

Kingston
Croquet
Club

FOUR BALL BREAK

with a

central
Pivot



M.E.Woodmansee, 3 Elaine Crescent, West Hobart TAS 7000 Ph 03 62345304

PURPOSE OF THESE MULTIDIAGRAMS

These Multidiagrams provide a source of study and reference for players who wish to learn to play the four ball break.

TARGET GROUP OF PLAYERS

Suitable study material for players with handicaps from 22 to 15. These players may have been playing on half size lawns and should have developed the skills for playing most types of strokes.

CONCEPTS INCLUDED

Short range shots are used where possible to increase the reliability of shot combinations. Rush line principles are used when approaching hoops to reduce the chances of break down. The central

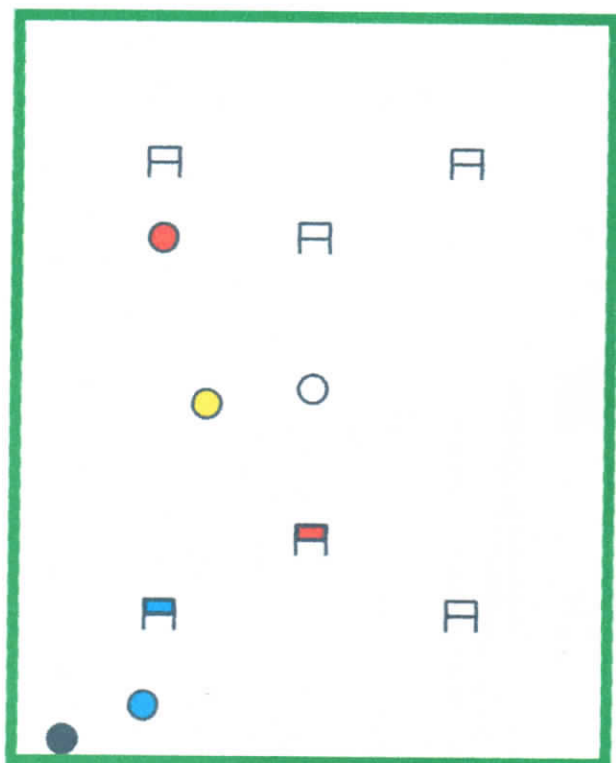


Figure 1

Red is the pioneer, yellow the central pivot, black to play

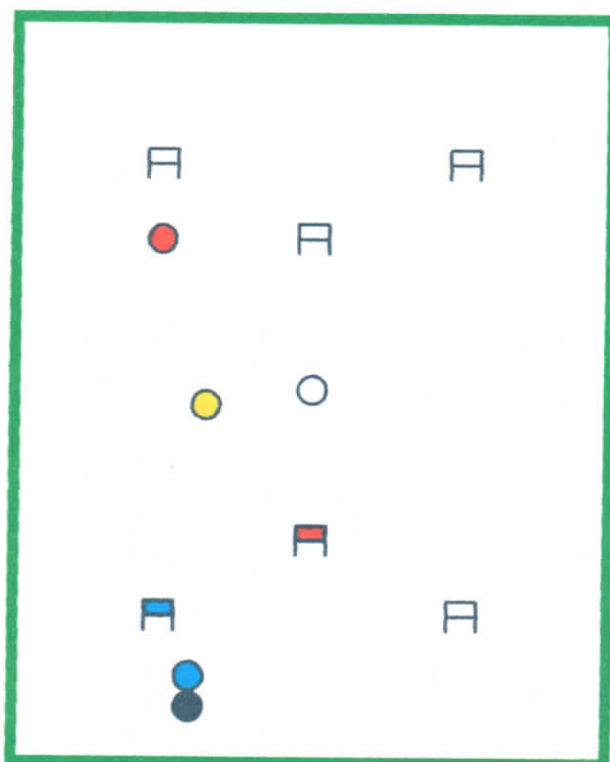


Figure 2

Rush blue to hoop 1 and position black to take croquet

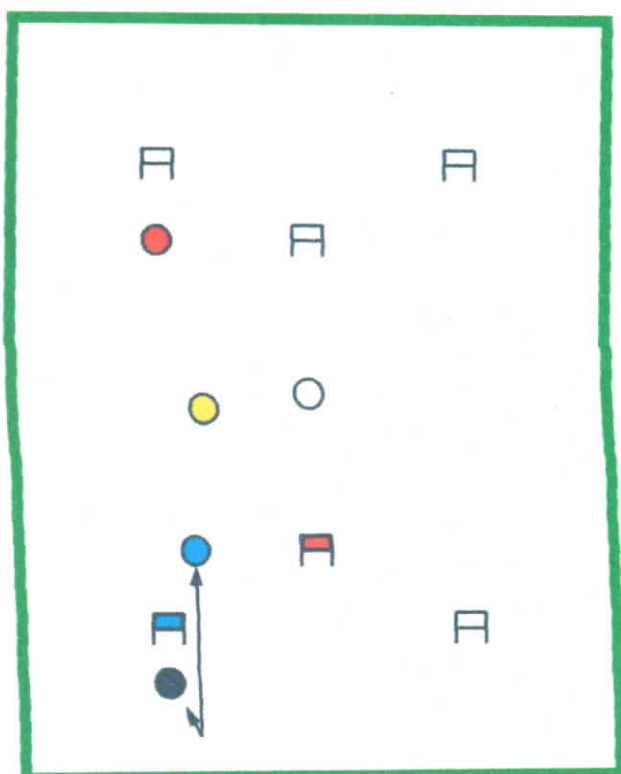


Figure 3

Take croquet and position black for running hoop 1

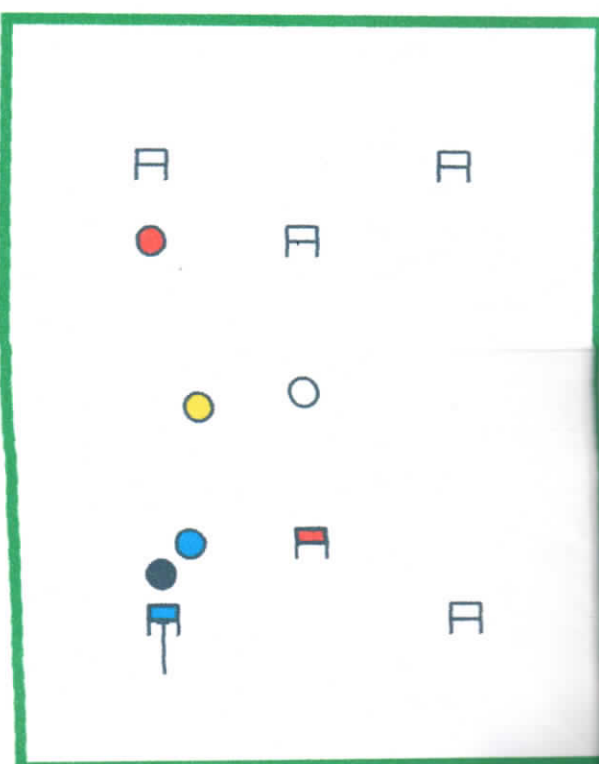


Figure 4

Run hoop 1

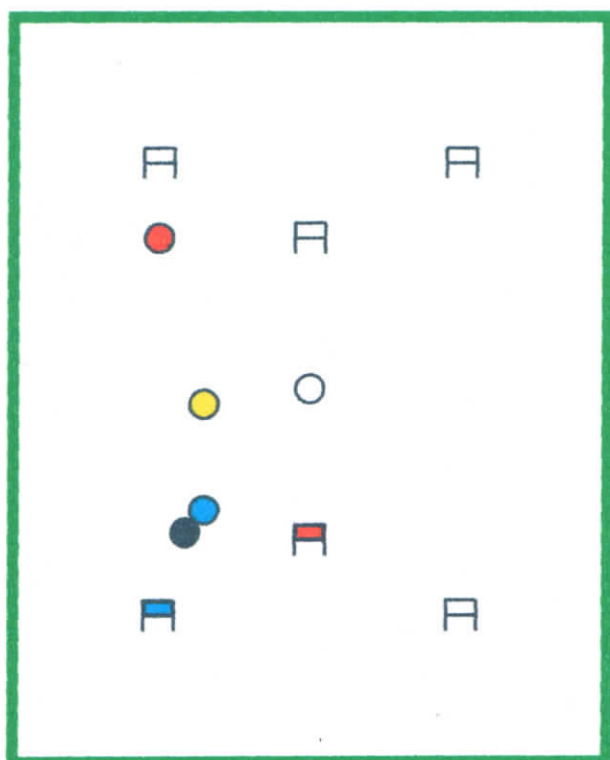


Figure 5
Roquet blue and position black
for taking croquet

