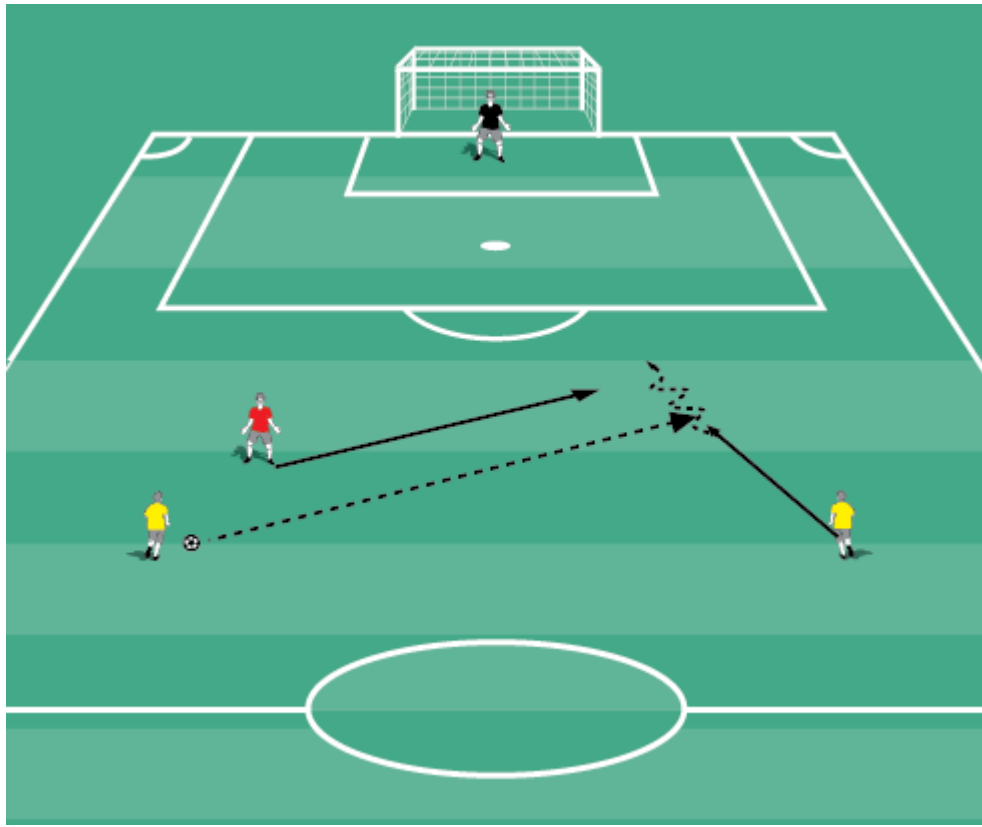


## Communicating With Defenders To Prevent Over Running A Play

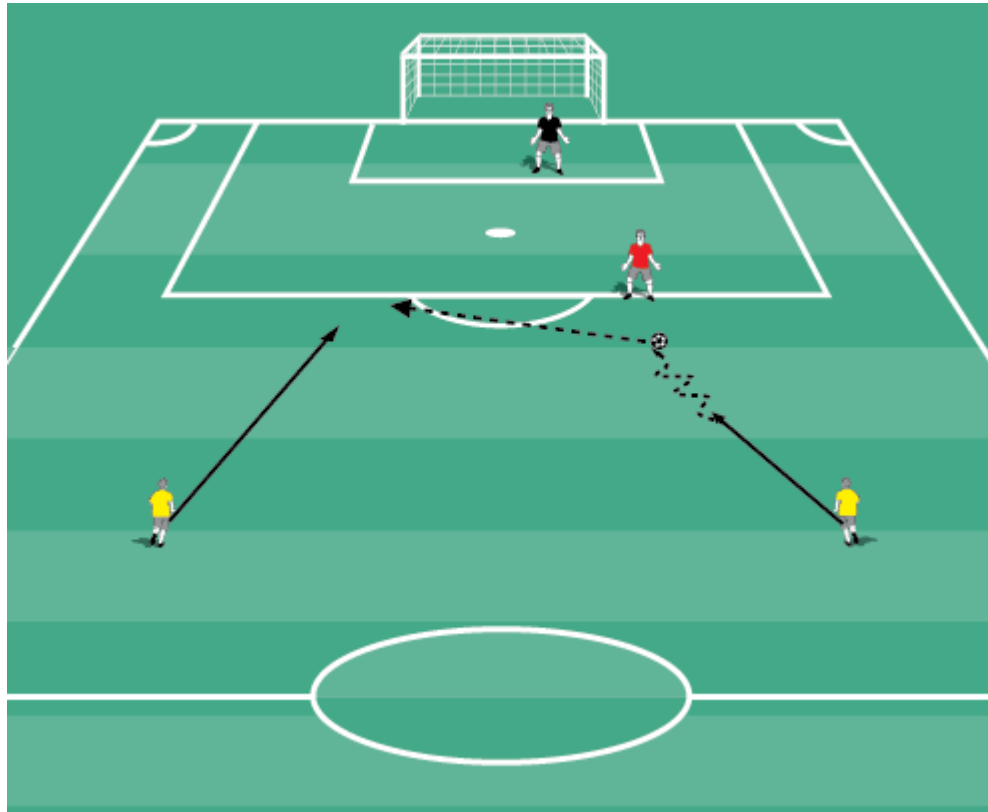
When the opponent is counter attacking you will occasionally find your team in a numbers down situation. In the situation below, the opposing team is attacking from their left and is in a 2 v 1 situation.



