

OFFFENSIVE SPACING PRINCIPLES

A "MACROBASKETBALL" EXAMINATION
JUNE 25, 2020





Basketball is about the manipulation of space.

Does our positioning expand or restrict space?

Where you stand on the court matters. Your positioning determines where your defender stands as well. The path you take when you run the floor, the depth and width of where you are in the halfcourt matters.

Does our movement expand or restrict space?

Making considerations for spacing is vital to success of offensive actions. At times we sabotage spacing in the name of actions and vice versa. At times "no movement" is the right "movement."



Soccer is about the manipulation of space.

Is our skill level creating or restricting space?

The skill level of your players is either helping or hurting your spacing. It impacts our opponents defensive spacing and reduces the space in which the offense can operate.

Are we aware of transition spacing?

Beneficial positioning in the halfcourt is impacted by our spacing in transition to offense. Too often, halfcourt possessions are doomed due to lack of spacing in transition.



Hockey is about the manipulation of space.

Do players recognize their role in spacing?

Too often players are thinking about "what to do" and not where to be. Coaching offensive basketball is coaching spacing. Players must understand their role in this.

Can we maintain spacing throughout a possession?

As challenging as beginning a possession with good spacing can be, maintaining spacing throughout a possession can be even more challenging.

Spacing vs. Positioning

01

Spacing

Spacing refers to the area of the court from which we can score. The term "functional space" describes this area. The larger your functional space is, the more stress it puts on the defense.

02

Positioning

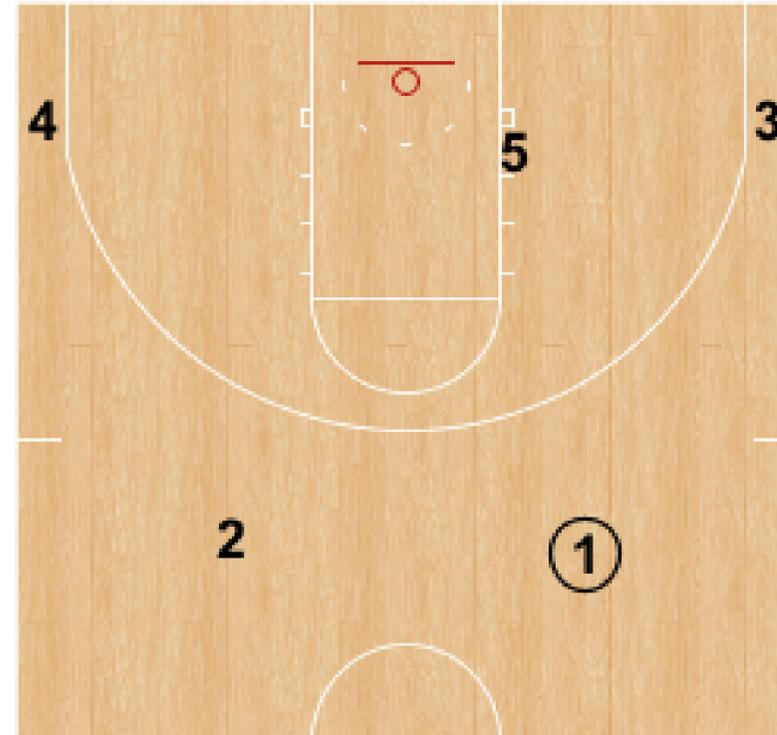
Positioning refers to where players stand on the court. Even when we do not have great functional space we will always strive for perfect positioning.

Radius Athletics

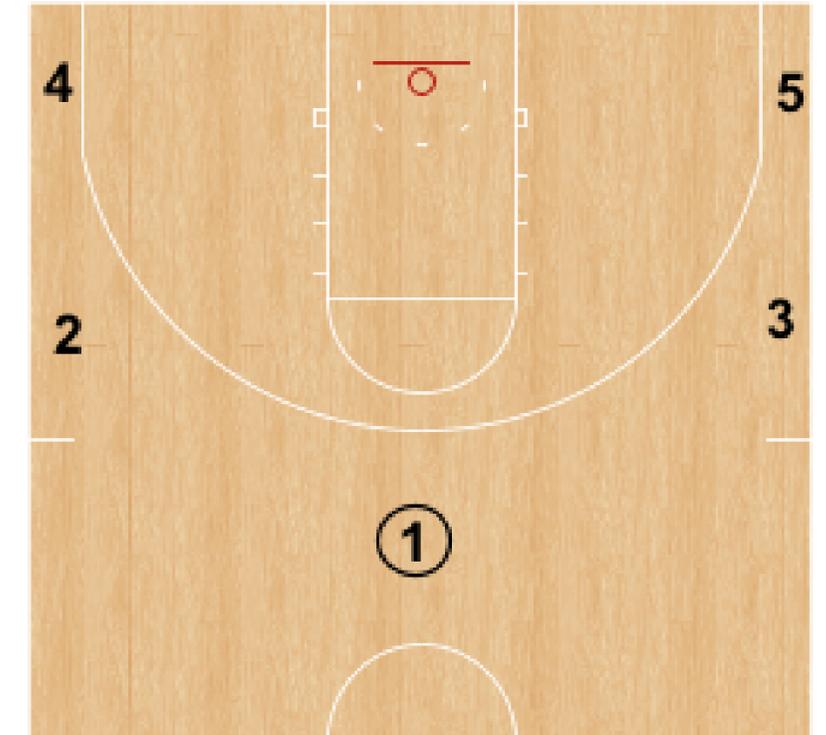
Space vs. Positioning

A team can have the same positioning but not enjoy the same functional space.

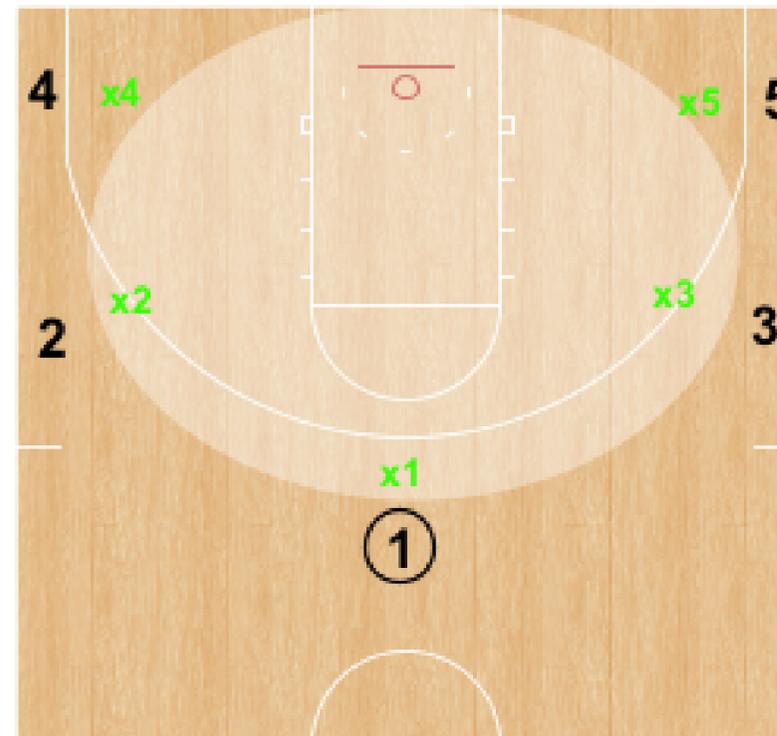
The team with great shooting (Frame 3) enjoys a greater amount of space than the team with poor shooting (Frame 4) despite having the exact same positioning.



