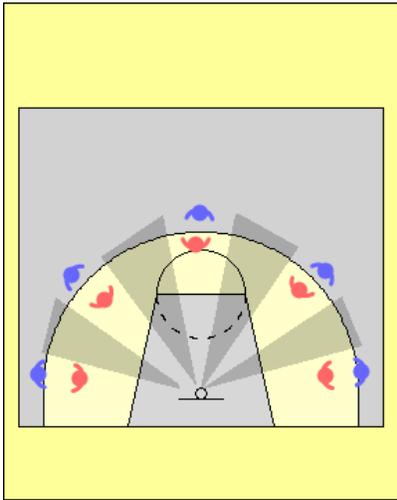


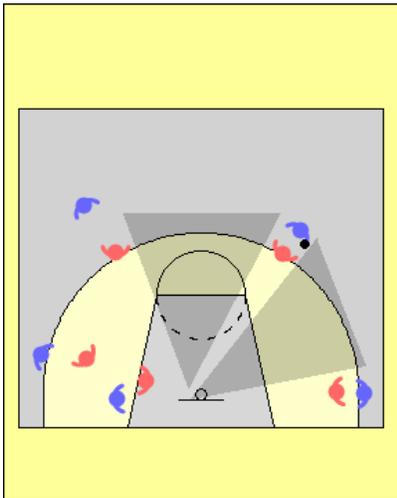
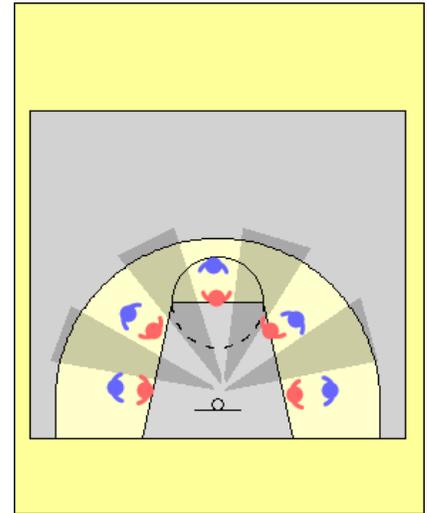
SPACE

Proper spacing means that:

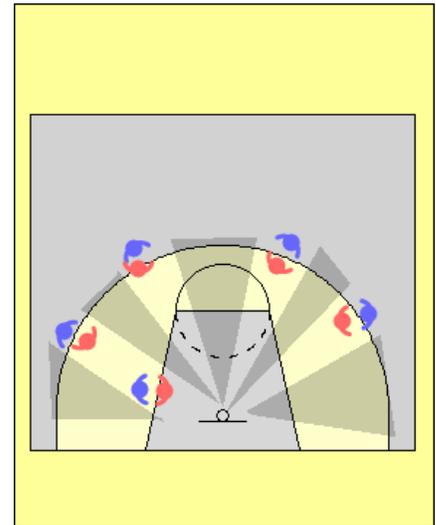
- It is difficult for the defence to guard two offensive players with one defender.



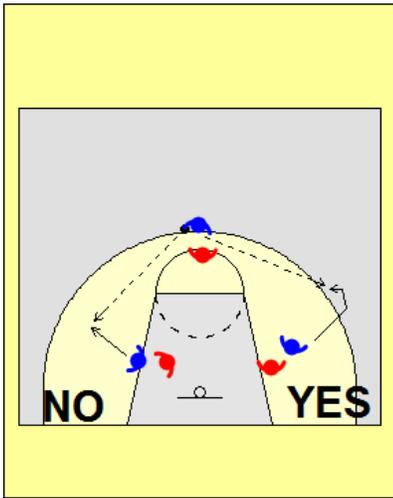
When players sneak in from the three-point line it makes it very easy for one defender to guard more than one person. The space in which offensive players can operate is reduced.



The various positions that players fill on the floor create different size gaps in which offensive players can play. It also makes it harder for help defence.



- The offensive players are in position to receive an accurate pass from a teammate.
- The offensive players are in a position to have proper vision to anticipate and therefore to make better decisions.
- Spacing is not static and is constantly flowing. With the exception of the opening jump ball, inbounds plays and foul shots, players are very rarely static. Players must constantly react to the ball, teammates and the defender.
- Spacing is maintained throughout the entire shot clock.
- PVAD – Position (P) improves vision (V), which improves the ability to anticipate (A), which improves the ability to make better decisions (D). For example, players learn to use the three-point line and key for spacing principles. In general, players should not be catching the ball in the space between the three-point line and the key when a player is moving away from the basket.

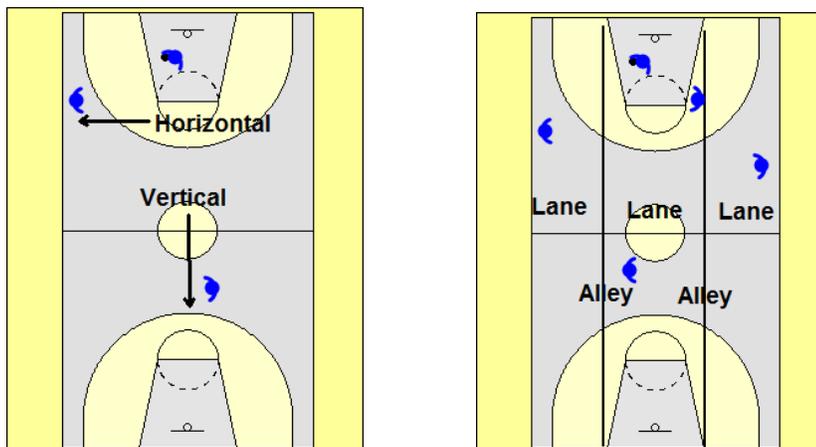


When the ball is passed to the player before they have reached the three-point line, the player is not in position to see the basket. Therefore, the player cannot anticipate their next option. This often leads to missed opportunities as the players cannot make a quick decision until they are square to the basket.

In addition, by catching the ball so close to the basket it is easier for one defender to guard two offensive players. The basket can also become crowded as the defender of the ball can help defend the basket.

Early Clock

When the offence receives the ball it must stretch the floor both horizontally and vertically. Players fill the lanes and the alleys when they run the floor. Proper distance must be maintained between players. One common error is running too far ahead of the distance the ball can be passed.



Mid-Clock

Players flow from their transition offence into the mid-clock positioning. Coaches at this stage can use offence sets to initiate the offence as long as time is not wasted. Once the movement begins the proper timing and spacing of the players needs to be maintained throughout the entire shot clock. When the offence struggles it is often the rhythm of the offence breaking down as the cause.

Late Clock

Very often coaches will initiate some special spacing late in a clock to allow for isolation situations. One common example is for the four players without the ball to flatten to the baseline to give the player at the top room to attack.