If the ball gets switched, the defender is in chase mode as he has to try to catch up to the attacker.



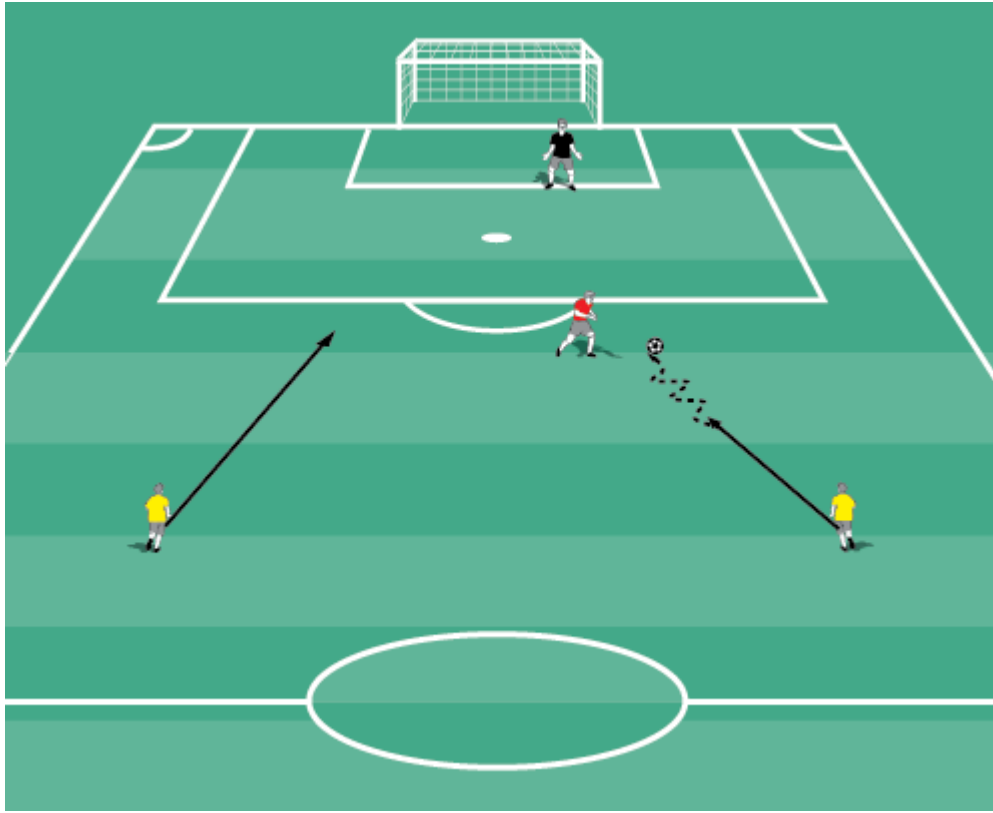
There is a tendency for the defender to over run the play, in this situation, with the idea of getting in front of the dribbler and this allows for an easy return pass to the initial passer



The problem with allowing this pass is the keeper must position himself for a possible shot from the player dribbling and when the ball gets switched back again, it's extremely difficult for the keeper to readjust in time.

The alternative is for the defender to force the dribbling player to stay wide and also to prevent the pass. While this might seem to be counter intuitive as a keeper (why would we want to encourage a shot?), it allows the keeper to get in position for the shot and be prepared. The alternative of the ball being switched back makes for a very difficult situation for the keeper.

See the diagram below for an example of the defender cutting off the angle and the keeper positioning himself for the shot



Some people might not see this as the keepers responsibility as the defender is the person who must position himself properly but the keeper is the person who has a view of the field and must communicate with the defender on where he should be positioned and what he should be trying to do.

This situation arises in games more often than many people realize and the keeper must be prepared for this situation and know exactly what he wants and be able to communicate it, while the situation is developing and not wait till after the fact.

Any questions, comments or suggestions should be sent to [Lawrence@finesoccer.com](mailto:Lawrence@finesoccer.com) or they can be posted on the [FineSoccer Forum](#)