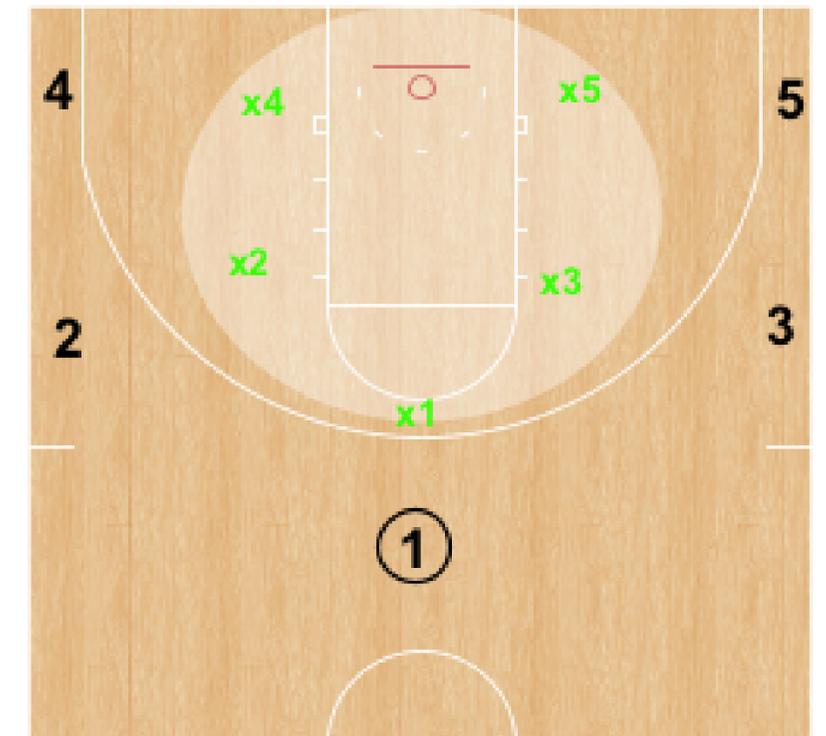
4-Out Positioning



5-Out Positioning



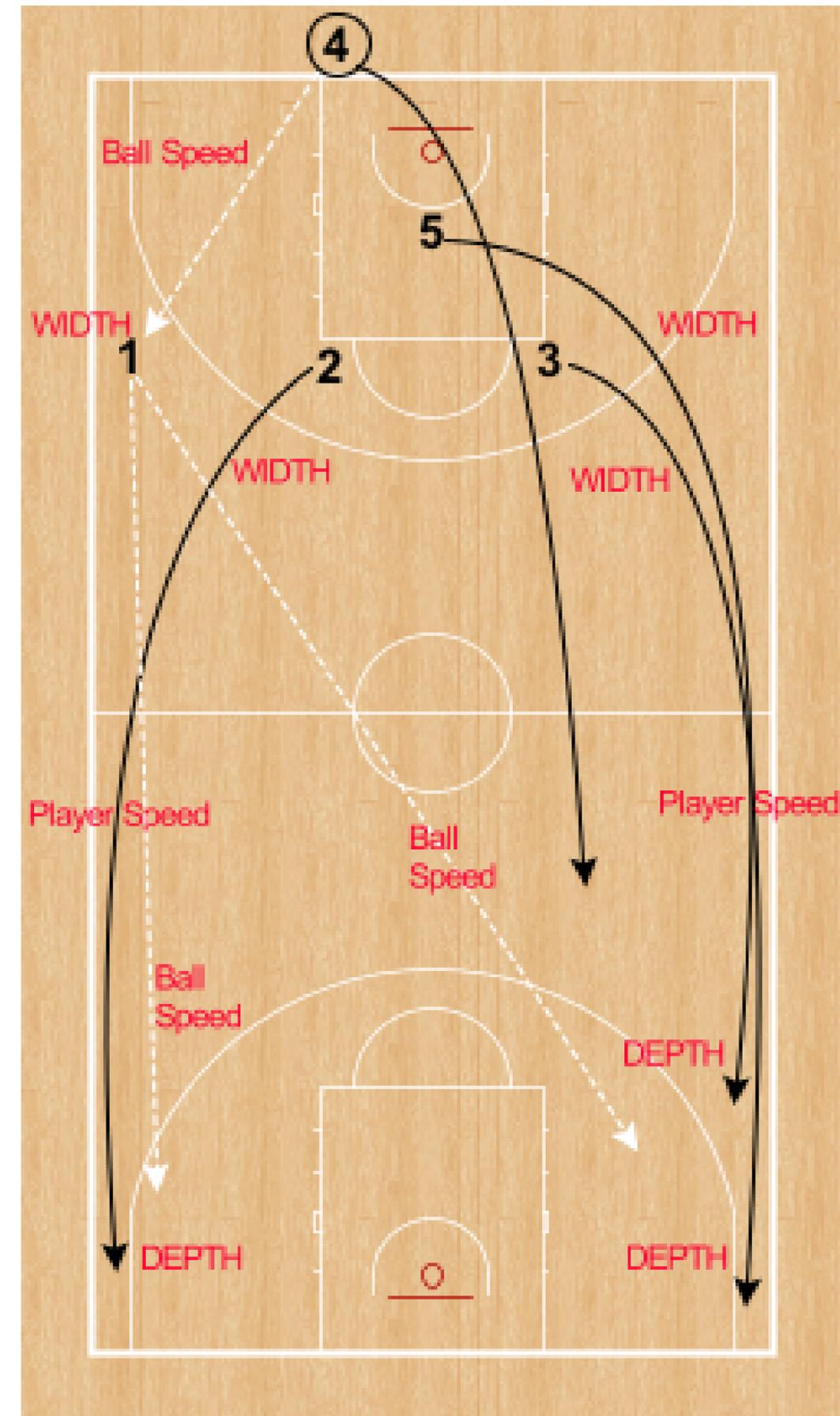
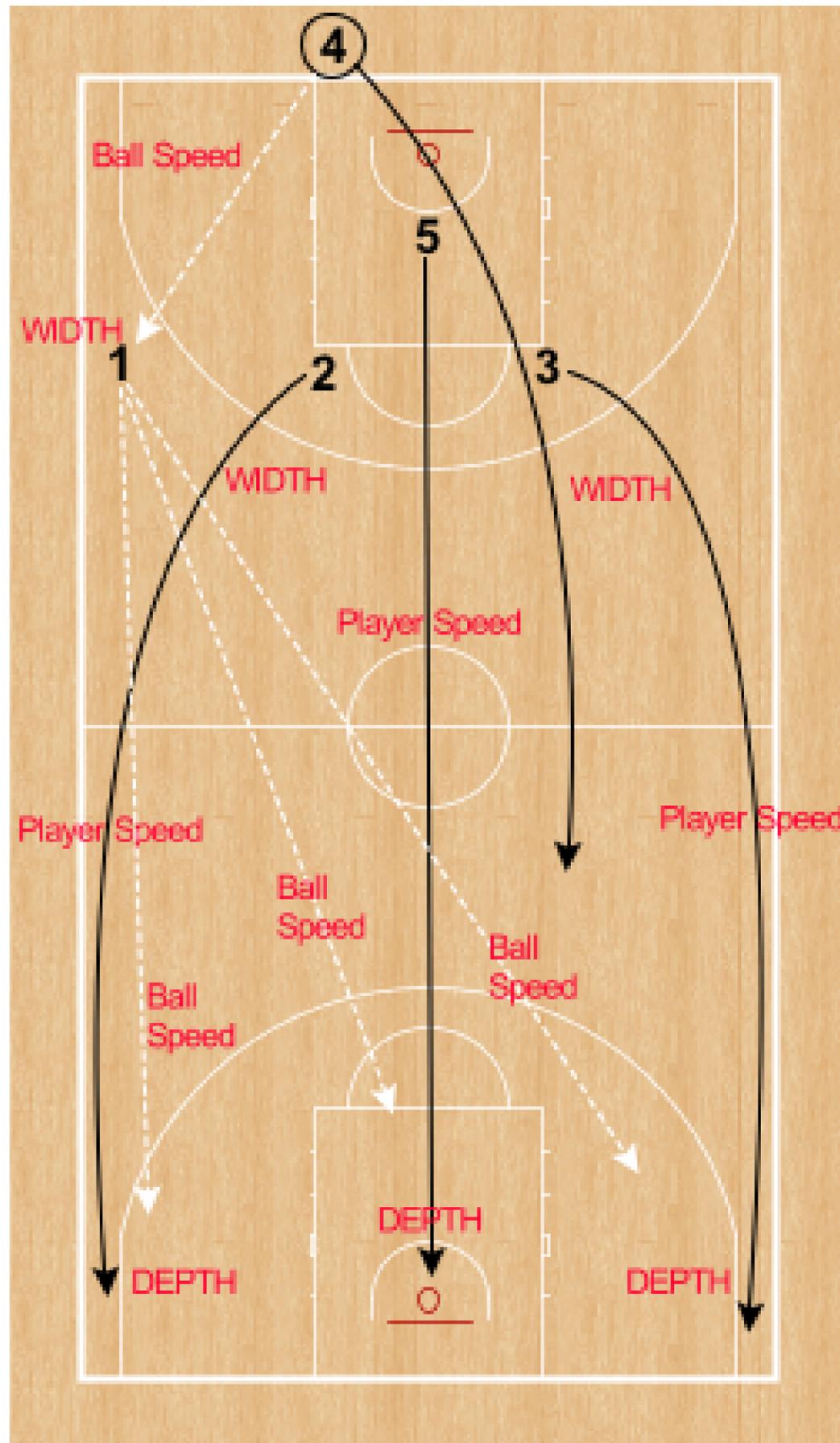
5-Out Positioning
Team has great functional space



5-Out Positioning
Same positioning, less functional space due to lack of skill

TRANSITION OFFENSE SPACING

- Seek WIDTH then DEPTH
- Find a sideline and sprint
- "Pull apart" the defense
- Arrive in desired positioning
- Connect seamlessly to halfcourt offense
- Considerations must be made in transition offense to accommodate for this



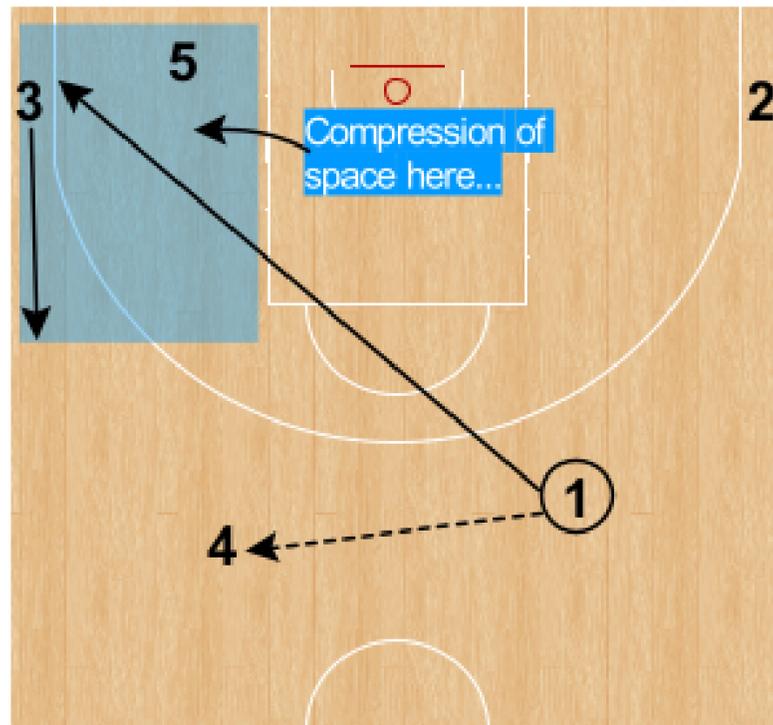
The Law of Space

"Compression of space in one area leads to expansion of space in another area."

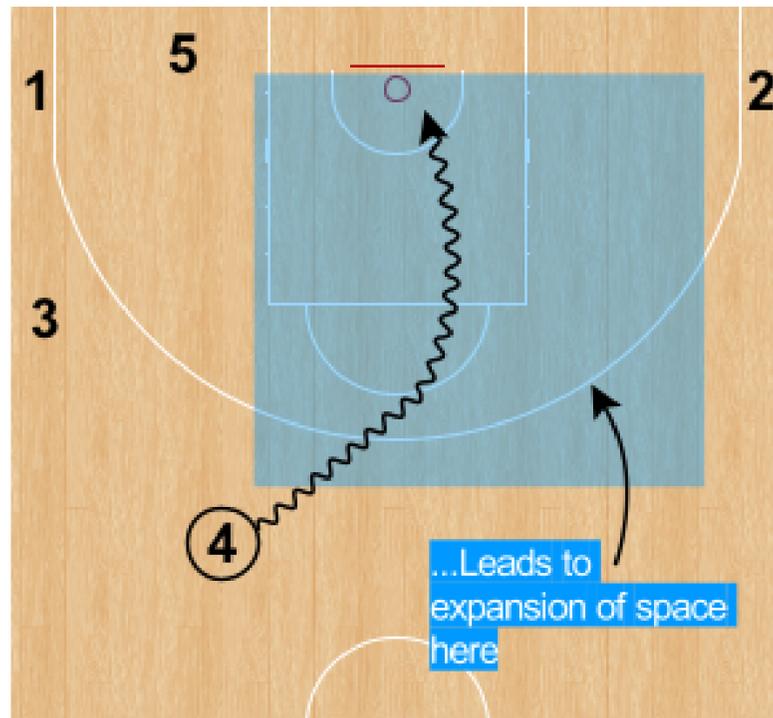
- From "Game Changer" by Fergus Connolly

