**



The Goal

To be within 20 yards of play at all times.

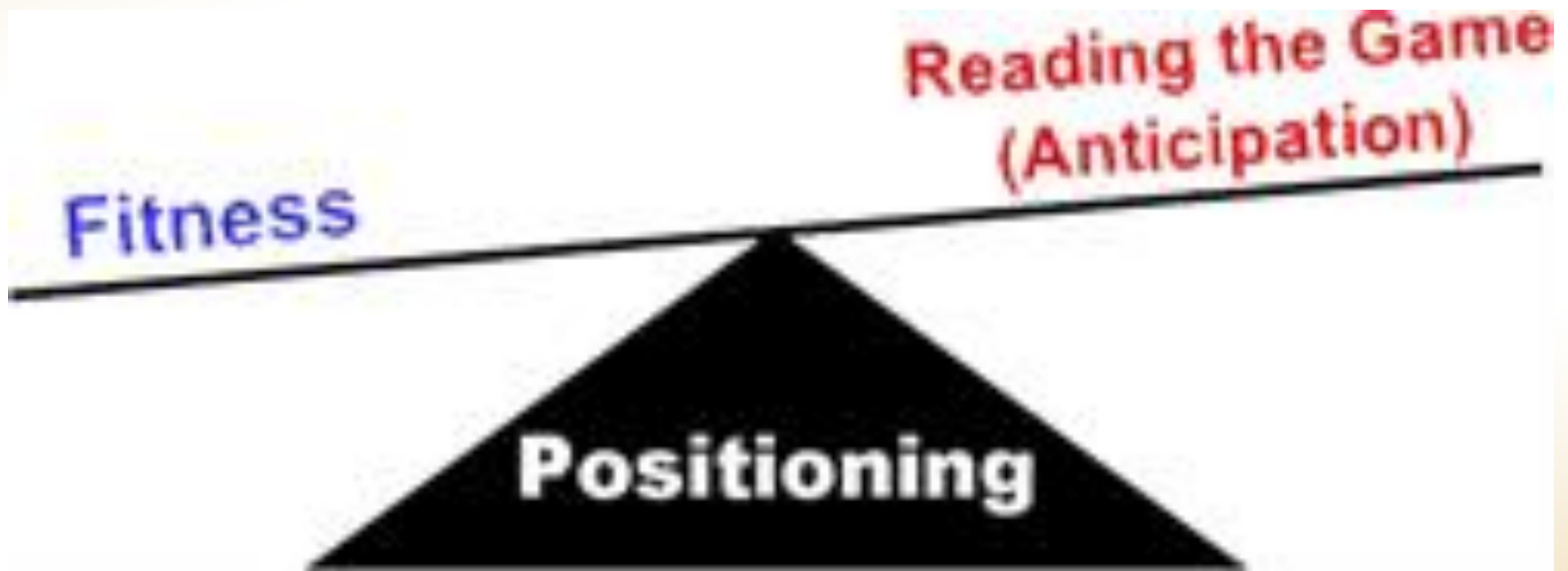
To have the optimal line of sight all times.

To be in a position to lend presence when needed.

To get the call right.



Positioning is a Balance





What is the best position?

One that is

FLEXIBLE

and

INTELLIGENT



Difference Between Positioning and Mobility

- Mobility = being able to get “somewhere” (fitness)
- Positioning = knowing where that “somewhere” is

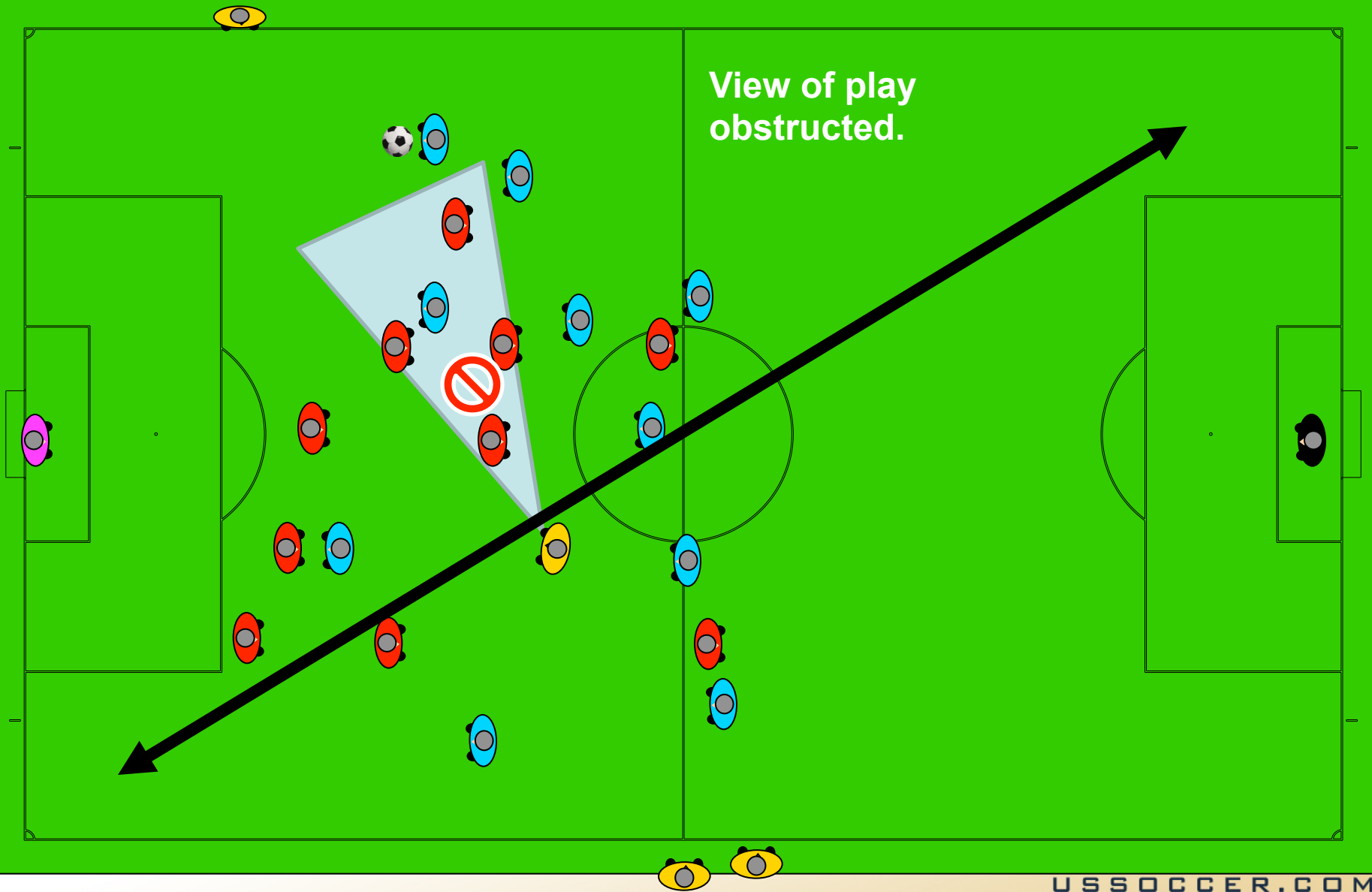


Diagonal System of Control

- Referee works on a flexible diagonal from one corner of the field to the opposite
- Often results in referee being “far from play” due to strict adherence to the diagonal



Diagonal System of Control

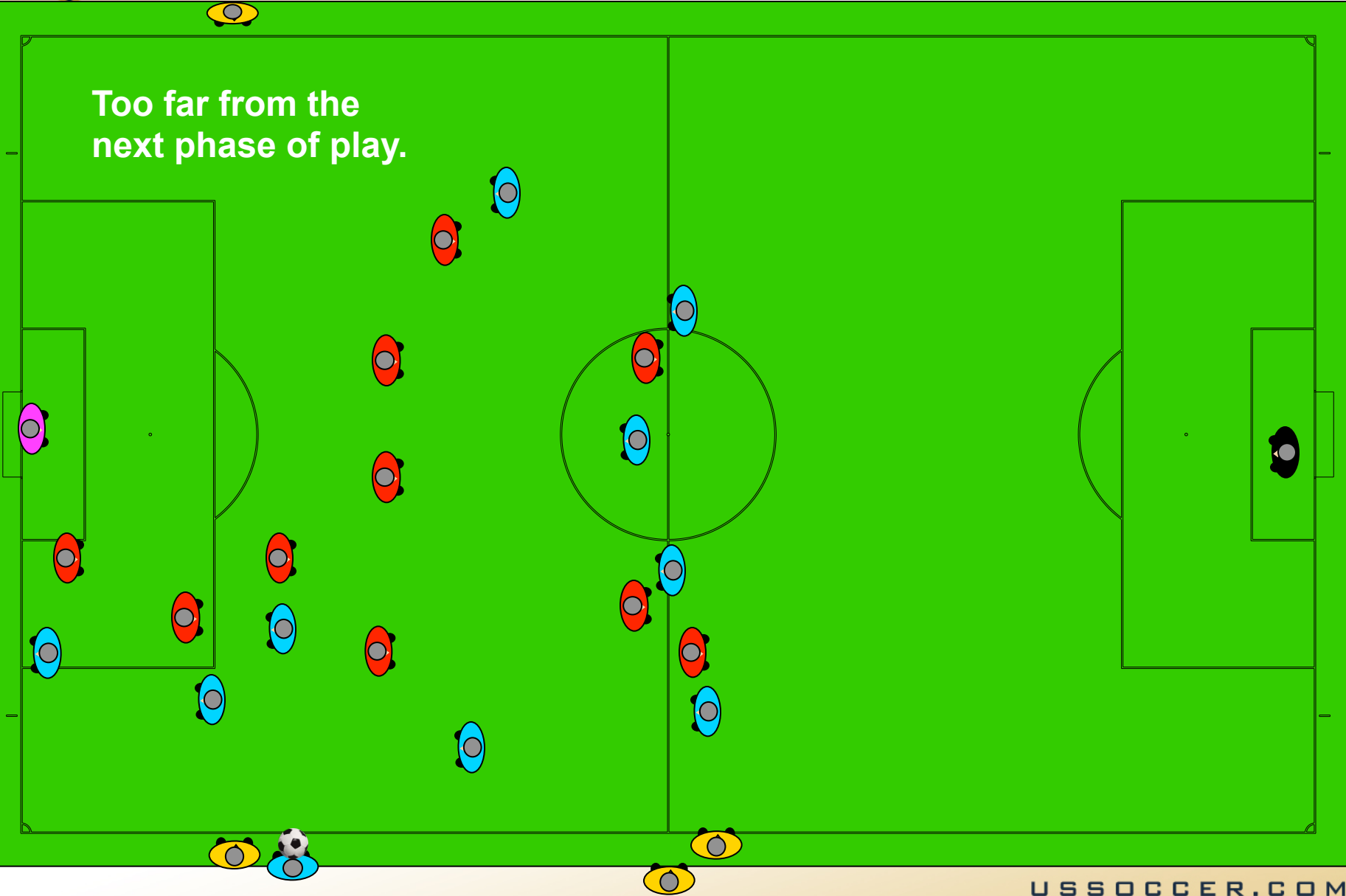


View of play
obstructed.



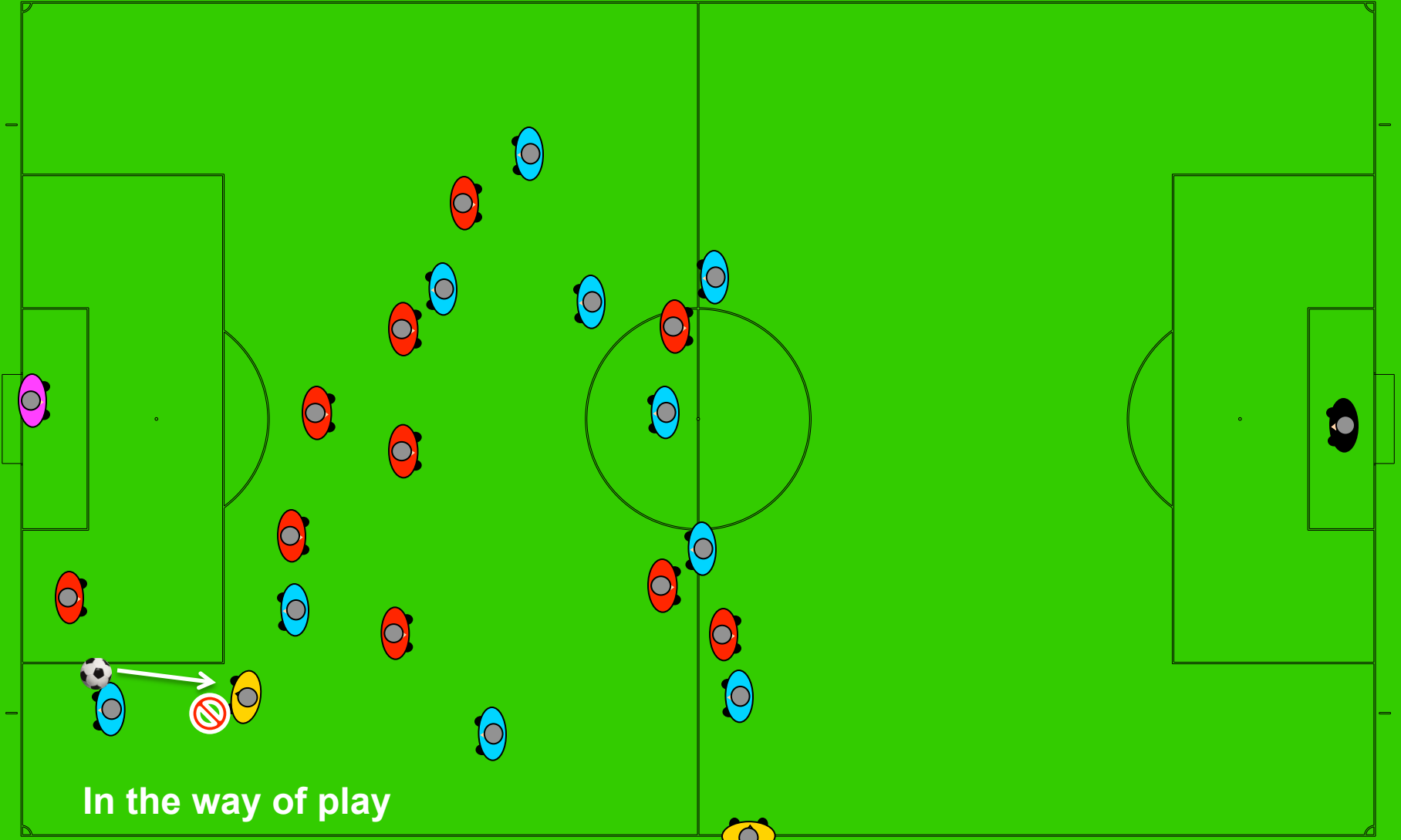
Extreme Position

Too far from the
next phase of play.