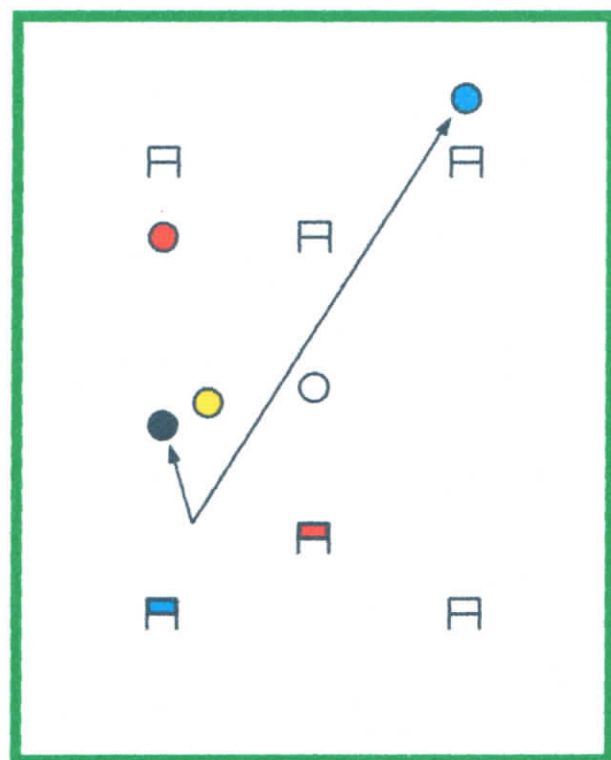


Figure 6
Croquet blue to hoop 3
and split to yellow

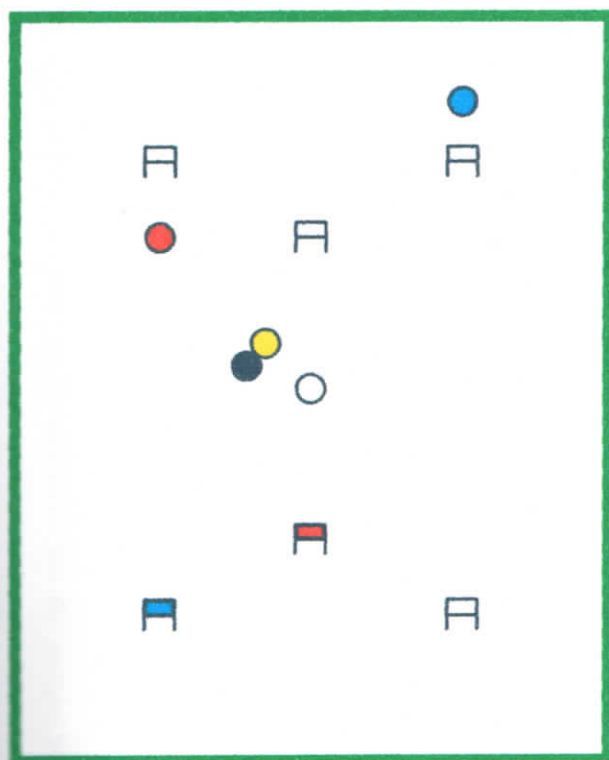


Figure 7
Rush yellow a little and position
black for a take off to red

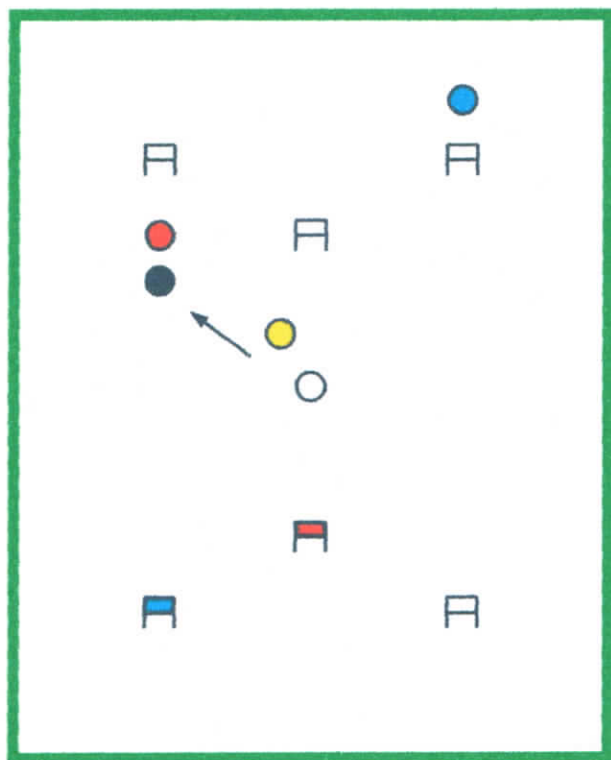


Figure 8
Take off from yellow to
the rush line of red

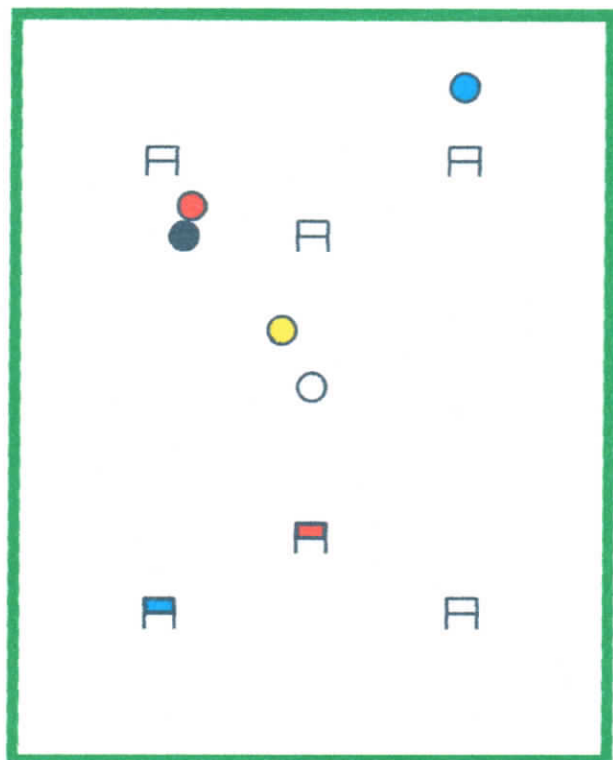


Figure 9

Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

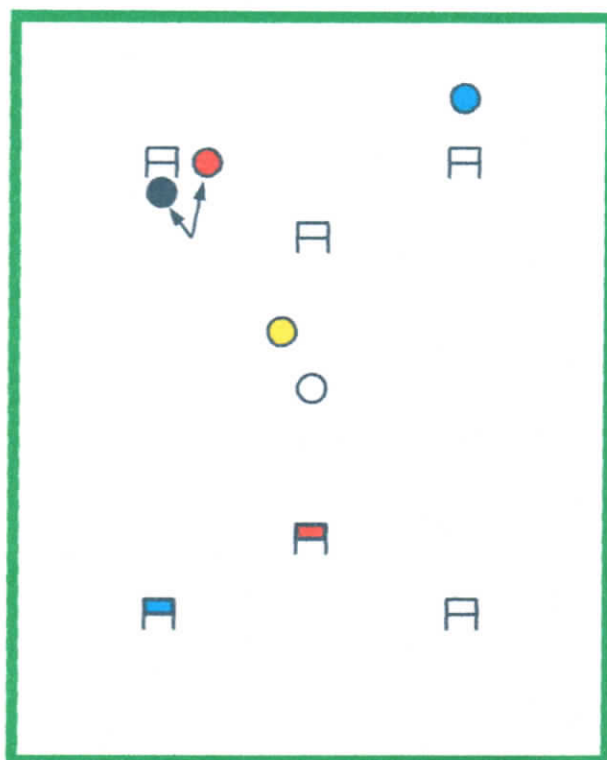


Figure 10

Roll to hoop 2 and position black
for running hoop 2

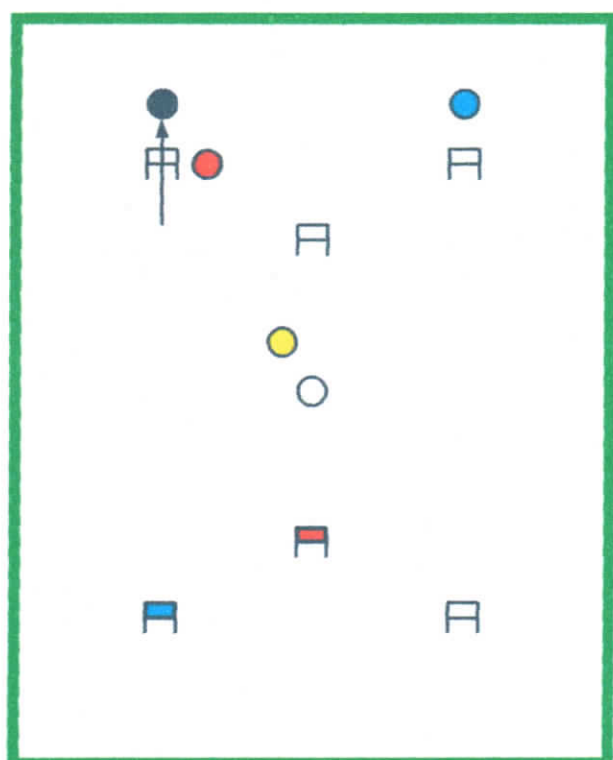


Figure 11

Run hoop 2
and obtain a rush towards yellow

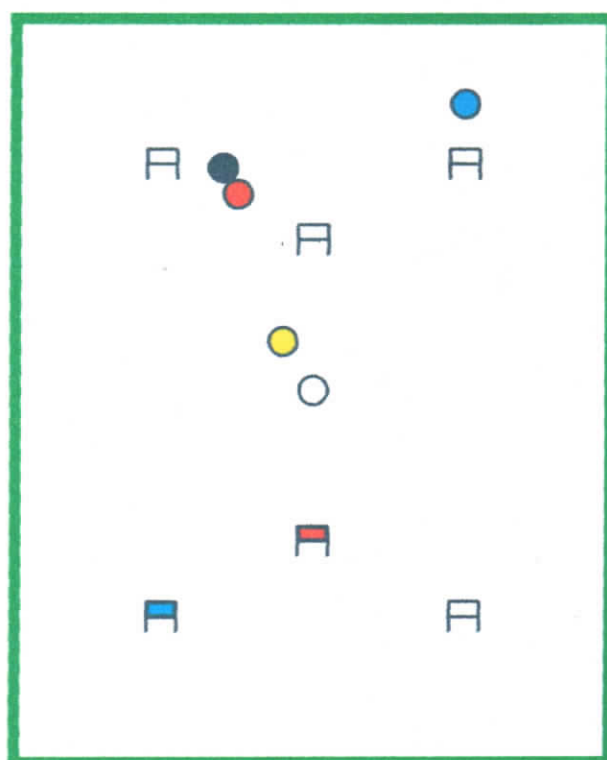


Figure 12

Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

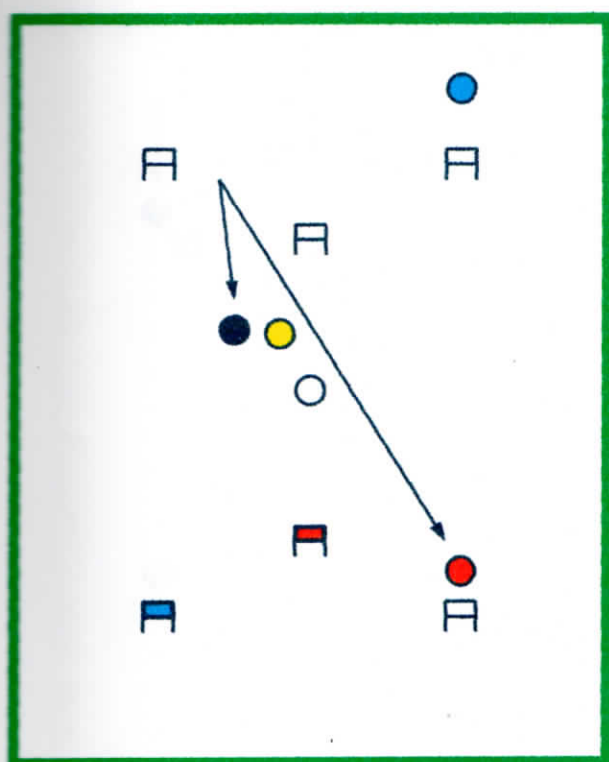


Figure 13
Croquet red to hoop 4 and split
to the west of yellow

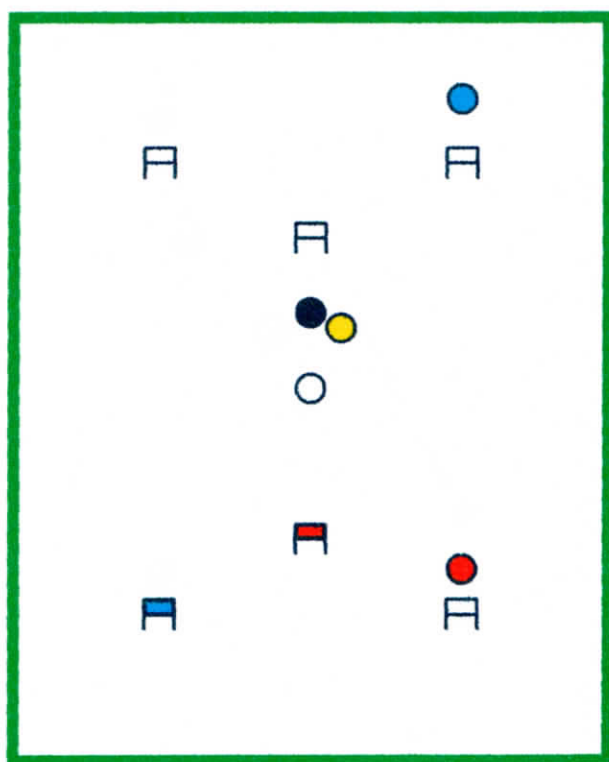


Figure 14
Roquet yellow and position black
to play a take off stroke to blue

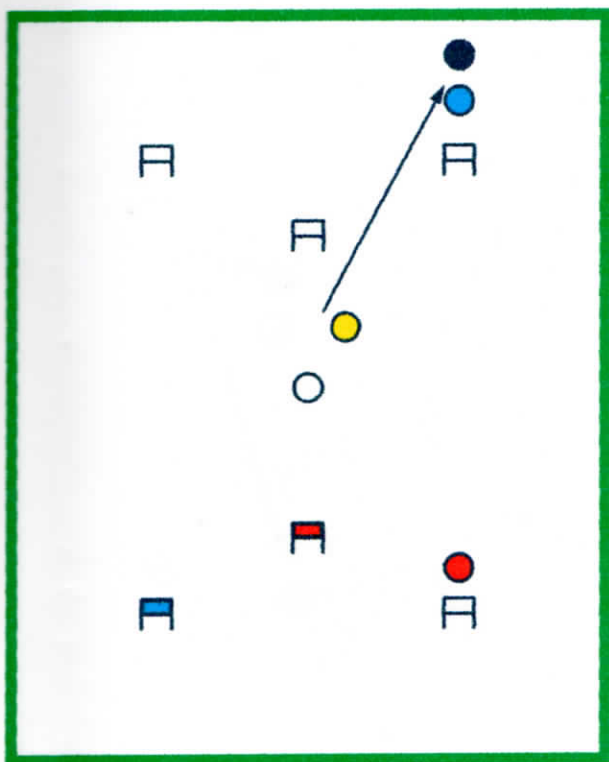


Figure 15
Take off to the rush line of blue

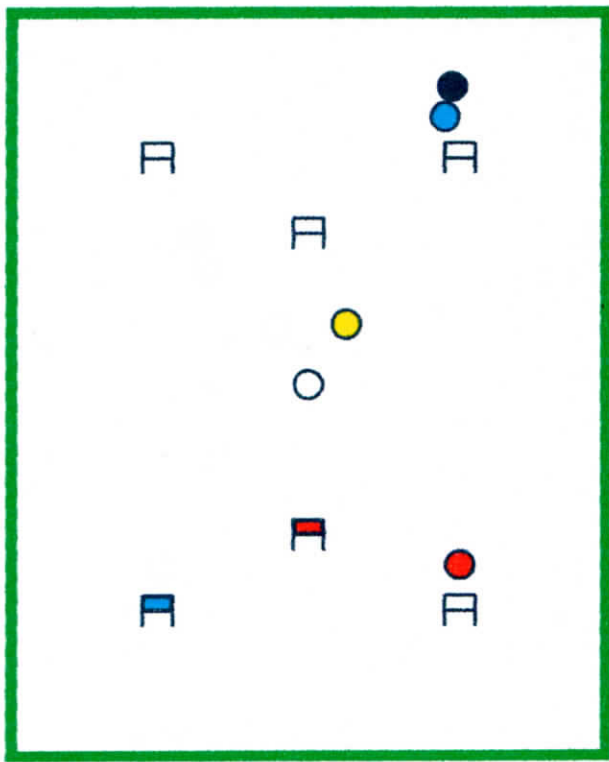


Figure 16
Roquet blue and position black
for taking croquet

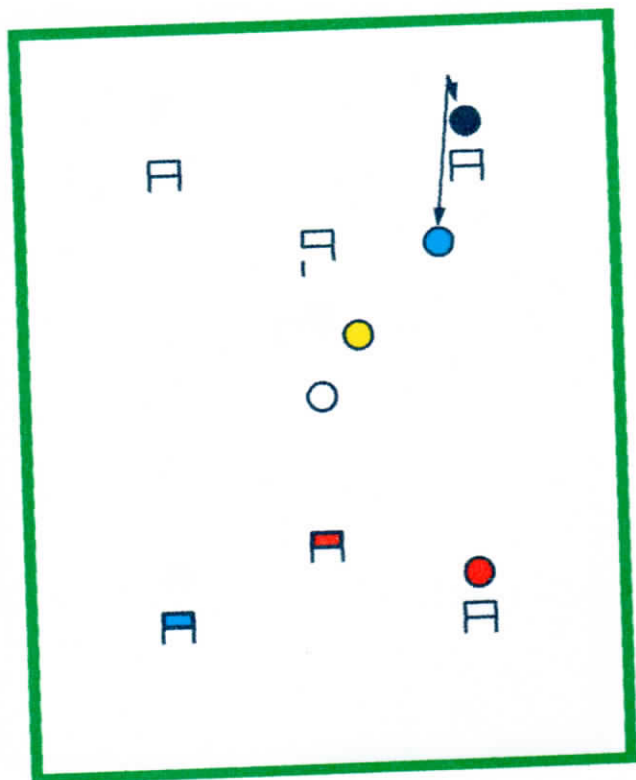


Figure 17
Take croquet and position black
