OFFICIATING PROGRAM

DOUBLES CERTIFICATION CLINIC

Recording the Score

There are various methods for recording the score, and there is no one official method. However there is a system which requires less writing. It is very easy and from it one can see the pattern of the match at a glance. Take a match between Berg/Mudge vs Gould/Price.

1st Game

Players												
Berg	0R	1L			2		3R	4L				
Mudge									R	5L	6R	
Gould			1R	2L					4			
Price					R	3L						

<u>Right to Play the Ball</u>

Immediately after he or his partner has struck the ball, each player must get out of his opponents' way and must:

a) Give his opponents a fair opportunity to get to and strike at the ball from any position on the court elected by an opponent.

b) Allow either opponent to play the ball to any part of the front wall or back wall and to that part of each side wall in front of the red floor service line.

c) Give his opponents a fair view of the ball.

d) Refrain from creating a visual or audible distraction.

REFEREE'S LINE OF THINKING

The Referee's Line of Thinking is a useful tool that will help guide a Referee to the correct decision each time there is an appeal on interference or obstruction.

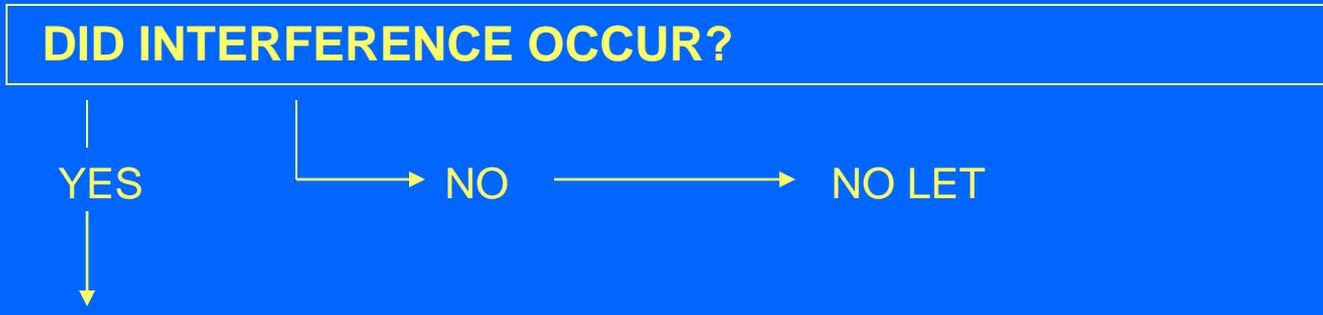**QUESTION**   **DECISION**

DID INTERFERENCE OCCUR?
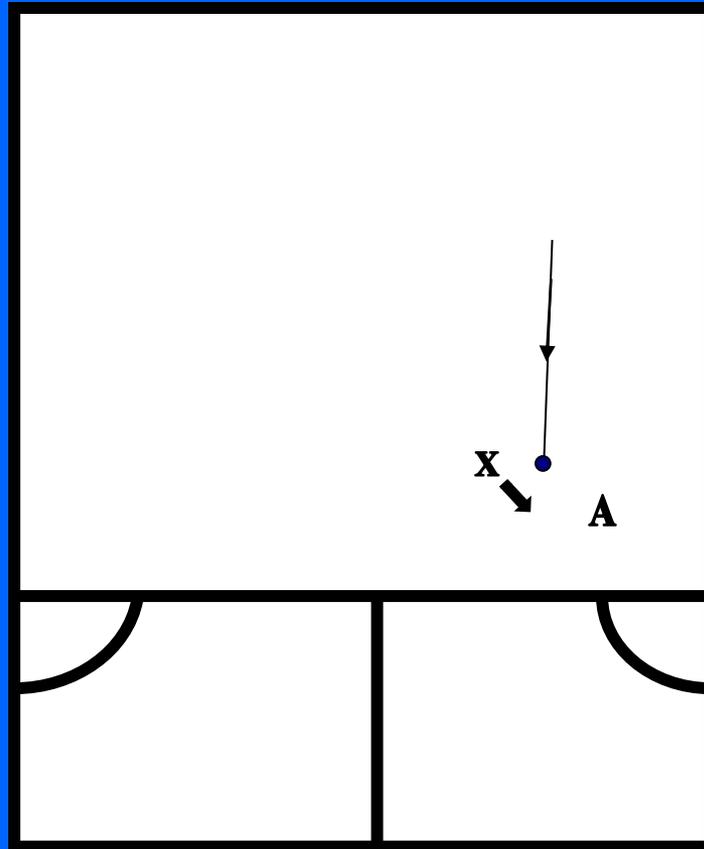
YES   NO ———→ NO LET

Did Interference Occur?

In his Line of Thinking the first question the Referee will ask is did interference occur? Normally it is obvious whether interference has occurred. However, it is not always a clear-cut decision. If, in the opinion of the Referee, there has been NO interference then he should refuse the appeal. Otherwise, he moves to the next question.

"No Let" if A is <u>clear</u> since there is no interference.

QUESTION   **DECISION**

DID INTERFERENCE OCCUR?

YES   NO   NO LET

COULD OBSTRUCTED PLAYER HAVE REACHED THE BALL AND WAS HE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO DO SO?
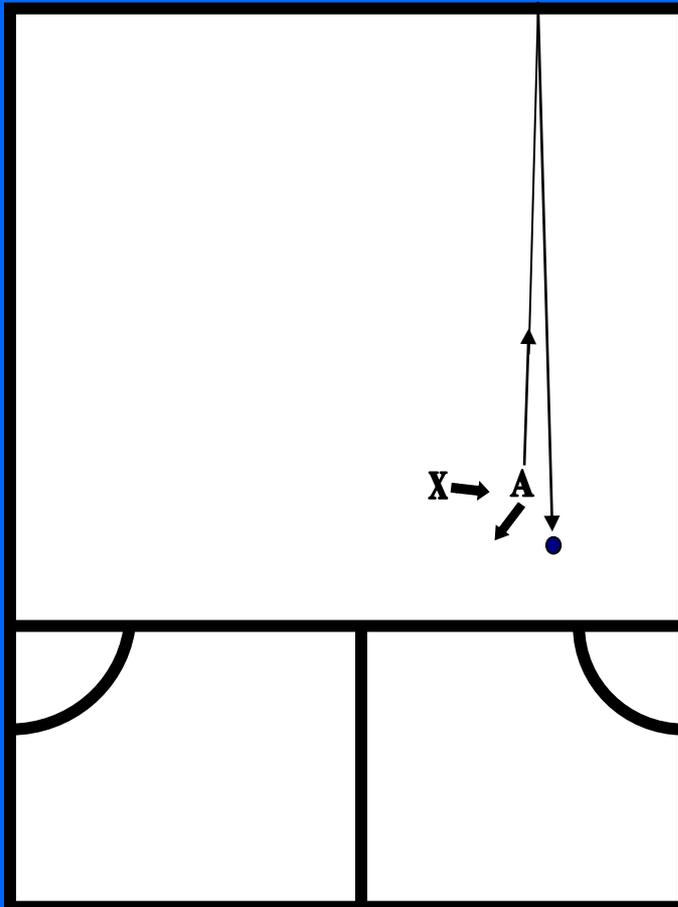
YES   NO   NO LET

Could Obstructed Player Have Reached The Ball And Made A Good Return And Was He Making Every Effort To Do So?

The Referee must be satisfied that the player could have reached the ball, not only by the direction of his movement but also by his speed and ability. His speed may well deteriorate as the game progresses when his fitness deserts him. So what might be a positive answer early in a match could become a negative one toward the end of a long five game match.

If X could not have reached the ball, the call is "No Let"

Although A is in the way of X, the ball is past the point where X could reach it. Even if A was not on the court, X could not have reached the ball.

