

SCOTTISH FA

COVID PROTECTION LEVELS UPDATE

UNDER-18s MATCHDAY PROTOCOL

These protocols are applicable for the following ANAs

- SAFA
- SYFA
- SWF
- SWFA
- Para-Football



GUIDANCE FOR ALL

- All activity for all age groups **Under-12s and 12-17 year-olds** are permitted take place **outdoors/indoors**.
- A reminder that information on the Level 3 travel restrictions can be seen [here](#).
- All activity must be arranged to take place in an appropriately risk assessed venue.
- All activity must only be arranged by Scottish FA registered clubs (clubs registered with an appropriate Affiliated National Association).
- At no stage should groups mix and appropriate one way systems should be in place at your facility.
- Please ensure that hygiene measures are implemented at all times.
- 1 parent/carer per child is permitted to **supervise** the activity, following all COVID protocols and the following guidance:
 - At this moment in time facility providers might not be able to accommodate, please therefore be respectful of all facility providers' protocols
 - Clubs must have a COVID Officer in place to ensure that all protocols are adhered to
 - Clubs must ensure that all parents are in an area that has been marked out and is a minimum of **2 metres from the 'field of play bubble' areas**
 - A register of all those that are attending the event must be kept by the club
 - Club must ensure that a health and safety check has been carried out ensuring there is adequate space for parents to attend e.g. one way systems, hygiene stations, adequate space
- All players and participants over the age of 13, and parents/carers are advised to undertake a [COVID-19 eLearning](#) course if they or their children are to participate in sports training, competitions and other events.

UNDER-12S – TRAINING/MATCH PLAY GUIDANCE

The Scottish Government and **sportscotland** guidance for children under the age of 12 permits participation in **outdoor contact group activity**. **sportscotland** full Level 3 guidance can be found [here](#).

We would urge everyone to adhere to the following guidance:

- **Contact activity for this age group is permitted**, however physical distancing should be in place before and after activity
- Parents/carers can take a young person under the age of 18 out of their Local Authority area for their organised activity
- Physical distancing is necessary for coaches at all times
- Appropriate player to coach ratios must be in place, the officials must have a valid PVG and officials should include a qualified COVID Officer and First Aider
- It is recommended for safety and quality of delivery not to exceed 90 participants on a full size pitch
- All numbers refer to maximum 'field of play bubbles'. This includes players, coaches and officials subject to appropriate ratios.
 - U12s - for example organised Match Day areas:
 - 30 within a 1/3 size pitch area
 - 40 within a 1/2 size pitch area
- It is recommended that for 7s or 9s activity the relevant pitch size is utilised for Match Play between clubs and there is adequate space between pitches e.g. 2 metres per pitch
- Inter-club matches or festivals are permitted at this stage but numbers must not exceed the playing bubble (as per Player Pathway, all festivals should be trophy free)
- Individual playing bubbles can't mix at this stage and adequate space must be in place
- It is recommended to ensure that there is adequate time between each training/match play activity to ensure groups don't mix.

12-17 YEARS TRAINING/MATCH PLAY GUIDANCE

The Scottish Government and sportscotland guidance regarding children aged between 12-17 permits participation in **outdoor contact group activity**. sportscotland full Level 3 guidance can be found [here](#).

- We would urge everyone to adhere to the following guidance for Match Play situations:
- **Contact activity for this age group is permitted**, however physical distancing should be in place before and after activity
- Parents/carers can take a young person under the age of 18 out of their Local Authority area for their organised activity
- Physical distancing is necessary for coaches at all times
- Activity can consist of a maximum Match Play bubble, for both clubs, of 40 which includes all players, coaches and other officials, ensuring all adequate measure are followed in terms of space and suitable facility.
- All activity must follow the National Player Pathway.
- Appropriate player to coach ratios must be in place, the officials must have a valid PVG and officials should include a qualified COVID Officer and First Aider
- The match officials would be an additional member to the bubble making the total playing bubble 41
- Inter-club matches or festivals are permitted at this stage but numbers must not exceed the playing bubble
- Individual playing bubbles can't mix at this stage and adequate space must be in place
- It is recommended to ensure that there is adequate time between each training/match play activity to ensure groups don't mix.

CHILD WELLBEING & PROTECTION

- All football activities involving Children & Young People must involve a minimum of two adults in line with Scottish Football's Child Wellbeing and Protection Policy and practice note on 'Planning and Organisation'. Child Wellbeing & Protection Policy here: <https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish-fa/wellbeing-protection/child-wellbeing-and-protection-policy/>
- Under the Scottish Government's route map and in line with the above policy, the following must be adhered to when any football activity is undertaken with children:
 - All coaches/staff/volunteers involved in any regulated activity must have undertaken the appointment & selection procedures including completion of the PVG membership scheme via the relevant Affiliated National Association.
 - Coaches/staff/volunteers involved in any football activity can only coach within their own club setting and with players registered to that organisation.
 - All coaches/staff/volunteers must undertake relevant child wellbeing & protection training and agree to a Code of Conduct.
 - Ensure that the club's Child Wellbeing & Protection Officer is in place and available to respond to concerns as and when required - Activity shouldn't commence without a CWPO in place.
 - All activities must be fully risk assessed in advance with the relevant club insurance in place.
 - It is encouraged where possible to play matches outdoors.
 - Coaches and instructors working with children should familiarise themselves with the additional considerations developed by Children 1st: Child Wellbeing and Protection Considerations here: <http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/media/5774/cyp-return-to-sport-after-covid-19.pdf>.
 - More information on child wellbeing & protection for clubs can be found on the Scottish FA's Website. See here: <https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish-fa/wellbeing-protection/information-for-clubs/>