for running hoop 3

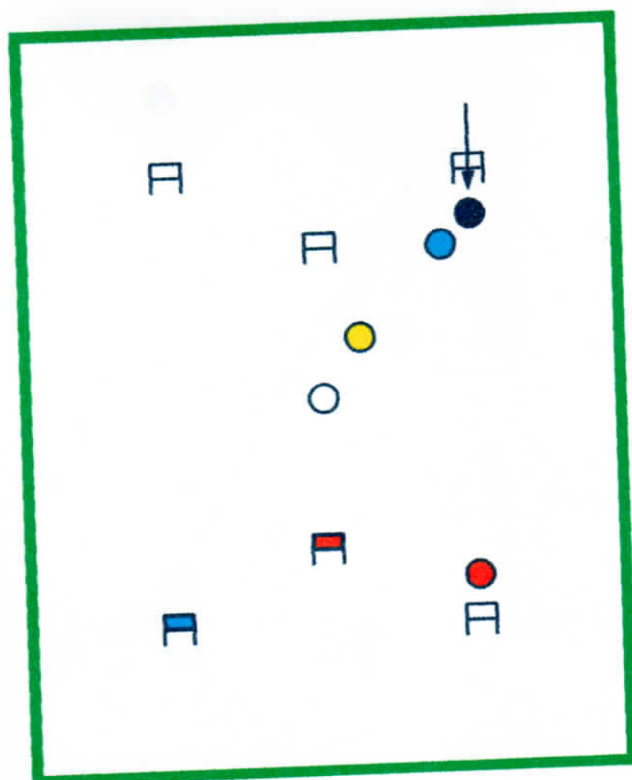


Figure 18
Run hoop 3

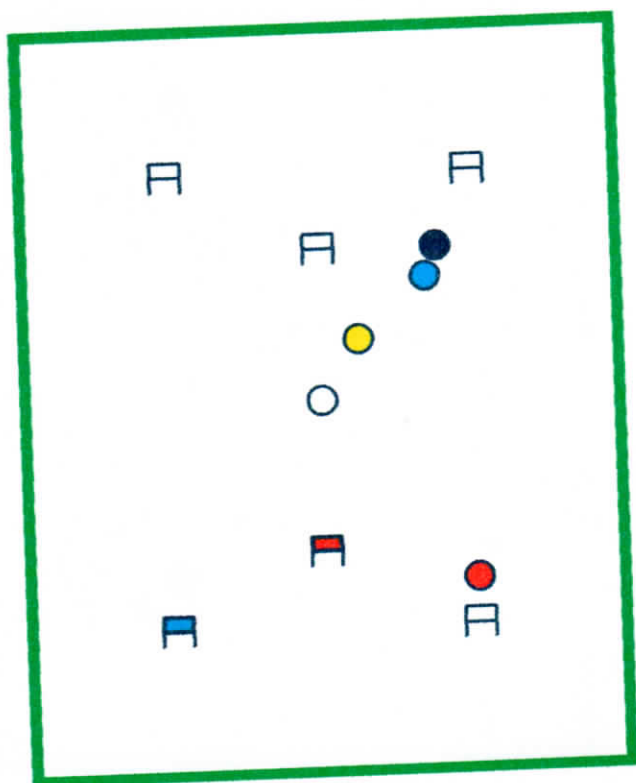


Figure 19
Roquet blue and position black
for taking croquet

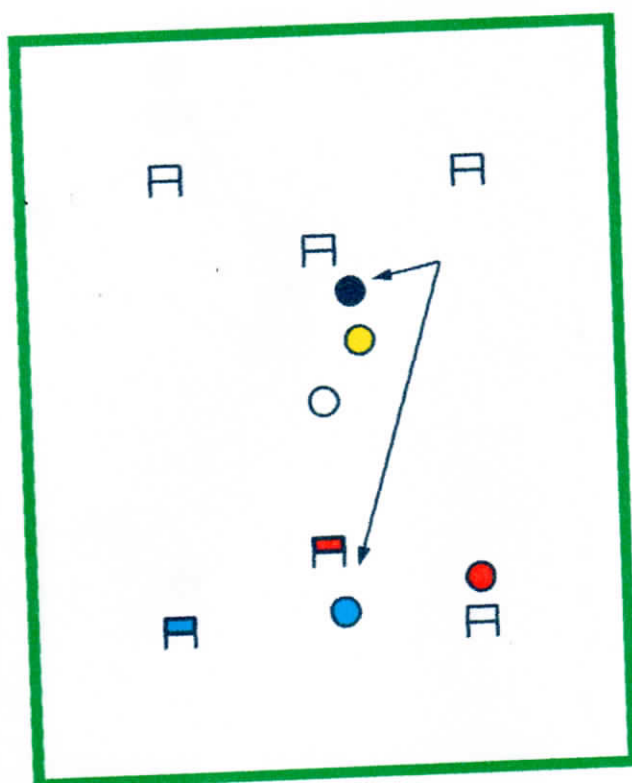


Figure 20
Croquet blue to hoop 5
and split to north of yellow

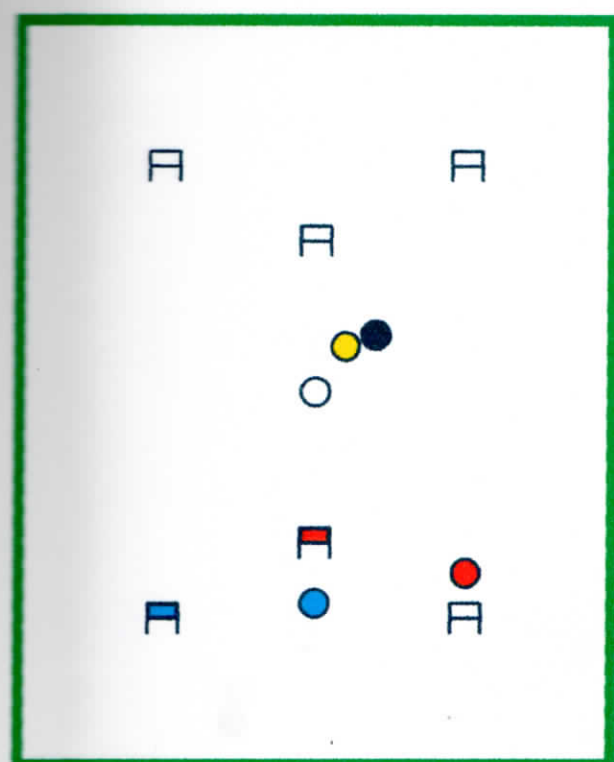


Figure 21
Roquet yellow and position
black for a take off to red

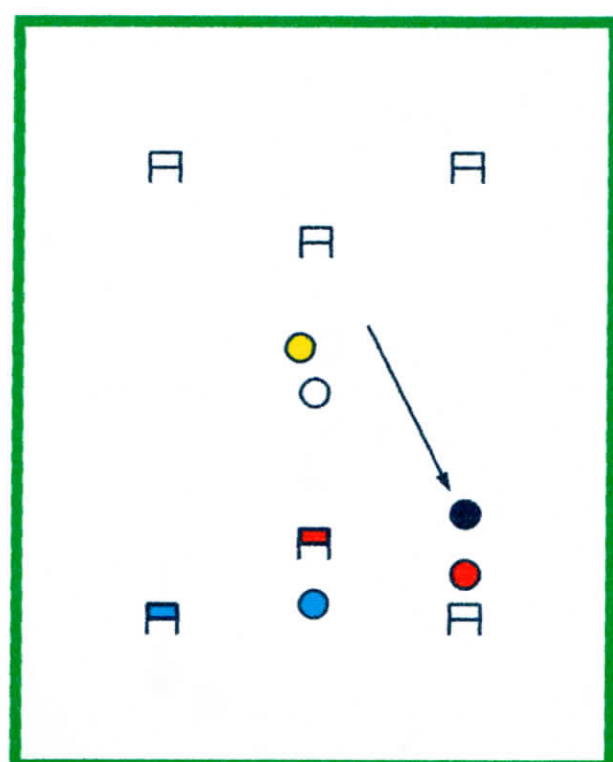


Figure 22
Take off to the rush line of red

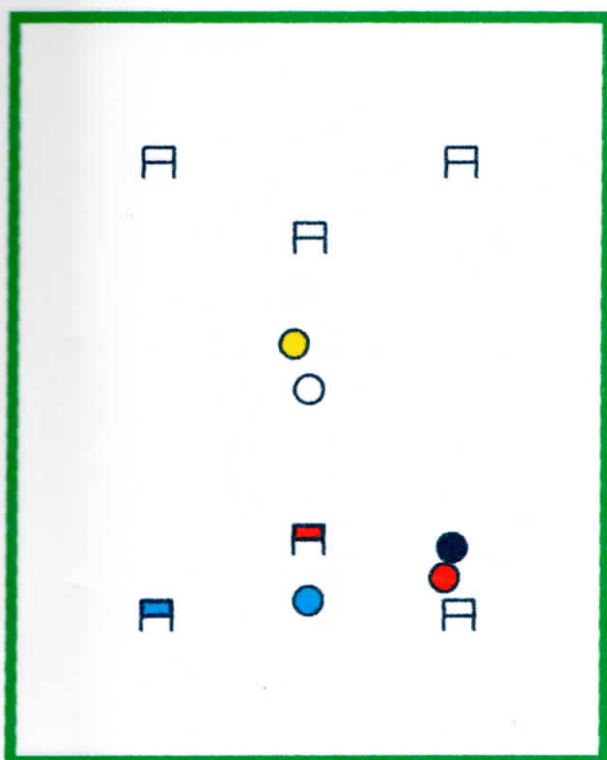


Figure 23
Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

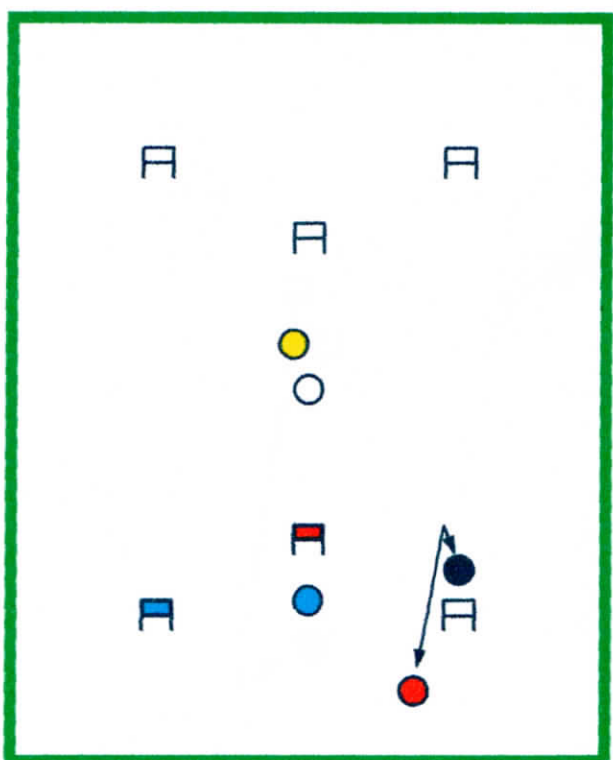


Figure 24
Take croquet and position black
for running hoop 4

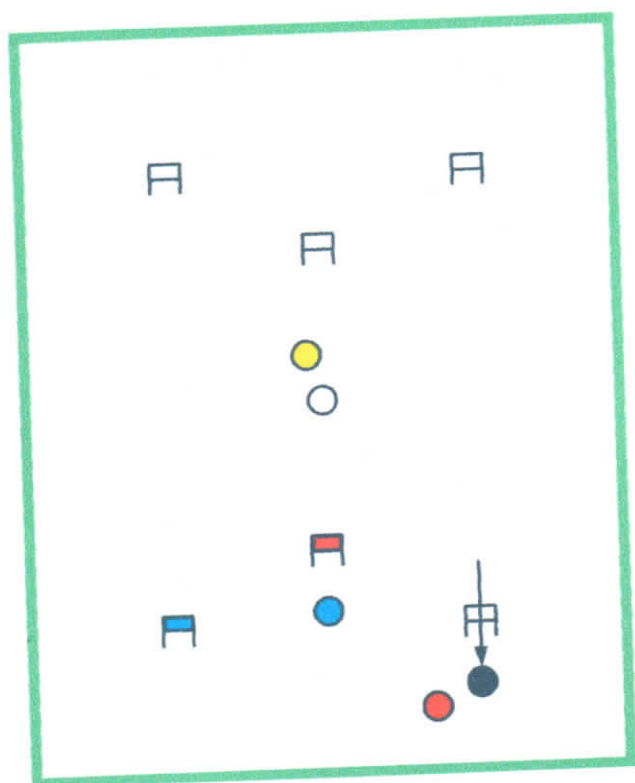


Figure 25
Run hoop 4

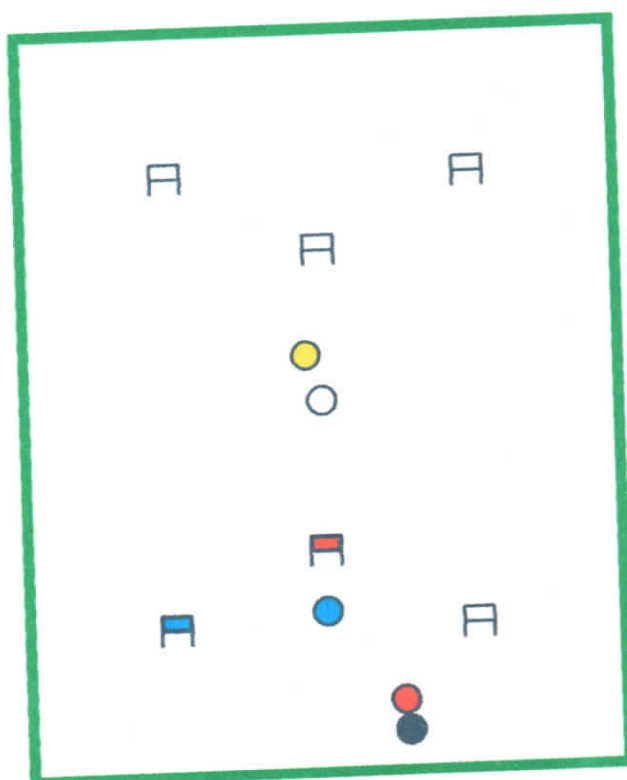


Figure 26
Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

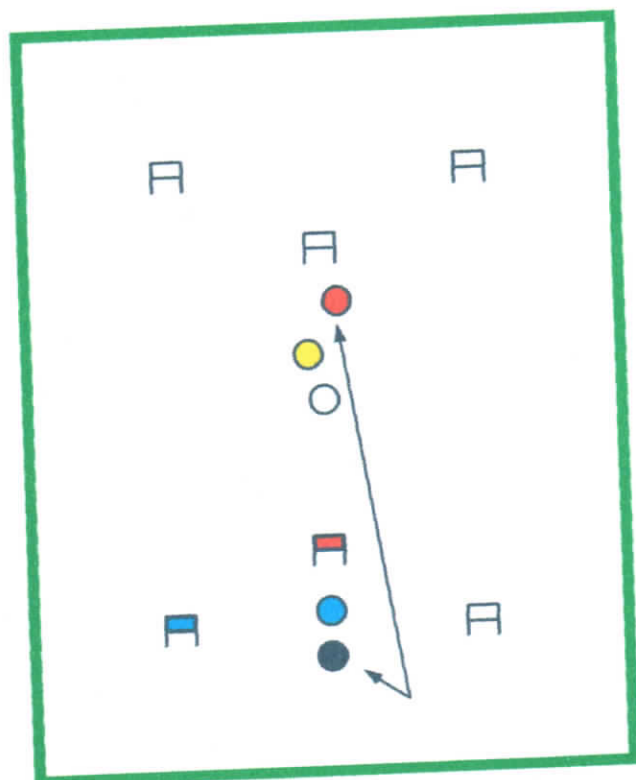


Figure 27
Croquet red to hoop 6
and split to the rush line of blue

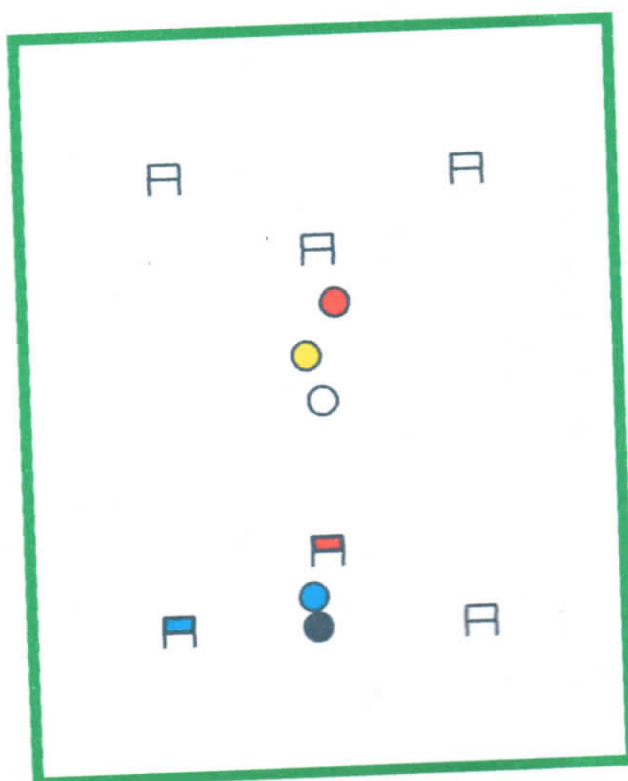


Figure 28
Roquet blue and position black
for taking croquet

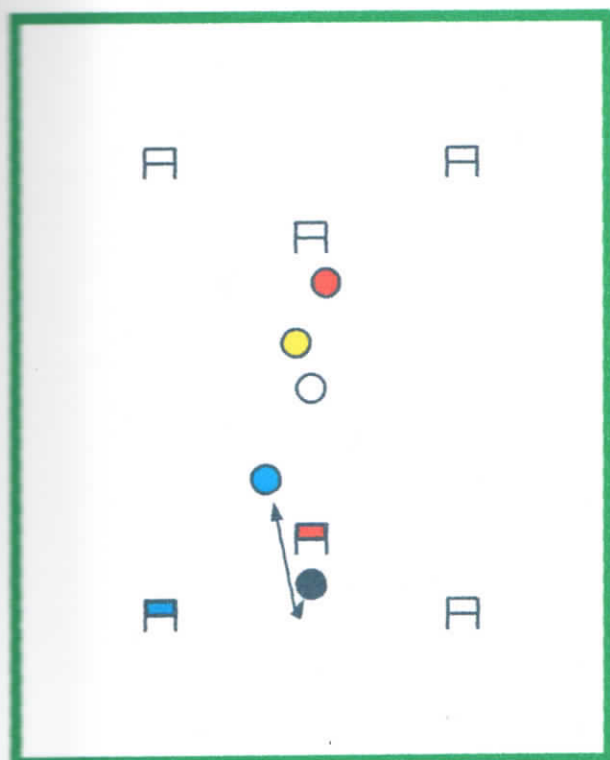


Figure 29
Take croquet and position black
for running hoop 5

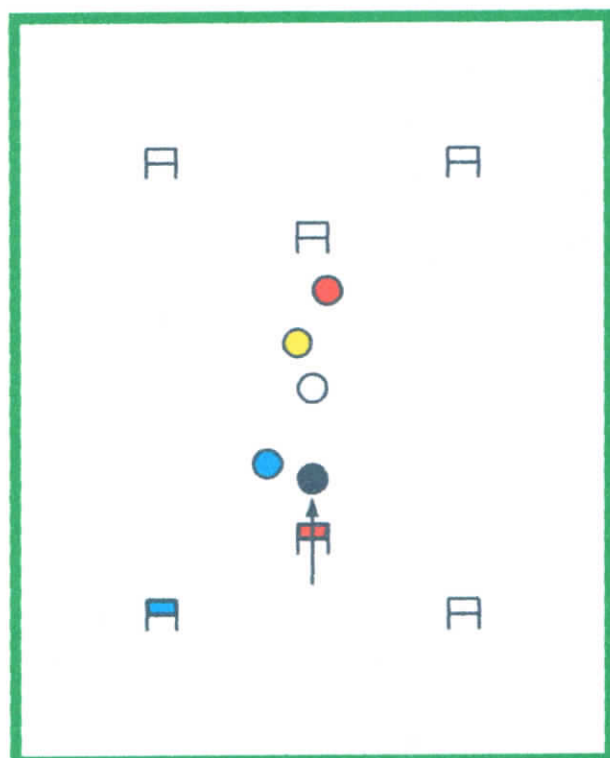