X➡ **A**

A player cannot expect a "Let" if he just stands there appealing. He must satisfy the Referee that he could have reached the ball and made a good return and the best way to do this is to make every effort to get to the ball.

If the Referee is unsure whether the player could have reached the ball, he moves to the next question.

QUESTION **DECISION**

DID INTERFERENCE OCCUR?

YES → NO → NO LET

COULD OBSTRUCTED PLAYER HAVE REACHED THE BALL AND WAS HE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO DO SO?

YES → NO → NO LET

**DID OBSTRUCTING PLAYER MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MOVE CLEAR?**

YES → NO → WARNING OR POINT TO OBSTRUCTED PLAYER

Did The Obstructing Player Make Every Effort To Move Clear?

The Referee now asks "what was the obstructing player doing?" If he was just standing on the shot, whether he was admiring the shot or was too tired to move is immaterial; that is a case of avoidable obstruction and the Referee's decision is "Warning" to obstructing player. In other words, the obstructing player was not making every effort to get out of his opponent's way.

Assuming X can reach the ball, A must clear in the direction of the ⬇ . If A does not make any effort to clear, a "Warning" is given to A.
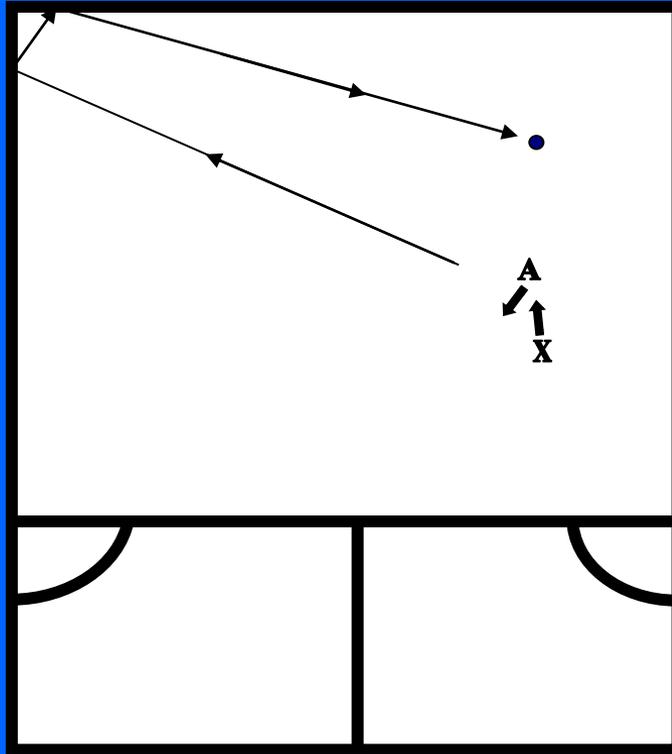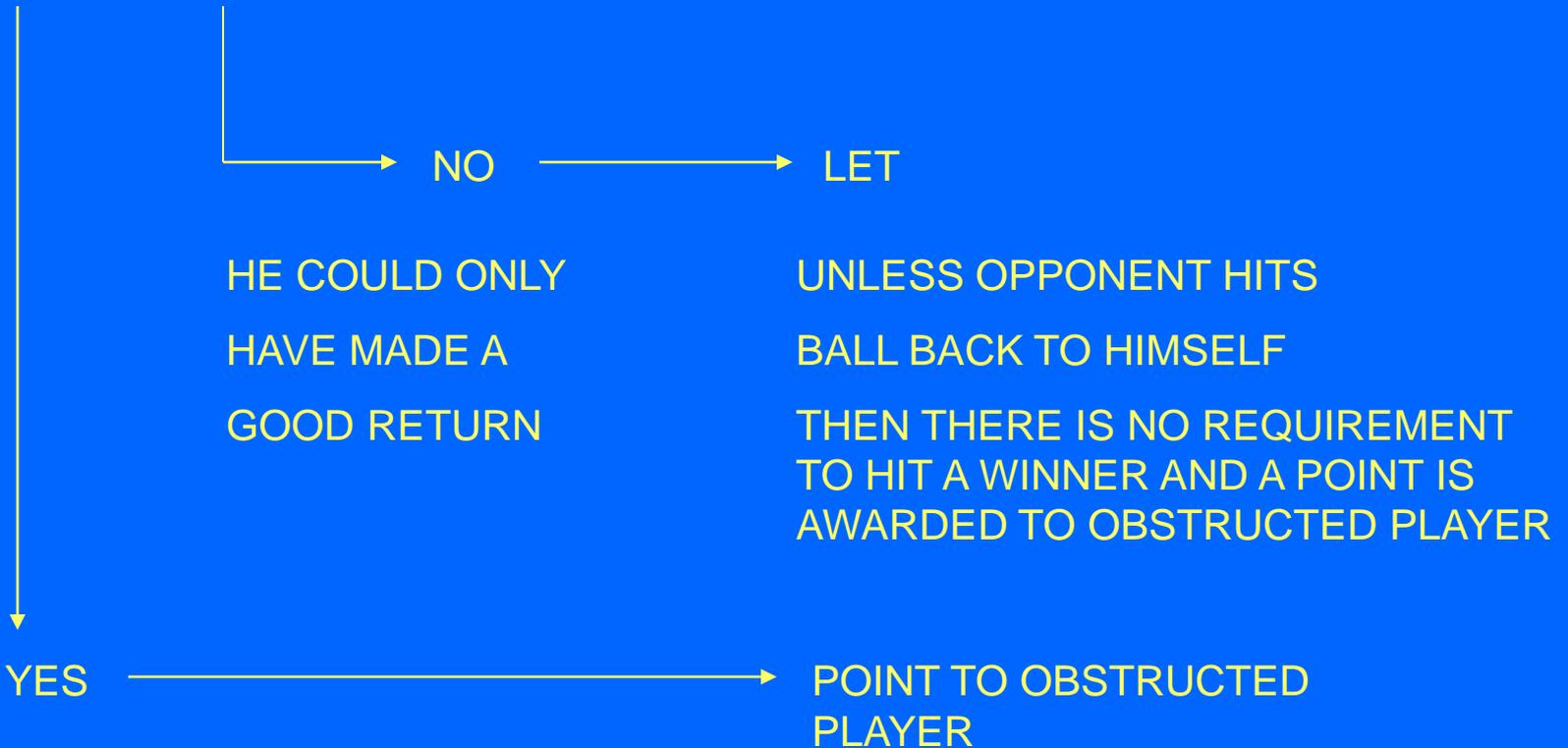
Subsequent decisions on similar situations would be "Point" to obstructed player. A worse case scenario is when the obstructing player is actually moving into the striker's swing. This would be classified as deliberate obstruction in which case it would again be "Point" to obstructed player.

QUESTION   DECISION

**WAS THE OBSTRUCTED PLAYER IN A POSITION TO HIT A WINNER?**

NO → LET

HE COULD ONLY   UNLESS OPPONENT HITS
HAVE MADE A   BALL BACK TO HIMSELF
GOOD RETURN   THEN THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT
                       TO HIT A WINNER AND A POINT IS
                       AWARDED TO OBSTRUCTED PLAYER

YES → POINT TO OBSTRUCTED PLAYER

Was The Obstructed Player In A Position To Play A Winner?

We could have a situation where the obstructing player was making every effort to move clear but despite this effort there was still interference. This would be a case of accidental obstruction rather than deliberate obstruction so the Referee would now ask himself "was the obstructed player prevented from playing a winning shot?"

In answering this question the Referee would not take into account the player's ability. The player is assumed to be able to hit the winner. He would, however, assess the position of the players and decide whether a winning shot could have been hit IN THAT SITUATION.