Radius Athletics

Law of Space



Compression of players (space) in the lower left side of the court

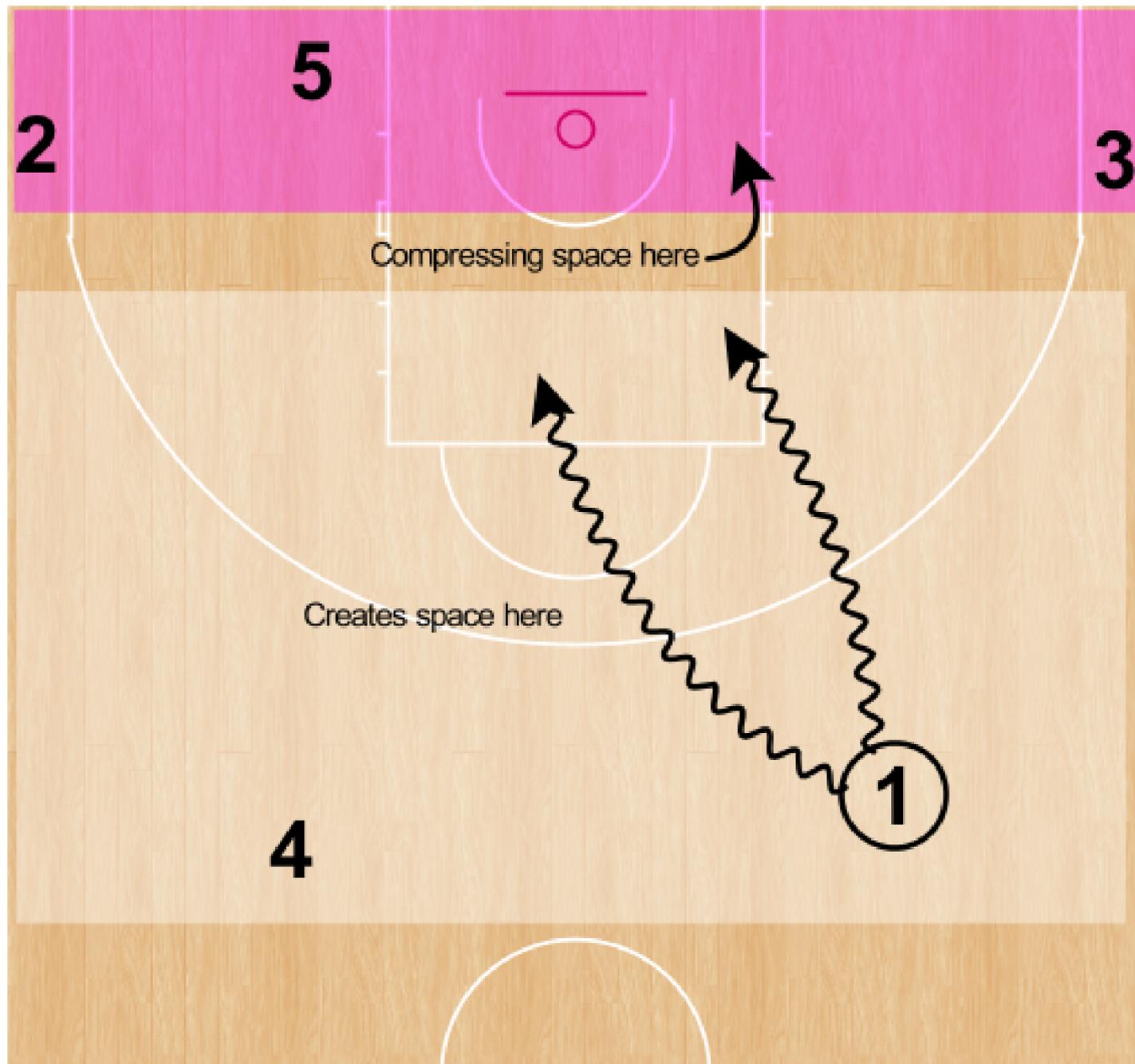


Double Gap to the right hand of Player 4. 2 holding the corner

The Law of Space

The cut in Frame 1 compresses space in the lower left corner of the court while expanding space on the right in Frame 2

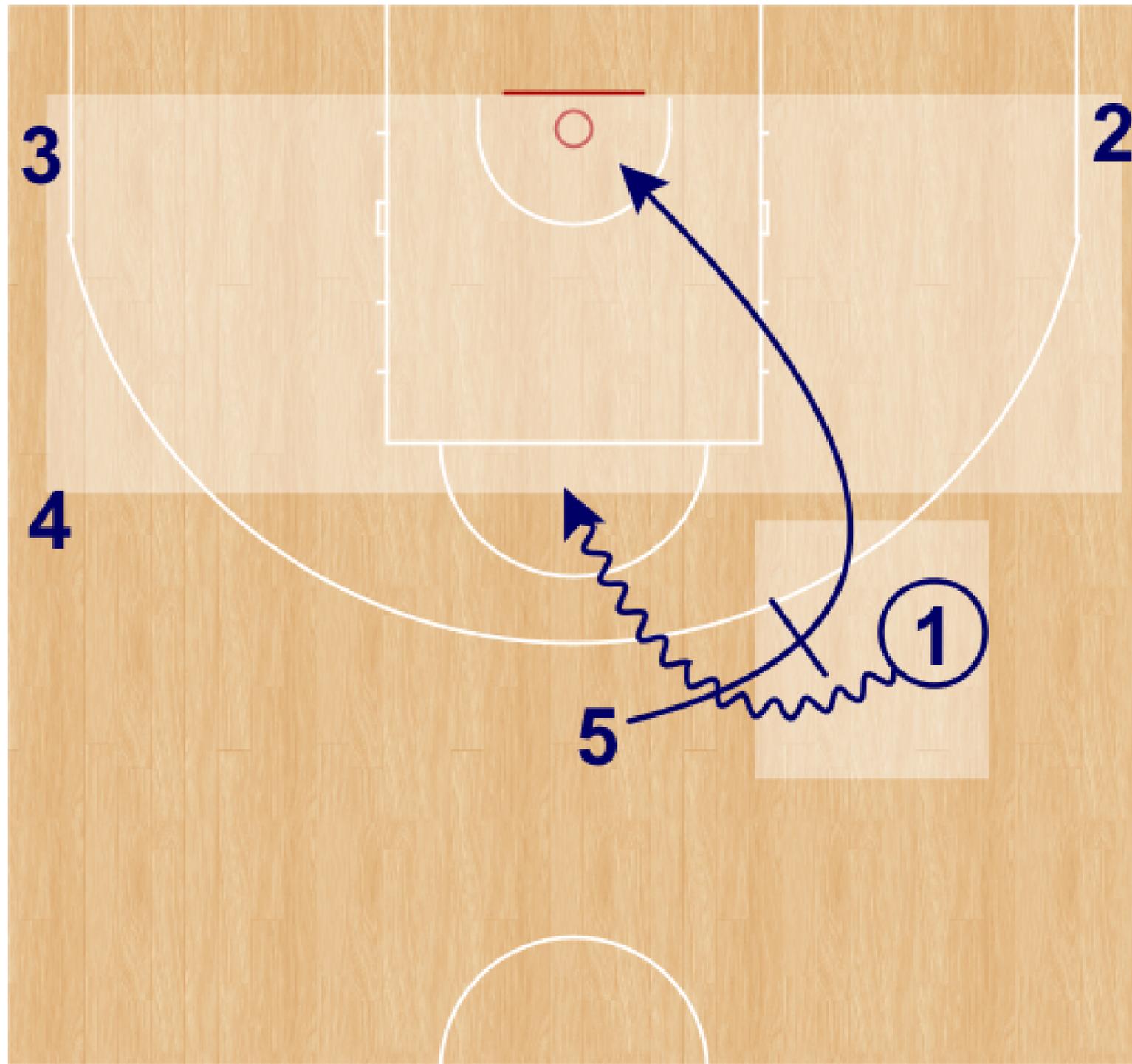
Radius Athletics Law of Space



The Law of Space

The depth of the players in the Pink Box compresses space in one area while expanding space in another.

