

# “Close the gap”

- ✓ Focus – locomotor movement
- ✓ Game Skill - affecting the touch
- ✓ Movement skill – sprinting, evasion

## P10 Explanation:

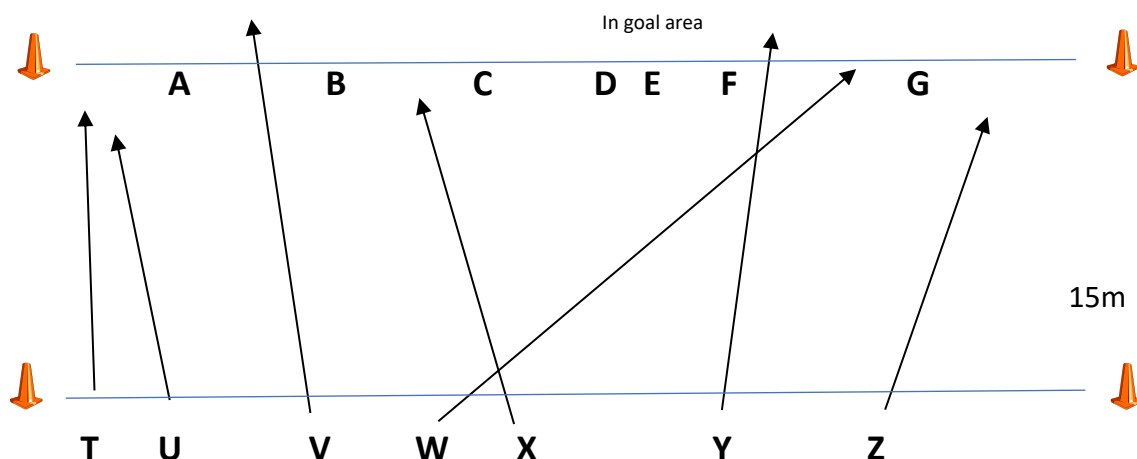
The Priority 10 concept is “defending space”. Novice players and learners need to develop an understanding that there is too much room on a touch field and that defenders need to work together to cover it. Further, being isolated as defender (on your own) is not ideal. Simply the game requires defenders to come up with better strategies to defend the space available to attackers. The game is meant to develop the concept that in touch football the best defensive strategy is to defend spaces as a group and not necessarily to defend individuals one on one (i.e. mark up)

**Equipment** – markers to define boundaries of the field.

**Game Set up** – see diagram below. Use one end of a touch field with a try line etc or 50m x 15m. (note the width can be reduced if less numbers of defenders etc.)

**Playing** – the defenders start on the try line and cannot move more than 1m from it. Attackers start at a line approximately 15m out from the score line where defenders are positioned. The object for attackers is to get through and over the try line (a score results when both feet cross the try line) without being touched by any defender. If they are touched, they must return to the 15m out line and start again. Scorers remain in the in-goal area after scoring. Each team is given a 2-minute period to get every attacker into the in-goal area. The team who scores the most tries wins. Periods of 2 minutes are at the discretion of the coach.

## Diagram



**Coach Notes** – the game reinforces the idea that being isolated in defence is not good and that a better strategy is to work together as much as possible to reduce available spaces and or the relative distances between defenders. Good communication between defenders is also essential.