Figure 30
Run hoop 5

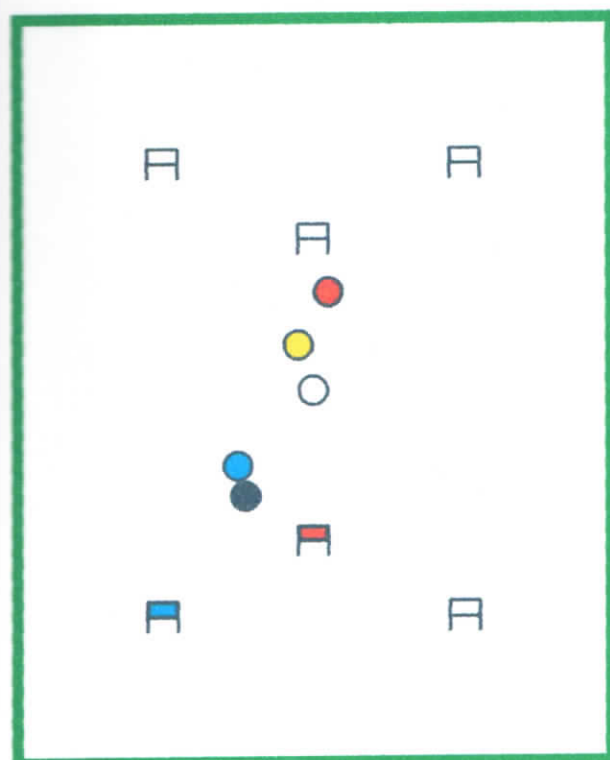


Figure 31
Roquet blue and position black
for taking croquet

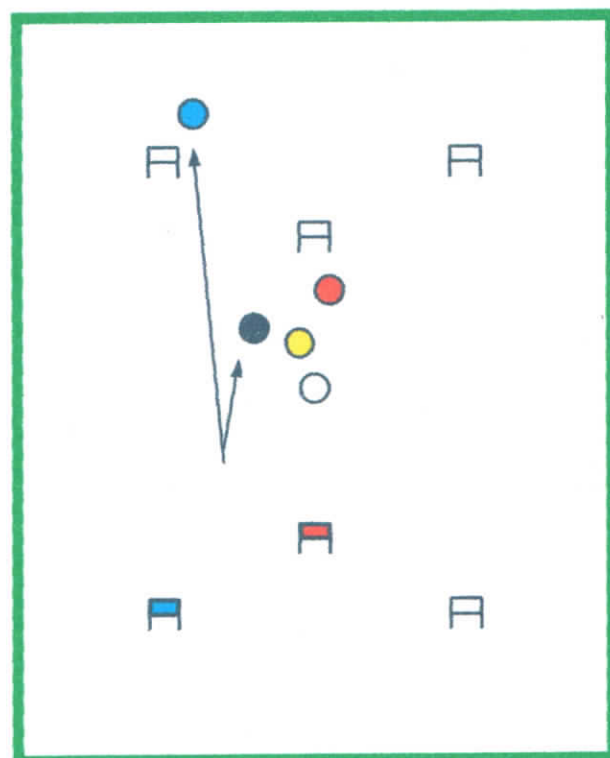


Figure 32
Croquet blue to 1-back
and split to yellow

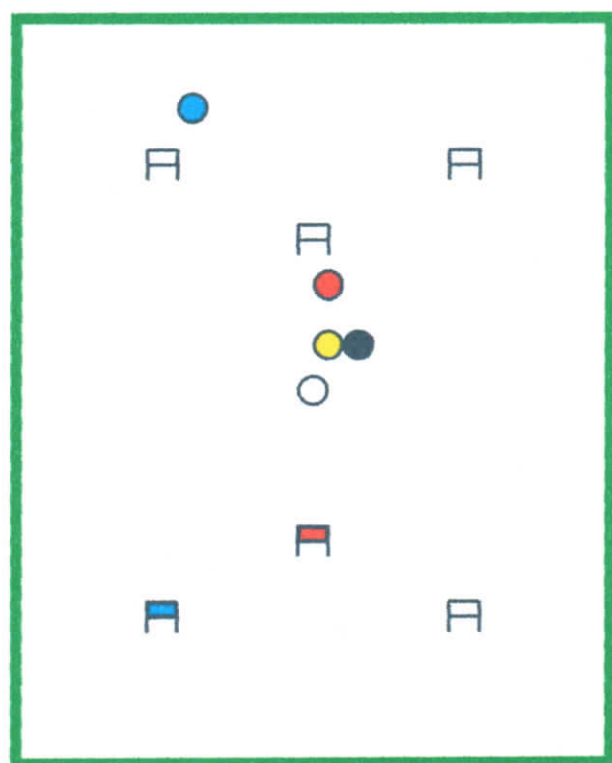


Figure 33

Roquet yellow and position black
for a take off to red

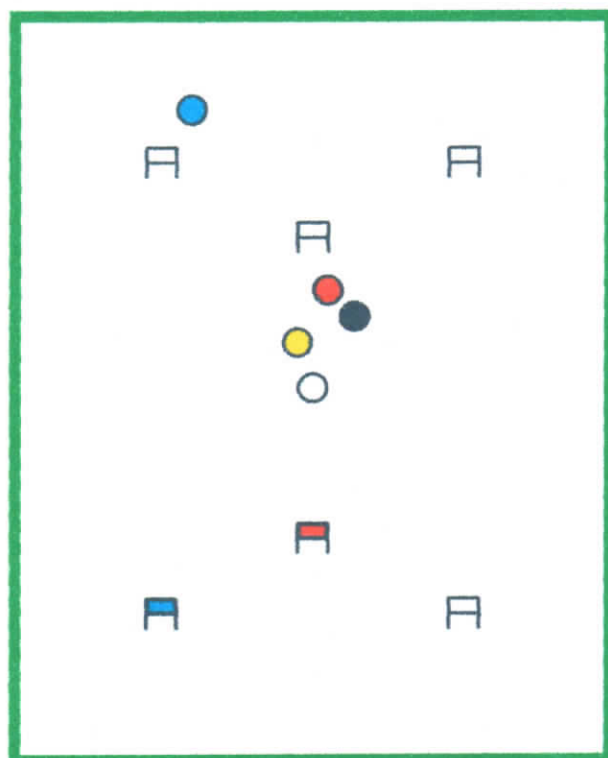


Figure 34

Take off to the rush line of red

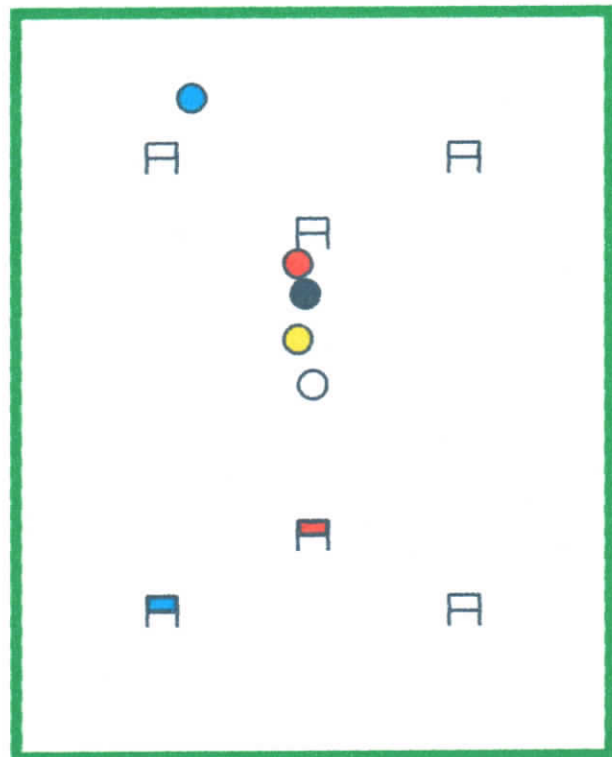


Figure 35

Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

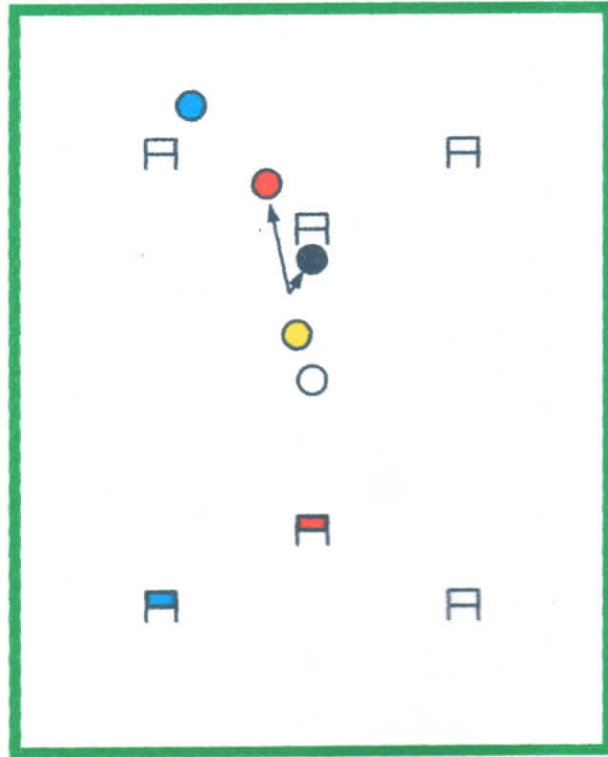


Figure 36

Take croquet and position black
for running hoop 6

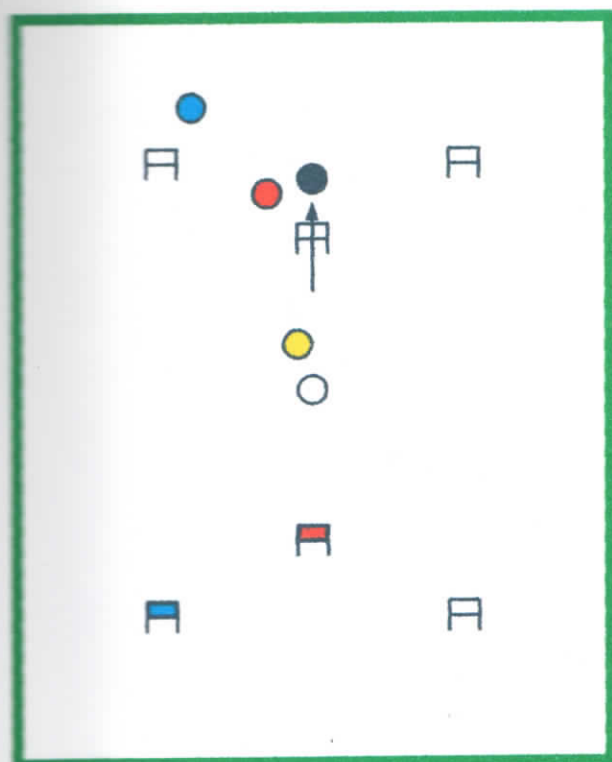


Figure 37
Run hoop 6

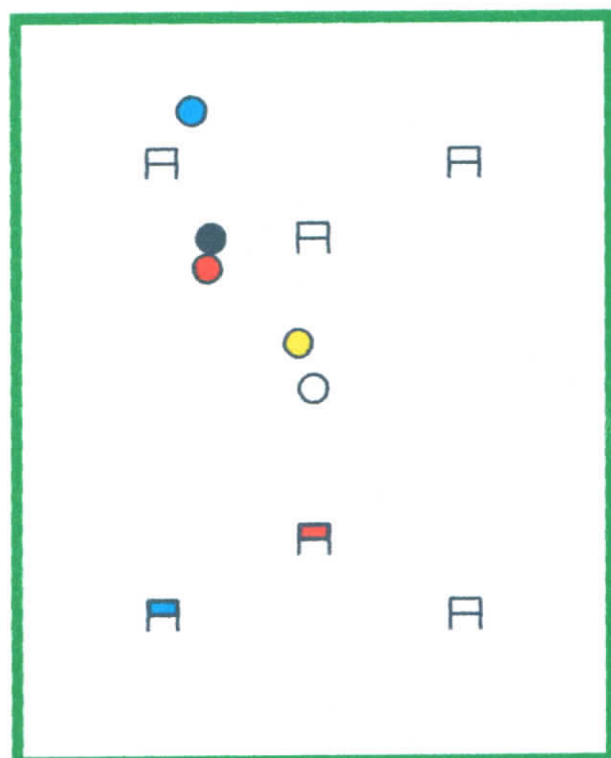


Figure 38
Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

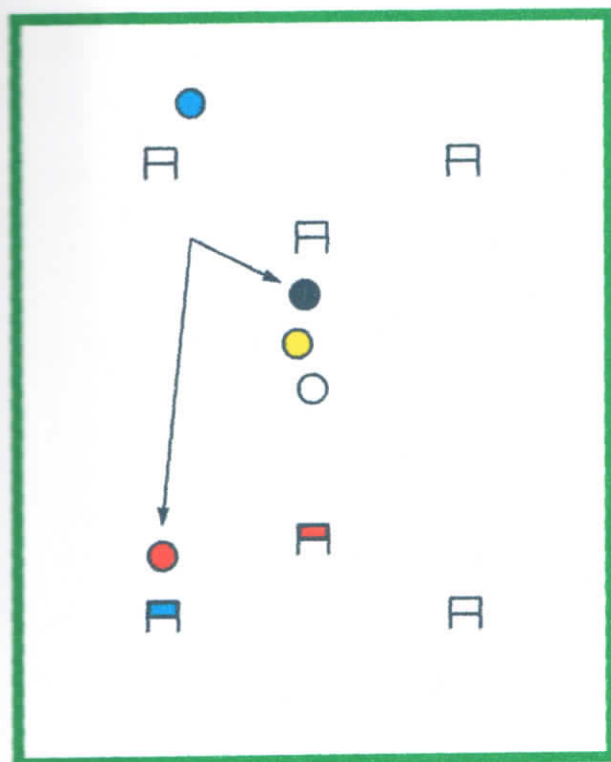


Figure 39
Croquet red to 2-back
and split to yellow

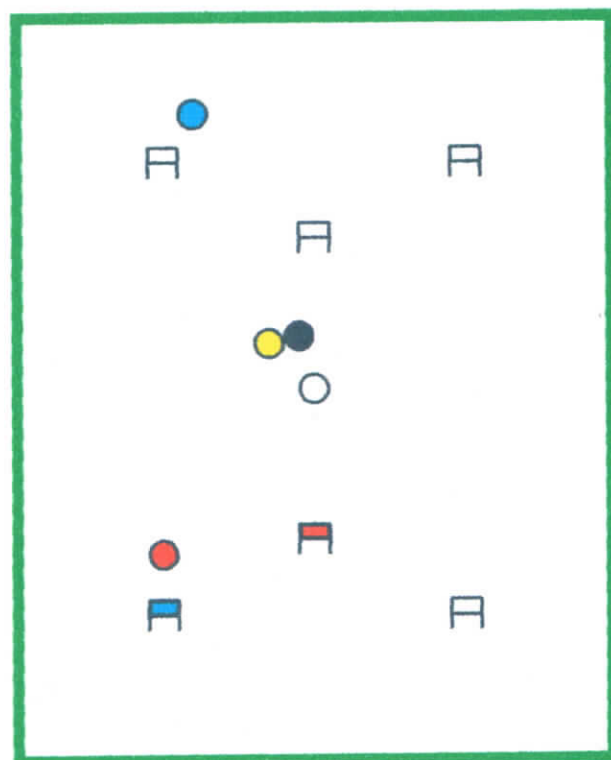


Figure 40
Roquet yellow and position black
for a take off to blue

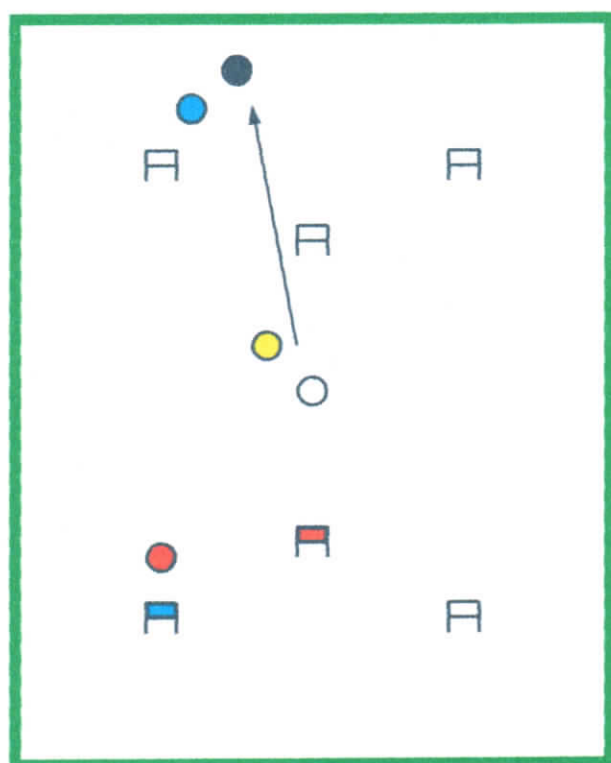


Figure 41
Take off to the rush line of blue

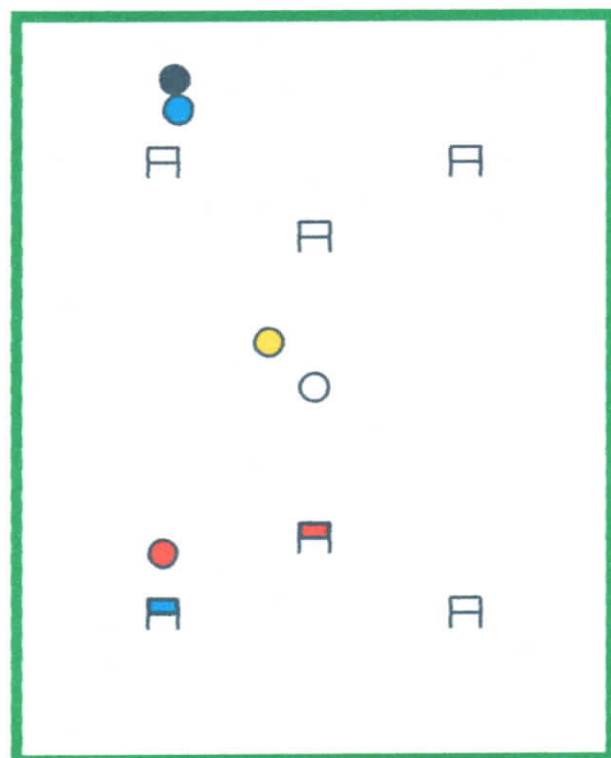


Figure 42
Roquet blue and position black
for taking croquet

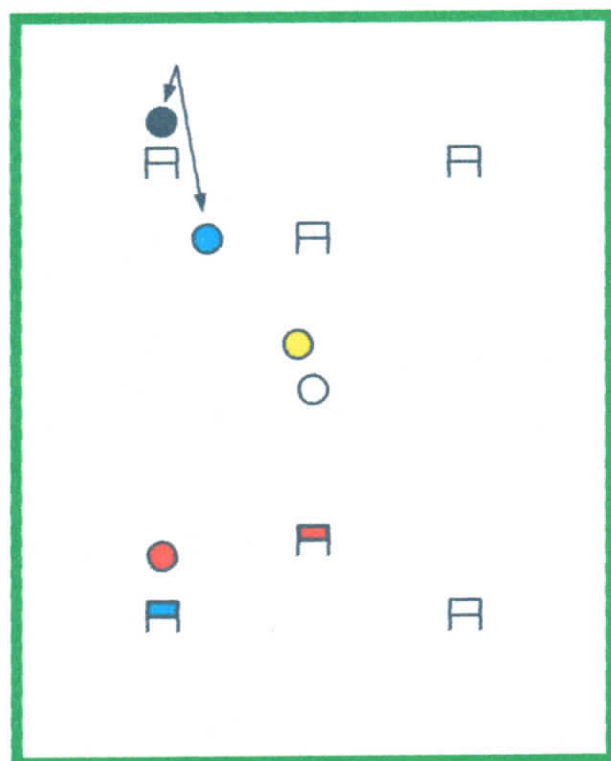