Diagonal System of Control



In the way of play

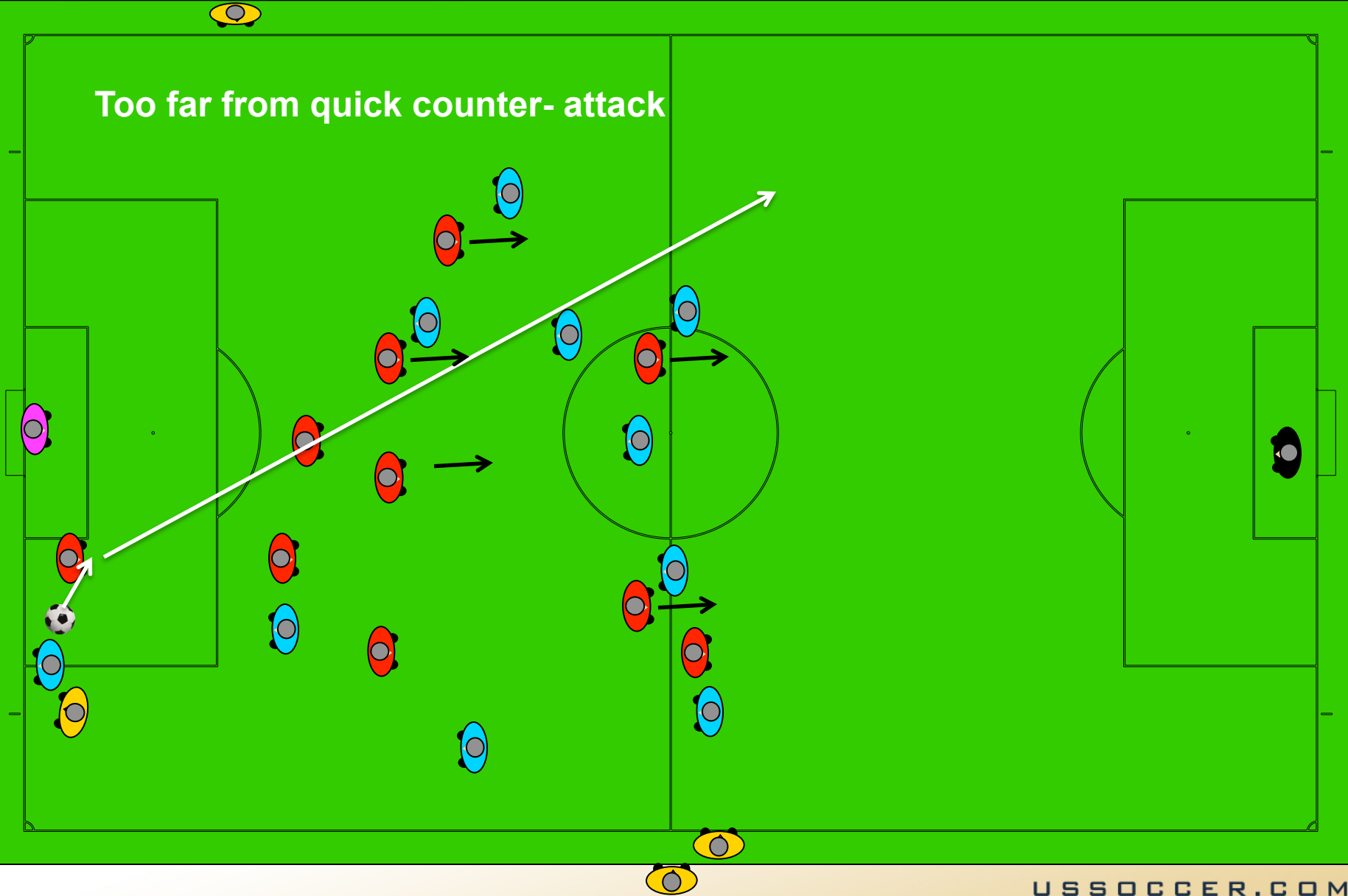


Extreme Position





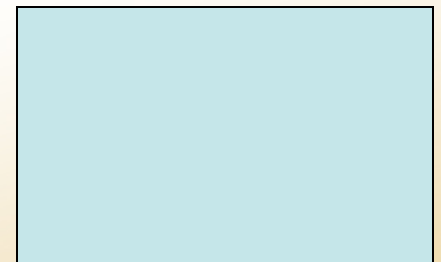
Extreme Position





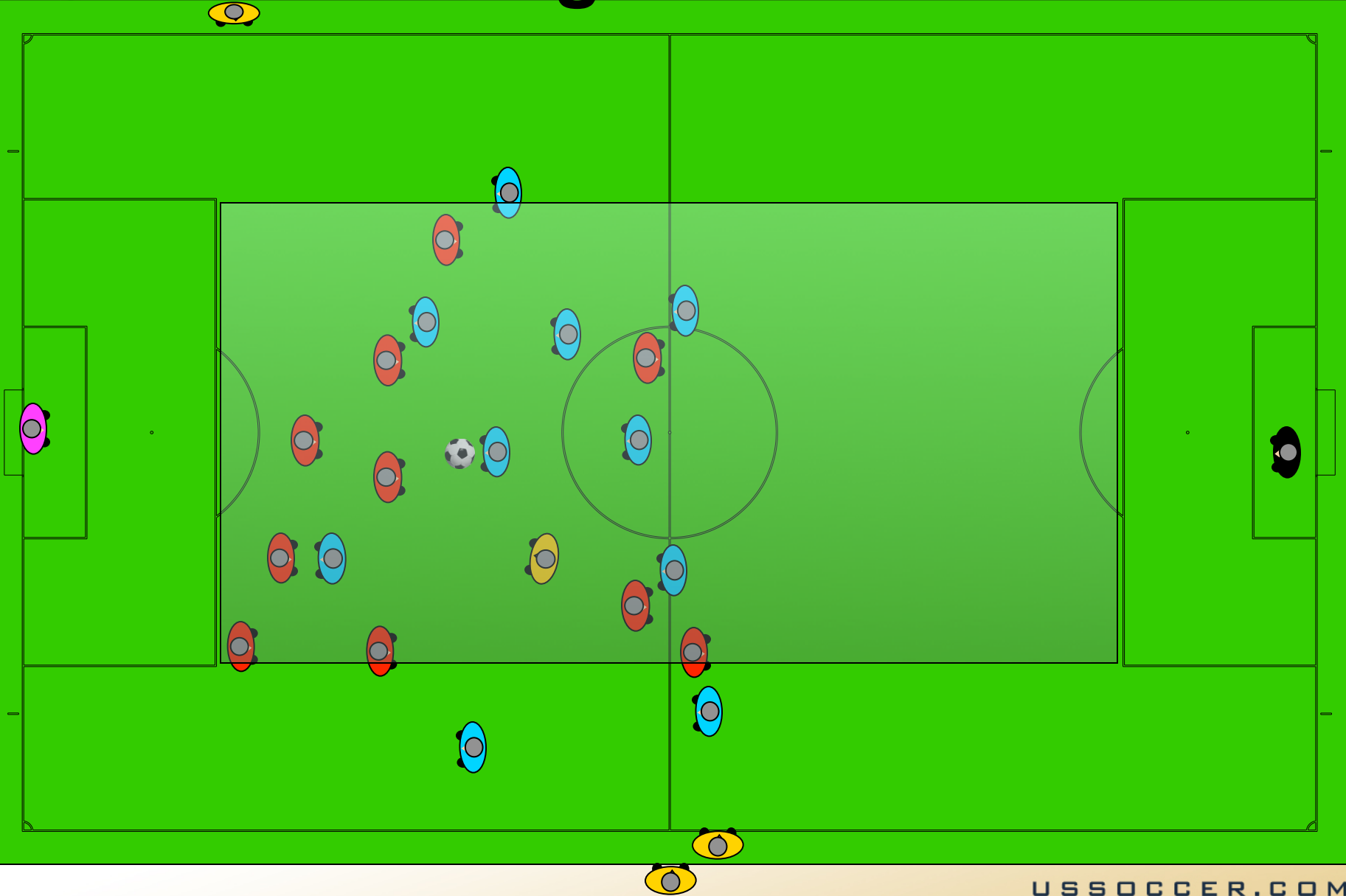
The Rectangle Guideline

- A new guideline in which to apply the principles of the *Diagonal System of Control*
- “The Rectangle” is merely a *suggestion*, not a place where you “*must be*” and “*must remain.*”
- The Key? Adapt to your game!





Rectangle Guideline



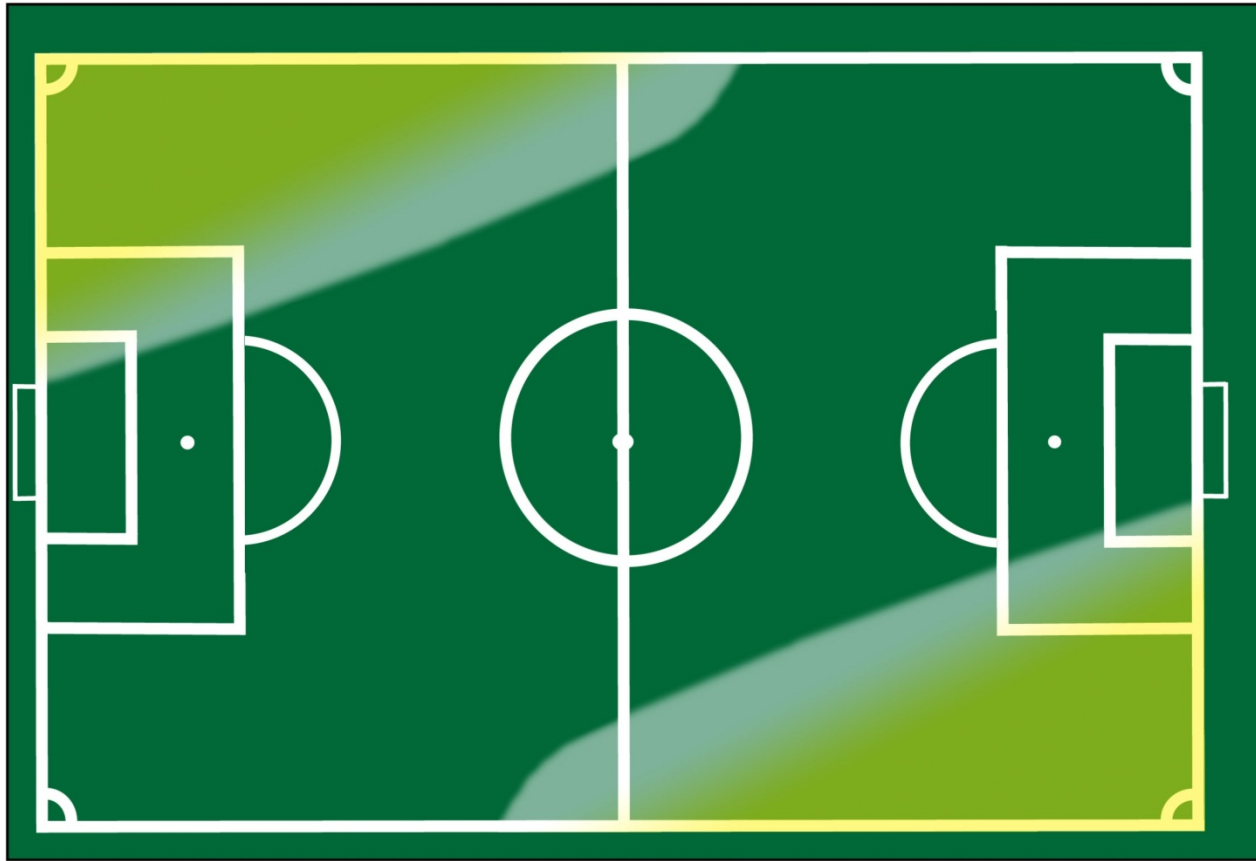


Why the Rectangle?

- Assists in keeping you within 20 yards of play through “channels of running”
- Prevents you from taking extreme positions during normal course of action that put you out of position for the next pass, cross, or decision
- Allows you to see through active play and onto the next sequence of the action
- Allows you to be closer to decisions in the Penalty Area for the critical call
- Enables active AR involvement through clear AR areas-of-control



