

Setting up the wall!

The first diagram below serves as a guideline for determining the minimum number of players needed in the wall. Distance of the ball from the goal is the main determining factor and the goalkeeper may decrease the number of players who are in the wall if the ball is further away, or he may not require a wall at all.

The goalkeeper is always in control of how many players are in the wall. It is the goalkeepers decision, and her decision alone. The goalkeeper must communicate quickly and effectively to her teammates when the time comes. She should shout and use his hands to signal the number of players required in the wall.

Once the goalkeeper has decided how many players to have in the wall, she must then ensure that the wall is lined up properly to effectively cover one side of the goal. The wall should be positioned to cover the side of the goal at the nearest post to the ball. The goalkeeper is then responsible to cover the area at the far post of the goal. If the ball is positioned in a central area the goalkeeper can choose one post or the other to be covered by the wall and then she will cover the open side.

When lining up the wall line up the last player in the wall with the near post. **PLAYERS IN THE WALL: Protect yourself with your arms. As long as the ball strikes you and you don't move your arms, you should not be called for "handball."**

If possible, you should also try to line the players up from tallest to shortest so that the tallest player is in line with the near post.

The goalkeeper should then take up a position in the goal so that she lines up with the last player in the wall. This will give the goalkeeper the best option to see the ball as it is kicked. The goalkeeper should try to avoid standing behind the wall as she will not see the ball at the point of contact and this will cause a delayed reaction.

The keeper will line up the wall by standing in front or next to the near post. She will then communicate with the `Anchor`. The Anchor is the player designated to stand at the end of the wall closest to the near post. The Anchor will turn around and face the direction of the goal so that she can clearly see what direction the wall needs to move. Once the wall has been lined up, the Anchor will then turn back around to face the ball.

The keeper will use both her voice and hand signals to communicate with the Anchor so there is no confusion. The keeper will yell Right! (pointing to the right), Left! (pointing to the left) or Stop! (hand up). Once the wall is lined up, the keeper should quickly move back into position in order to be able to see the ball. The Anchor should decide whether the wall jumps -- on her command -- all players must jump at the same time.

BEWARE! The Quickly Taken Free Kick

When the opposing team is awarded a direct or indirect free kick they are not required to wait for the whistle before putting the ball back into play with a quick shot or pass. They are only required to wait for the whistle when specifically instructed by the referee. This only happens if the attacking team asks for their required yards or the referee feels a defender is encroaching on the ball, in which case a yellow card may be issued.

As the goalkeeper, do not get caught leaning on the post trying to set up the wall unless the referee has signaled that the attacking team must wait for the whistle. If the referee does not signal to wait for the whistle then the goalkeeper must remain in position to save any quickly taken shots at goal.

Diagram 1

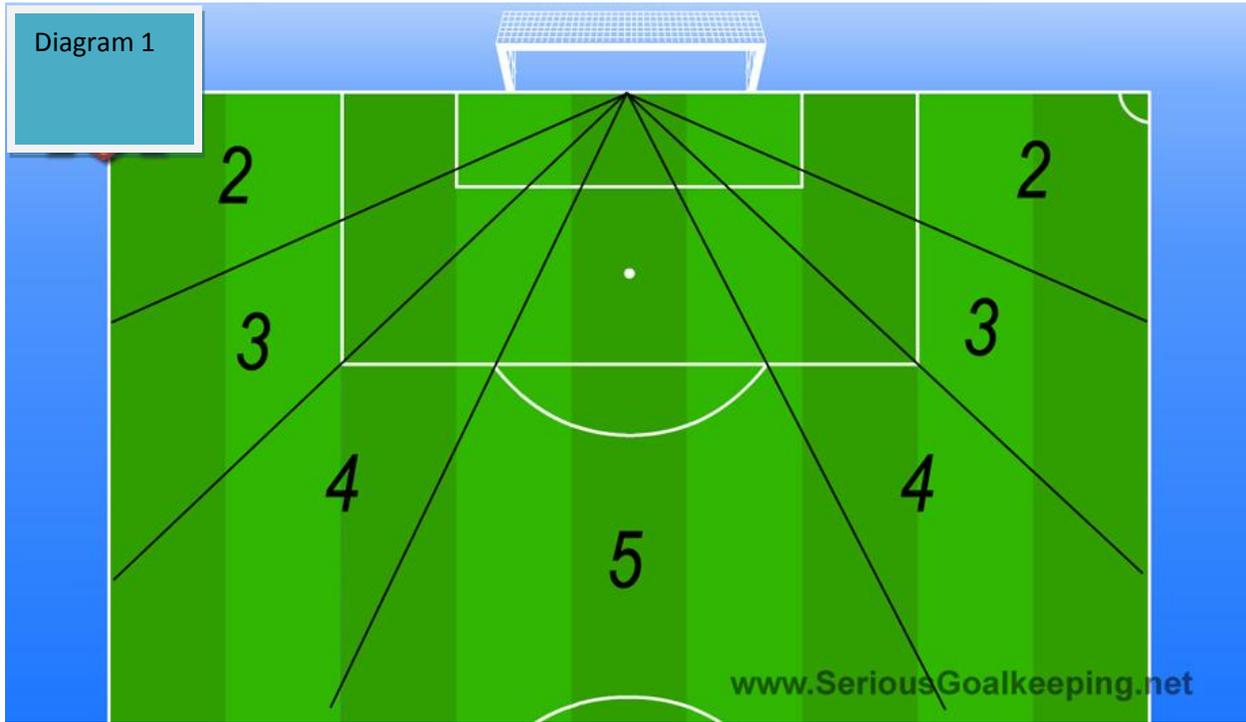


Diagram 2