If in the opinion of the Referee, when answering the last question in his line of thinking, the obstructed player COULD ONLY JUST HAVE REACHED the ball and therefore could not hit a winning shot but COULD ONLY JUST PLAY THE BALL, then the Referee would allow a "Let".
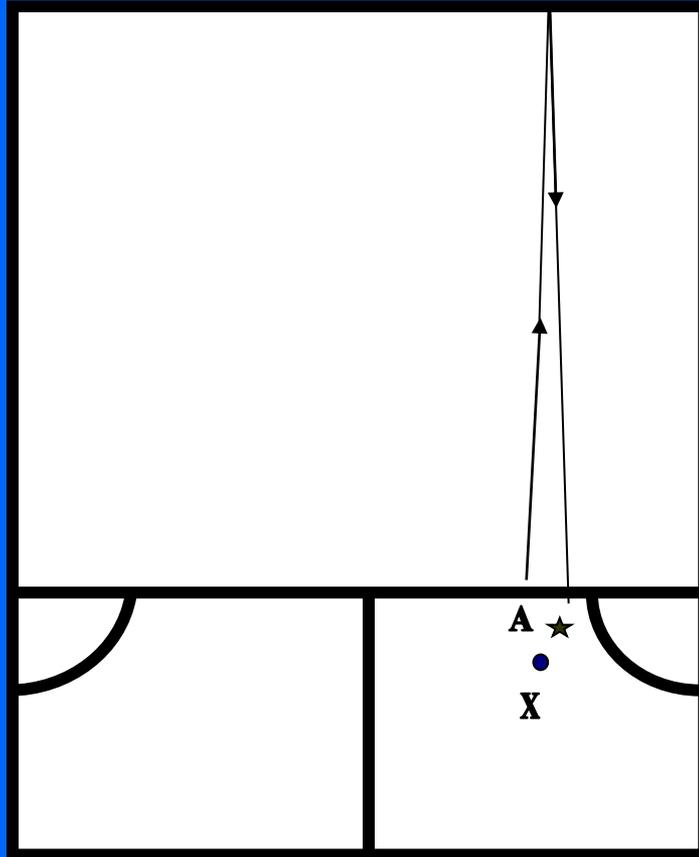
If the player could have hit a winning shot, he is awarded a "Point".
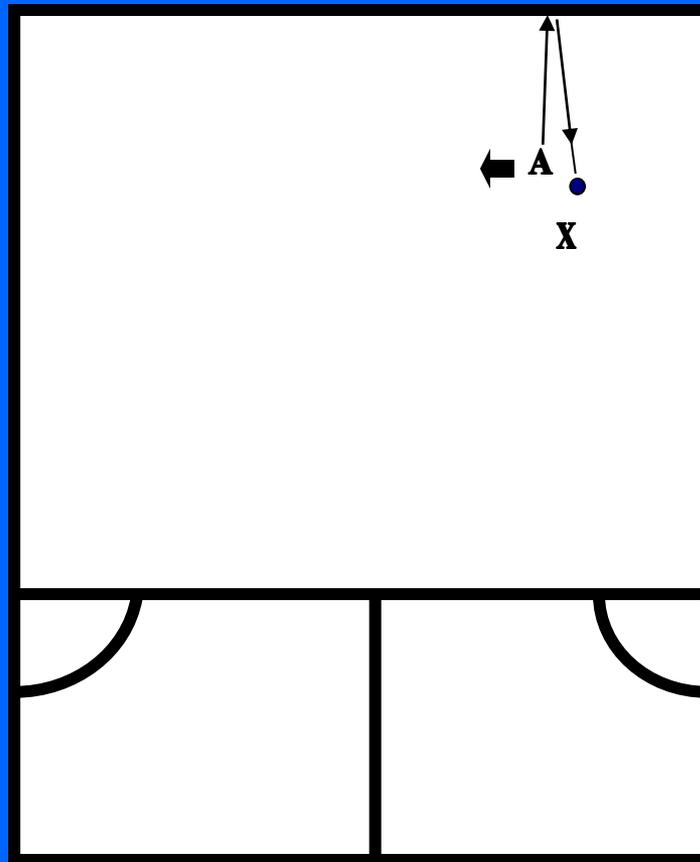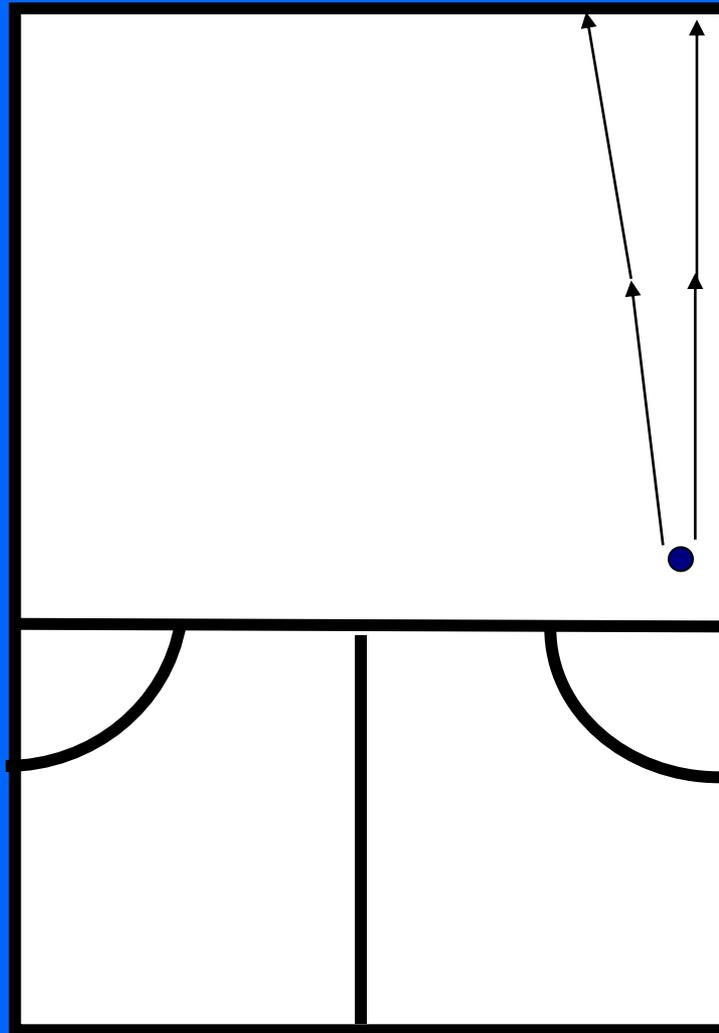
WINNING SITUATIONS