Radius Athletics Spread Ball Screen Structures



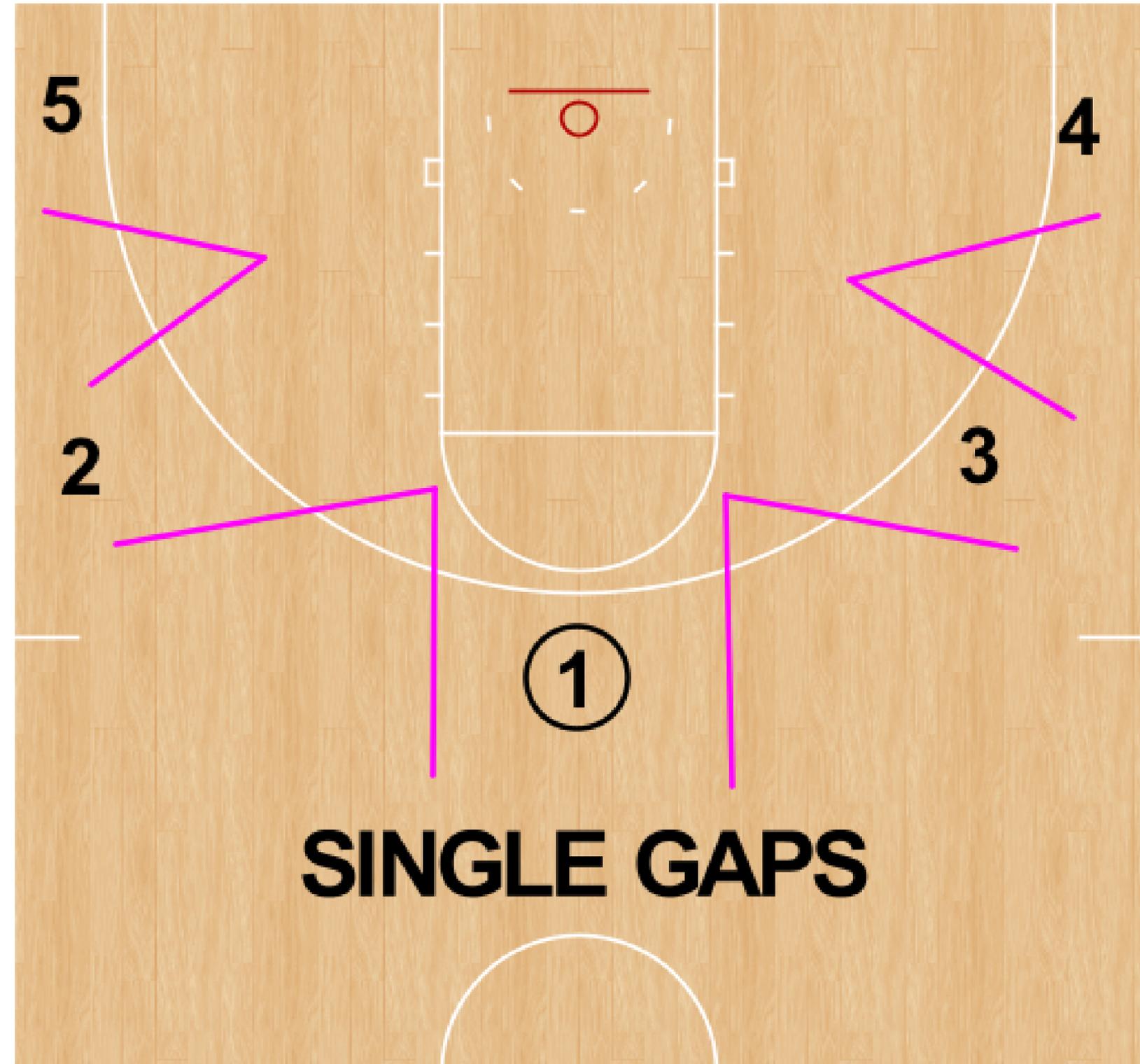
The Law of Space

Ball Screen - The compression of the players at the action leads to expansion of space out of the action.

ALIGNMENTS

5-OUT

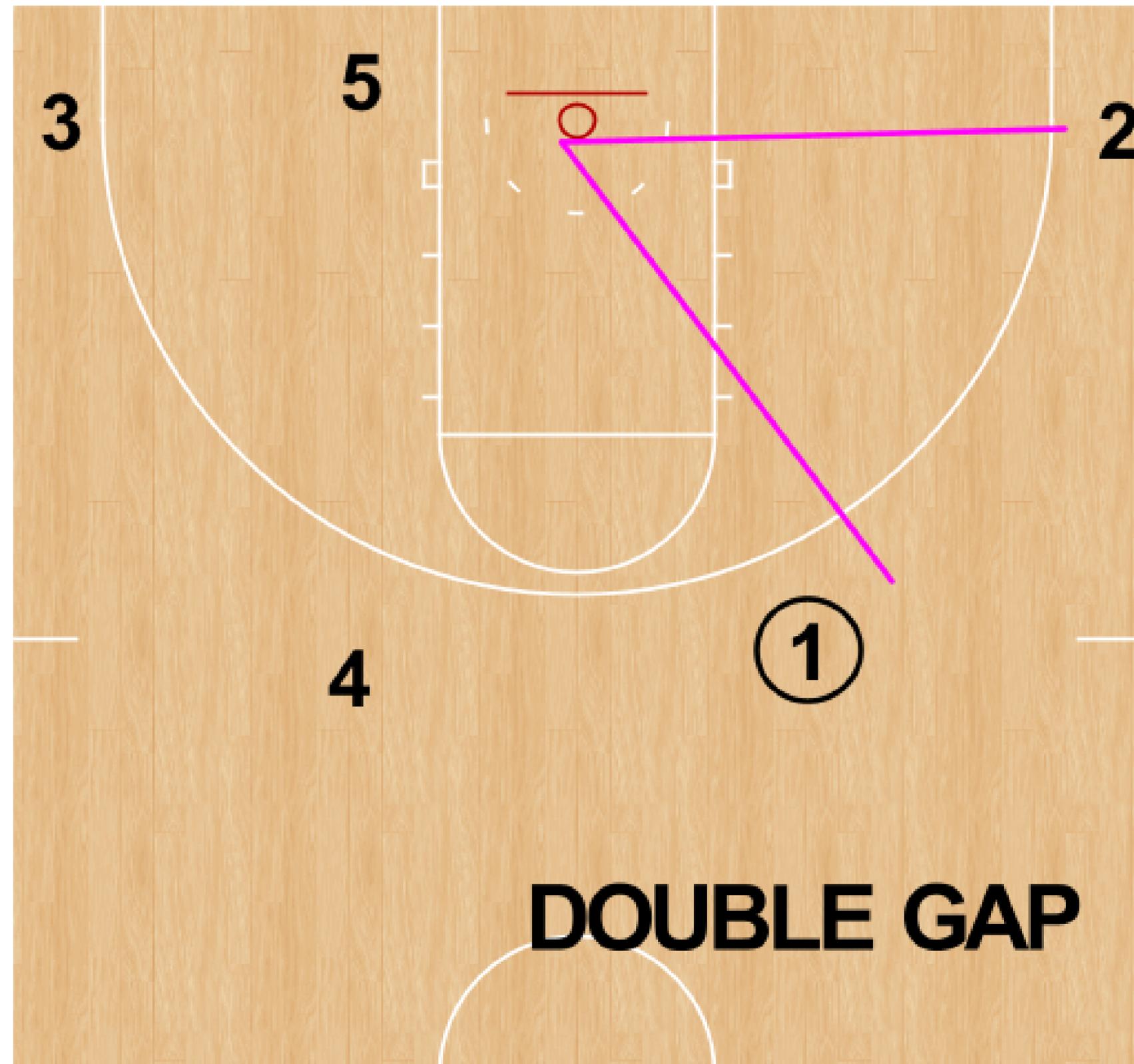
In a traditional 5-out alignment there are single gaps between each player. The space is compressed around the perimeter, but expanded in the interior. Use cutting or an action to create space.



ALIGNMENTS

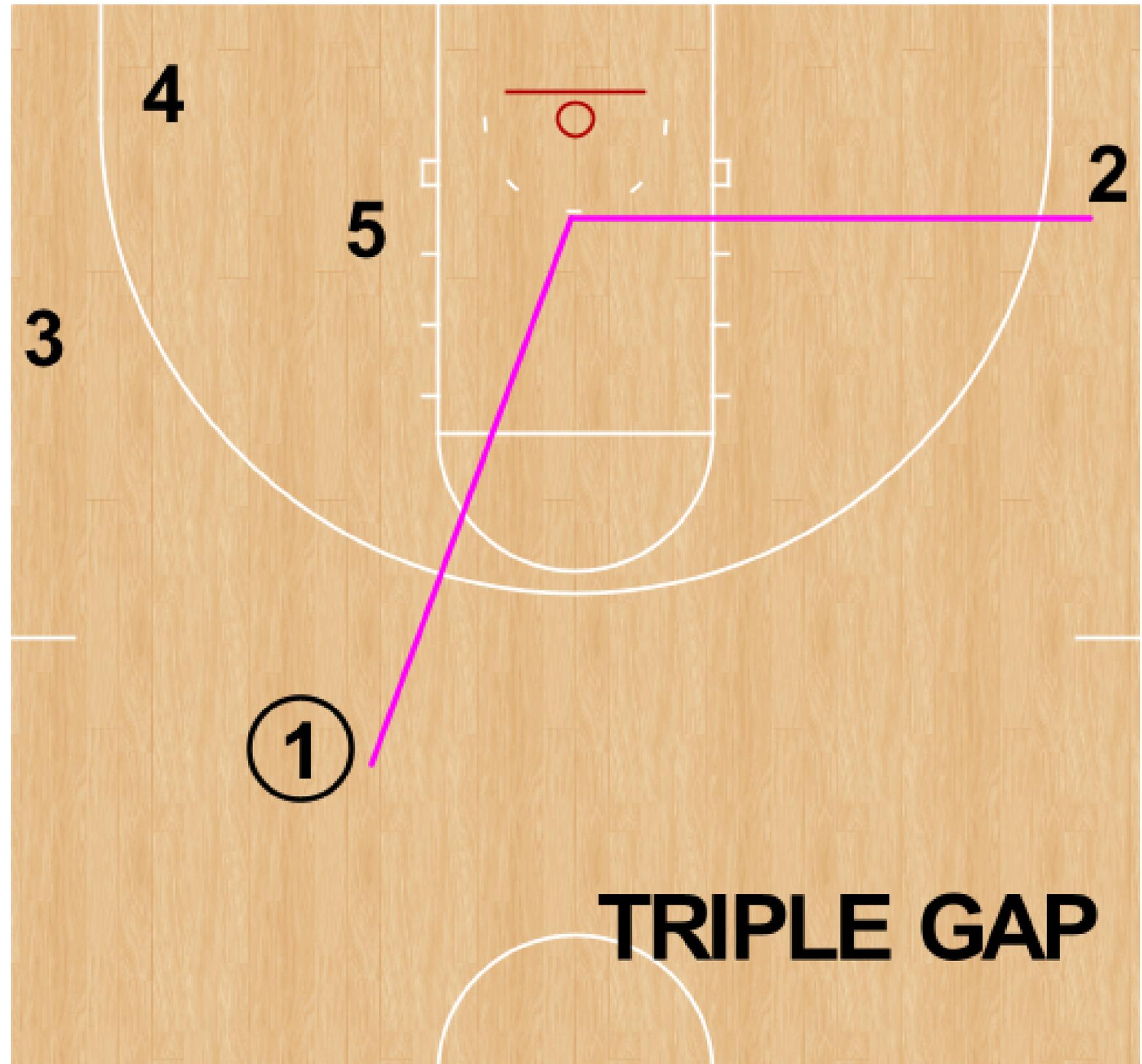
4-OUT

In this 4-Out alignment we have double gaps. The space between perimeter players is greater. Space is compressed along the baseline. There are however obstructions around the rim due to the position of Player 5.



ALIGNMENTS 4-OUT CONT.