Figure 43
Take croquet and position black
for running 1-back

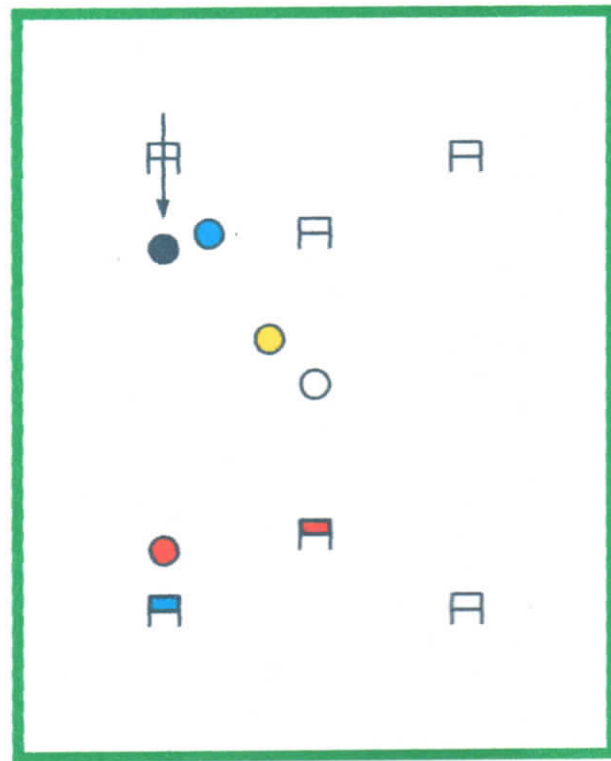


Figure 44
Run 1-back

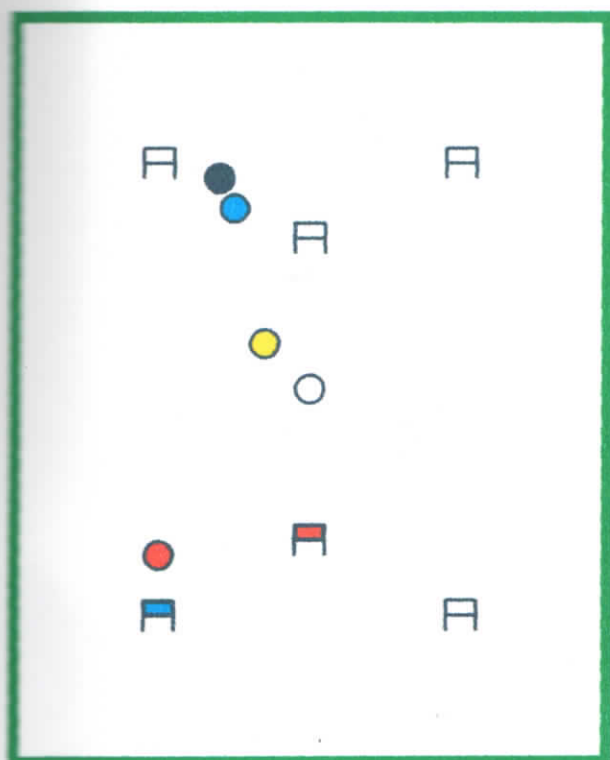


Figure 45

Roquet blue and position black
for taking croquet

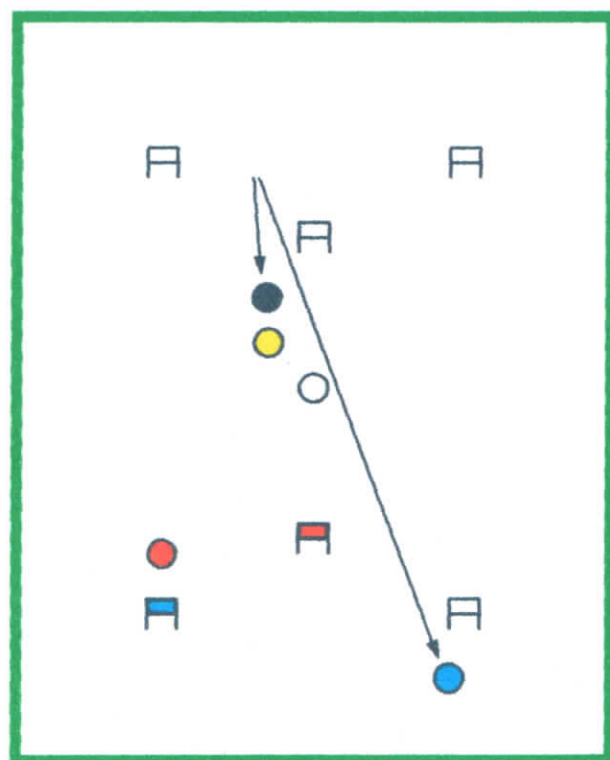


Figure 46

Croquet blue to 3-back
and split to north of yellow

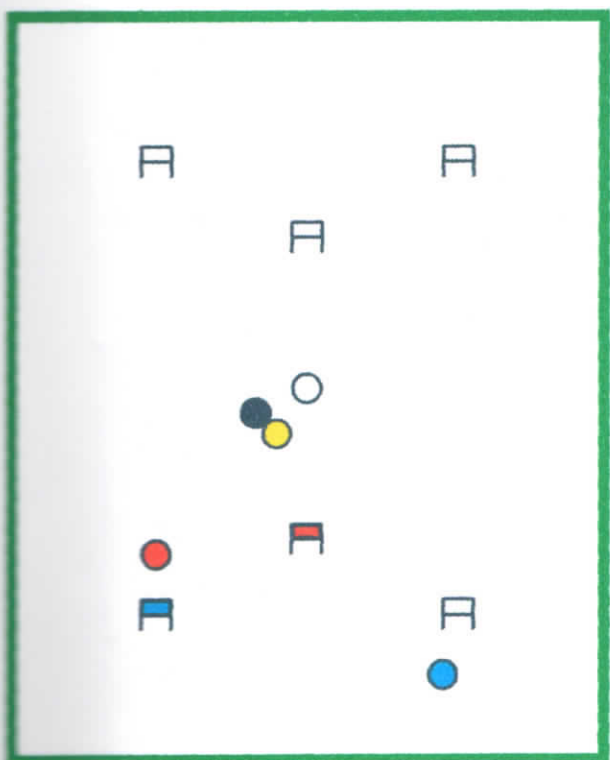


Figure 47

Roquet yellow and position black
for a take off to red

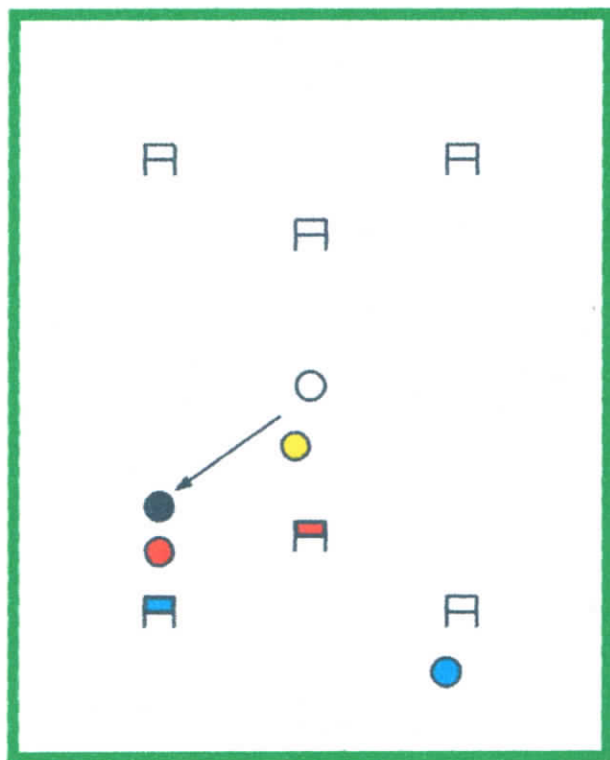


Figure 48

Take off yellow
to the rush line of red

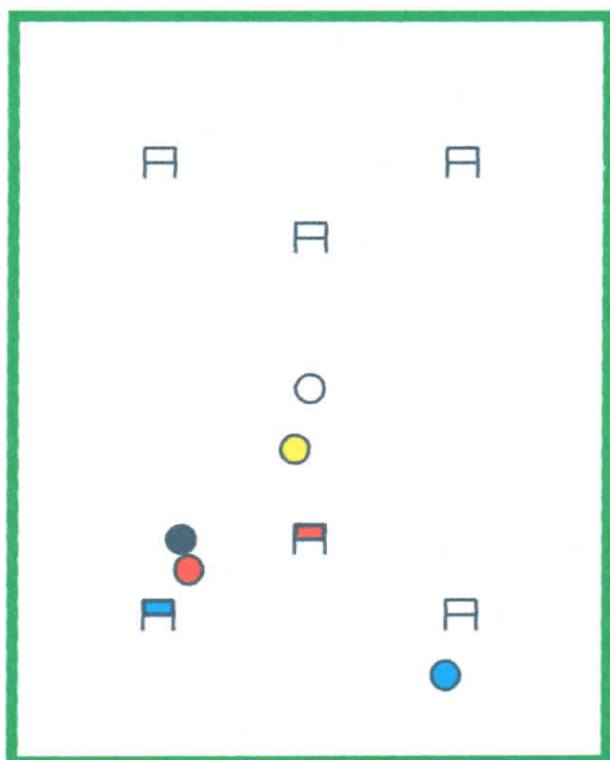


Figure 49
Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

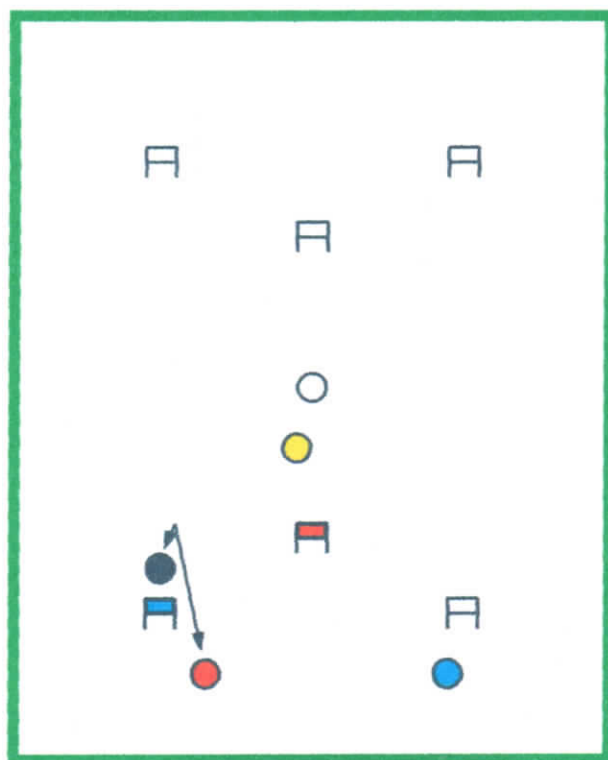


Figure 50
Take croquet and position black
for running 2-back

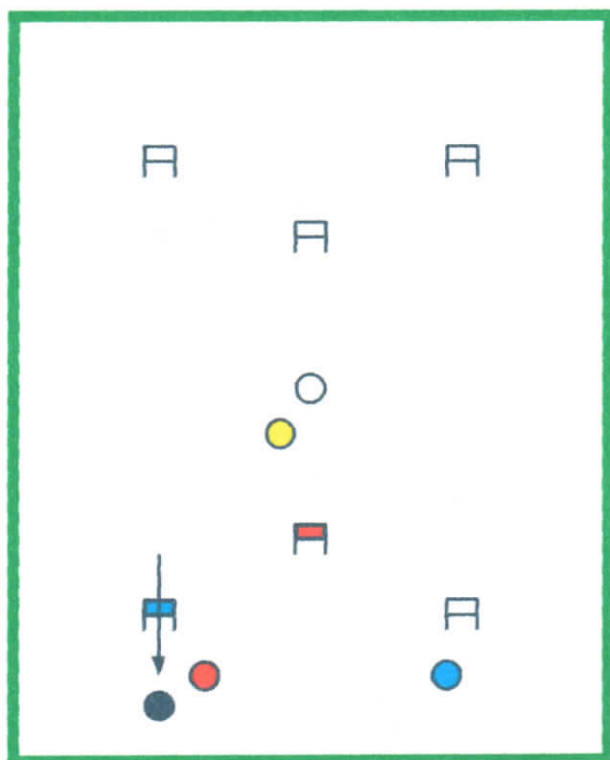


Figure 51
Run 2-back

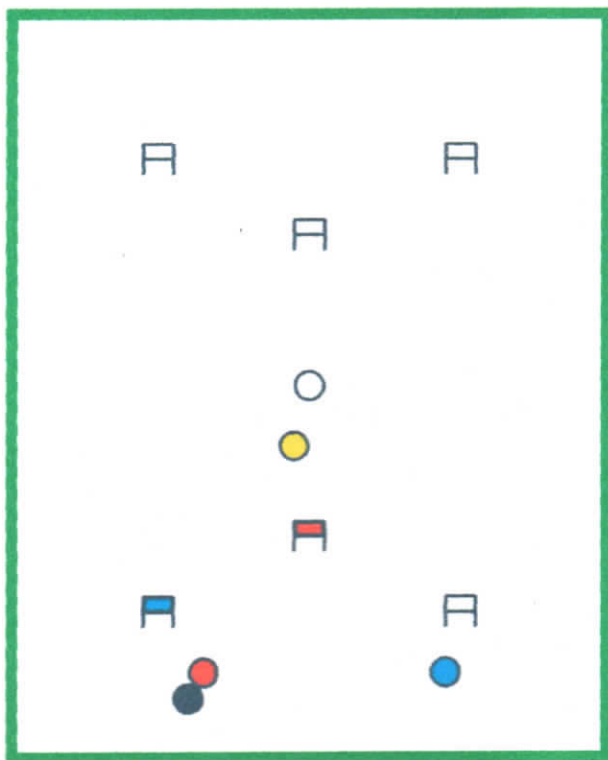


Figure 52
Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

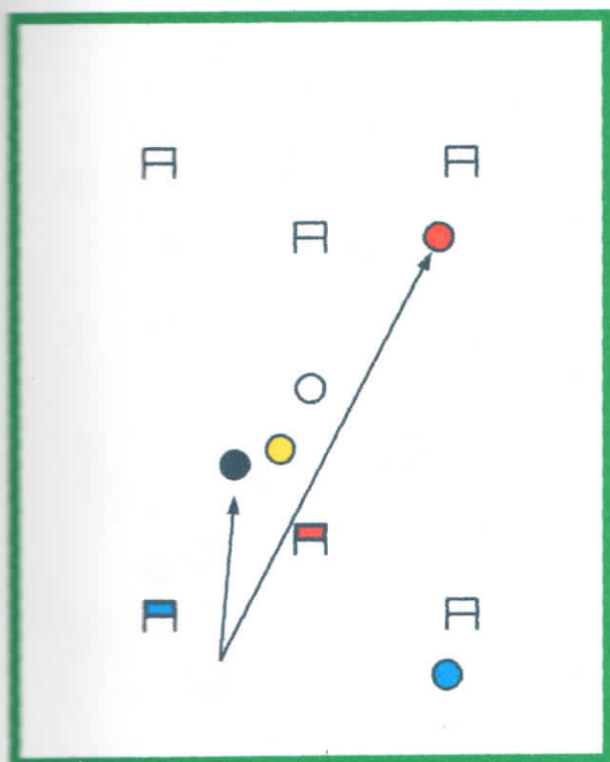


Figure 53
Croquet red to 4-back
and split to yellow

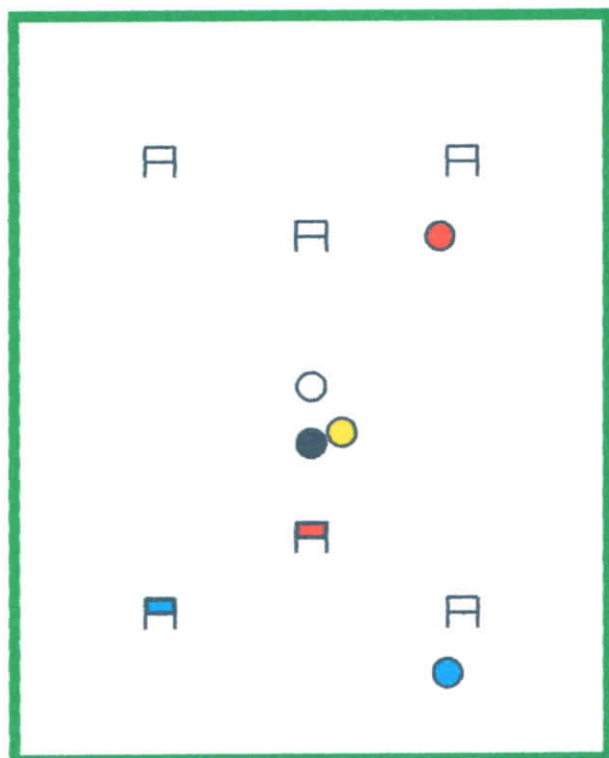


Figure 54
Roquet yellow and position black
for a take off to blue

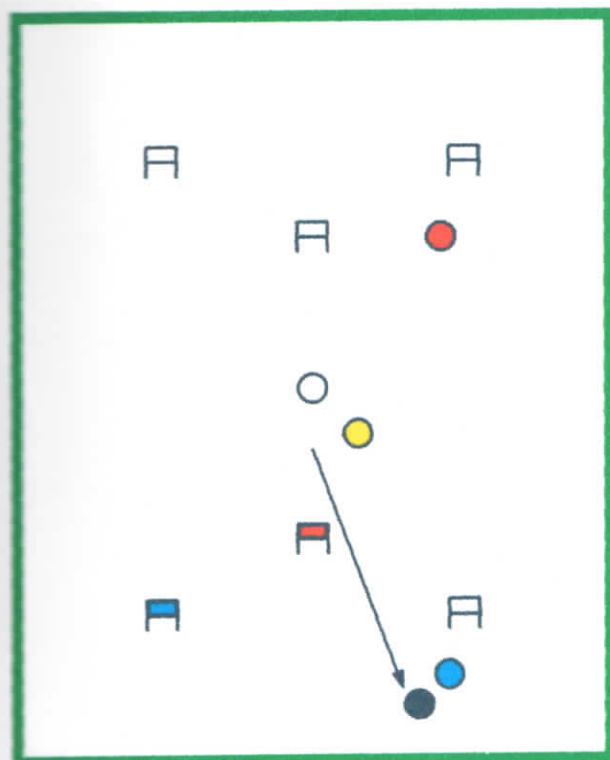


Figure 55
Take off from yellow