In a winning situation the striker is entitled to hit the ball to any part of the front wall and the side walls near the front wall (reverse corner). Imagine a triangle formed between the ball and the front corners of the court and the side walls near the front wall.
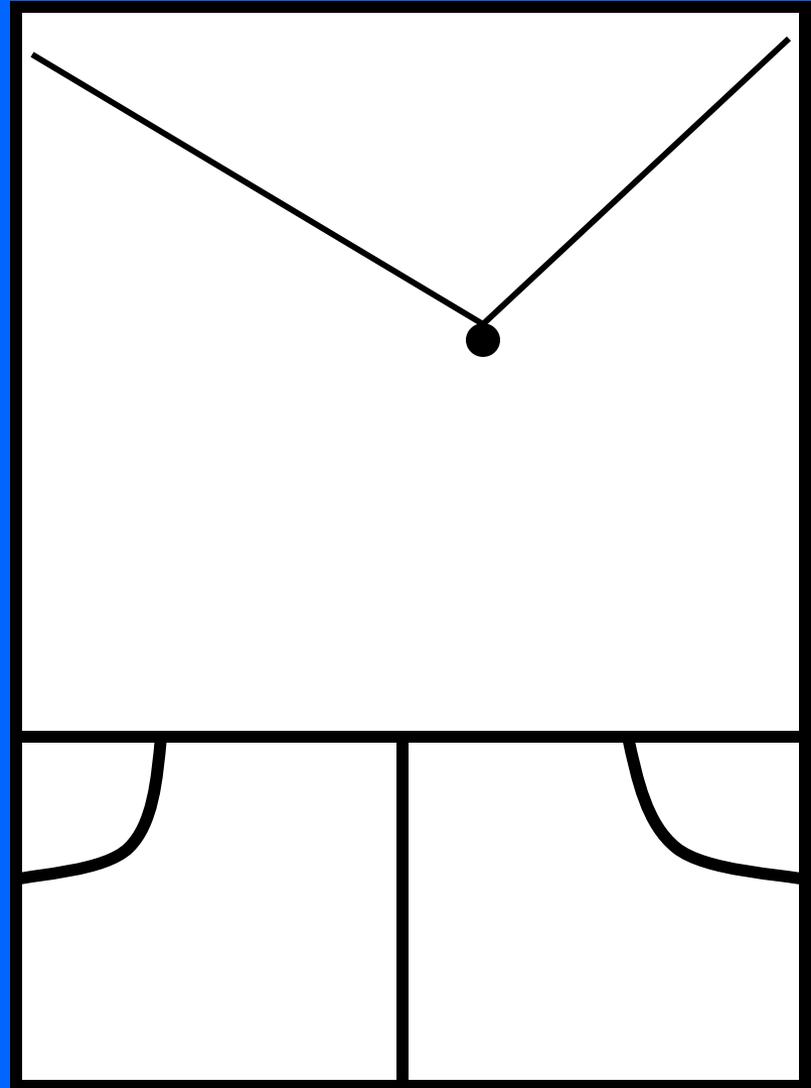
"Point to player X". A is in the triangle, even though the situation is behind the short line.

A player is only entitled to hit the ball to any part of the front wall that he actually can hit to. The triangle is reduced considerably when the ball is tight to the side wall.

The front 1/3 of the court is where winning situations occur on cross court interference caused by partner. In this case, point to X.
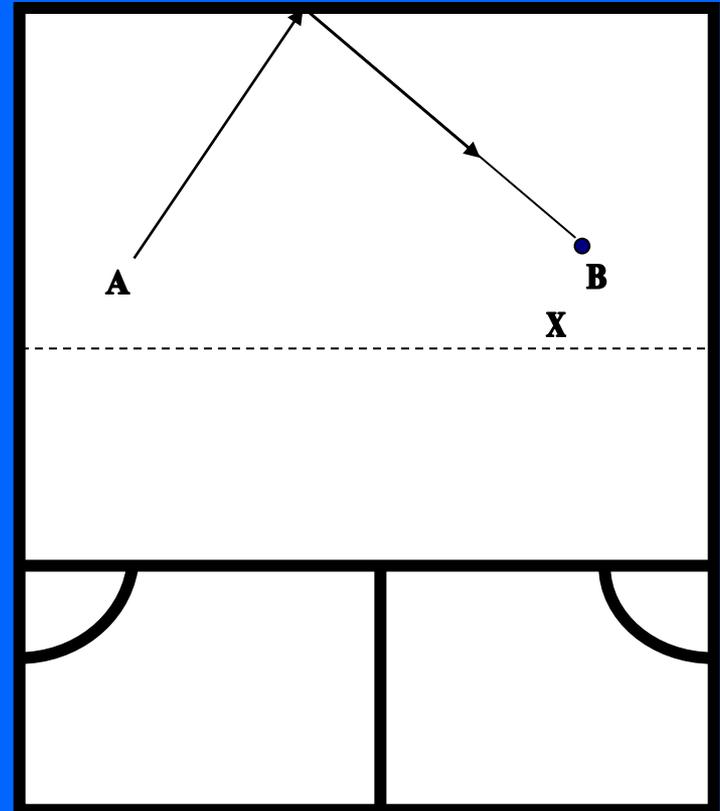
	QUESTION	**DECISION**

DID INTERFERENCE OCCUR?

YES   NO   ⟶   NO LET

COULD OBSTRUCTED PLAYER HAVE REACHED THE BALL AND WAS HE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO DO SO?

YES   NO   ⟶   NO LET

DID OBSTRUCTING PLAYER MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MOVE CLEAR?

YES   NO   ⟶   WARNING OR POINT TO OBSTRUCTED PLAYER

WAS THE OBSTRUCTED PLAYER IN A POSITION TO HIT A WINNER?

NO   ⟶   LET

POINT TO OBSTRUCTED PLAYER

SOME BASIC CONCEPTS WHEN MAKING DECISIONS

1) The ball, after hitting the back wall, is never considered to be hit back to yourself. Therefore, after the ball hits the back wall and the striker then hits his opponent with the ball, it is only a let.

2) When a "Let" is called everything "freezes", <u>except the flight of the ball</u>.

3) Take into account the player's speed and ability to play the ball, which may vary over the course of a 5 game match.

4) A player only has to clear <u>once</u> for the opponent who has the <u>first</u> play on the ball.
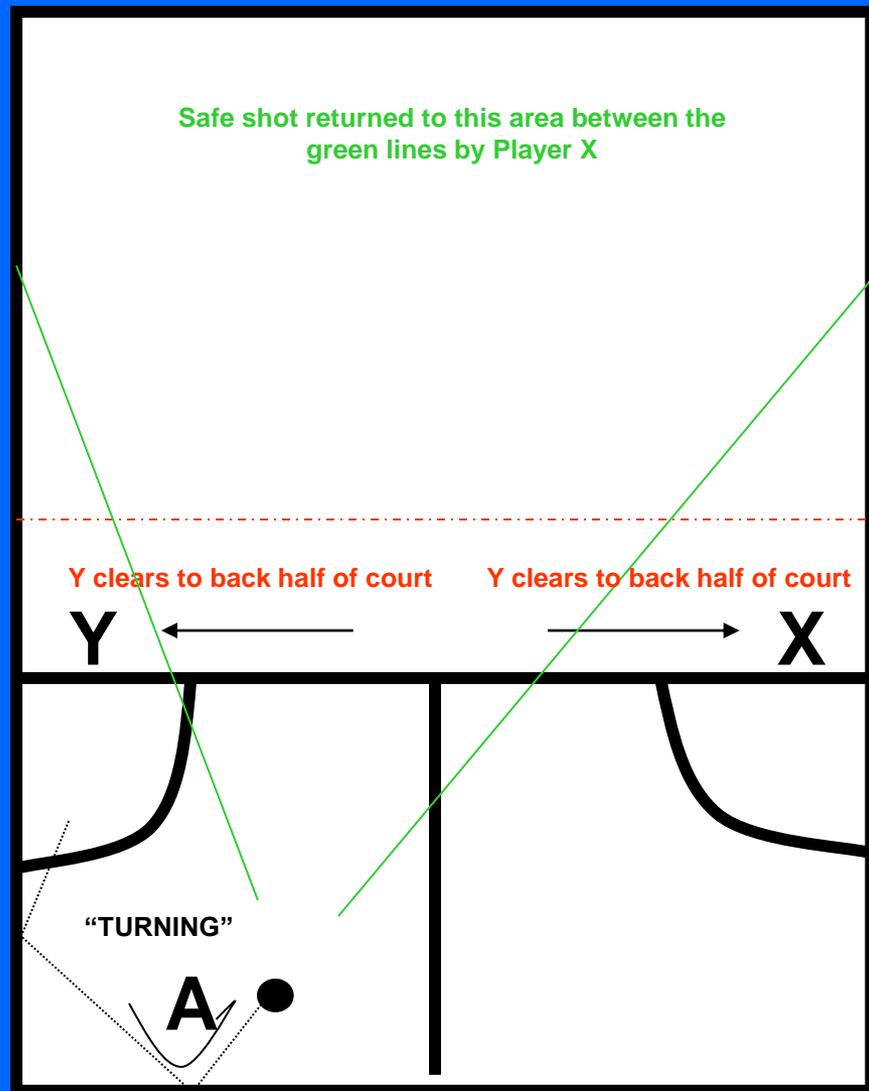
5) Do not take into account the player's ability to hit a winner. You look at the situation to determine whether the player is in position to hit a winning shot (you assume he can).