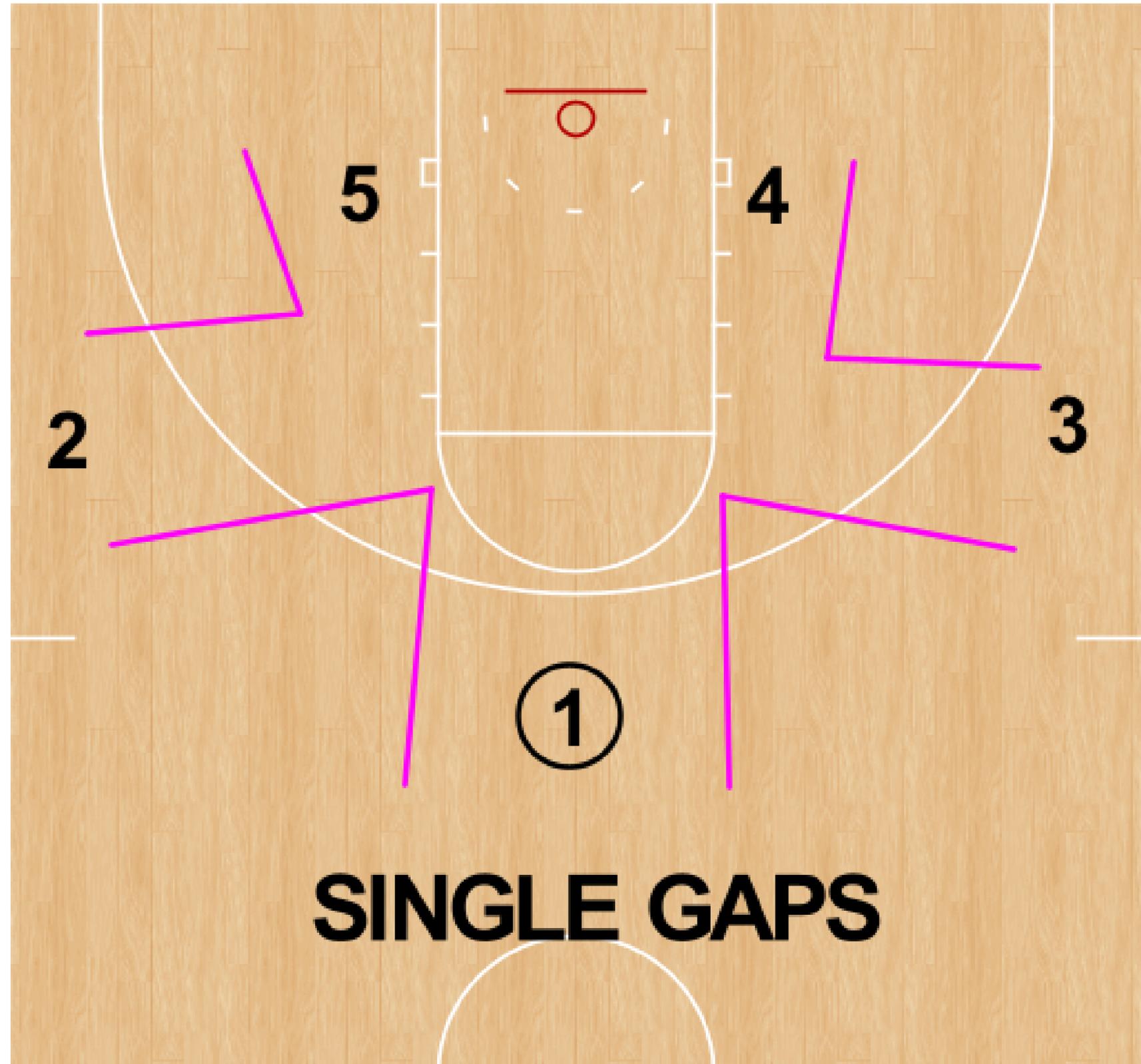
Cutting from a 4-out alignment can create triple gaps. You see Players 3, 4 and 5 compressed in one area creating space in another.



ALIGNMENTS

3-OUT 2-IN

In this alignment space is limited, obstructions exist around the rim. Cutting or movement needed to create space.

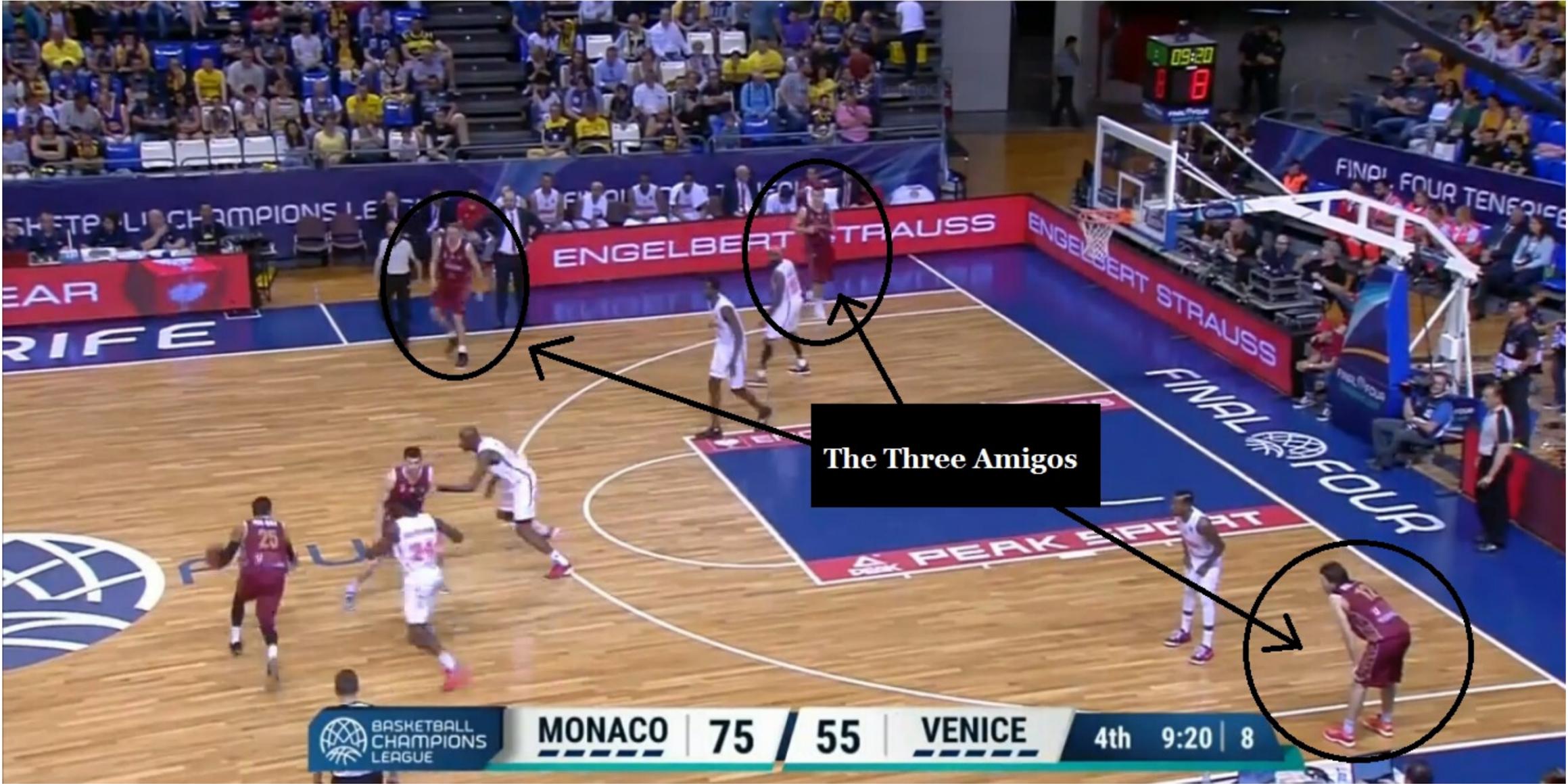


CONSIDER THE SPACING RAMIFICATIONS AND TRADEOFFS OF THE ALIGNMENT YOU CHOOSE TO PLAY FROM

Offense is about the manipulation of space.

No matter what alignment you decide upon, moving the ball, moving players and running actions all attempt to manipulate space and create disorganization of the defense.