to the rush line of blue

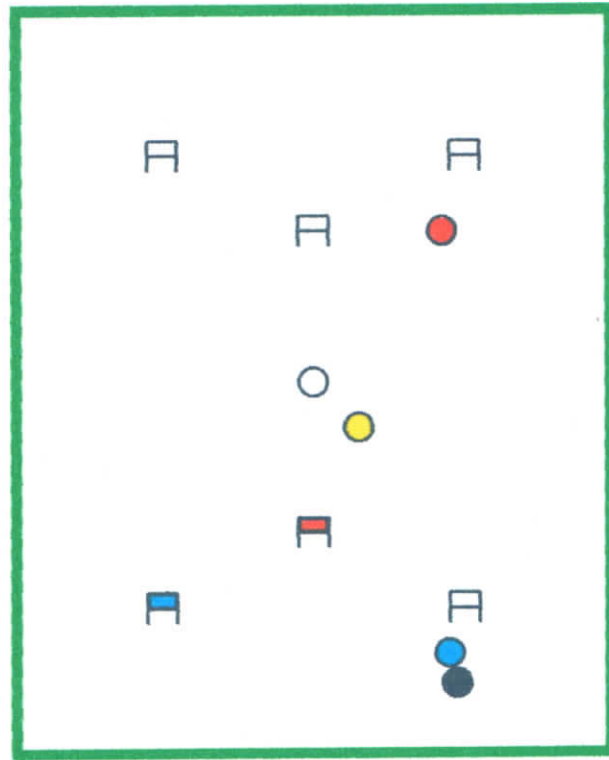


Figure 56
Roquet blue and position black
for taking croquet

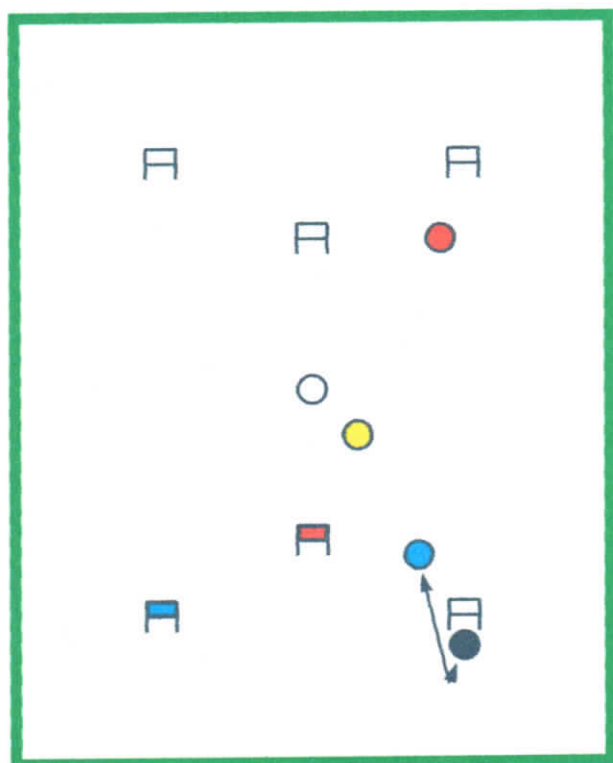


Figure 57
Take croquet and position black
for running 3-back

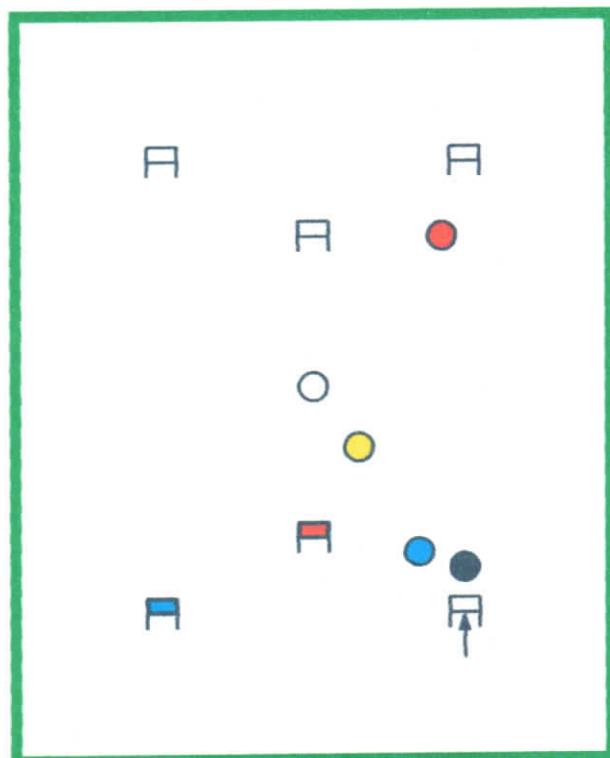


Figure 58
Run 3-back

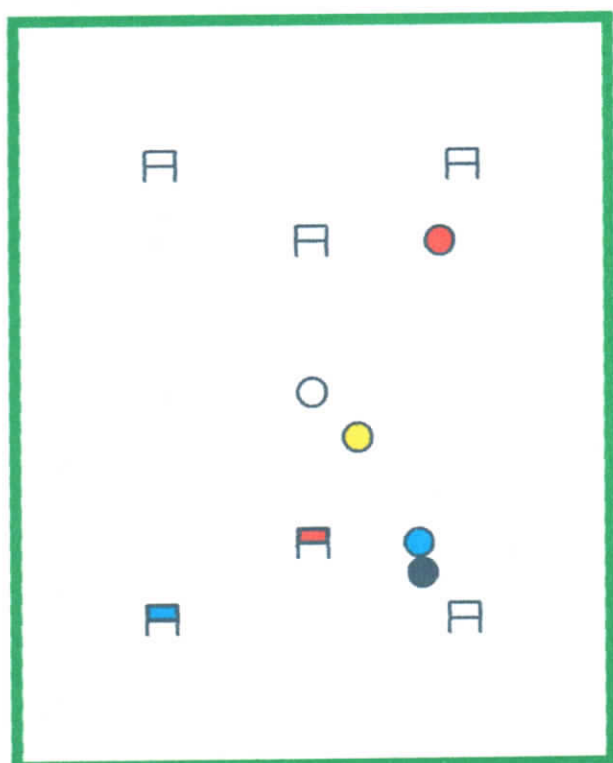


Figure 59
Roquet blue and position black
for taking croquet

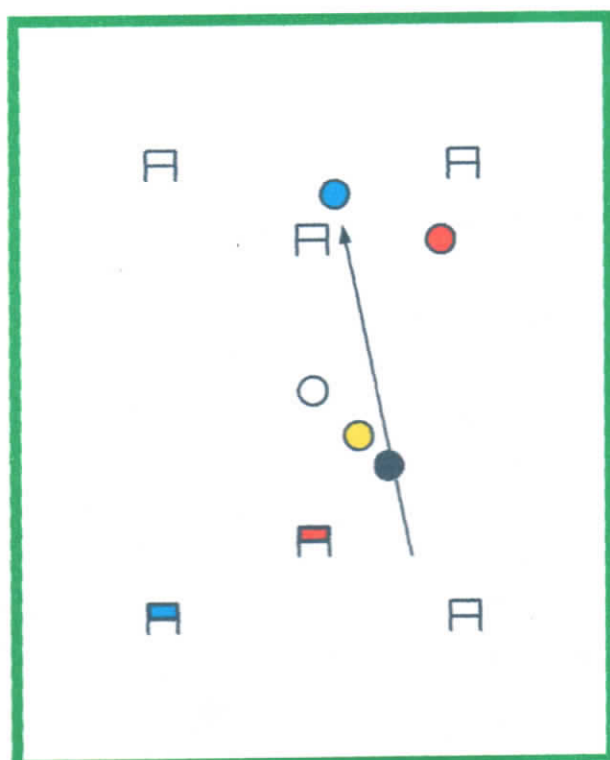


Figure 60
Croquet blue to penultimate
and split to yellow

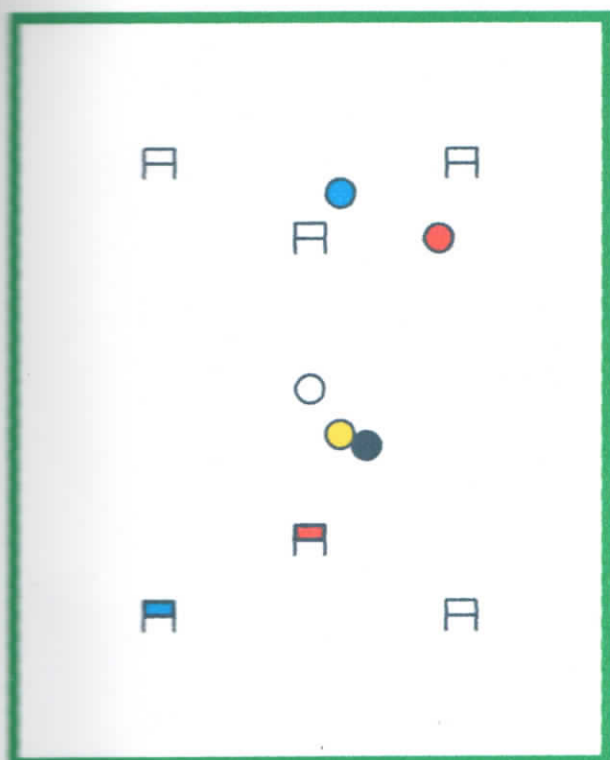


Figure 61

Roquet yellow and position black
for taking off to red

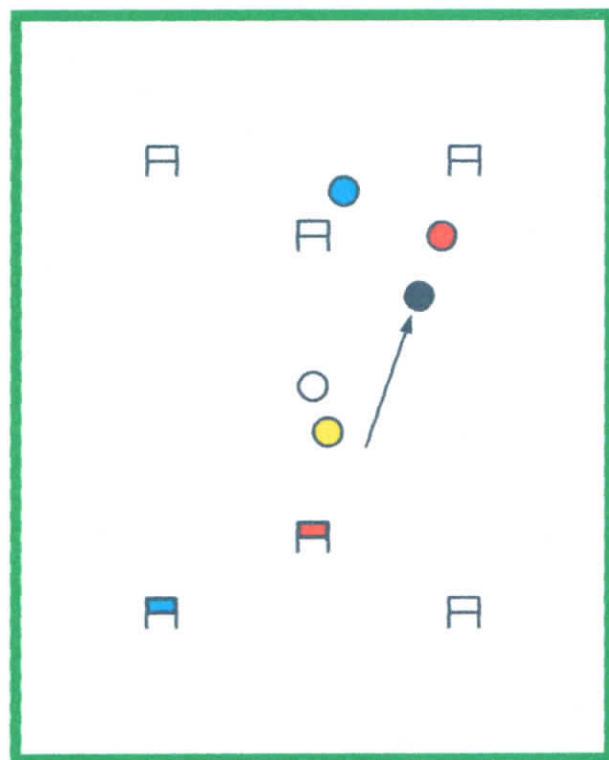


Figure 62

Take off from yellow
to the rush line of red

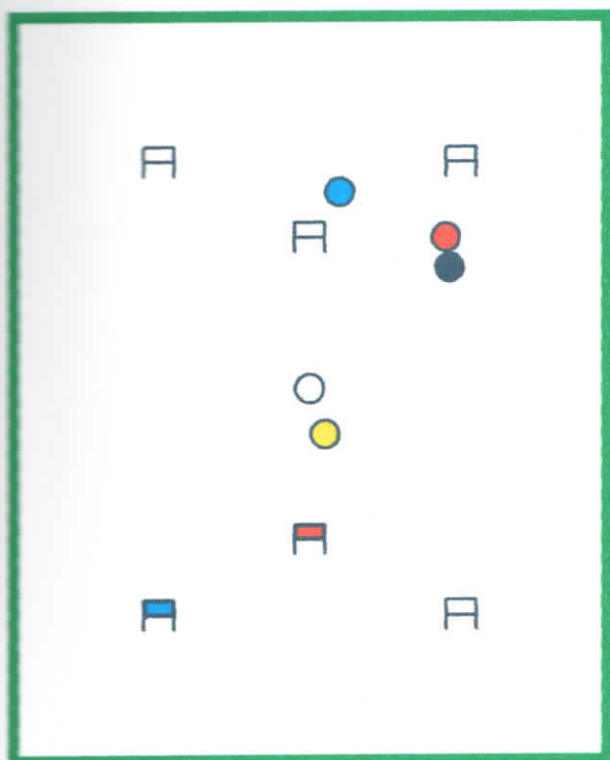


Figure 63

Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

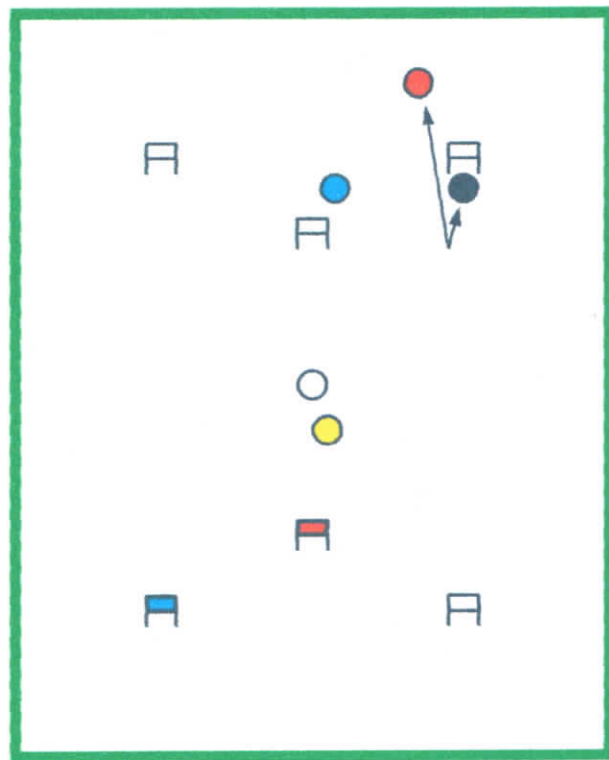


Figure 64

Take croquet and position black
for running 4-back

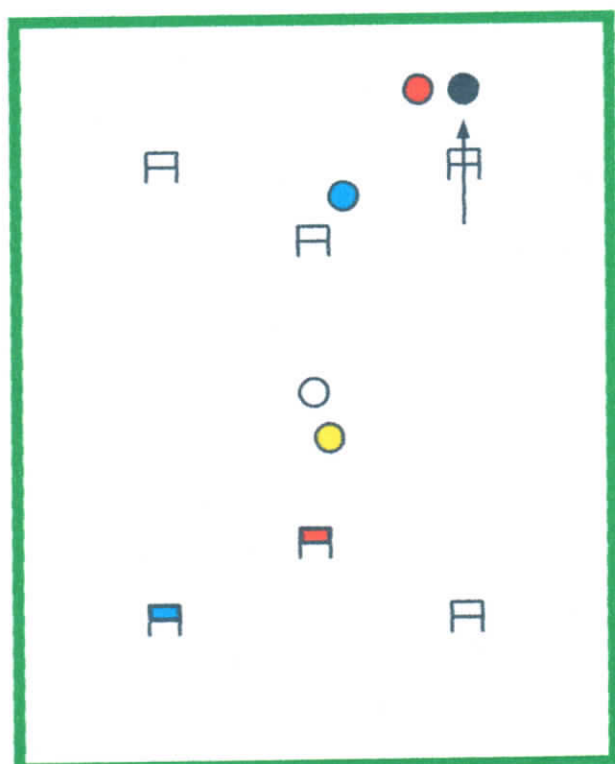


Figure 65
Run 4-back

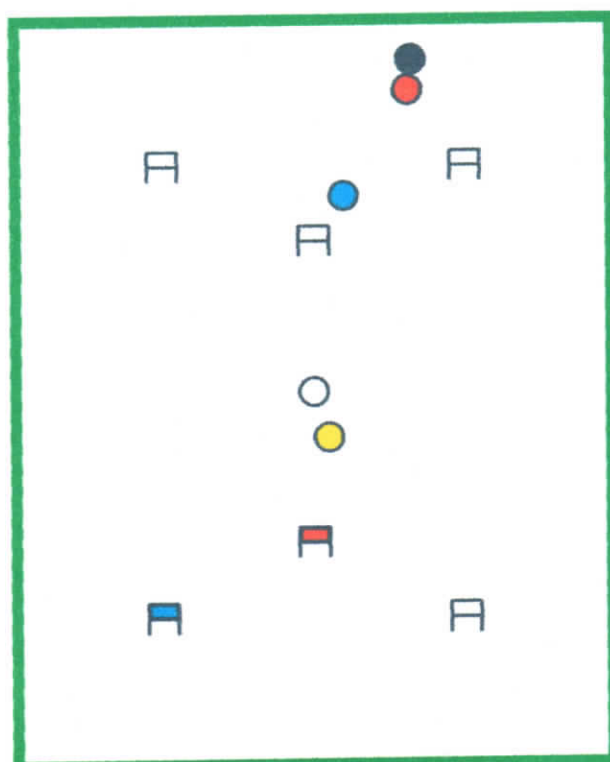


Figure 66
Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

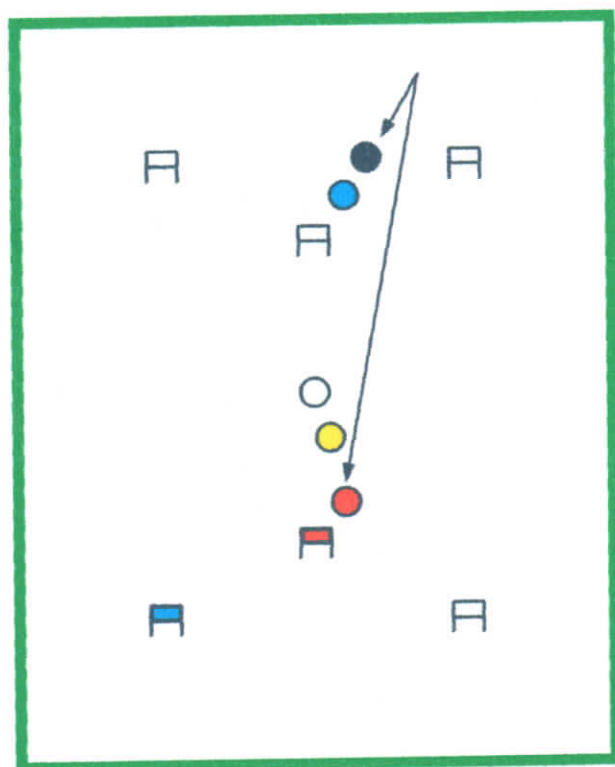


Figure 67
Take croquet and split to the rush
line of blue

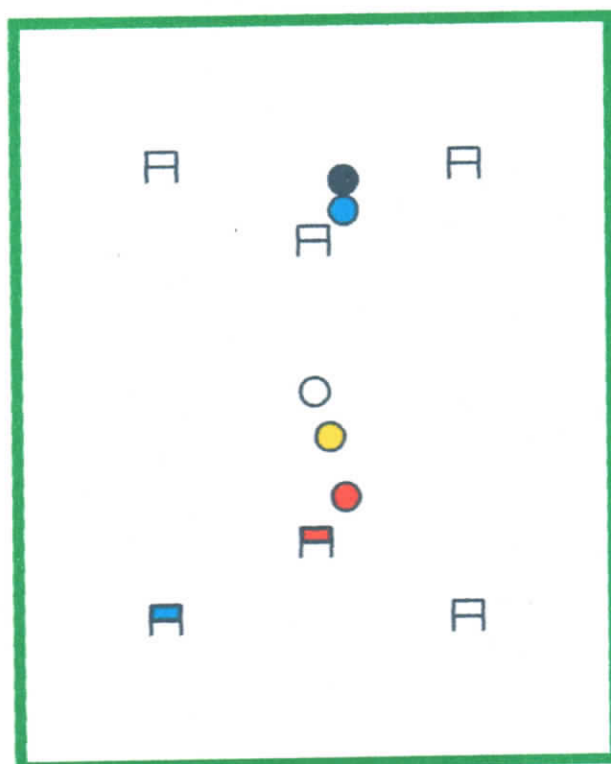