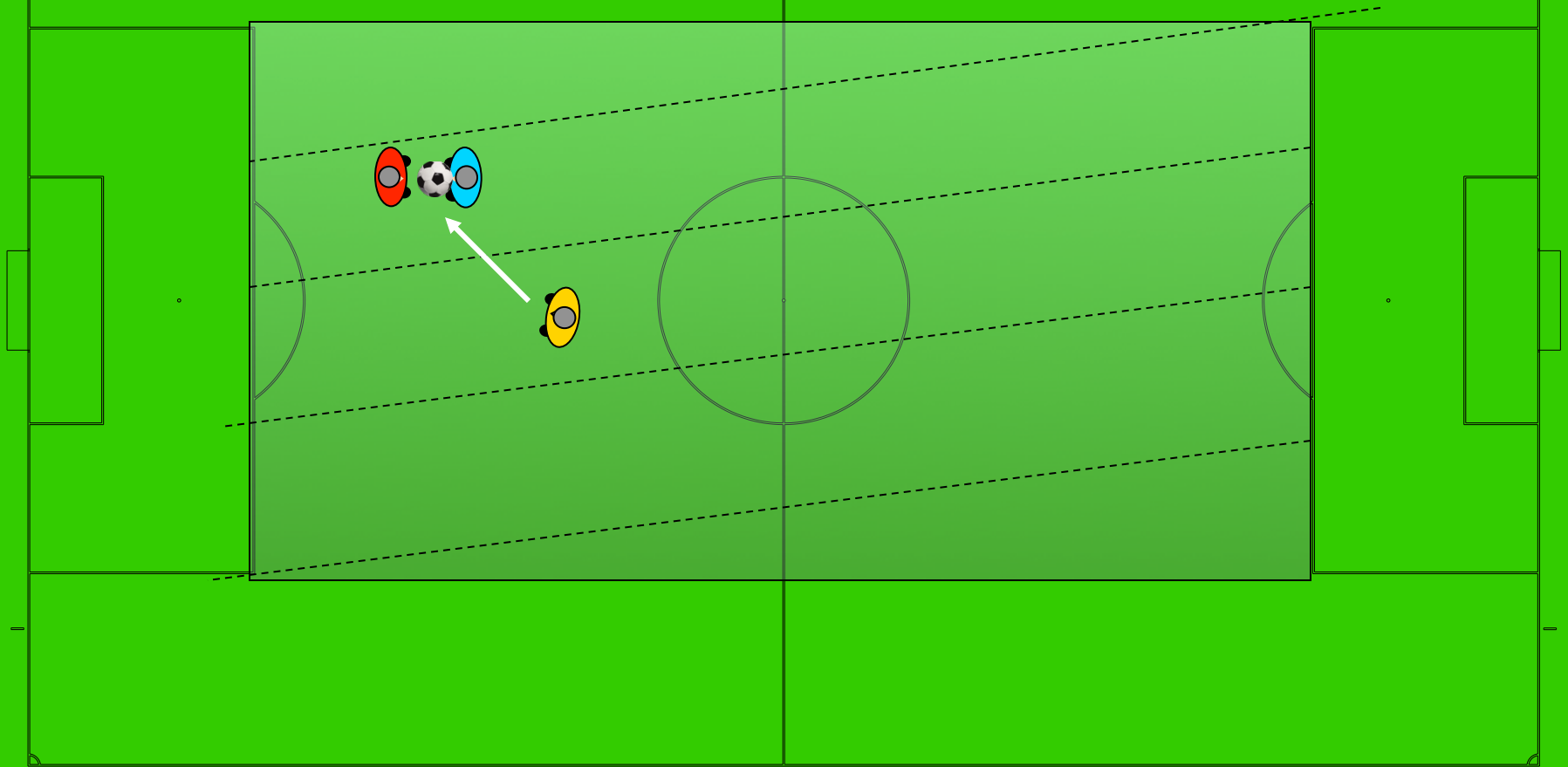
AR Area of Control





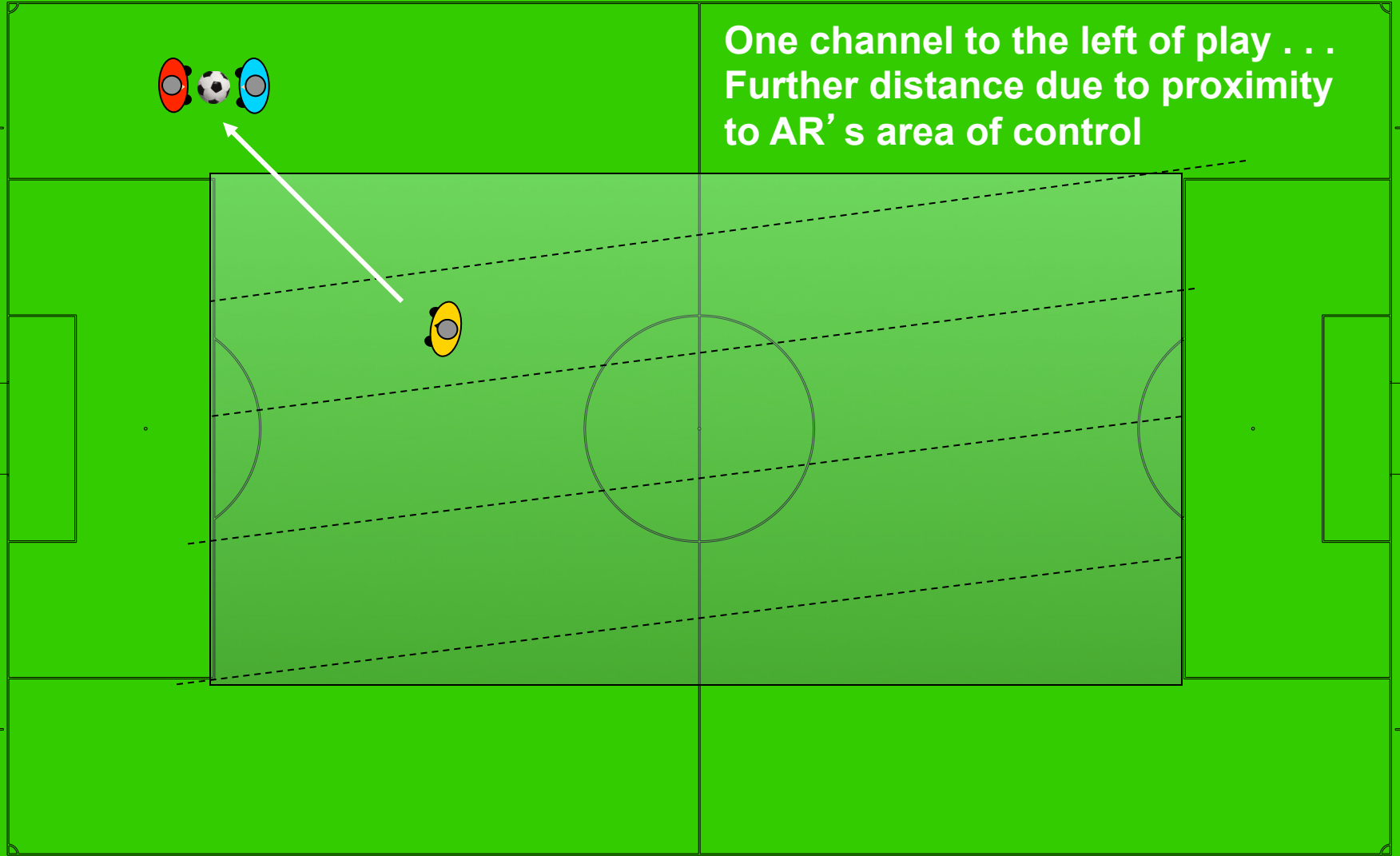
Channels of Running

One channel to the left of play . . .
Good angle of vision out of the
passing lanes





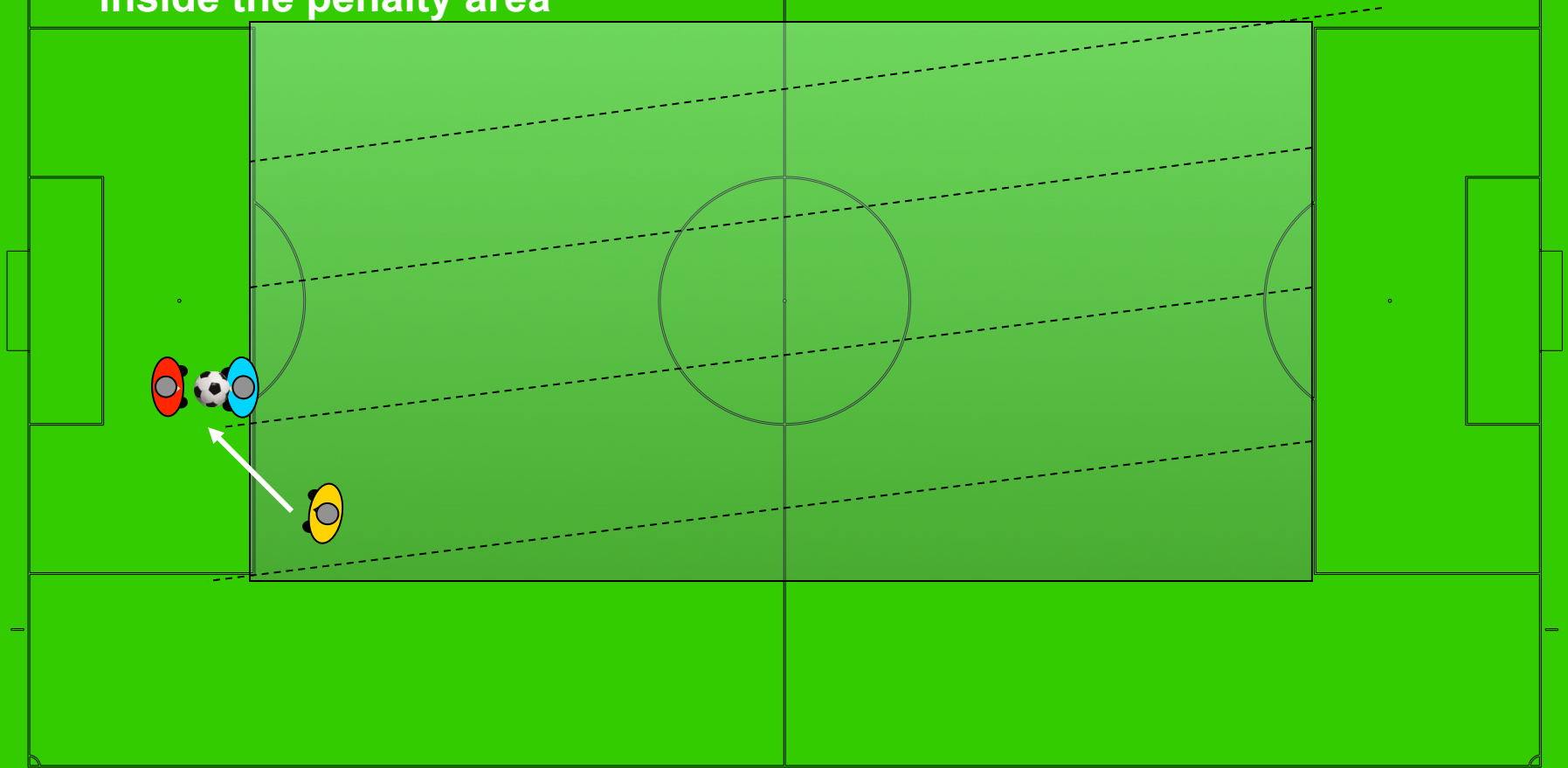
Channels of Running





Channels of Running

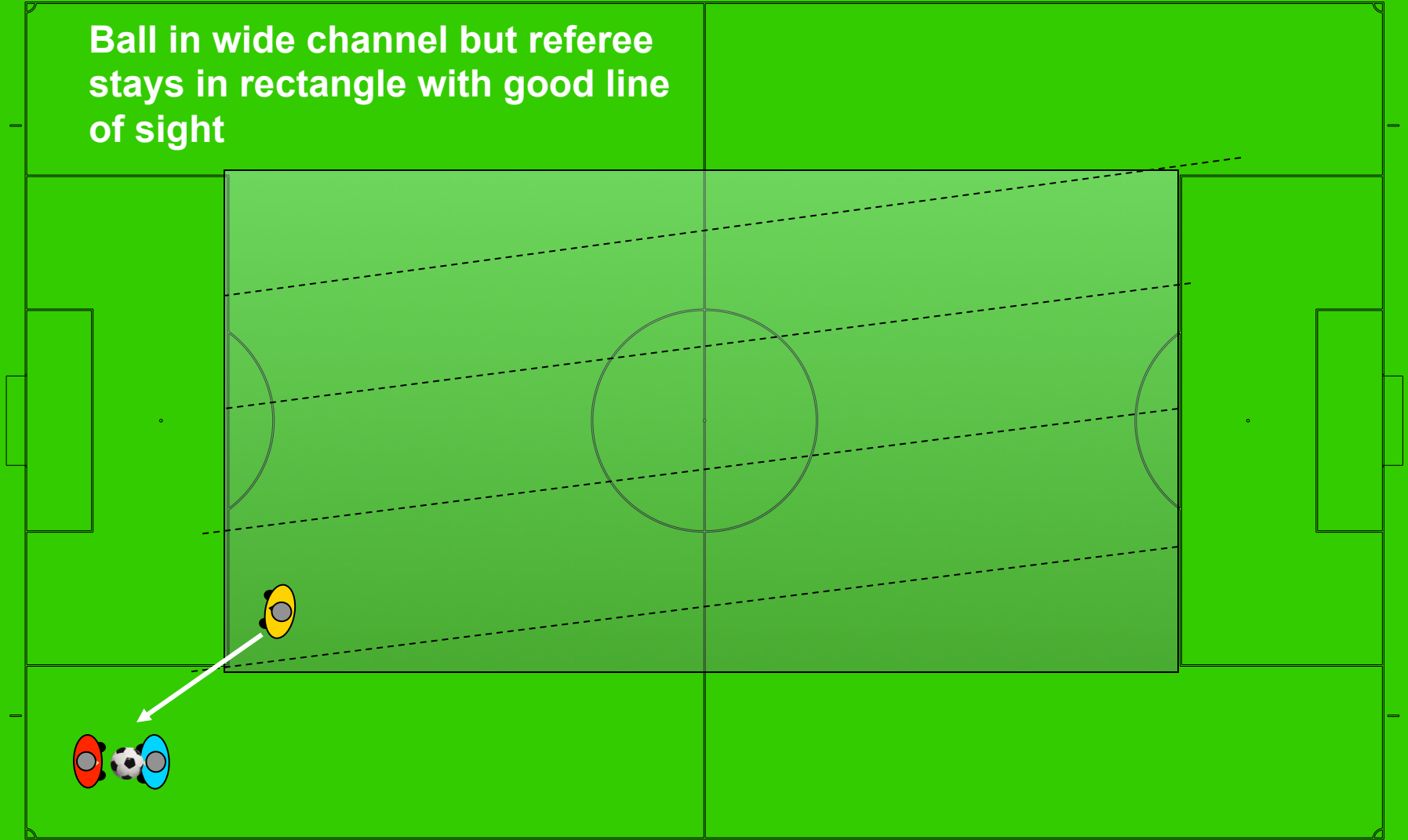
One channel to the left of play . . .
Good angle of vision out of the
passing lanes and not interfering
inside the penalty area





Channels of Running

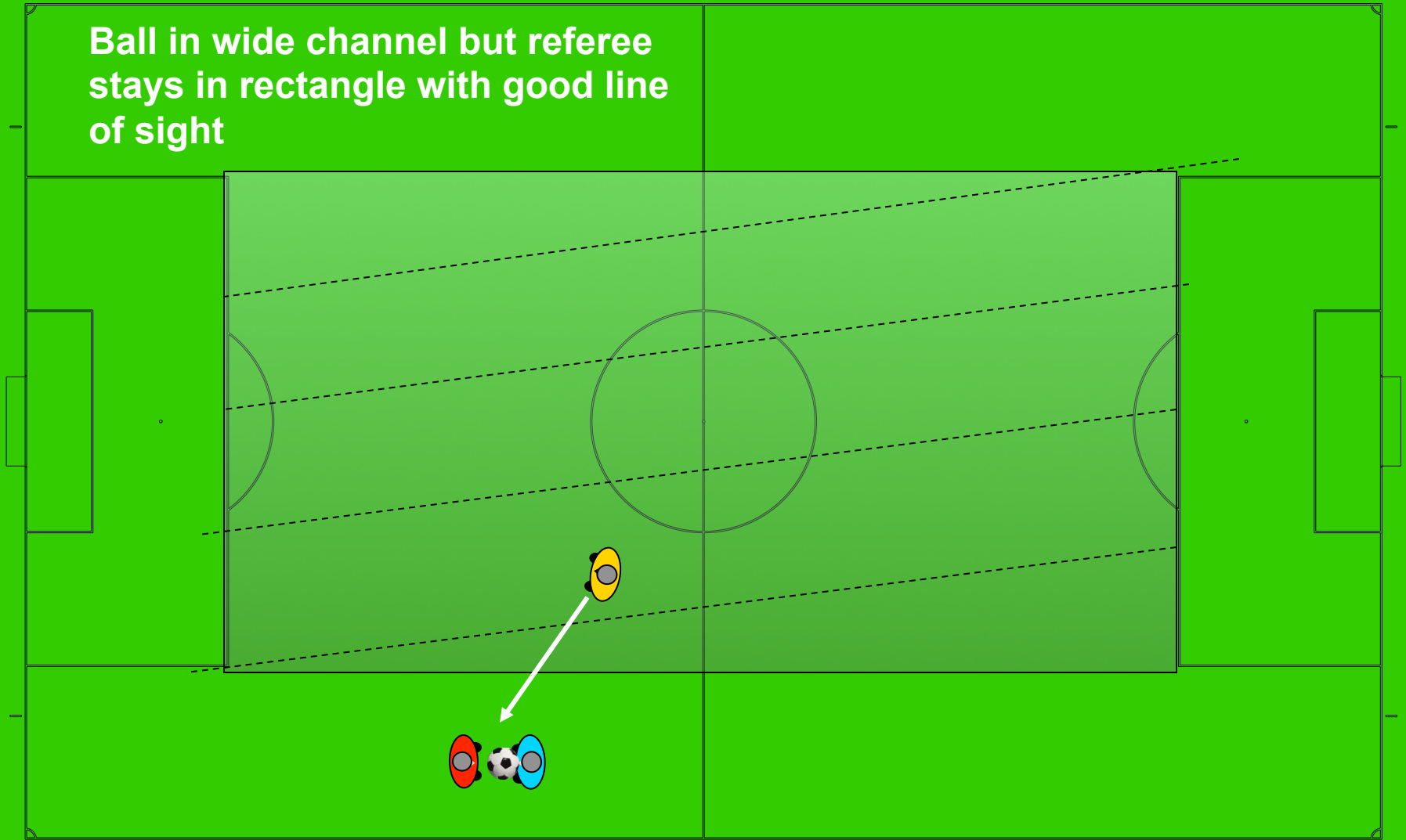
Ball in wide channel but referee stays in rectangle with good line of sight