6) In a winning situation, the striker is entitled to hit the ball to any part of the front wall and the sidewalls near the front wall (reverse corner). Imagine a triangle formed between the ball and the front corners of the court and the sidewalls near the front wall.

Summary of the Turning Interpretation for Doubles Squash

A player who *intentionally* "turns" on the ball (the ball does not "squirt" off the back or side wall, forcing the striker to turn unexpectedly) must make every effort to play the ball. This guideline is designed to eliminate the abuse of the safety "Let" provision, often invoked by a player to recover from a defensive position, while continuing to provide safety for all players on court. The following provisions apply:

1) The turning player should warn his opponents as early as possible that he is turning by declaring his intent to turn ("turning", "coming around" or some other clear verbal warning). Failure to do so will result in a warning initially; however failure subsequently to announce a "turn" or to announce the "turn" late could result in a "Point" to the opponents.

2) If the turning player fails to declare his intention to turn and then hits either opponent with the ball a "Point" will be awarded to the opponents.

3) If the turning player fails to declare his intention to turn and then requests a Let due to his opponent's positions on the court, No Let will be granted.

4) However if the turning player fails to call turning or calls late but plays the ball safely, then the Referee should allow play to continue and after the point has concluded, warn the turning player that future failure to declare a turn could, at the referees discretion, result in the awarding of a point to the opponents due to unsafe or dangerous play.

5) On hearing the clear verbal warning, the turning player's opponents must make every effort to clear to give the turning player the full front wall and the side walls in the front third of the court, as well as provide freedom to the striker to play the ball.

Safe shot returned to this area between the green lines by Player X

Y clears to back half of court   Y clears to back half of court

Y   X

"TURNING"

A ●

6. After clearly stating his intention to turn, the turning player, where possible, should play the ball to the front wall or to the sidewalls in the front third of the court. If the turning player does not play the ball he will not be granted a "Let" if he is considered to be unreasonably trying to get out of an unfavourable position, especially when the opponents have cleared properly.

7. If after declaring his intention to turn, the turning player's ball hits an opponent who has cleared to allow the turning player to play the ball safely to the front wall or the front third of the side wall, the turning player will lose the "Point". Also to ensure the safety of the players on the court in enforcing the Turning Rule, if the turning player plays a shot which is considered reckless or dangerous (not safe) the striker will be penalized and a "Point" will be awarded to the opponents.

The exceptions are as follows:

Where the striker, while planning to play his normal shot, is forced to turn to play the ball due to the ball "squirting" off the back or side wall, forcing the striker to turn unexpectedly; in this case a "Let" will be allowed, provided the striker could have played the ball.

When the opponents do not make every effort to clear, after turning has been declared, then the striker need not play the ball and a "Let" will be allowed and the Referee should warn the opponents that future failure to clear will result in a "Point" to the striker.

Footnote to Referees: The overriding principle for all Referees is that the game should be played safely and fairly, and Referees calls should be made to promote safety while preserving the integrity of the Rules, and the flow of the game. The Referee should include, when making his judgement, whether or not the turning player could have reached the ball and played it to the front wall and would it have resulted in a safe return.

Ultimately it is the responsibility of the player turning to play the ball in a safe manner. Failure to do so may, at the discretion of the Referee, result in a Warning, or if the Referee deems the conduct offensive, a Point.

An initial warning applies to both players of the team warned.

# Some Possible Situations a Referee may Encounter

Assumptions in all situations:

1. **Players are right handed**

2. **Teams are Players A and B versus X and Y**

3. **Incoming striker could have reached the ball and was in a position ready to play the ball unless stated otherwise**

4. **On a normal return, the striker is entitled to play the ball to any part of the side wall or back wall in order for the ball to then reach the front wall**

5. **The player's ability to hit a shot is not considered. It is the winning situation, as previously discussed, which should be taken into account**

Straight situation 1: Hitting the ball back to yourself on a straight shot

Player A plays ball back to himself. A does not clear from triangle and player X would have hit A or does hit A with ball going to front wall.

Decision: "point to player X"
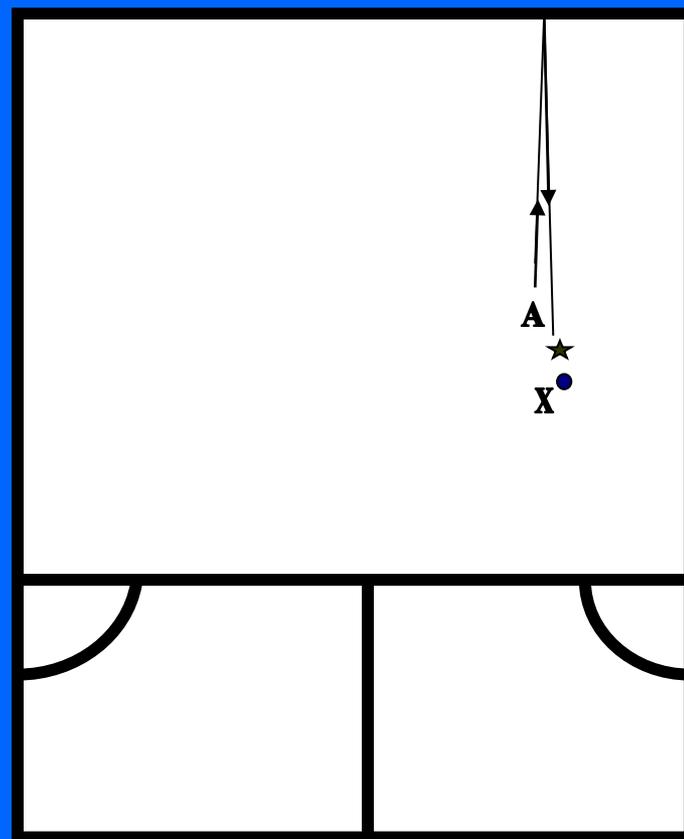
Straight situation 2: Hitting the ball back to yourself on a straight shot

Player A plays ball back to himself and does not clear from triangle.

Decision: "Point to player X". A is in the triangle, even though the situation is behind the short line.
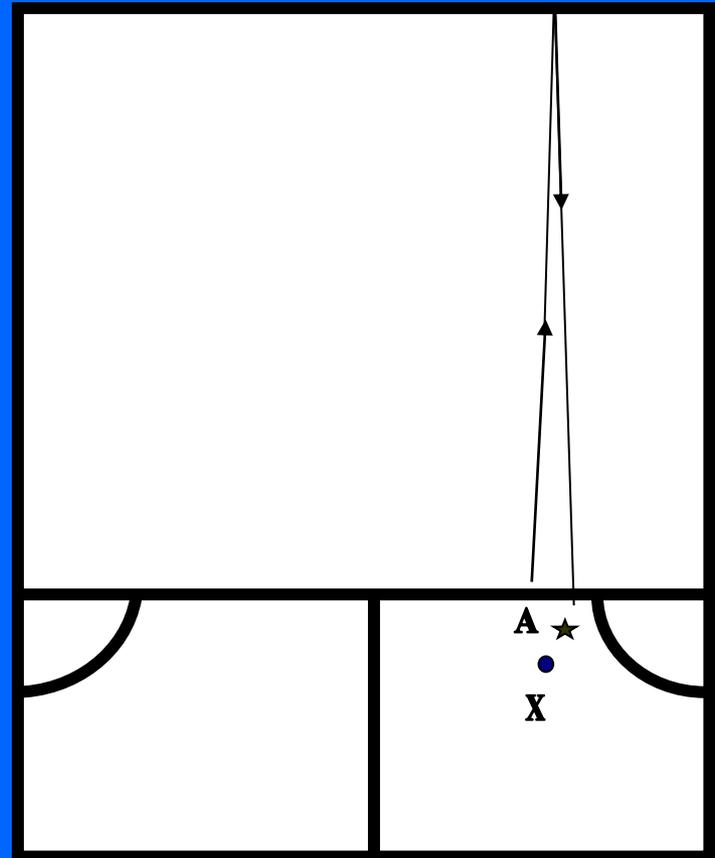
Straight situation 3: Hitting the ball back close to yourself on a straight shot

Side by side situation. Player X asks for a "Let" hoping for a point.