Figure 68
Roquet blue and position black
for taking croquet

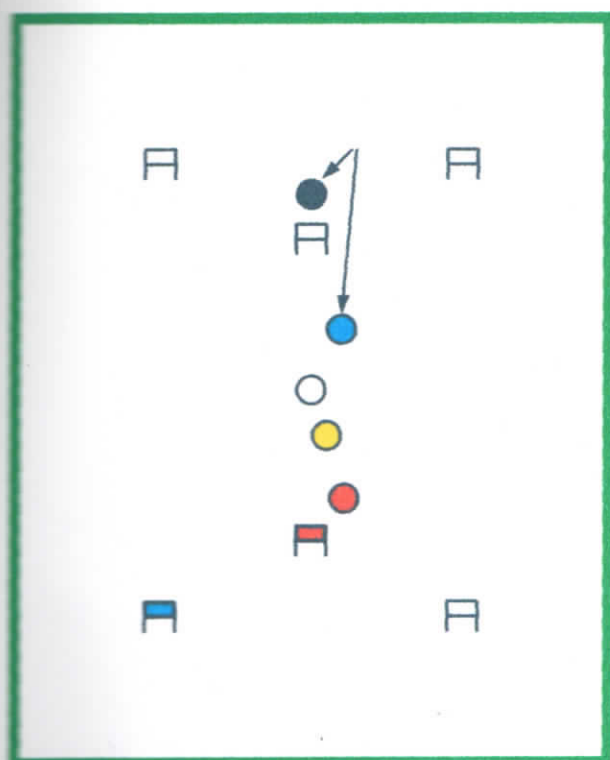


Figure 69

Take croquet and position black for running the penultimate hoop

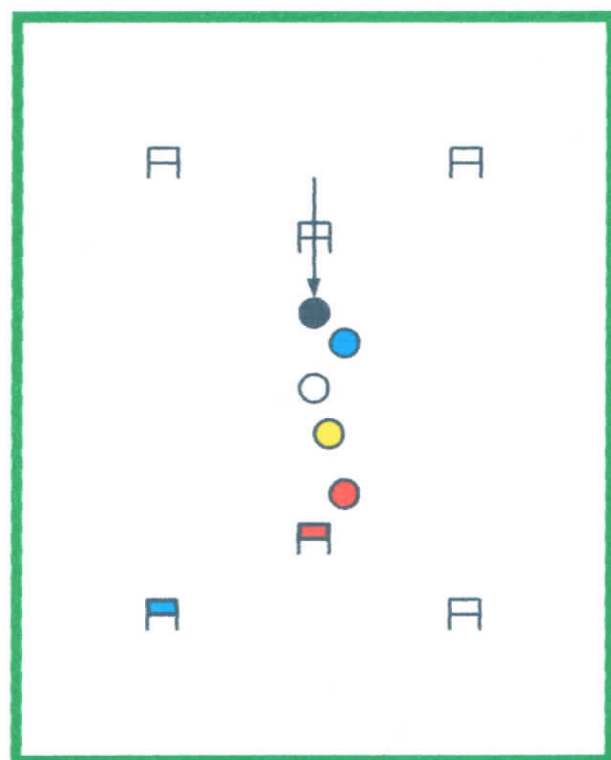


Figure 70

Run the penultimate hoop

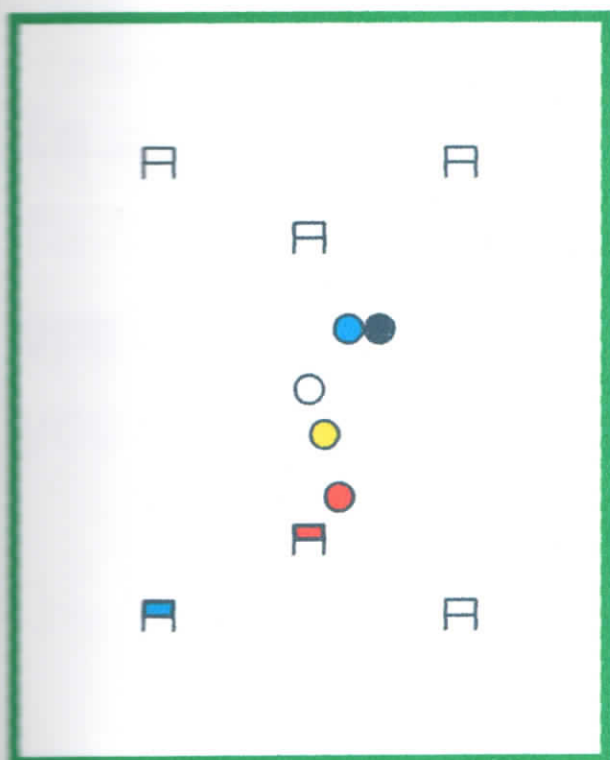


Figure 71

Roquet blue and position black for a take off to red

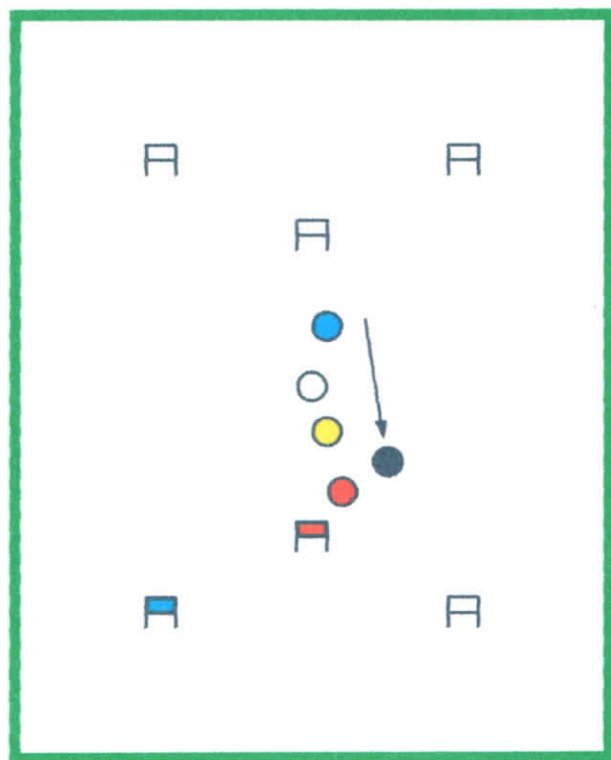


Figure 72

Take off blue to the rush line of red

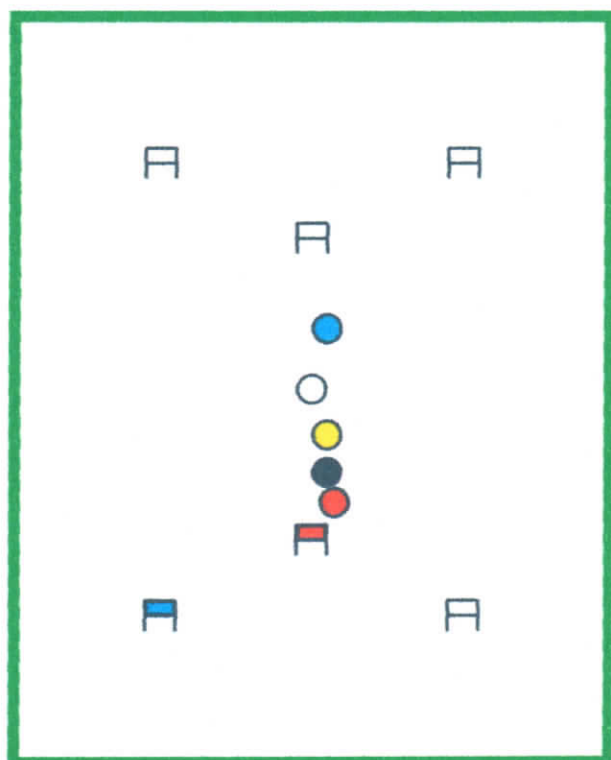


Figure 73
Roquet red and position black
for taking croquet

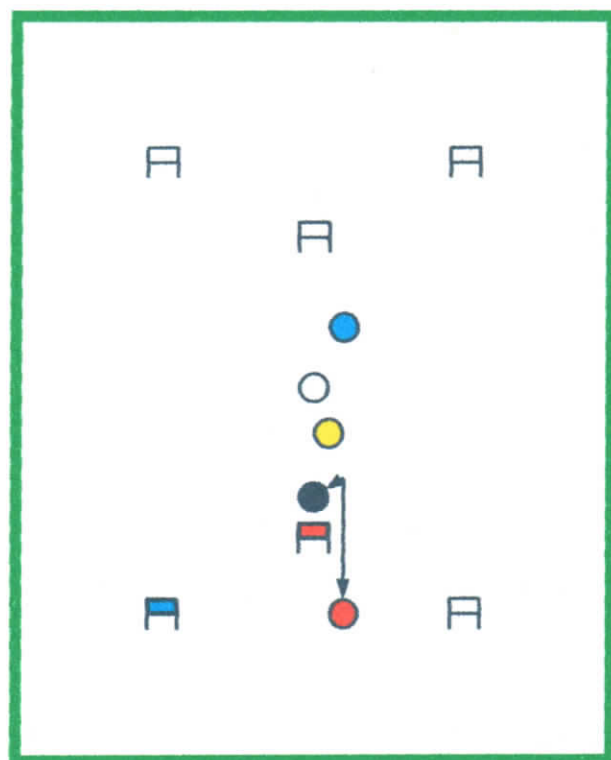


Figure 74
Take croquet and position black
for running rover

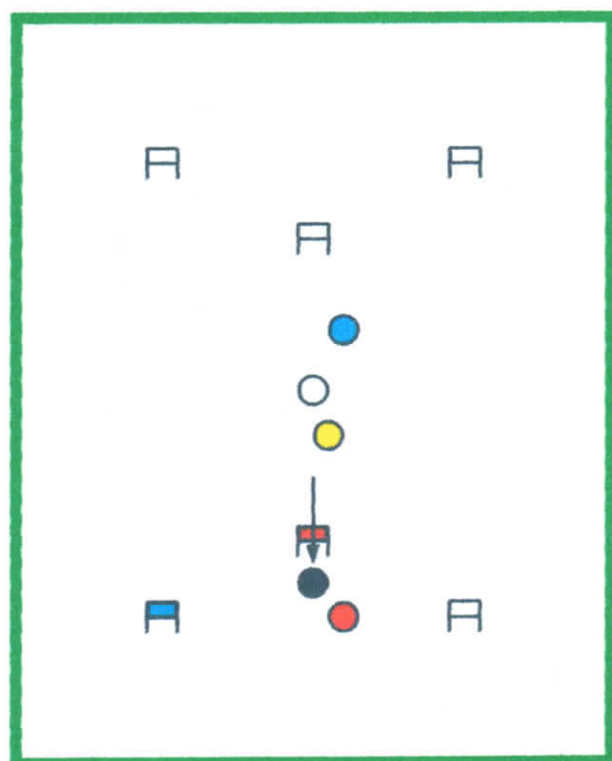


Figure 75
Run rover

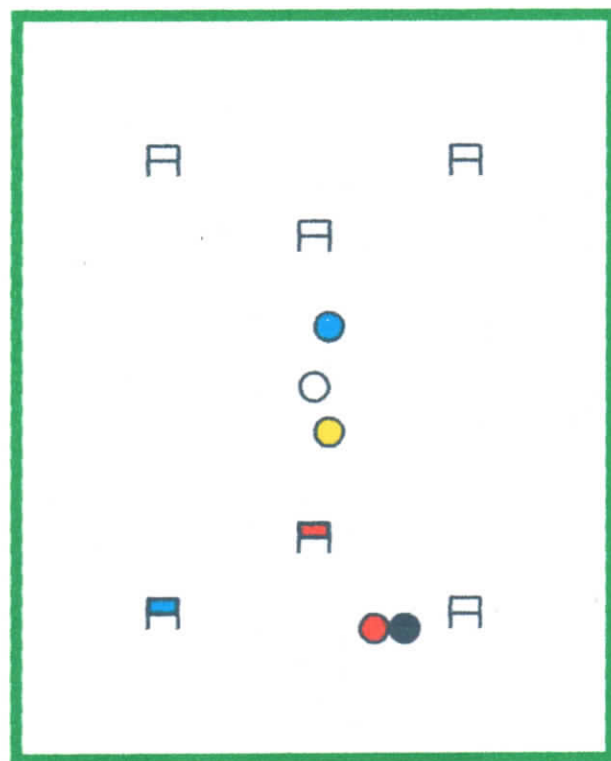


Figure 76
Roquet red and position black
for a take off to blue

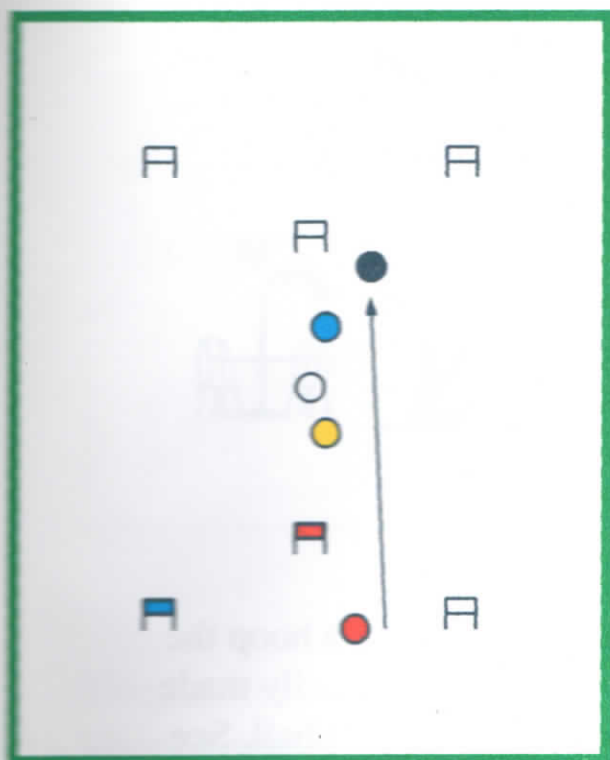


Figure 77
Take off red
to the rush line of blue

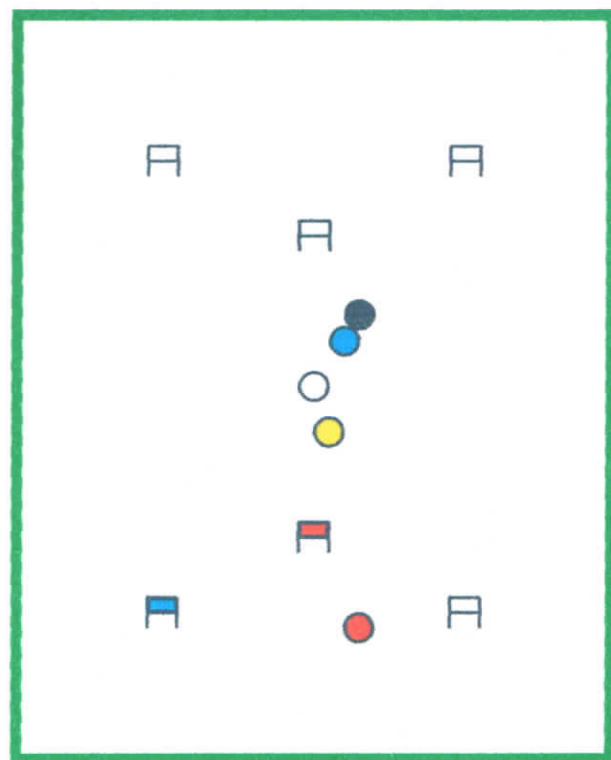
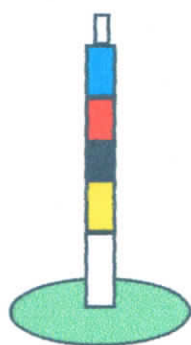


Figure 78
Roquet blue and position black
for the peg out

In a turn, try to play shots which build to a break. Playing a break deprives your opponent of turns and therefore helps you to get to the peg first.