Channels of Running

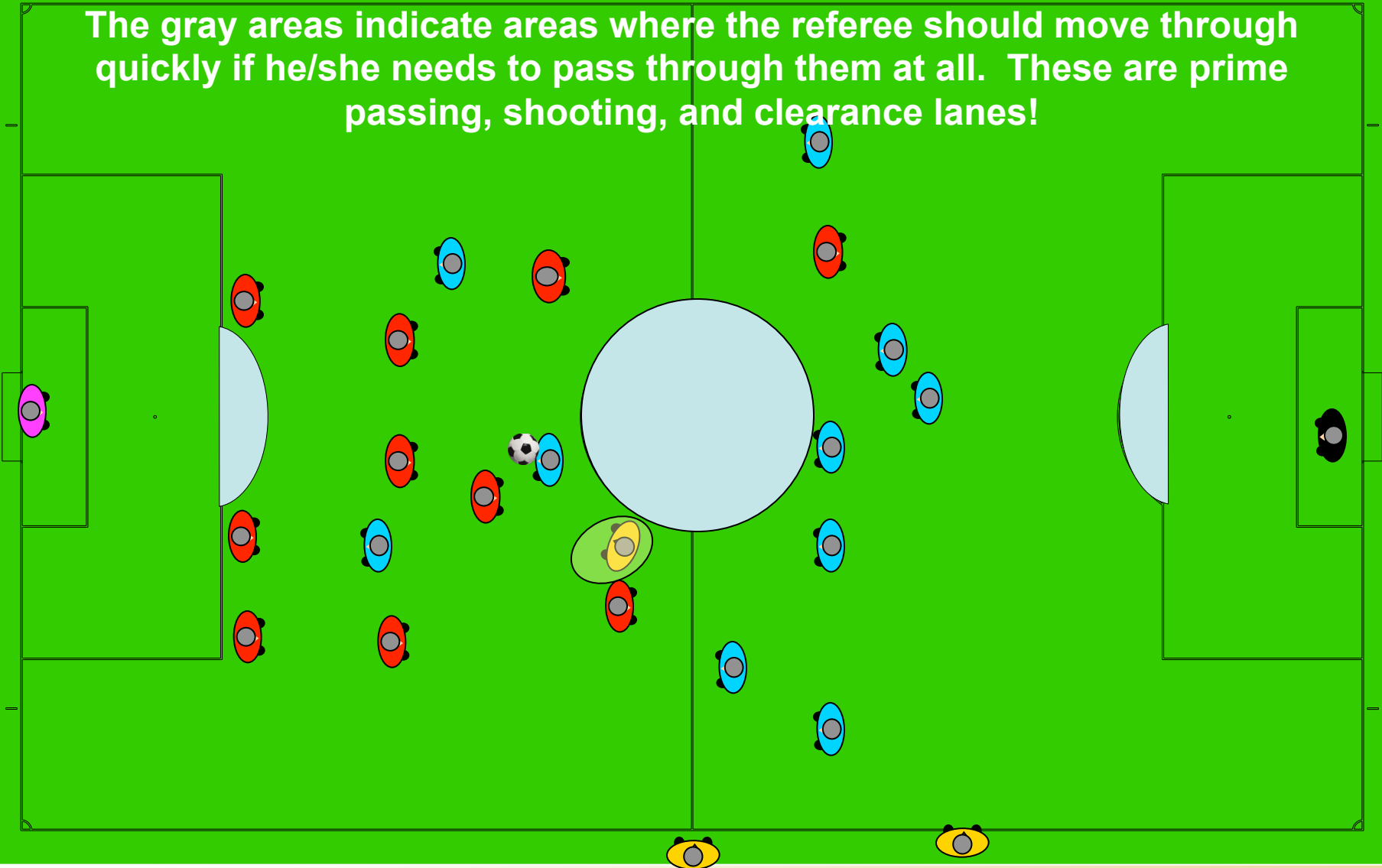
Ball in wide channel but referee stays in rectangle with good line of sight





Pass Through zones

The gray areas indicate areas where the referee should move through quickly if he/she needs to pass through them at all. These are prime passing, shooting, and clearance lanes!





Presence Lends Conviction... ...Positioning Lends Presence

- The referee must move to the point of the foul — so if there are issues you are on your way there
- If there are no issues, you can move to the next phase of play or the drop zone
- You need to be close enough to communicate with the players (i.e. “If they want 10 yards?”)
- Adapt to changes in players and tactics



Principles of Good Positioning

- Work to create the best angle of vision
- Read the likely course of play
- Find the angle that allows you to see daylight between the players making the challenge
- Stay close to play, but do not interfere with play or players
- Be ready for the next phase of play
- Run/walk/jog for a purpose



The Four Conditions To Correct Positioning

1. I can see play and the potential problem area
2. I can see through two challenging players
3. I am *not* occupying space the players need
4. I am able to be ready for next phase of play



Movement

- Let play develop and you follow
- Do not duplicate coverage by AR
- Adapt – be flexible in changing circumstances
- If you cannot see the action, you cannot make the call:
 - Remember the angles!
 - Move inside/outside play to see
 - Stay close to play without being in the way



Remember

- Look for the best viewing position. . . but remember that no position is *entirely* optimal
- Let's look at “good” positioning and “poor” positioning . . .



What is a “Good” Position?

- One that is flexible and intelligent
- You or the AR can see the play on the ball
- You can quickly establish presence by moving to the point of the foul
- You are ready to move to the next phase of play



What is a “Poor” Position?

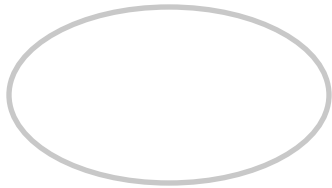
- Too many players are blocking the field of vision (i. e., cannot see play ON THE BALL!)
- Cannot see where play will go
- Same view as AR
- Too extreme position off the field and not ready to cover next phase of play



Note For Field Diagrams



- Suggested area of field coverage

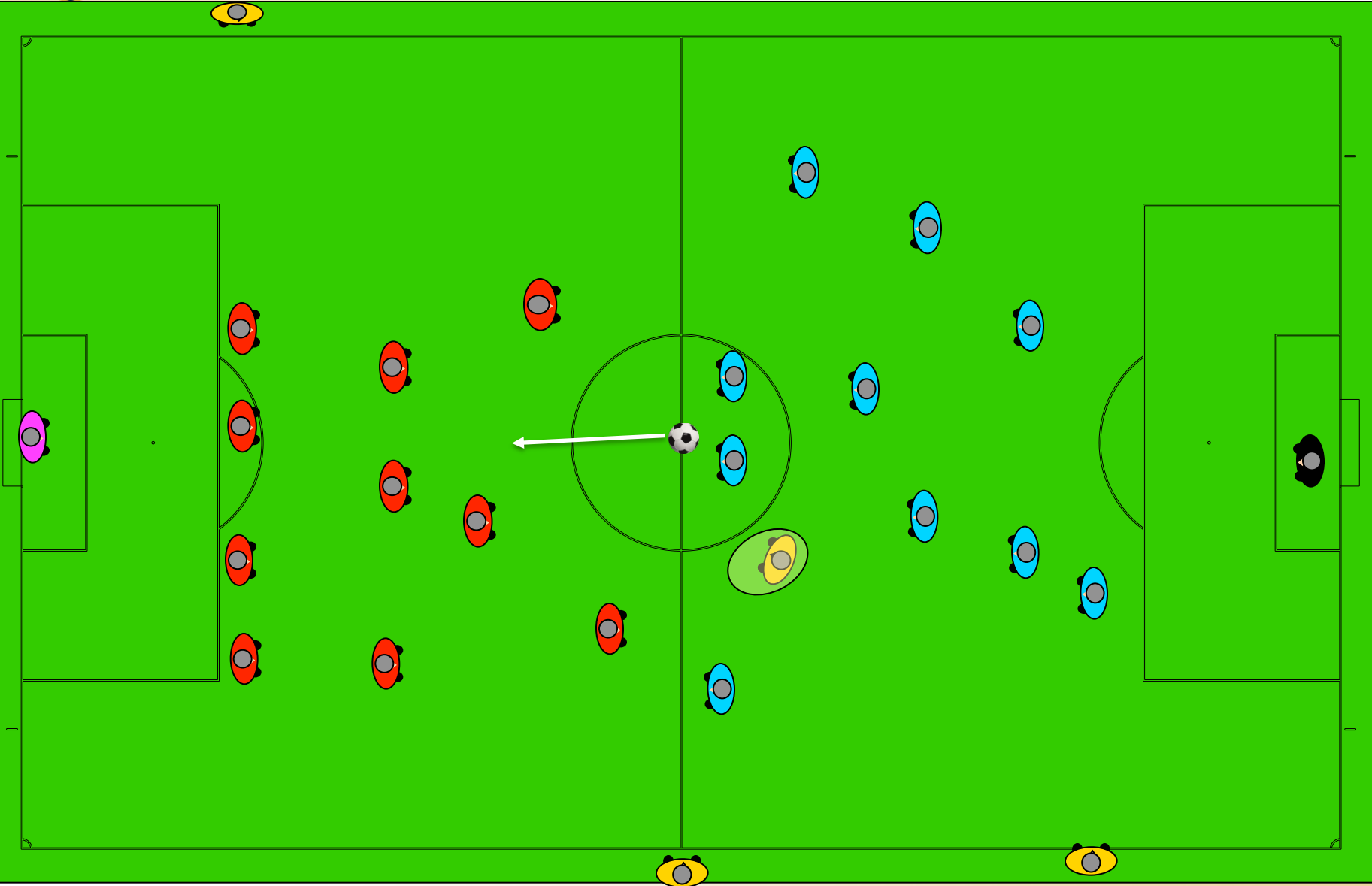


- Suggested area for referee positioning during play

Adapt to the needs of the game!



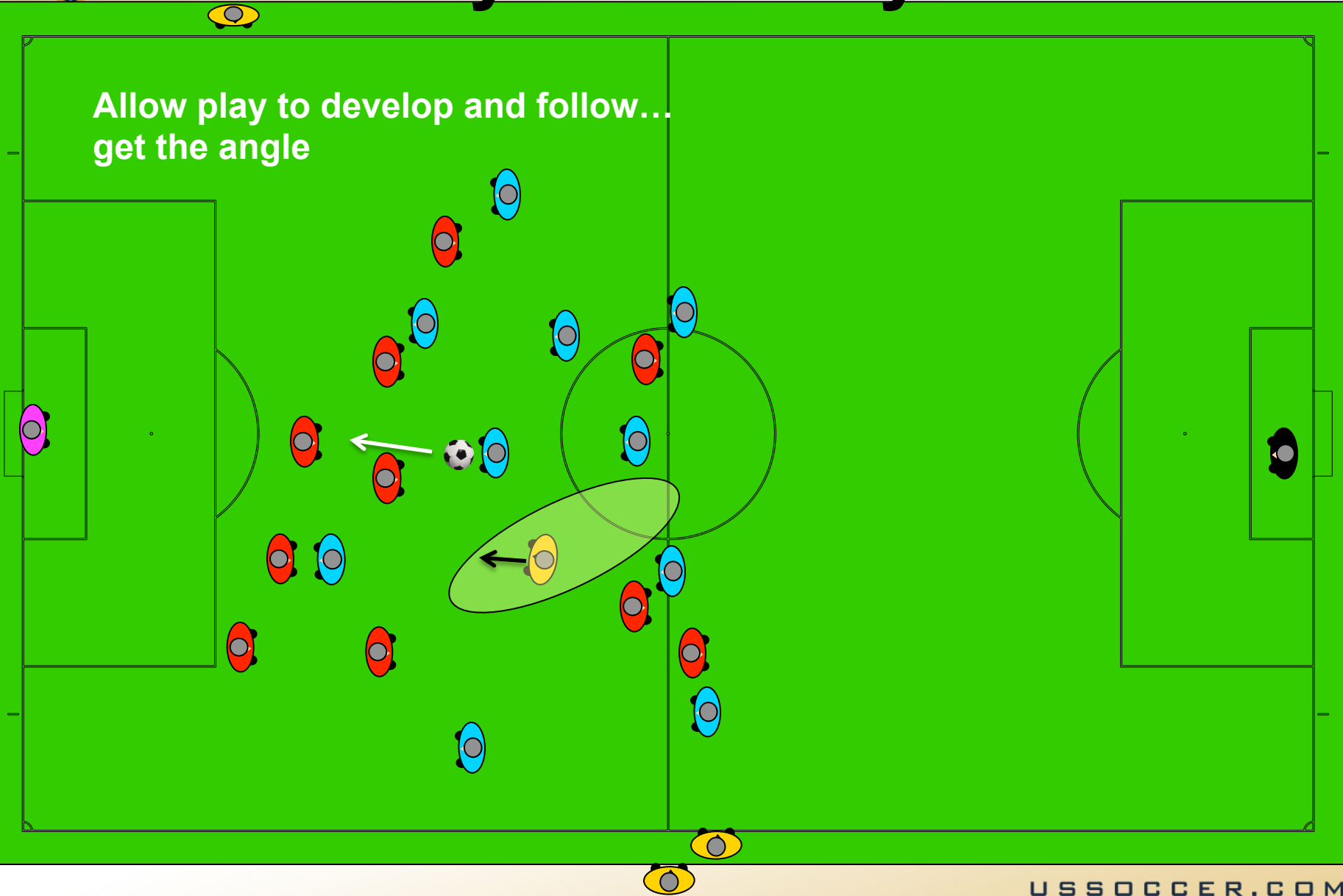
Kick-Off





Dynamic Play

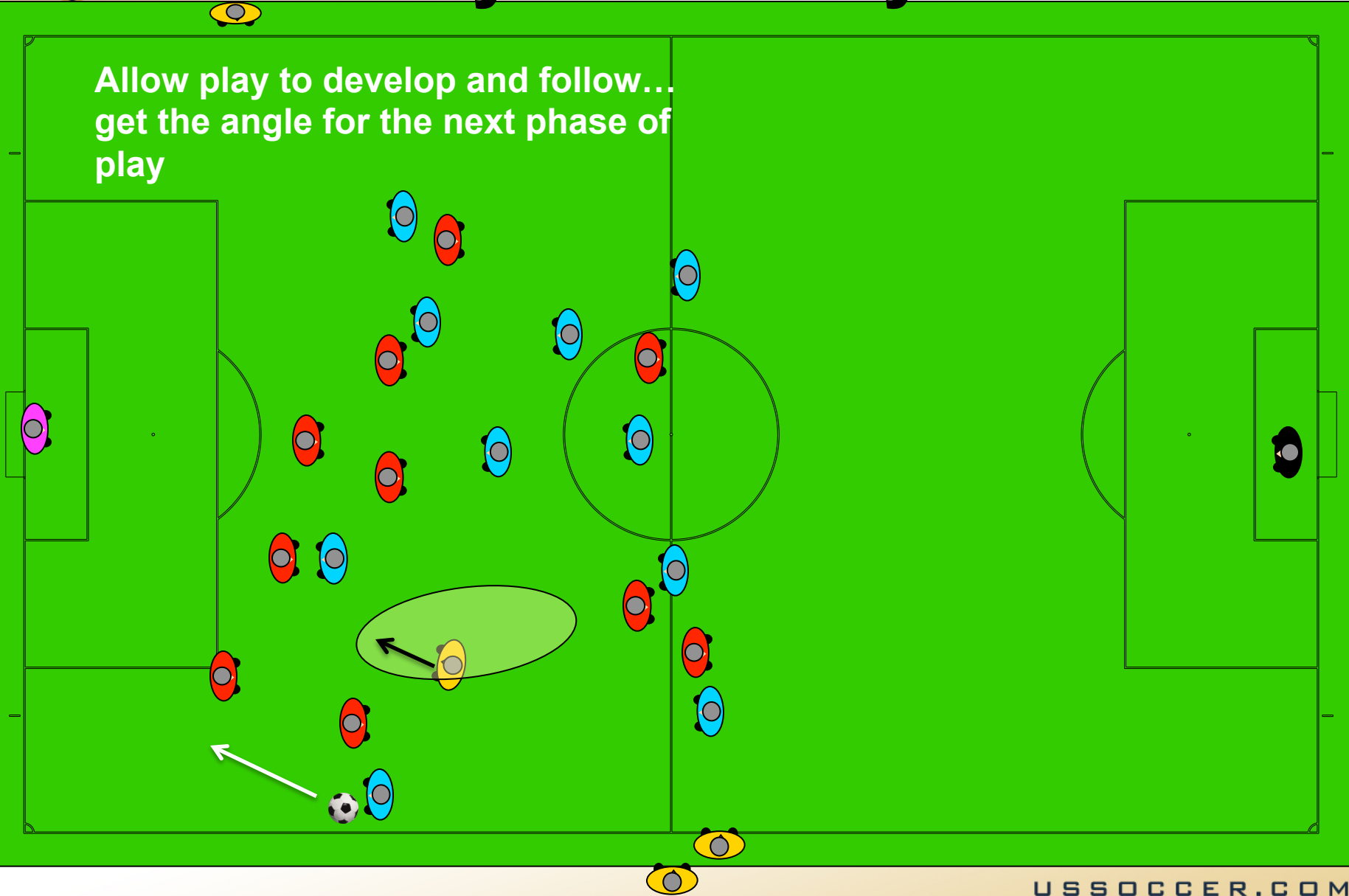
Allow play to develop and follow...
get the angle





