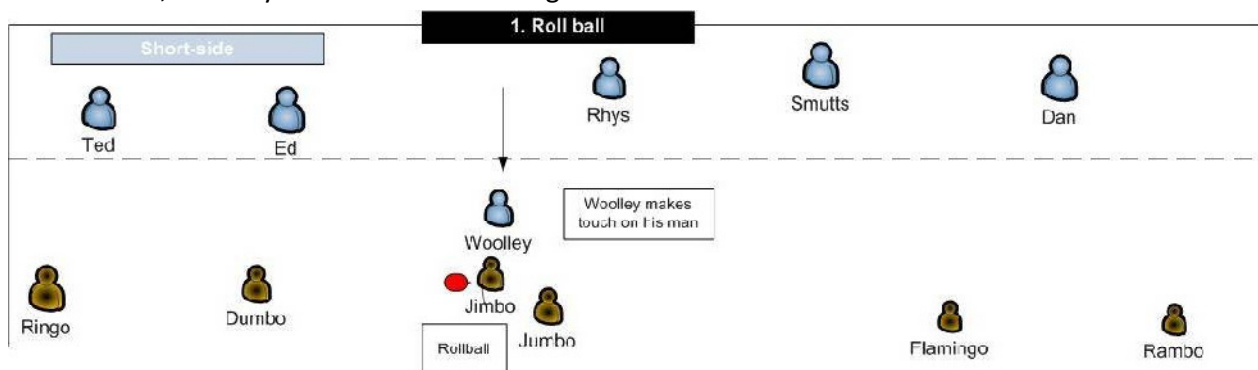


Corner/Shut Defence Policy

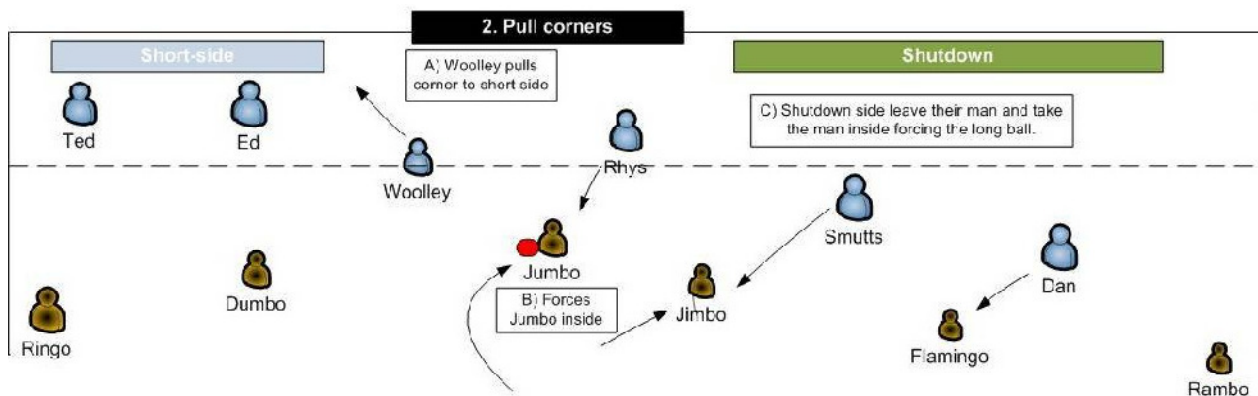


Understanding the Short Side is critical to our Shut-Down defensive policy. We enact this when we are defending from approximately 20 metres out from the line. When a player makes a touch, the side on which he has fewest fellow defenders is his short side. Looking at the diagram below from the defending (blue) team's point of view;

- Woolley makes the touch
- He has two fellow defenders to his right and three fellow defenders to his left
- Therefore, Woolley's short side is to his right



- When Woolley makes the touch he and the other short side defenders “pull a corner” – i.e. they make their 5m retreat at an approximately 45 degree angle towards the corner (intersection of score line and side line)
- This protects the short side, forcing the attackers back towards the side of the pitch where there are more defenders



- If Woolley – having pulled his corner - cannot then come up and make the touch on his man, he must call “shut.” This involves the players on the long side “shutting” the attack. They leave the attacker they were defending and blitz their inside defender's man (Rhys shuts on Woolley's; Smutts on Rhys'; Dan on Smutts')
- Whilst this leaves the attacking winger free, the only option “on” to the attackers is a long, risky pass to him. This might succeed – but there is less chance of this being executed well than a 4 on 3 through the hands
- If the long side defenders successfully “shut” and make a touch on the attackers (nullifying the overlap), they must then pull a corner as they will have just become the short side defenders by virtue of making