SPREAD BALL SCREEN

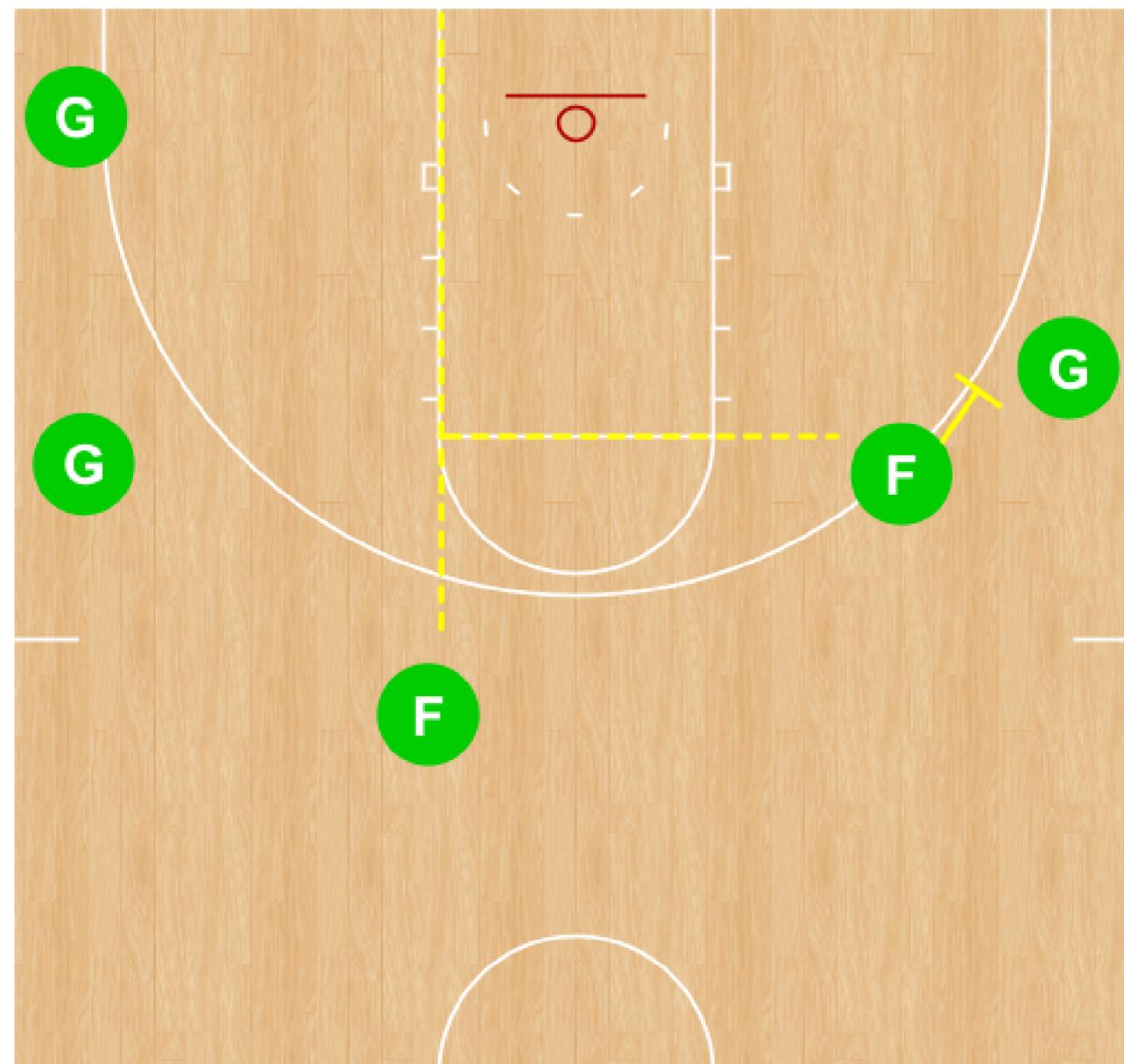


WING BALL SCREEN

Corner Player – At rim depth

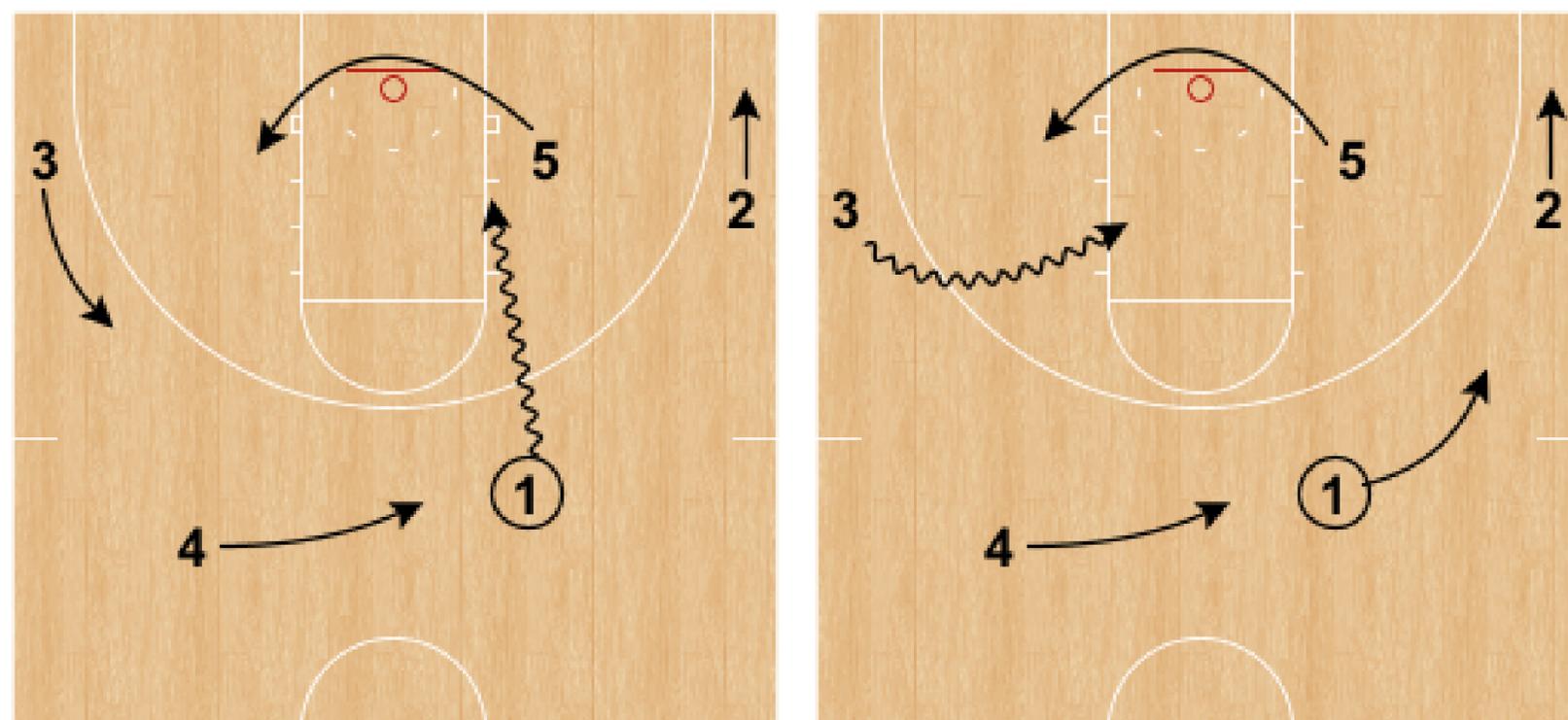
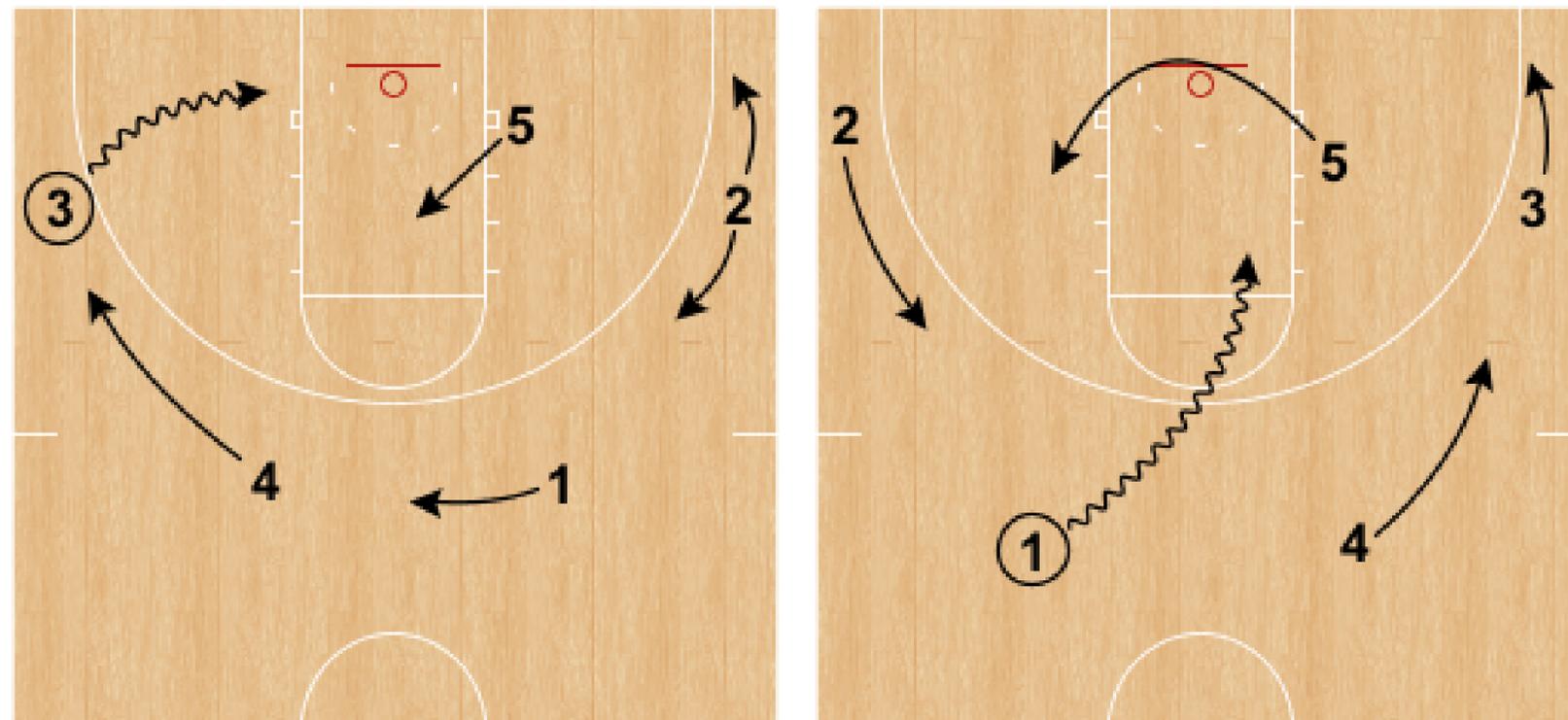
High Wing – Just above FTLE