Dynamic Play

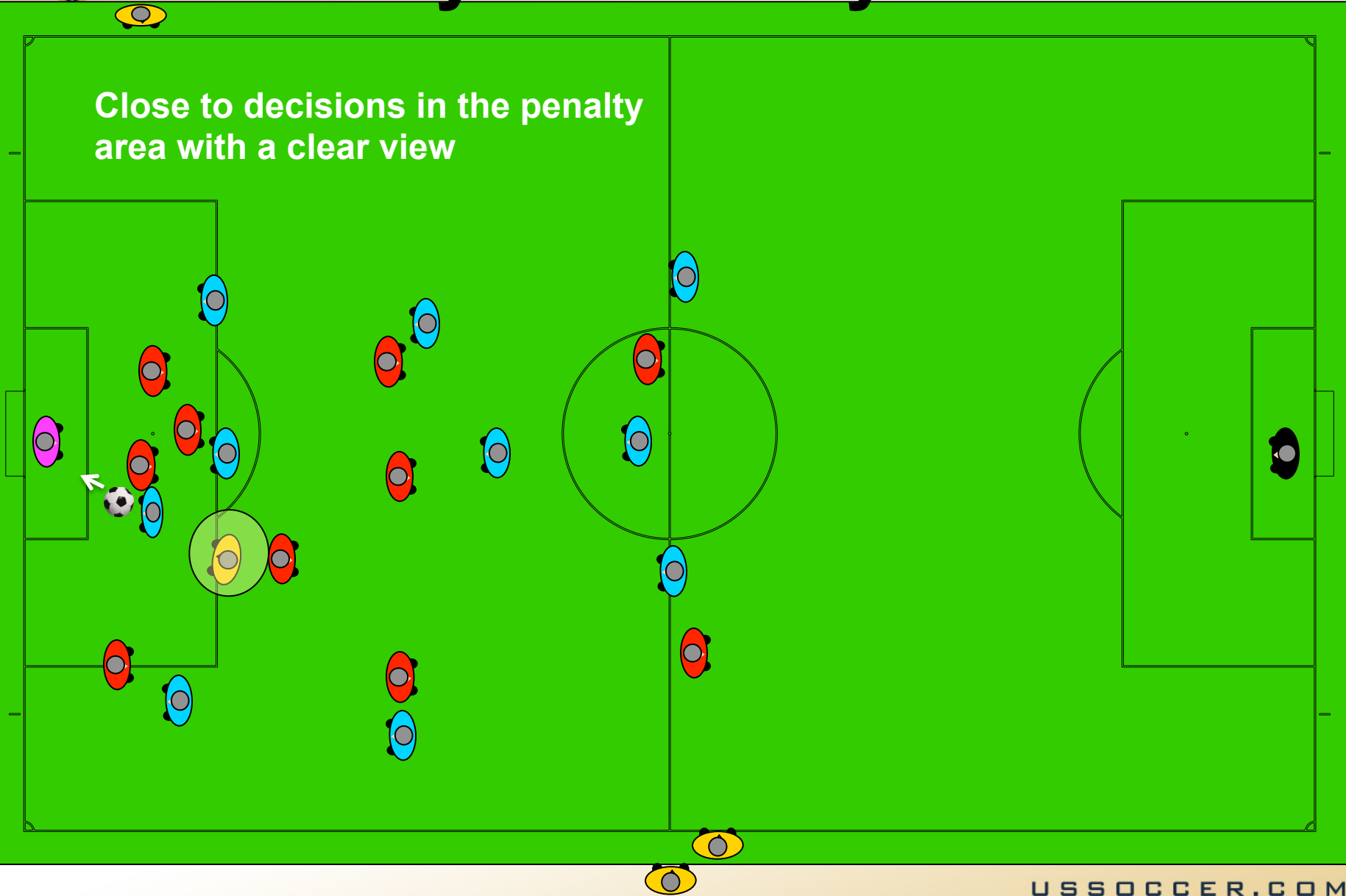
Allow play to develop and follow...
get the angle for the next phase of
play





Dynamic Play

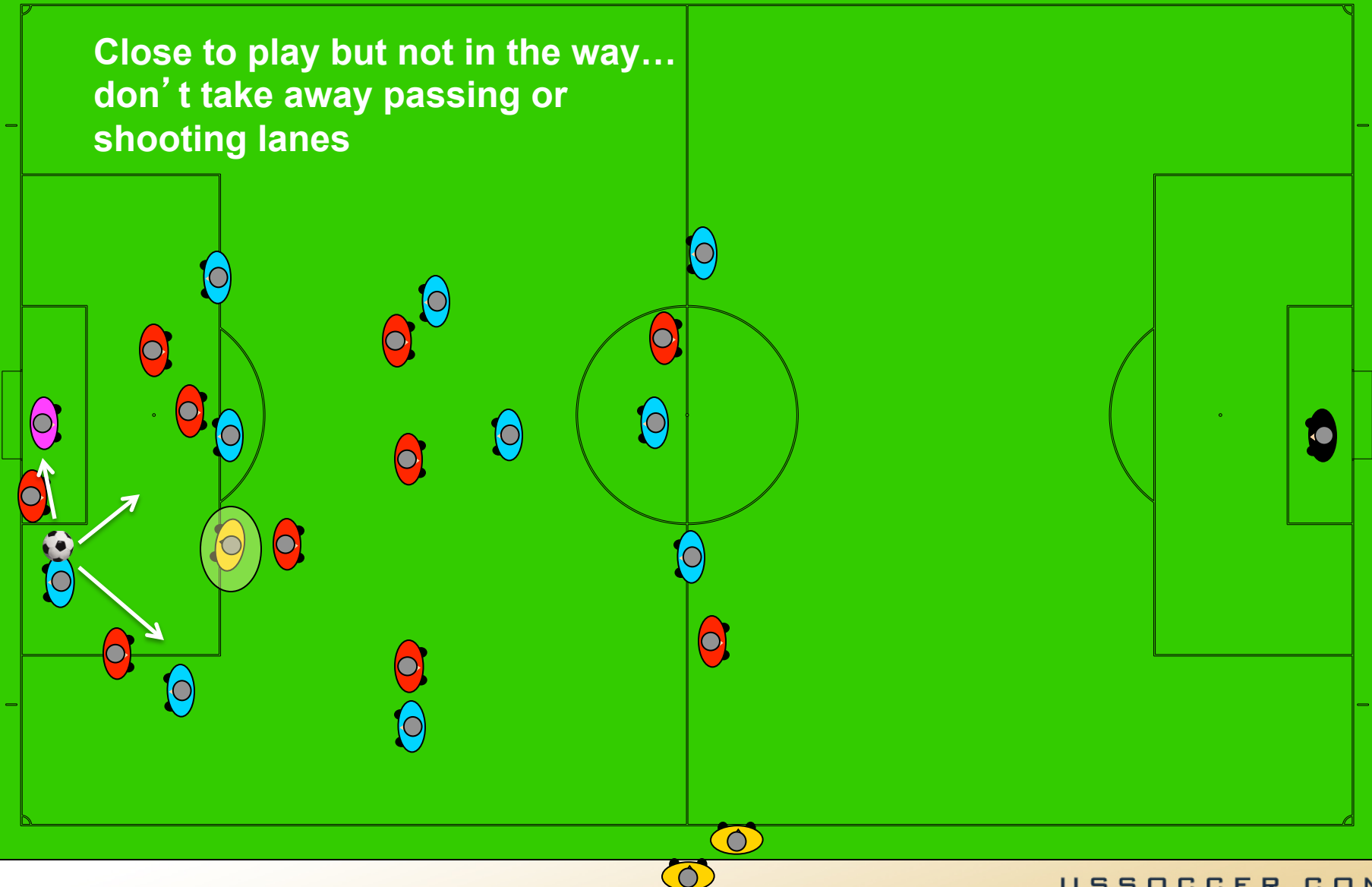
Close to decisions in the penalty area with a clear view





Dynamic Play

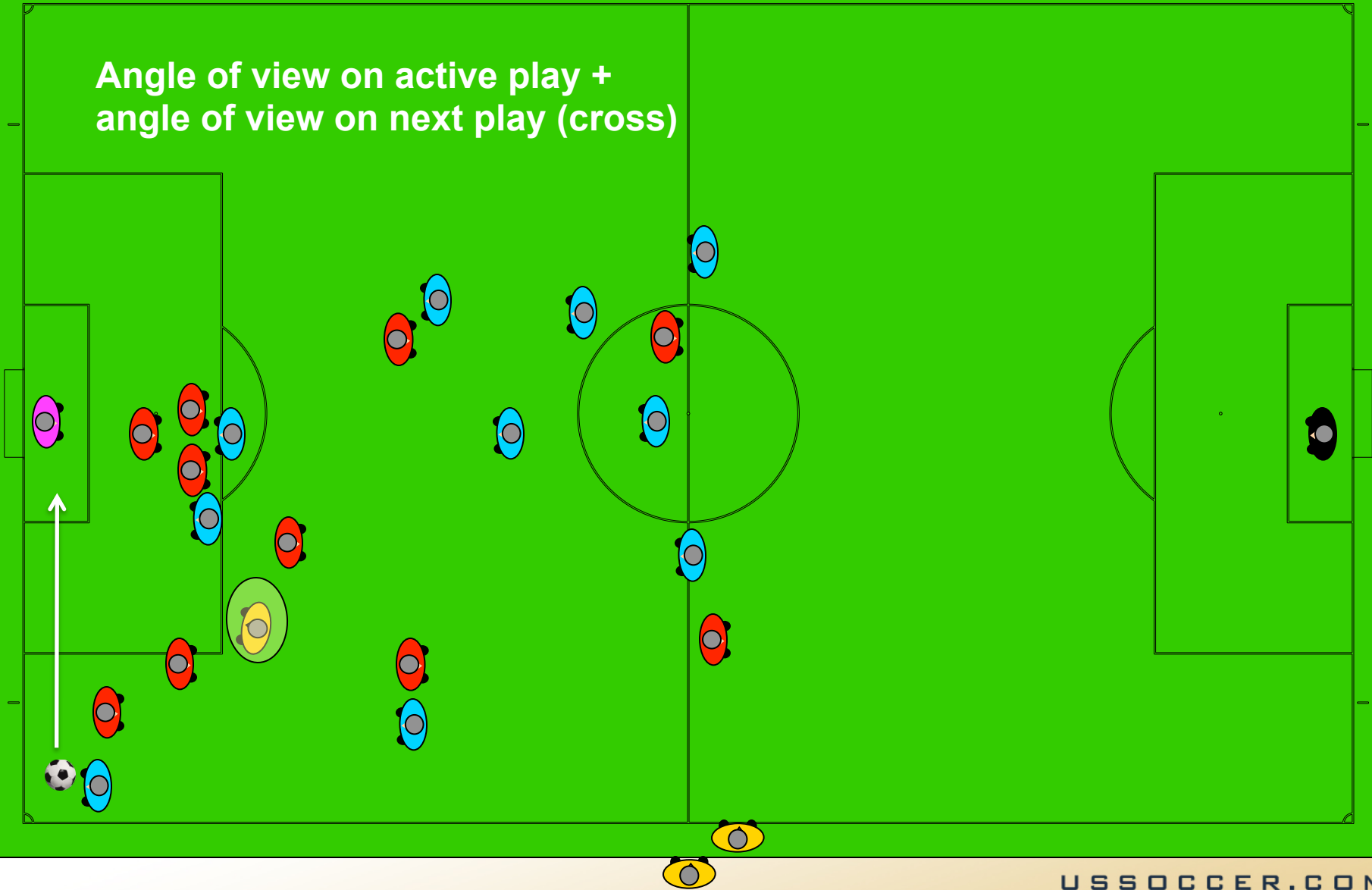
Close to play but not in the way...
don't take away passing or
shooting lanes