Four Ball Break with a central pivot

OBSERVABLE FEATURES



- ♦ 72 consecutive strokes are required to complete the all round four ball break of 12 hoops
- ♦ In croquet approach shots to a hoop the croqueted ball is croqueted to the **right hand** non playing side of the hoop if a **right hand corner** is being turned. See Figures 10 and 24
- ♦ In croquet approach shots to a hoop the croqueted ball is croqueted to the **left hand** non playing side of the hoop if a **left hand corner** is being turned. See Figures 36, 50 and 64
- ♦ Hoops are pioneered using the **croquet** stroke. See Figures 6, 13, 20, 27, 32, 39, 46, 53, 60 and 67
- ♦ When pioneering a hoop the striker's ball is usually made to split to the pivot ball. See Figures 6, 13, 20, 32, 39, 46, 53 and 60
- ♦ When pioneering hoops 5 and over the pivot ball is **not** used, as the striker's ball can conveniently split to the next hoop's pioneer. See Figures 27 and 67
- ♦ A take off stroke from the pivot ball is used to take the striker's ball to the **rush line** of the next hoop's pioneer. See Figures 8, 15, 22, 34, 41, 48, 55, 62 and 72
- ♦ The pivot ball (yellow) remains close to the peg throughout the break.



STROKE COUNT



Simple Roquet	was used	30 times
Short distance Hoop Approach Croquet stroke		11
Hoop Run		12
Medium to long distance hoop loading Croquet		10
Take Off		9
Total number of strokes classified		72

WHY USE THE CENTRAL PIVOT STRUCTURE

The central pivot structure for playing the four ball break is the least complicated one, for two reasons:

- Only five types of strokes are required;
- The sequence of strokes used is repeated throughout most of the break.

It is therefore usually the first four ball break structure that beginner players are taught.

ALTERNATIVE SEQUENCE FROM HOOP 4

Figure 26a is a possible alternative to Figure 26. Yellow happens to be on the southern side of the peg and red happens to be only a metre or so to the south west of hoop 4. After running hoop 4, black roquets red. Because of the distances involved, it could well be that the best croquet shot to play would be one in which red is sent as a pioneer to hoop 6 while black splits off to the yellow pivot. See Figure 27a

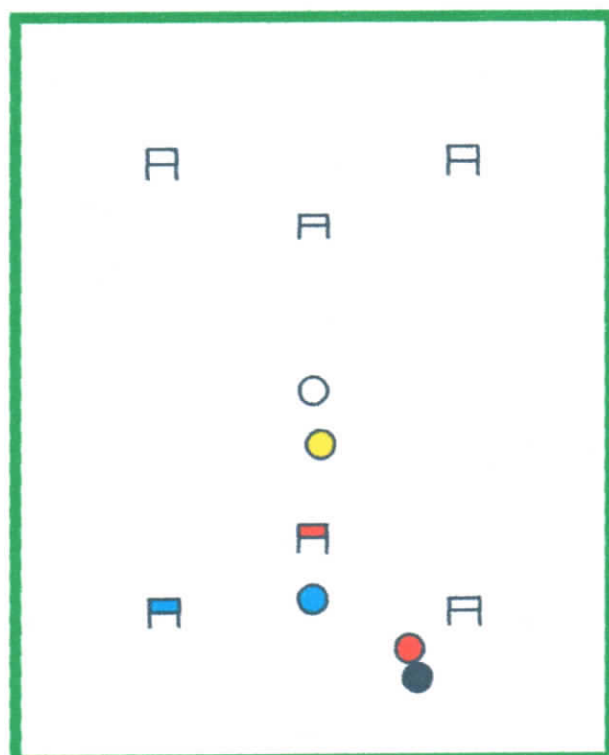


Figure 26a

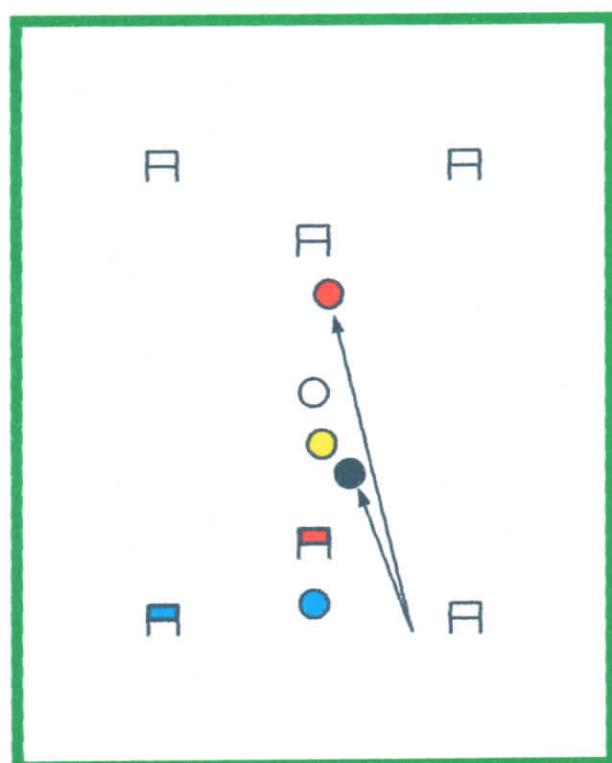


Figure 27a

Croquet red to hoop 6
and split to yellow

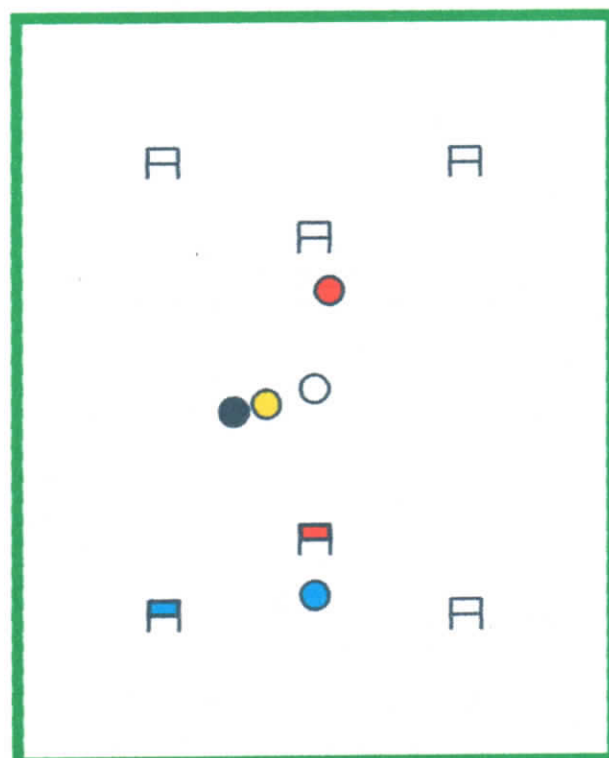


Figure 27b

Roquet yellow and set black for a
take off to the rush line of blue



Selecting the right shot to play helps to keep the break going

Figure 28a shows the ball positions resulting from the alternative shot sequence. From this point on the break continues with the usual shot sequence shown by from Figure 29 onwards to Figure 78.

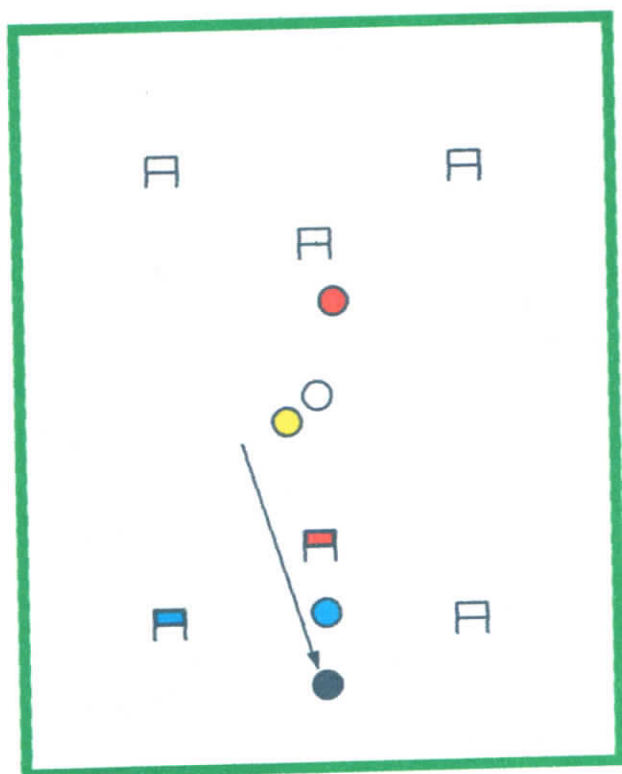


Figure 27c

Take off to the rush line of blue

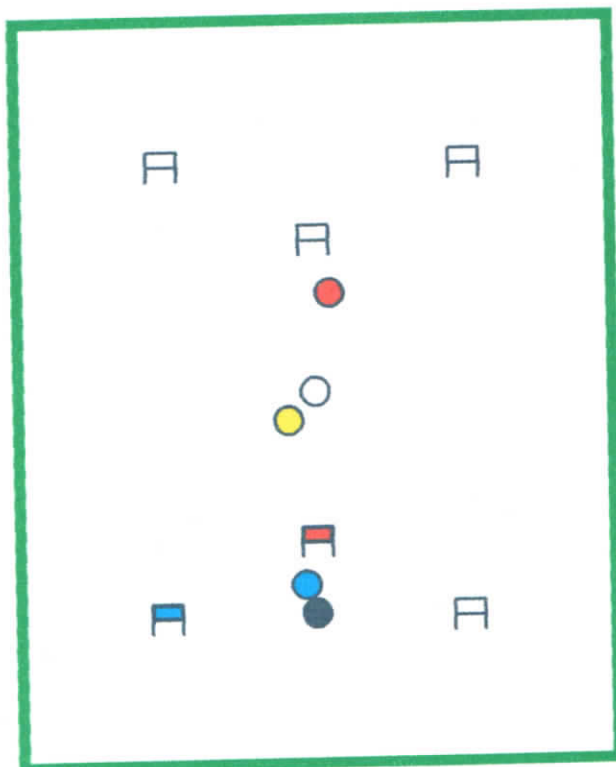


Figure 28a

Roquet blue and position black for taking croquet



Selecting the right shot to play helps to keep the break going

Figure 28a shows the ball positions resulting from the alternative shot sequence. From this point on the break continues with the usual shot sequence shown by from Figure 29 onwards to Figure 78.

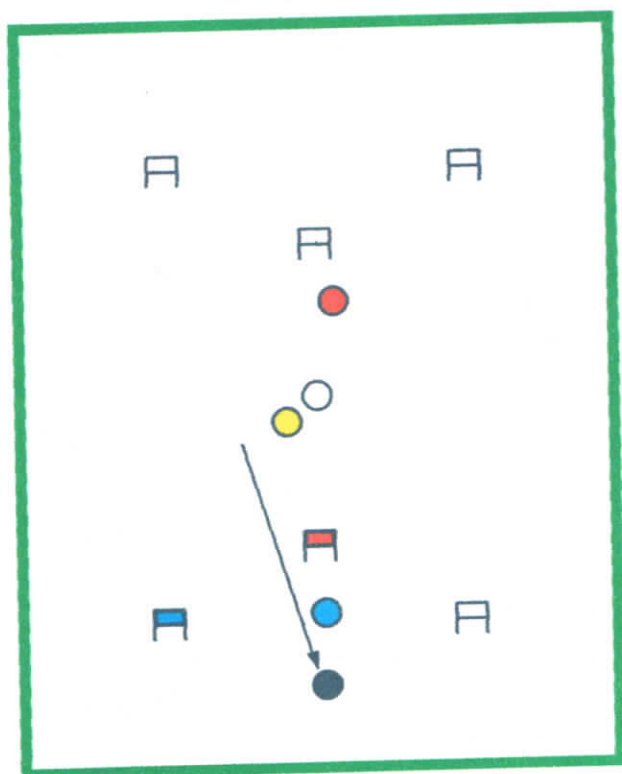


Figure 27c
Take off to the rush line of blue

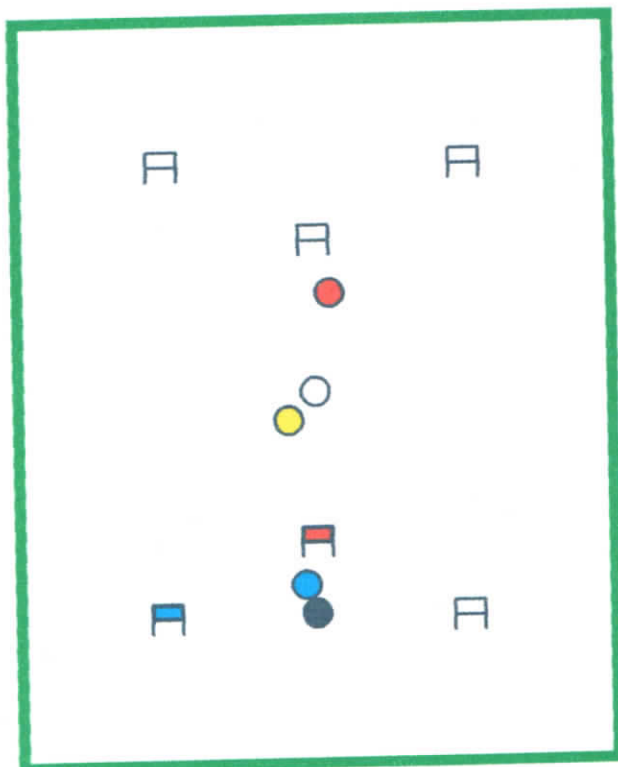


Figure 28a
Roquet blue and position black for taking croquet

WORDS OF WISDOM



There are three features which all top performing people have. They are **competence**, **confidence** and **self-esteem**.

These features are so closely linked that if one is enhanced it has the effect of enhancing the others. For example, suppose you have practised a shot correctly so you are able to play it competently whenever you wish to use it, then you will have increased your level of **competence**. Consequently, knowing you can play the shot competently whenever you wish, will make you feel more **confident**; you will feel better equipped to take on opponents who have previously given you a hard time. You will be happier with yourself because you know you will not break down so often with that particular shot. It will give you a feeling of satisfaction and an extra bit of personal pride. Your **self-esteem** will have been enhanced.

Conversely, if the level of one of the features is reduced in some way, it will have the effect of reducing the other two. For example, if you play a bad shot (as everybody does at some time) and you mentally abuse and denigrate yourself for doing so, your **self-esteem** will drop and so will your **confidence**

and **competence**. A consequence of this is that you will most likely play your next two or three shots badly.

Self esteem is an important personal quality to nurture if you wish to improve your game. It provides a mentally stabilising influence when shots go wrong, helps ward off possible effects of imagined criticism from spectators and opponents for the way you play and provides a mental environment which enables you to play your best when you are under pressure.

Many club players and teams wishing to improve their game concentrate only on improving one or two of these three features. Doing this only takes them so far, the law of diminishing returns seems to be invoked and a breakthrough seems to be necessary before any further improvement can be expected. If you can relate to this and feel your game has reached a stalemate and, even though you try hard and are hungry for greater success, further improvement seems to be out of your reach, it could be that you have omitted to consider developing fully the three features, **Competence**, **Confidence** and **Self-esteem**, which are vital for making a breakthrough.

THE AUTHOR

Maurice Woodmansee started his croquet career in 1976 under the coaching guidance of Jack Read. In the terms of those times, he developed rapidly and came to represent his state of Tasmania for many years. Although he never won a minor medal in any Tasmanian or Australian competition he won the Tasmanian Gold Medal and the ACA Gold Medals on many occasions. In 1990 he won the prestigious English Silver Medal. Also he won the annually held Tasmanian Classic event every year for the first six years until he retired from competing for it.

Maurice has always been keen on coaching and introducing new players to the game; he says that he has a need to pass on his acquired knowledge, skills, concepts and experience to others in return for the years of pleasure that he has gained from the game.

During his coaching career he has collected and developed many coaching aids; he claims to have a comprehensive collection of video tapes of many of the top players in Australia, UK and New Zealand. The video tapes, he says, form an invaluable coaching resource for both coaches and players.



This collection of Multidiagrams was produced in response to the lack of interest shown by many newcomers to croquet to the many complicated and cluttered diagrams and descriptions that have been given in books and journals. Maurice believes that keeping things simple and lucid is an essential part of expert coaching. These diagrams, he says, can be used by both coaches and players.

Maurice is a university honours graduate in Physics. He was employed in industry for many years in applied research in electronics before coming to Tasmania in 1966. He taught electronics in Tasmania and was Head of Department. He has a wife Barbara and two sons. Maurice and Barbara are both Level 2 Nationally Accredited Coaches who have been active in coaching for many years.