Decision: "Let", because X was able to play the ball and A was not in the triangle.

NOTE: Discourage players playing for points. Encourage them to play the ball.
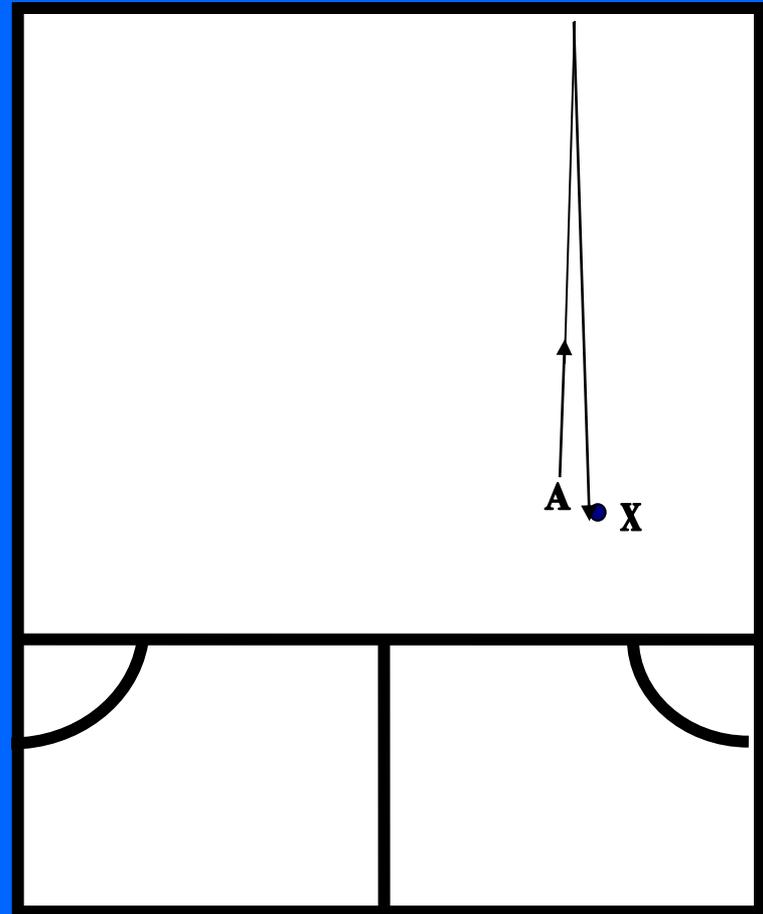
Straight situation 4: Hitting the ball back close to yourself on a straight shot

Player X backs off to play the ball. No interference, but X is unsure where player A is.

Decision: "Let", unless player A is completely clear of swing, in which case it is "No Let".
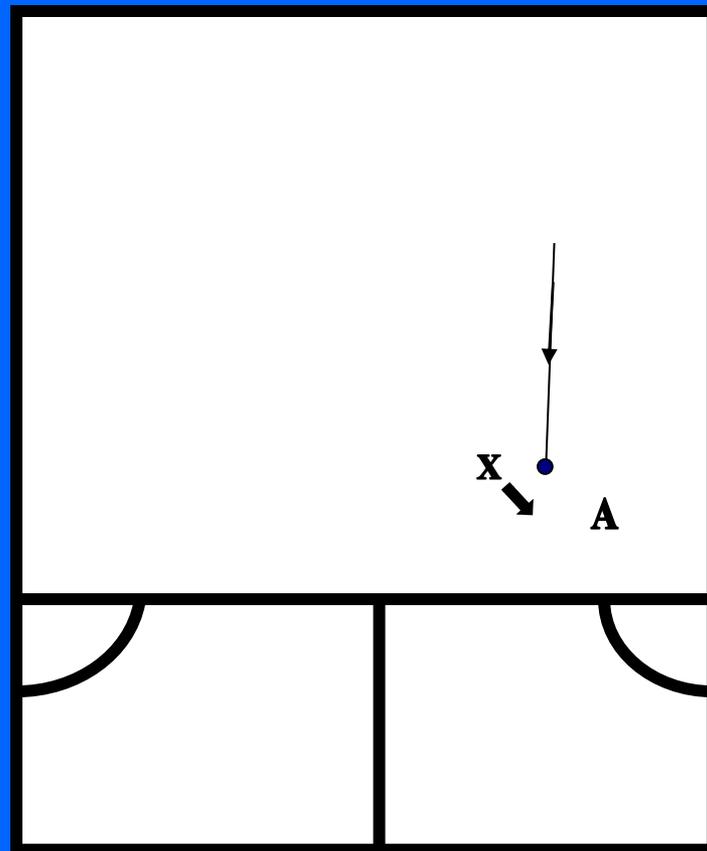
Straight situation 5: Hitting the ball back close to yourself on a straight shot

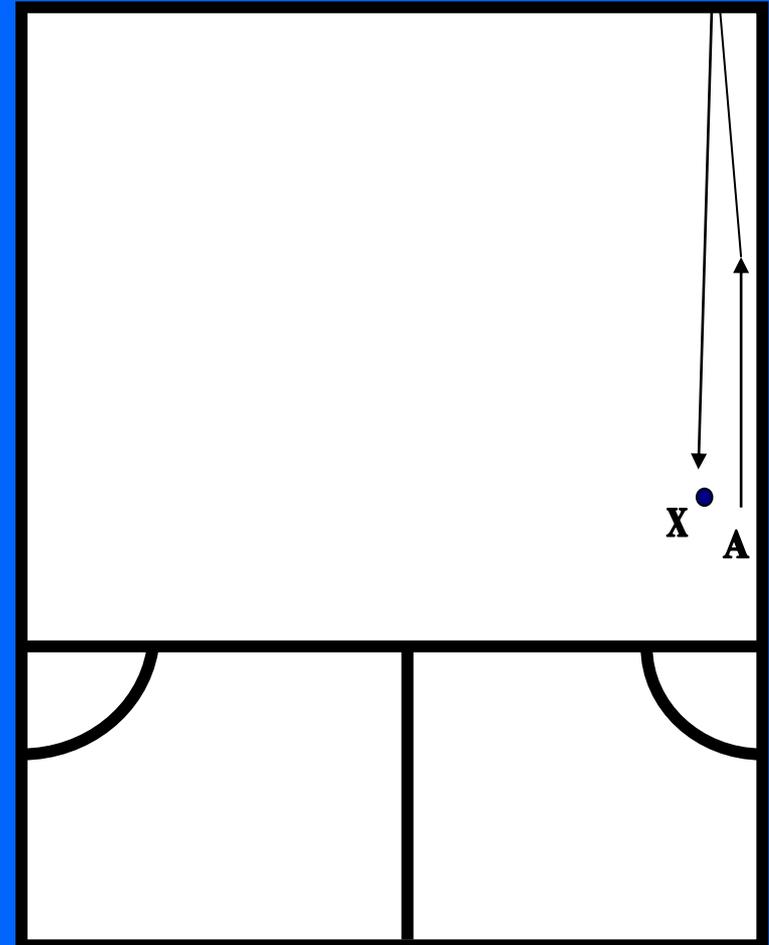**Player X backs off to play ball. Player A moves into player X's back swing.**