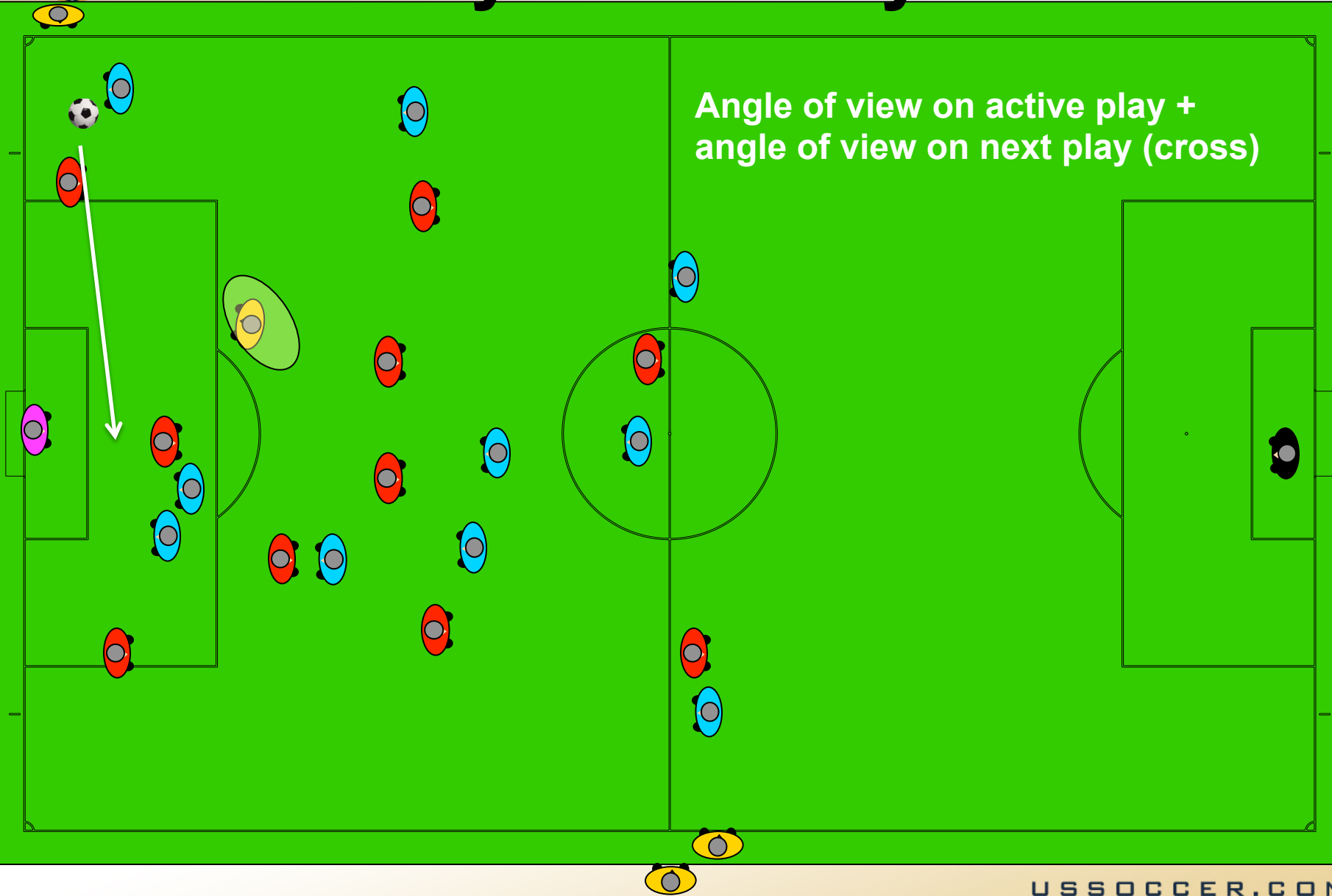
Dynamic Play

Angle of view on active play +
angle of view on next play (cross)





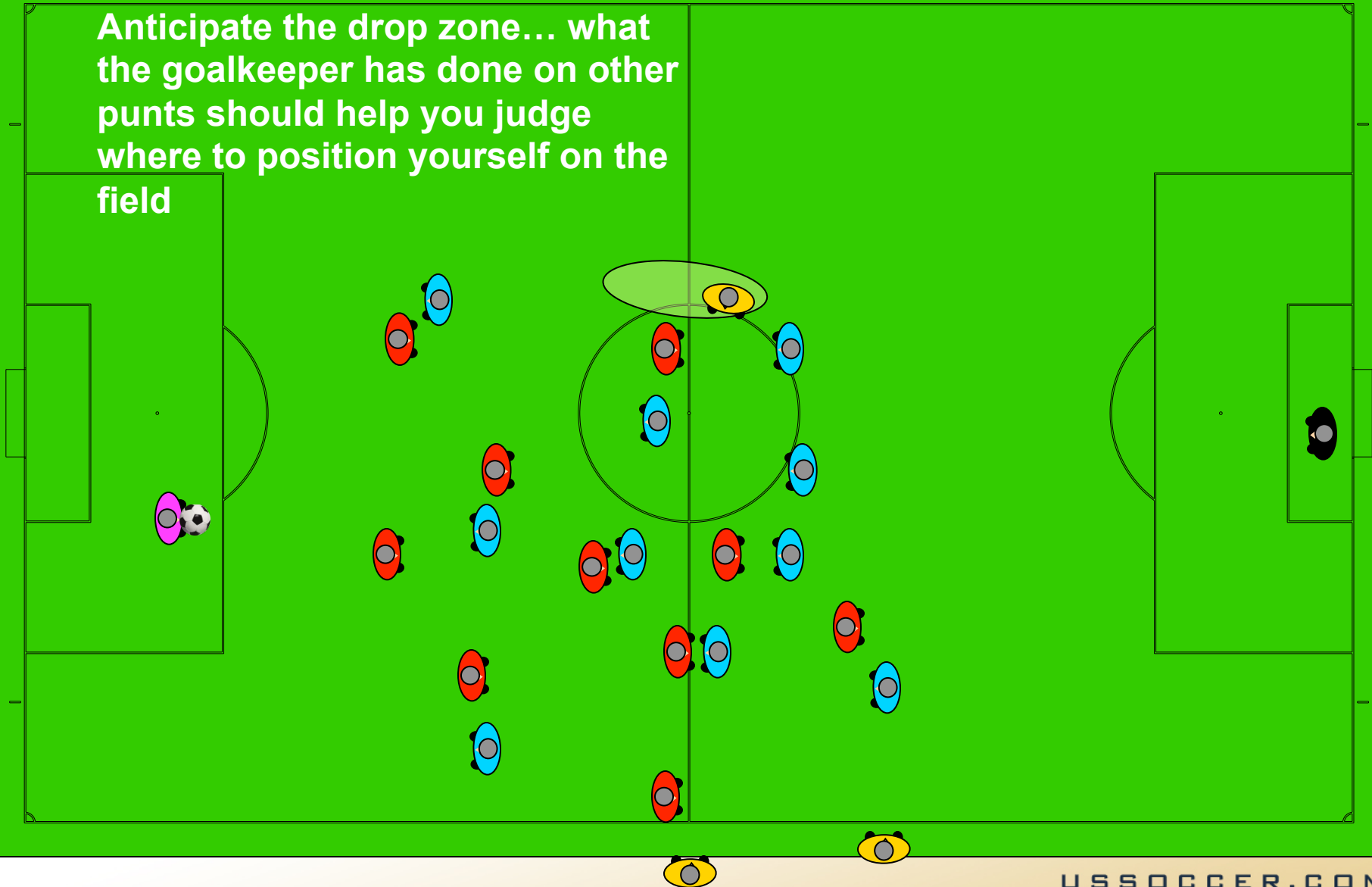
Dynamic Play





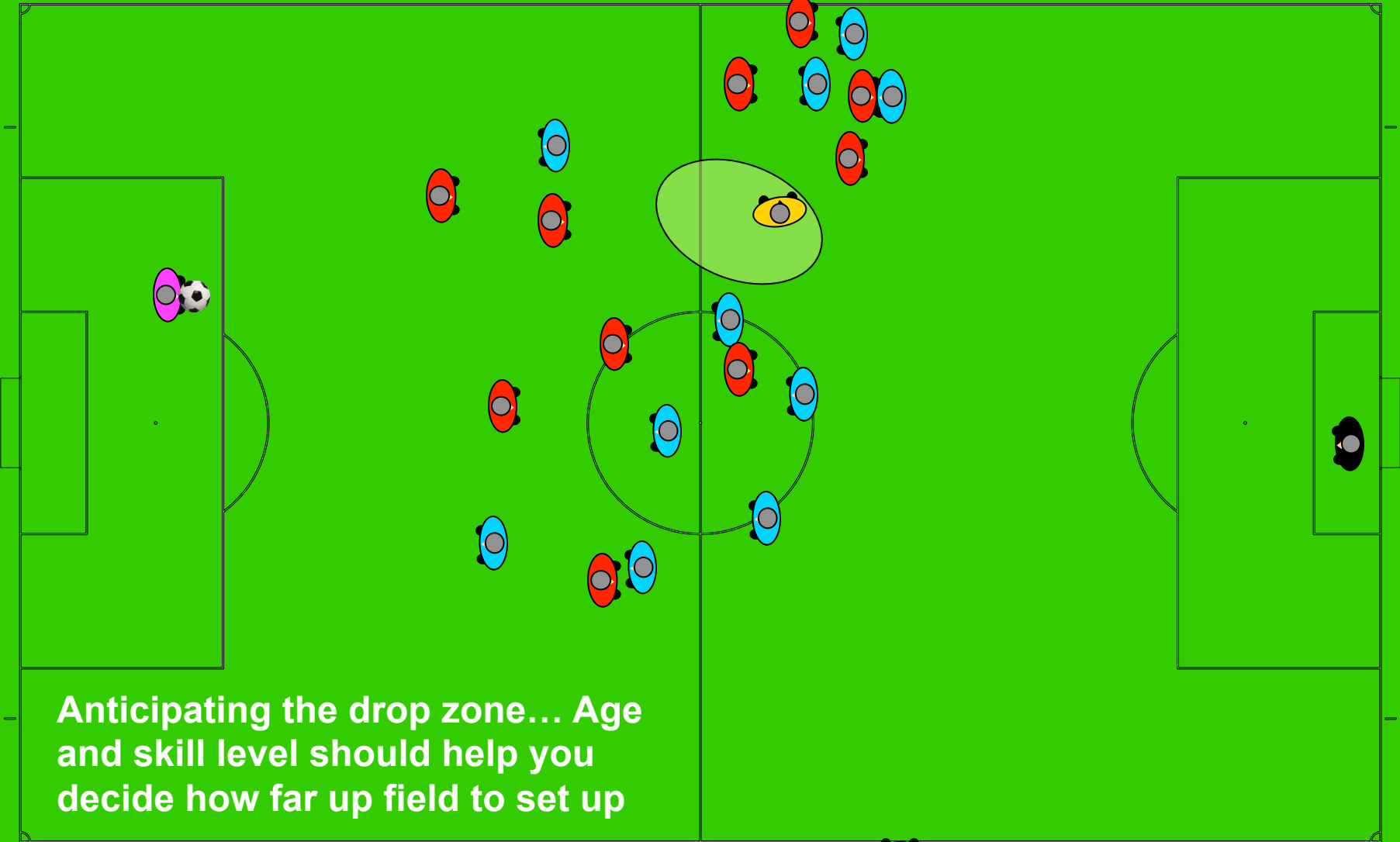
Dynamic Play – GK Punt

Anticipate the drop zone... what the goalkeeper has done on other punts should help you judge where to position yourself on the field





Dynamic Play – GK Punt



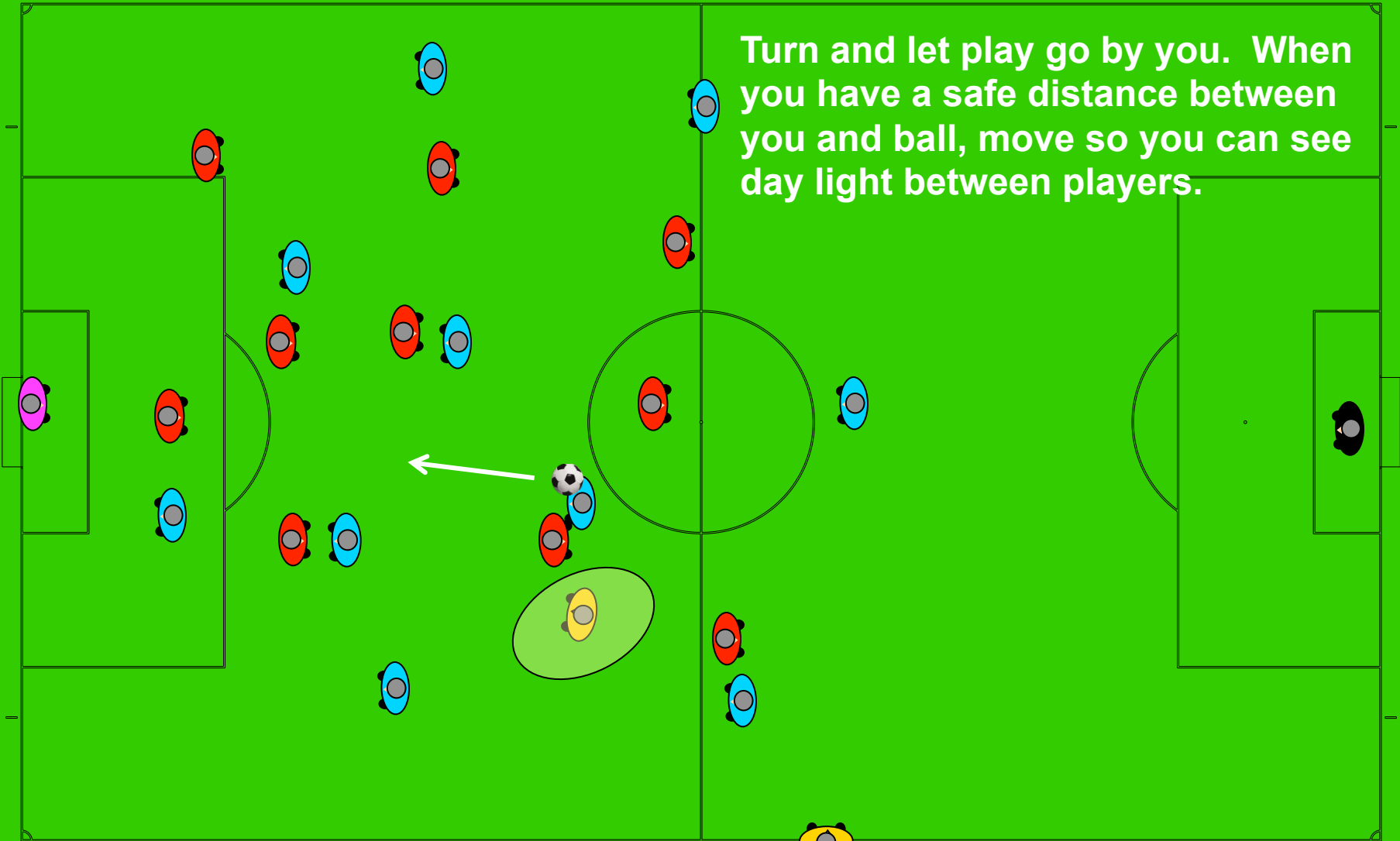


Dynamic Play- Transition





Dynamic Play- Transition





Dynamic Play- Flowing



Stay with play as they change speed and direction you do too, just like a player, but you do not touch the ball.