Reversal Forward – STAY WAY! Lane line extended



Radius Athletics

Penetration Movement – Circle



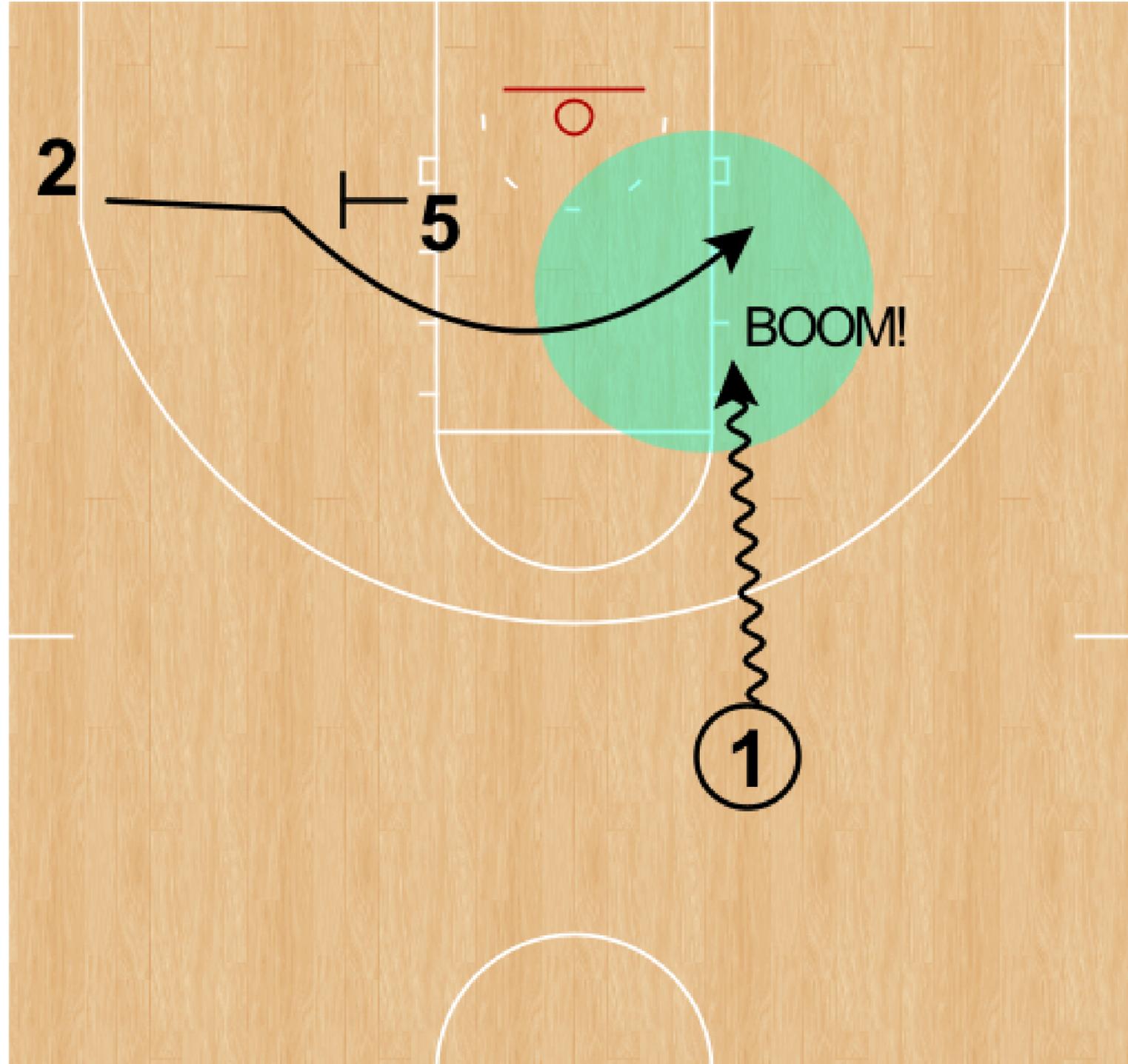
EXAMPLE OF DRIBBLE PENETRATION SPACING

Movement AROUND the arc when a player drives.

Headlights and Taillights

Radius Athletics

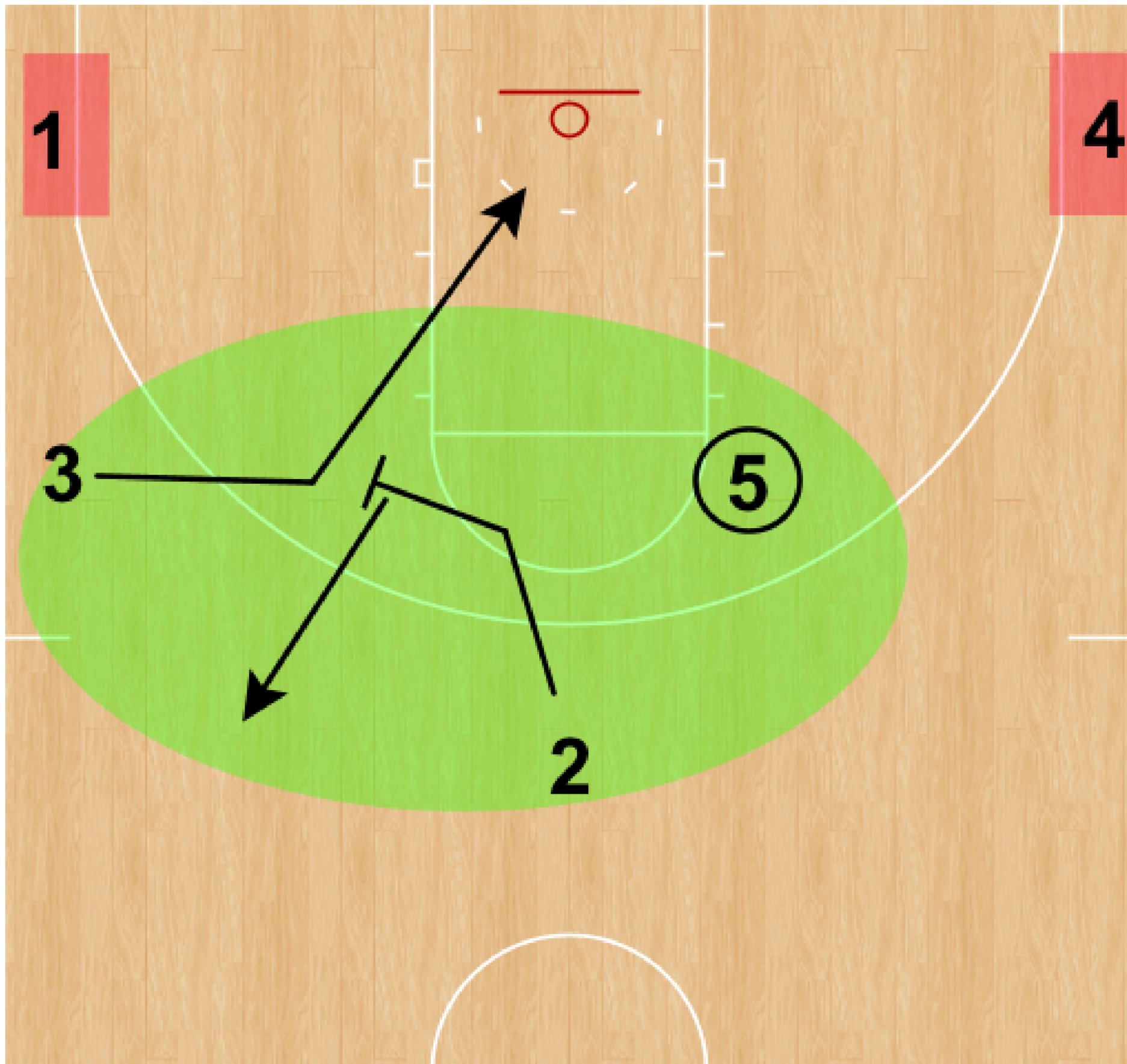
Spacing-Action Conundrum



ACTION VS. SPACING CONUNDRUM

At times, "action" comes at the expense of spacing and vice versa

Action Based or Spacing Based – hard to be both, but possible. It is a delicate balance.