Decision: "Point to X"
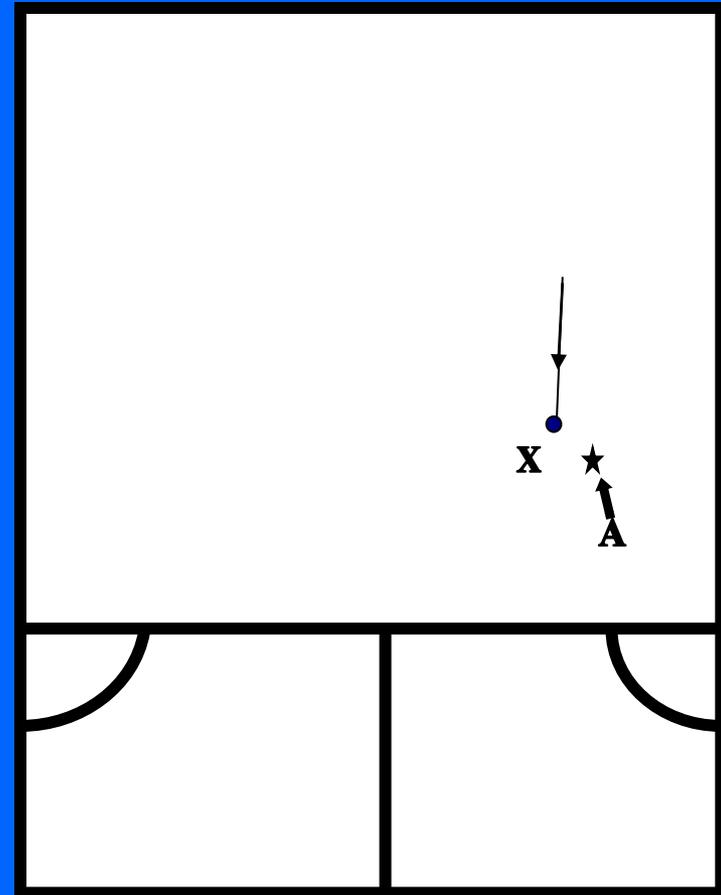
Straight situation 6: Hitting the ball back close to yourself on a straight shot

Player A hits ball close to himself on a straight shot. Player A is trapped on the side wall, but is not in the triangle.
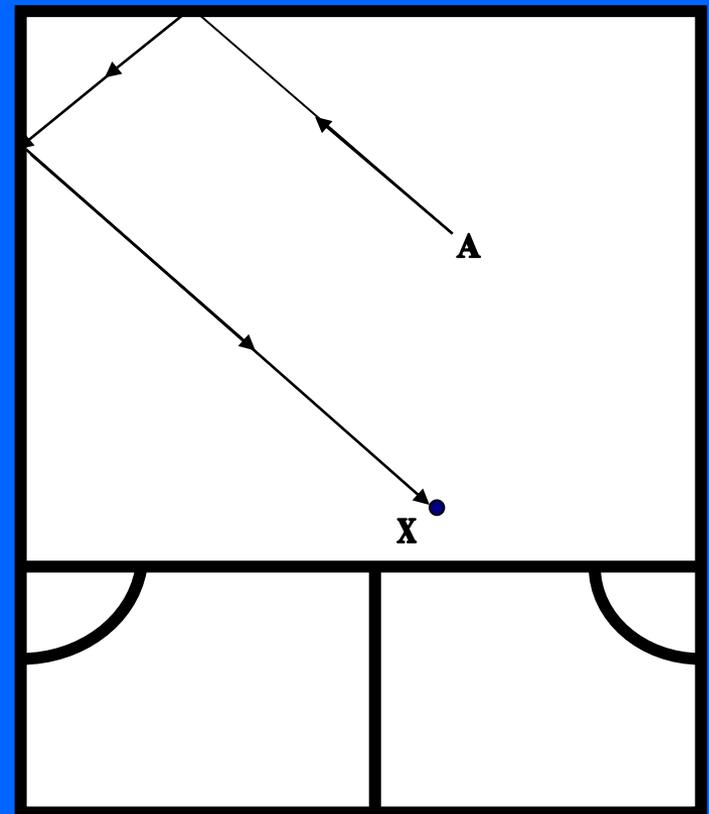
Decision: "Let".

: Hitting the ball back towards yourself from a cross court shot

Player A plays a short Philadelphia and player X is ready to play the ball offensively, with player A still in the triangle.
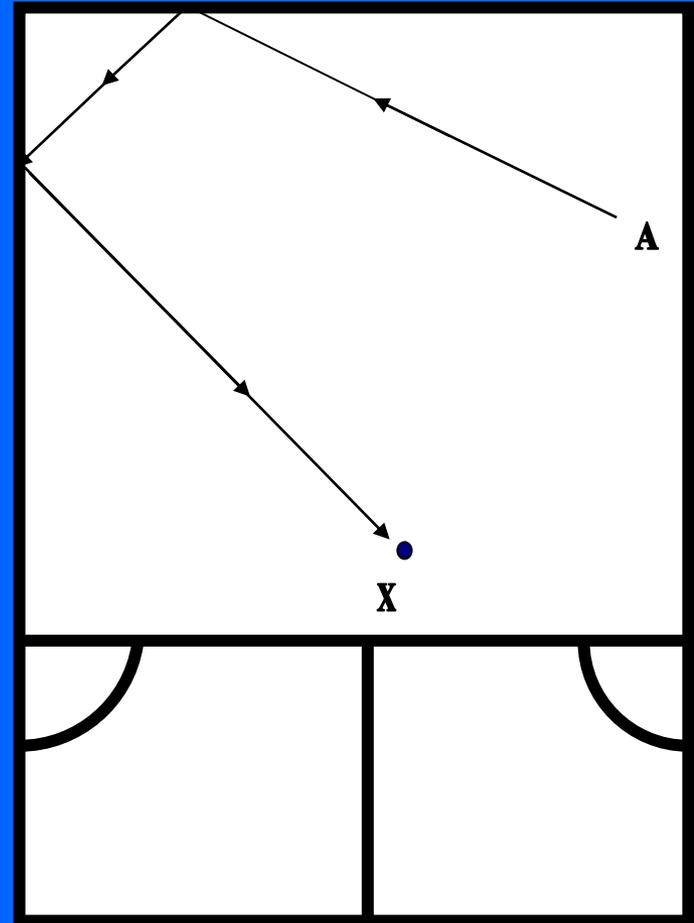
Decision: "Point to X", unless ball is too high for X to play offensive shot in which case it would only be a Let".   If A falls flat on the floor it could be "No Let"!