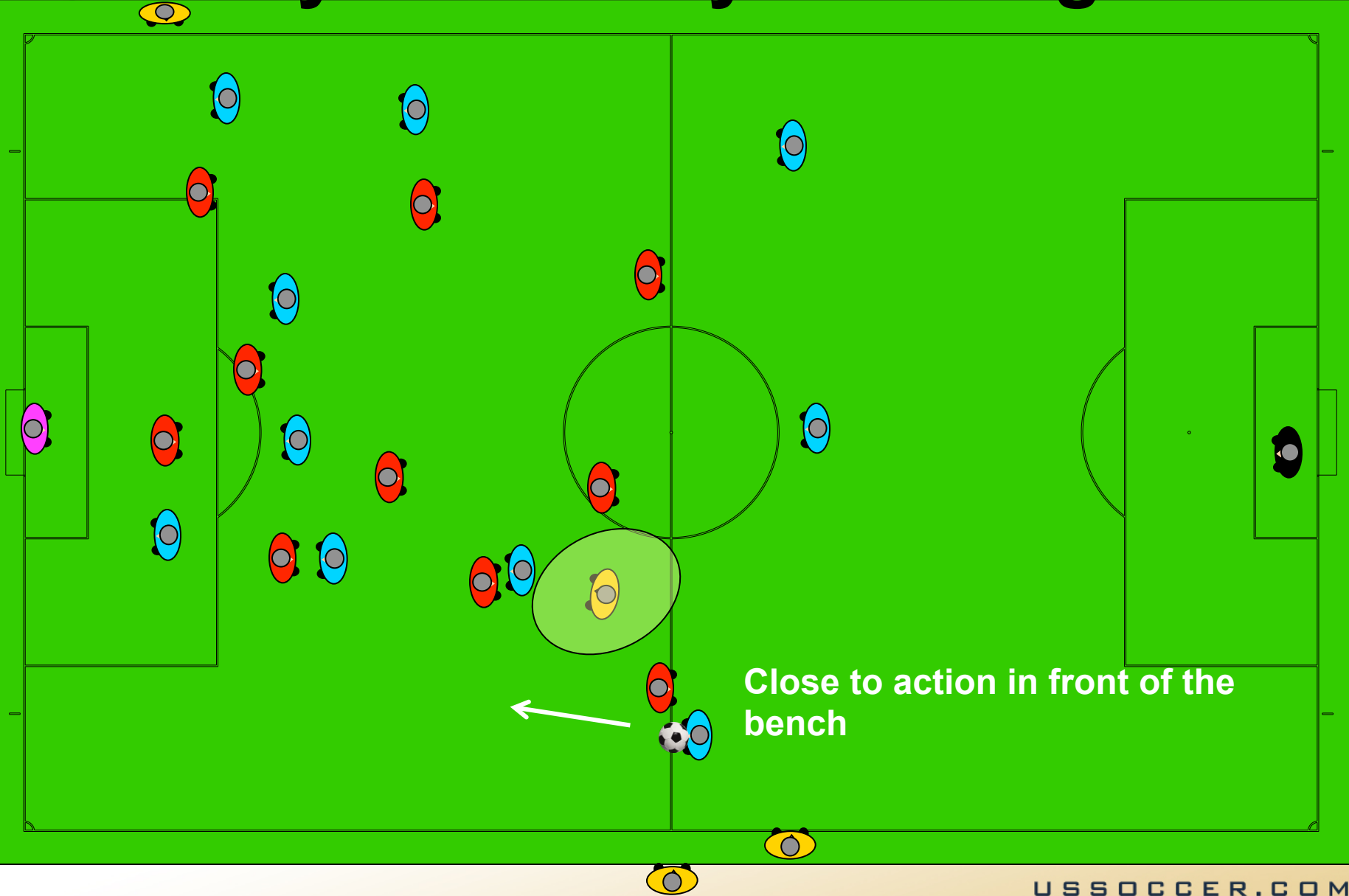


Dynamic Play- Flowing





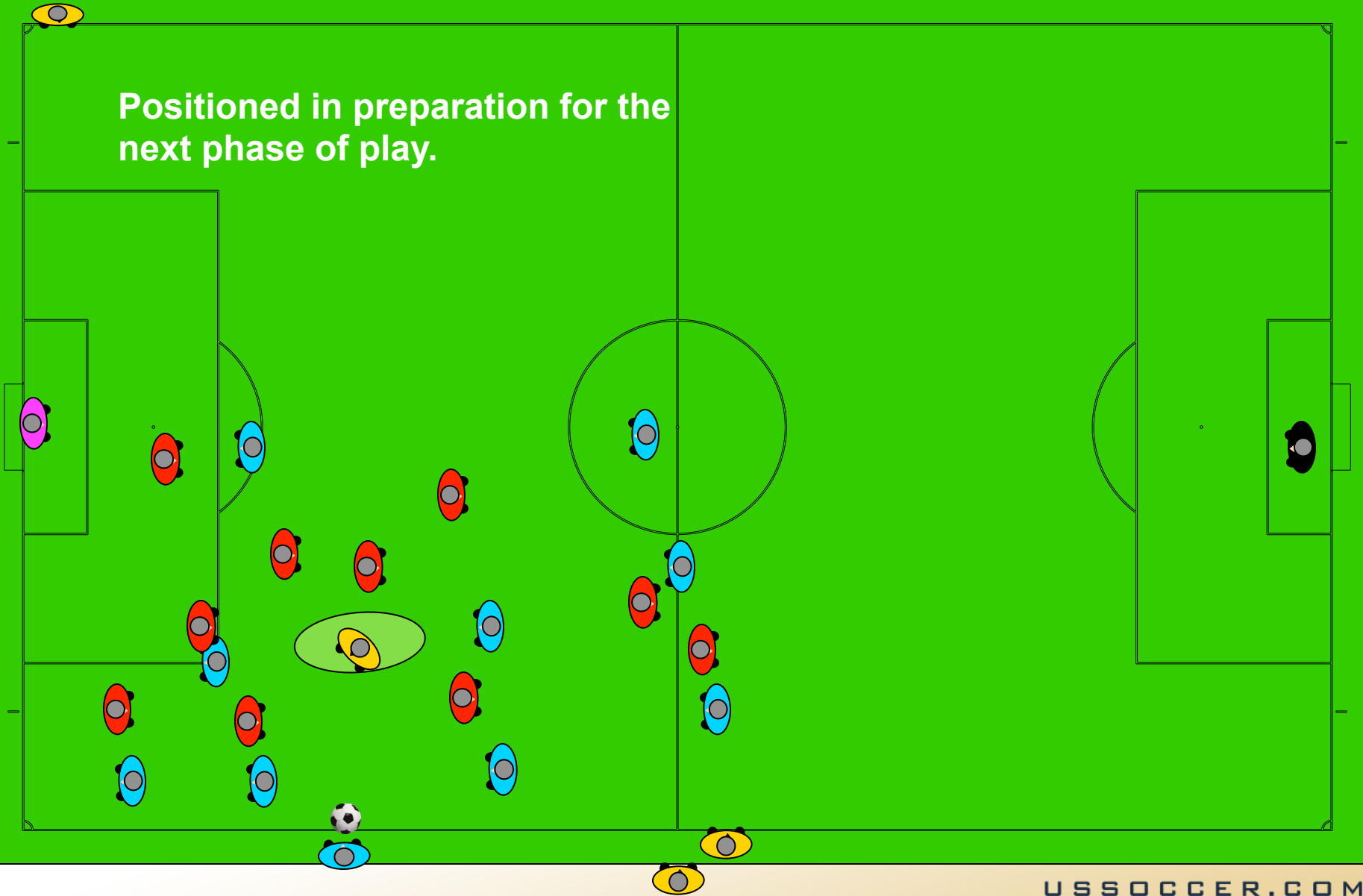
Dynamic Play- Leading





Throw-In

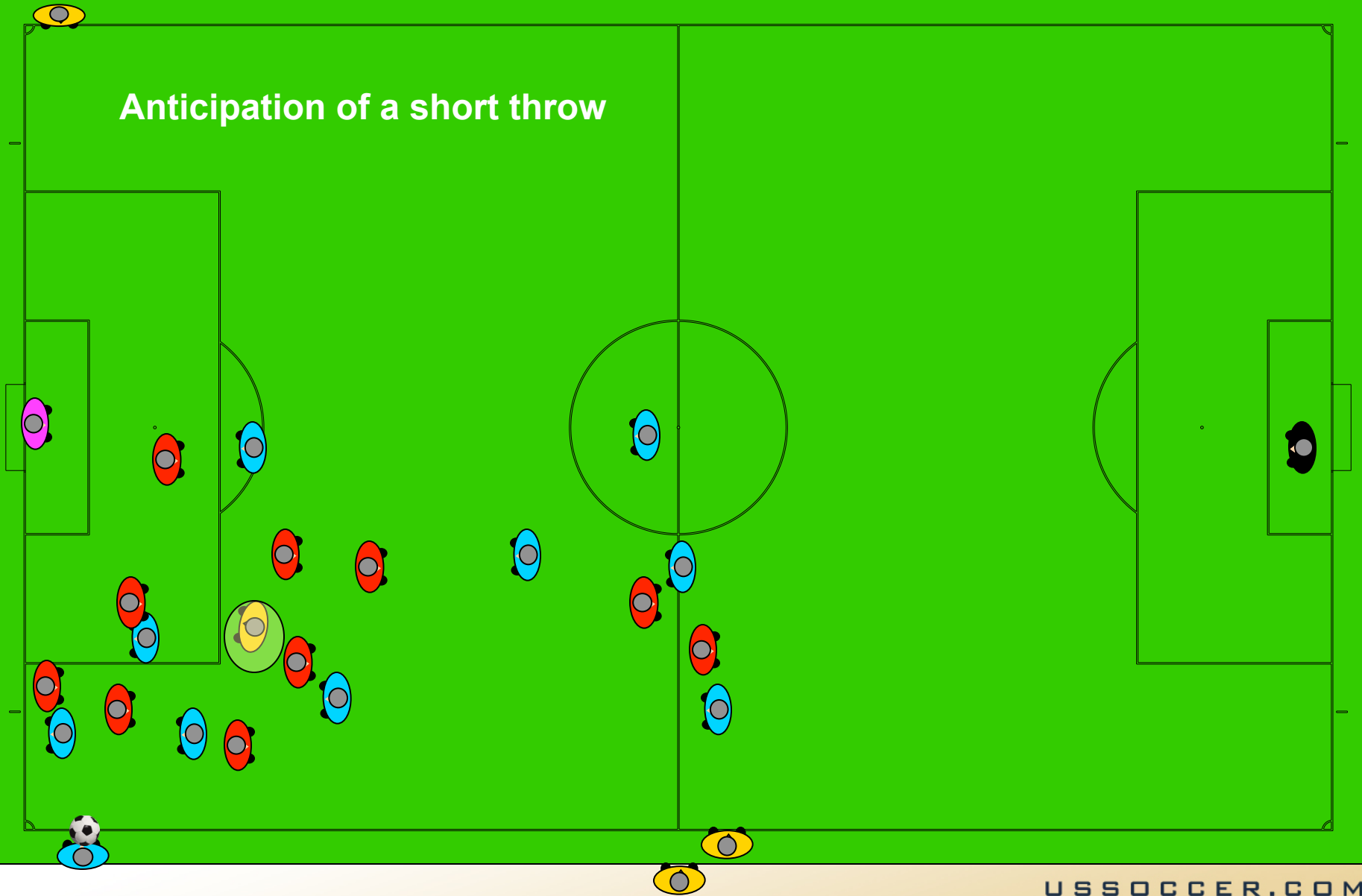
Positioned in preparation for the next phase of play.





Throw-In

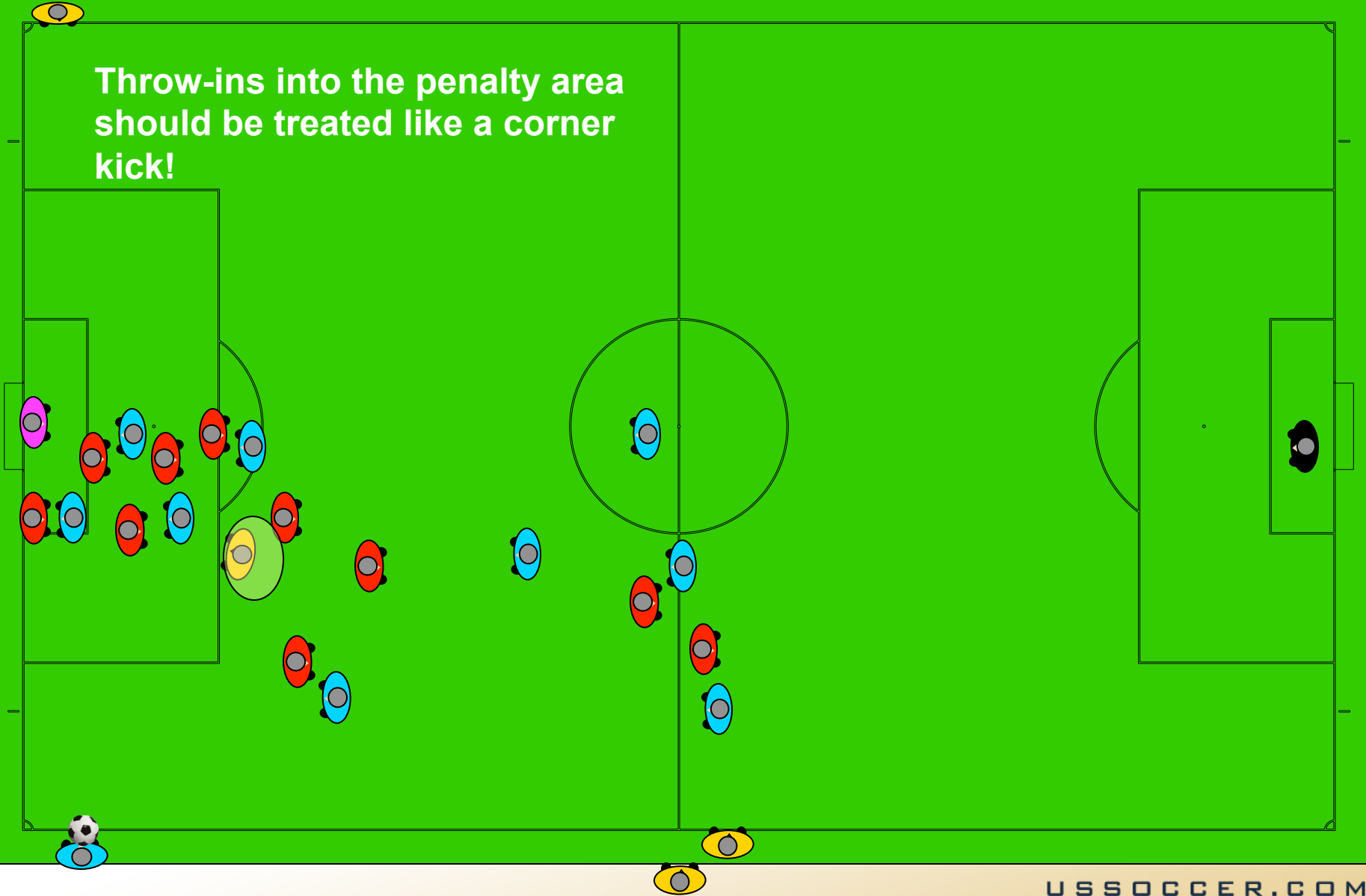
Anticipation of a short throw





Throw-In

Throw-ins into the penalty area should be treated like a corner kick!