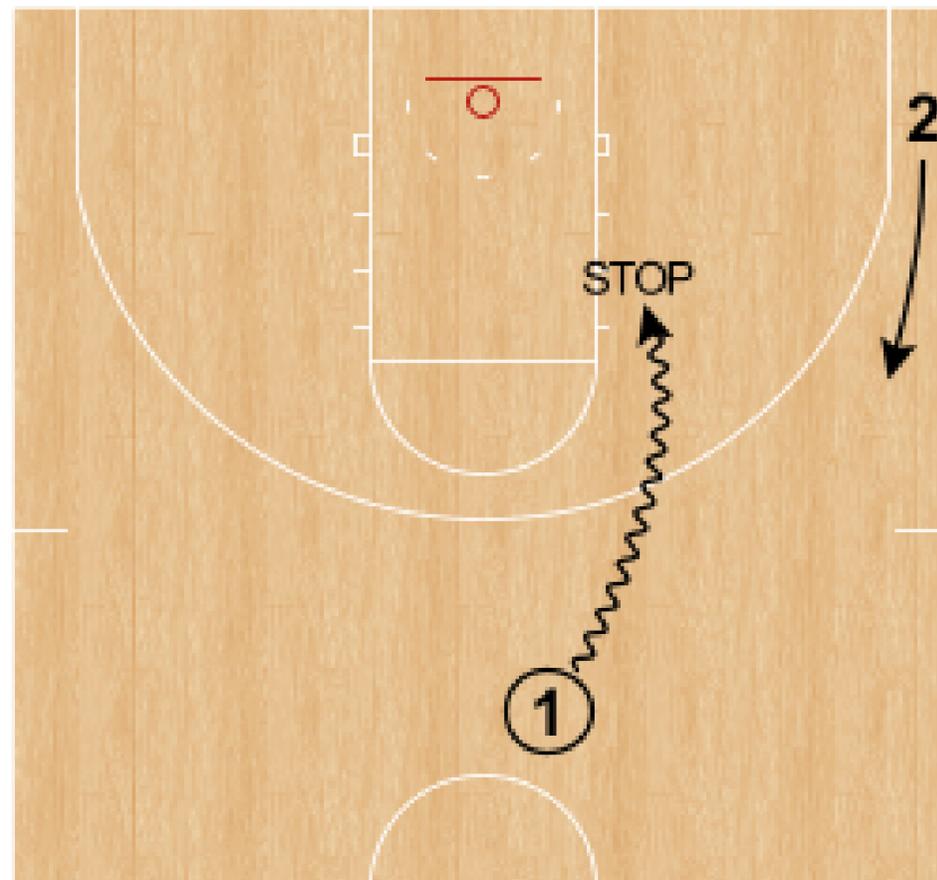
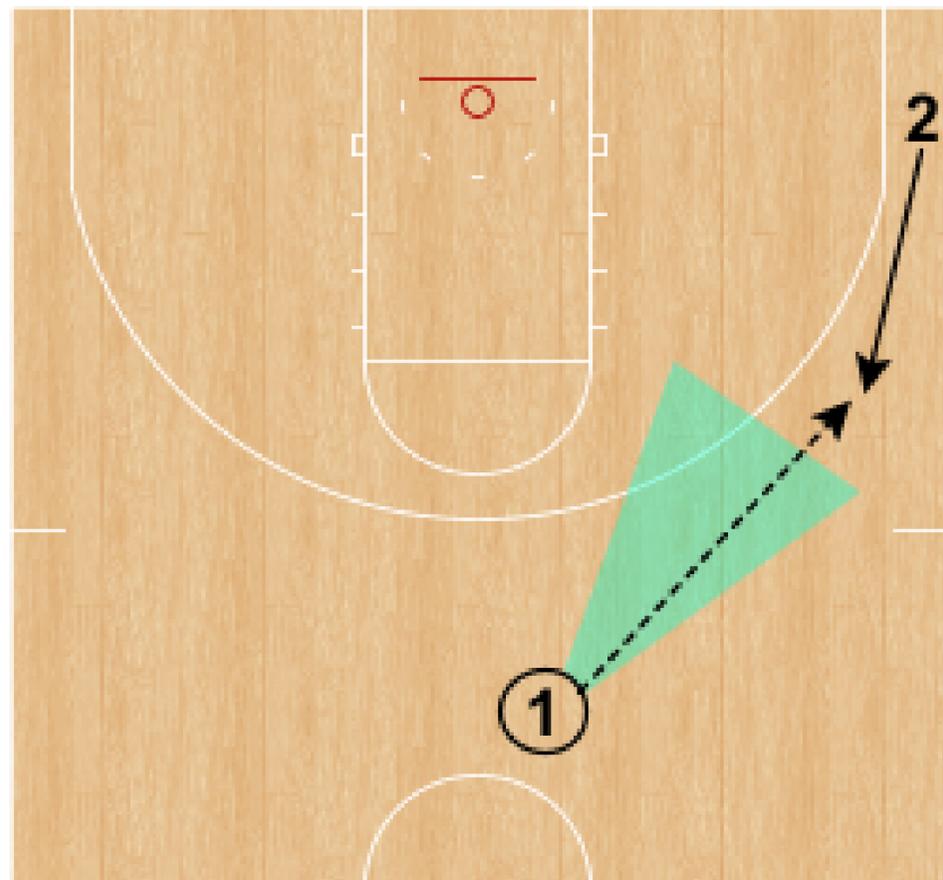
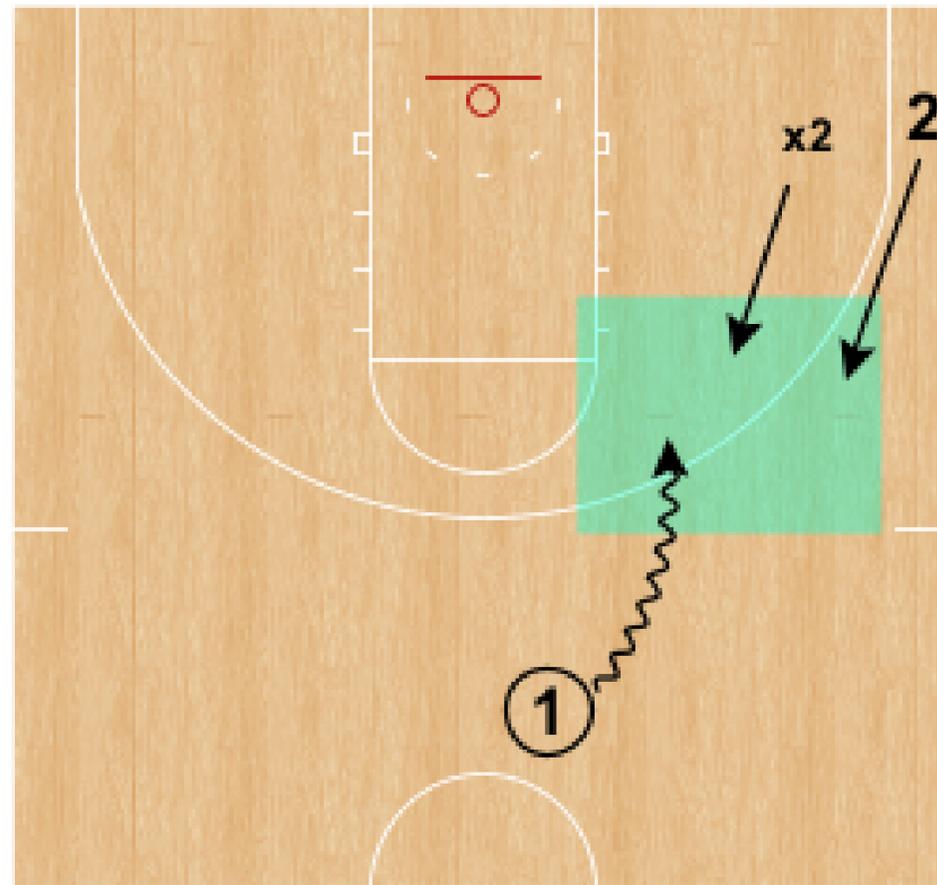
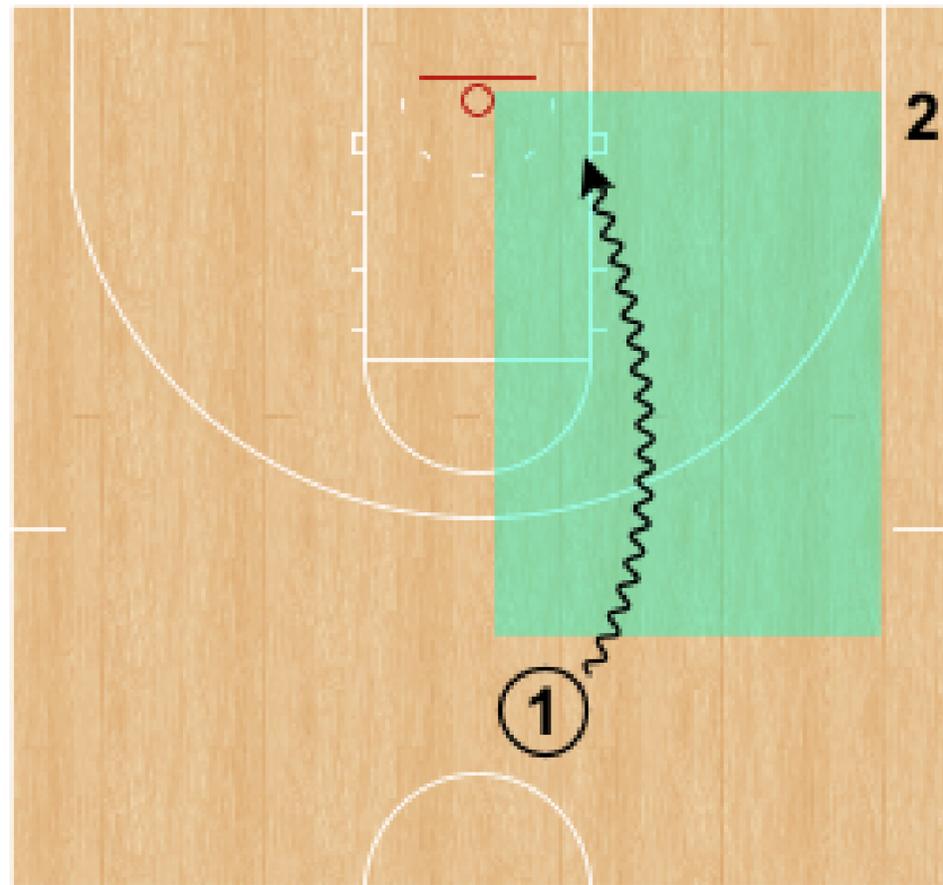


IN THE ACTION

OUT OF THE ACTION

If am out of the action, STAY OUT OF THE ACTION!

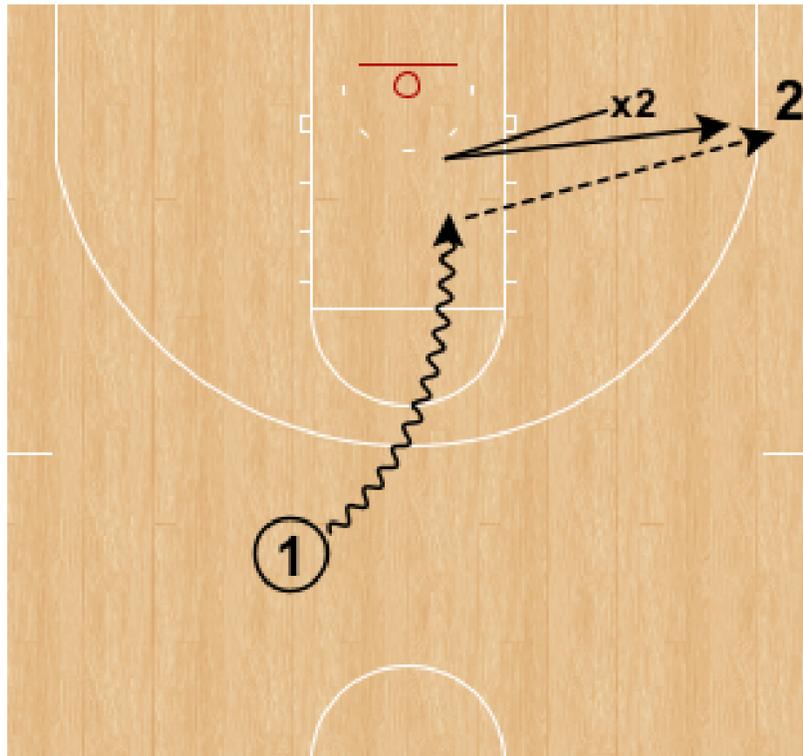
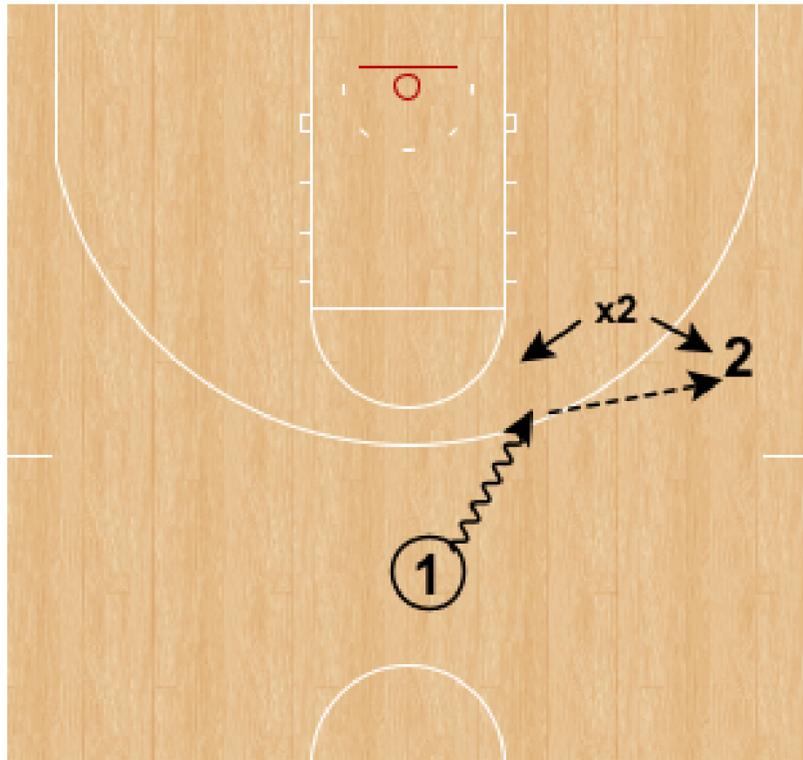
If my defender is in the action, I'm in the action!



DOES MY TEAMMATE NEED SPACE OR SUPPORT?

If my teammate needs space, give them space.

If my teammate needs support, give them support?



SPACE = TIME

TIME = SPACE

More space equals more time.

Less space means less time to see, decide and act.

Consider the Drive & Kick at left

**QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?
LET US KNOW!**

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