Cross court situation 2: Hitting the ball back towards yourself from a cross court shot

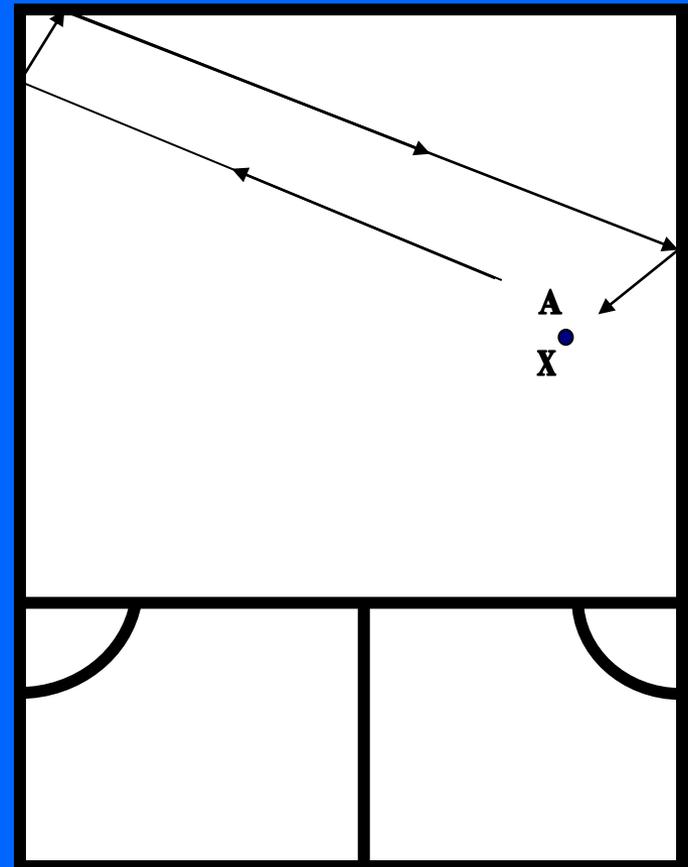**Player A plays a Philadelphia but on this occasion is not in the triangle.**

Decision: "Let To X".

Cross court situation 3: Hitting the ball back towards yourself from a cross court shot
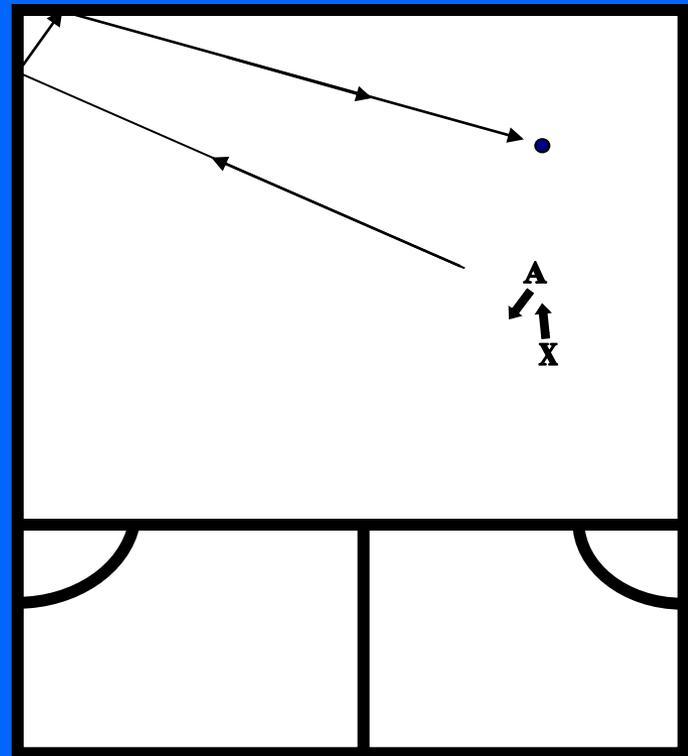
Player A plays a "fat" reverse. X can reach the ball.

Decision: "Point to X".

Cross court situation 4: Hitting the ball back towards yourself from a cross court shot

Player A plays a reverse, but ball is some distance in front of A. Player X has to go through A to reach the ball, which he could had it not been for A's position.
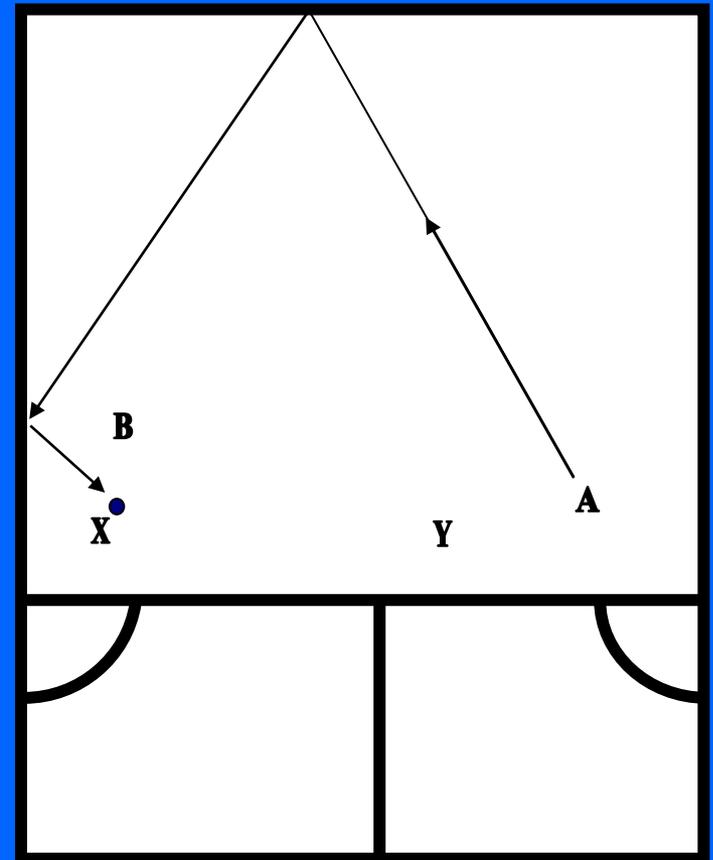
Decision: "Let to X" .

Cross court situation 5: Cross court interference involving partner

Player A hits a short cross court. His partner B does not move clear and prevents player X from playing his shot.
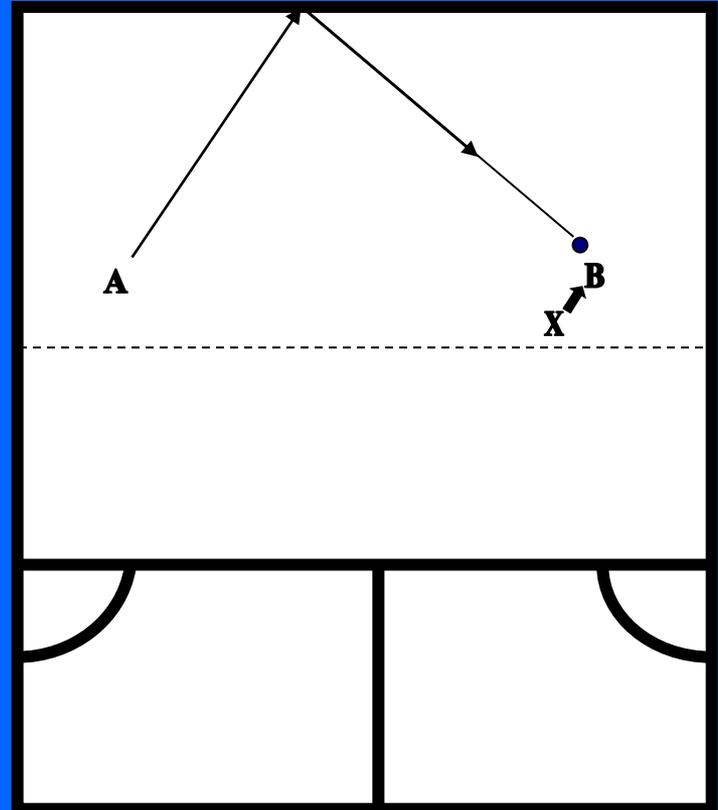
Decision: "Warning" to player B to move clear. Subsequently if player B makes no effort to clear on same situation, then it will be "Point to X".

Cross court situation 6: Cross court interference involving partner

Player A hits a cross court towards his partner B. Player X is ready to play the ball but is prevented from doing so because of B's position.

Decision: "Point to X". Player B is caught in the front third of the court, X is prevented from playing a winning shot.

Cross court situation 7: Cross court interference involving partner

Player A hits cross court leaving B trapped by cross court shot. Player B makes no effort to clear.

Decision: "Warning to B" to move to allow player X to play ball to front wall, after which it is a "Point to X". If player X is deeper in the court then it is only a "let".