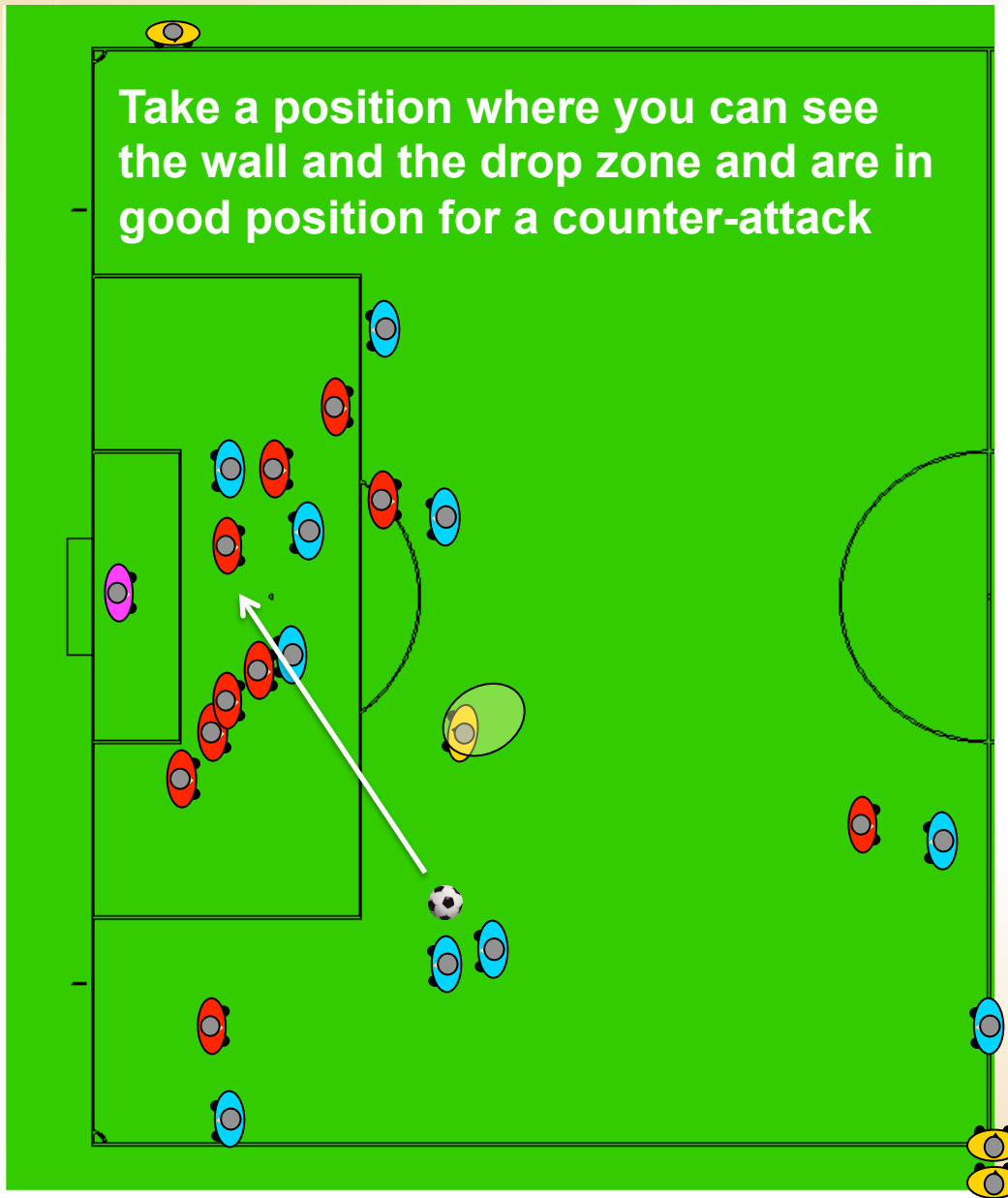
Throw-In





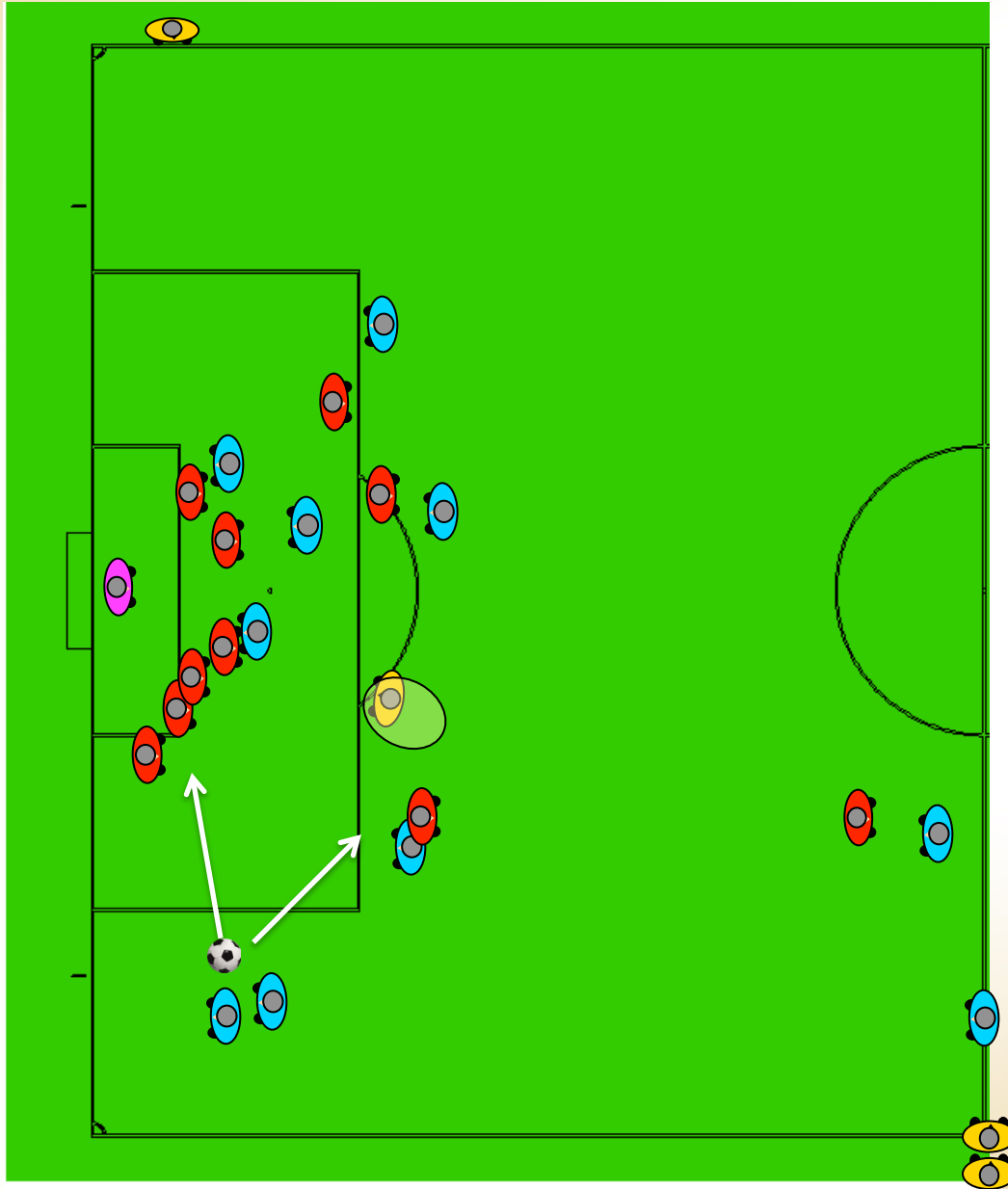
Free Kicks

Take a position where you can see the wall and the drop zone and are in good position for a counter-attack



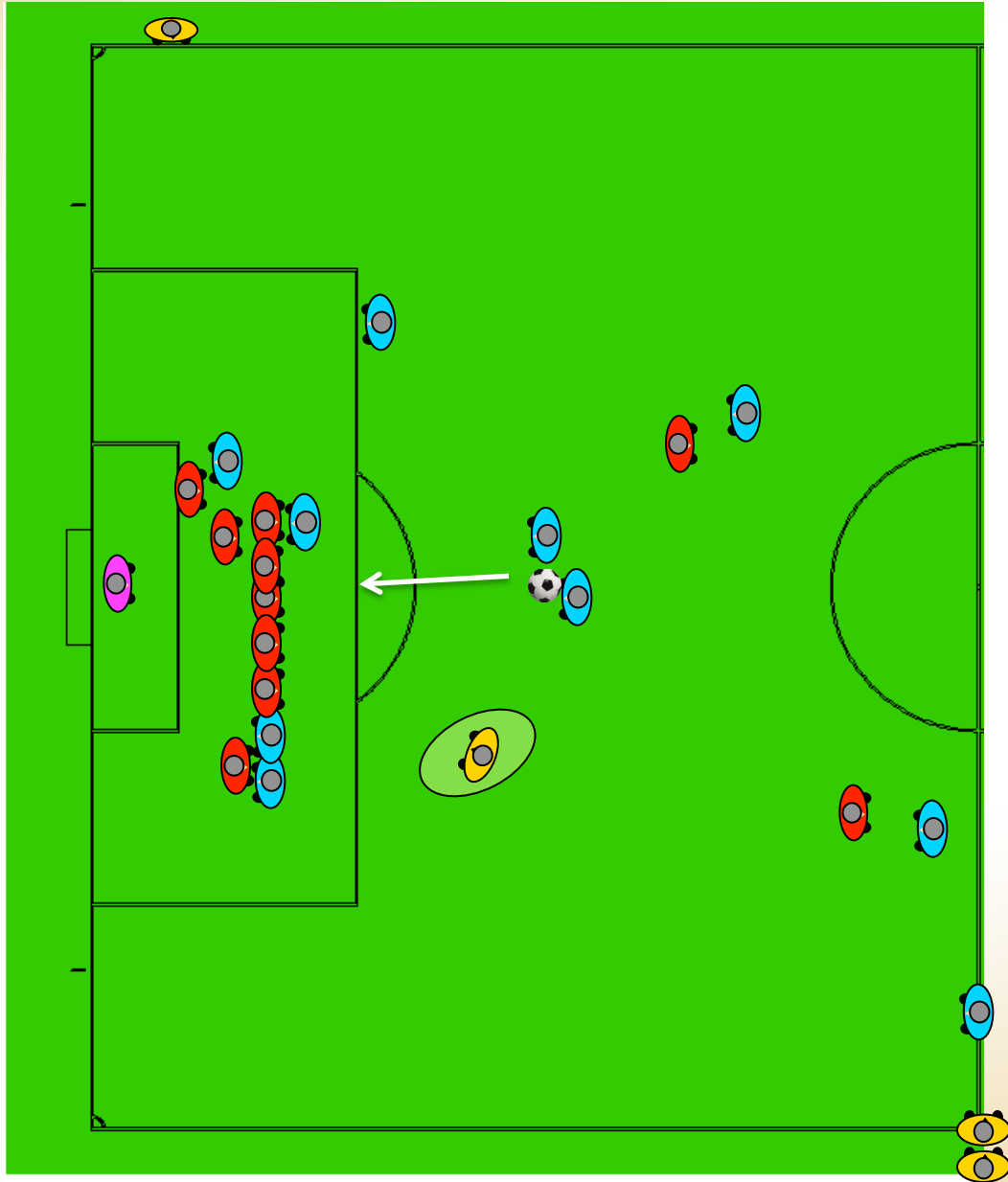


Free Kicks





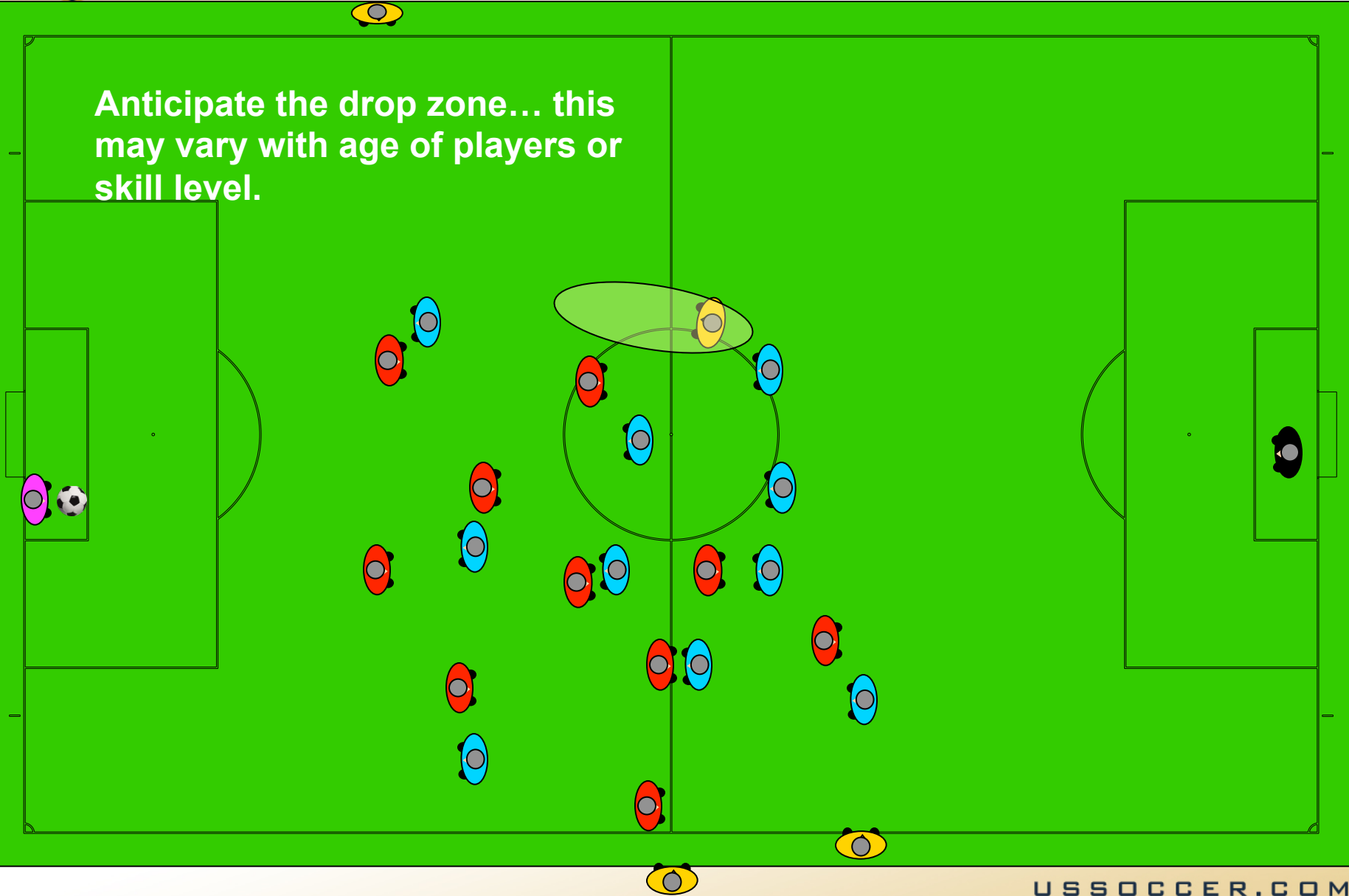
Free Kicks





Goal Kick

Anticipate the drop zone... this may vary with age of players or skill level.





Corner Kick

Similar to free kicks, take a position that allows you a clear view of the drop zone but in a good position for a counter-attack





Corner Kick





Counter Attacks

- The ability to see between players is very important on counter attacks
- The first several yards need to run left or right to get the maximum line of sight between player
- Do not run directly behind the play and attacker
- Go get a side view of the play
- Must close down play using speed as quickly as possible.



Quick Counter Attack





Quick Counter Attack



This may even mean that you need to be on the same side as your AR to get the best and quickest view of light between players



Buildup in the Midfield

- Do not immediately go wide and deep
- Move with play, but keep an angle to see what is going on
- Consider the player's options
- Adjust your pace to the situation
- Don't ball watch keep your feet moving



Reasons for Going Out of Rectangle

- Your presence is needed and the risk is greater if you do not
- Potential for collision with goalkeeper
- Attacker taking the ball into corner late in the match, waste time
- Play gets physical and you need to be there
- Hard challenge in front of benches



Principles of Positioning

SUMMARY

- Stay to the left of the ball whenever possible
- Try to be 20 yards or so from play
- Work hard to “close down play” – attempt to move at the same pace as play
- Create a good angle of vision to see light between the players
- Don't go into the wide channels (outside the rectangle) unless you smell a problem
- Anticipate and read play to position self for the next phase – never be flat footed and always be moving
- The center circle and penalty arcs are “transit zones” – referees should not stand in either area but should use them to move quickly from point a to point b