ROLE OF THE FACILITY OPERATOR



OWNER/OPERATOR CHECKLIST

- All facility owners and operators must familiarise themselves with the guidance that is freely available via the dedicated section on the **sportscotland** website:
<https://sportscotland.org.uk/COVID/getting-your-facilities-fit-for-sport/>
- Together with general facility guidance, there are specific operational guides for both indoor and outdoor environments and links to further resources. This comprehensive suite of documents contains important information on the various steps and measures to be implemented to ensure a safe return for all football activities. The individual documents can be found at the following links:
- Getting Your Facilities Fit For Sport:
https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/6012/getting_your_facilities_fit_for_sport_aug_2020.pdf
- Getting Your Facilities Fit For Sport - Resources:
<https://sportscotland.org.uk/COVID/getting-your-facilities-fit-for-sport-resources/>
- Getting Your Facilities Fit For Sport - Operational Guide - Sports Courts & Pitches:
https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/6009/sports_courts_pitches_gyfffs_info_sheet.pdf
- Getting Your Facilities Fit For Sport - Operational Guide - Sports Halls:
https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/6010/sports_halls_gyfffs_info_sheet.pdf

IF YOU OWN/OPERATE A FACILITY

- If you own or operate your own facility, you must ensure that all users are aware of and adhere to your protocols.
- Please ensure that you share your protocols with all users and ensure that the facility has clear and suitable signage.
- Owners/Operators must be aware of all facility criteria with regards football competitions and leagues and ensure that your facility is compliant, before confirming a booking with a club.
- Please ensure that your bookings are timed accordingly - i.e. buffer periods between training sessions and staggered kick offs for matches - to avoid any 'bottlenecks' or excessive numbers of adults and children between training sessions and games.

IF YOU HIRE OR LEASE A FACILITY

- If you hire or lease a facility, you must ensure that all of your users are aware of and adhere to the facility protocols.
- Please ensure that you share these protocols with all your users and ensure that you follow facility signage.
- You must be aware of all facility criteria with regards football competitions and leagues and ensure that your facility is compliant, before confirming a booking.
- Please ensure that your bookings are timed accordingly - i.e. buffer periods between training sessions and staggered kick offs for matches - to avoid any 'bottlenecks' or excessive numbers of adults and children between training sessions and games

ROLE OF THE LEAGUE



ROLE OF THE LEAGUE

- Leagues have responsibility to ensure that all clubs/teams participating in planned activity follow the appropriate Match Day protocols. These protocols must be adhered to throughout any planned activity.
- Where match play is allowed, all leagues must organise match fixtures in accordance with travel restrictions highlighted in Scottish Government COVID Protection Levels document and arrange matches to be played as locally as possible.
- All leagues must ensure that all participating clubs/teams have a trained COVID Officer in place during planned activity.
- All small sided league providers that are planning any festival based activity will be required to provide a 'risk assessment' <https://www.scottishfa.co.uk/media/6500/risk-assessment-exmpample.pdf> to their relevant ANA prior to commencing activity.
- All small sided leagues that are planning festival based activity, must ensure as part of the 'risk assessment' process, that there is adequate staggered 'kick off' times and sufficient space between different 'bubbles' taking part.
- All small sided league leagues that are planning festival based activity and using any public/private hired facilities must ensure that they have in place all the relevant risk assessments in place and have relevant COVID signage in place to manage exit, entry and car parking.
- All small sided league leagues will be required to appoint a trained COVID Coordinator, who will be responsible for ensuring all Match Day protocols are adhered to.
- The COVID-19 Coordinator will be present during all activity.
- Currently no spectators and/or parents should attend any activity; please check out the Child Wellbeing guidelines for further information.

MATCHDAY RUNNING ORDER

Example applicable
to 11 v 11 only



MATCHDAY RUNNING ORDER

Before matchday:

- Home COVID Officer/Club Official to contact the opposition club official in line with ANA/League Association prior to the game and discuss:
- Arrival areas & Car Parking.
- Pitch Set Up (including the 2m zone round the pitch).
- Changing room set-up's (if applicable).
- Warm up areas.
- Explain signage to limit people congregating.

Matchday - on arrival:

- All players/officials should stay in cars/buses until instructed to move to agreed area.
- All players/officials should physically distance on route to agreed areas.
- All players must follow all changing area guidance.
- Once changed, all players should move to the designated warm up area maintaining 2m physical distance whilst doing so.
- Players & Team Officials are reminded that they should remain at least 2m from the Match Officials during any communications.

MATCHDAY RUNNING ORDER

Matchday - Warm Up:

- Players from each side should enter the 'playing area' to commence the warm up.
- At this stage both sides should remain in their respective bubbles.
- Match Officials will warm up in the agreed area.
- Once the warm up is complete, all substitutes and team officials leave the field of play, maintaining 2m physical distance at all times within the designated players and officials area(s)

Matchday - Half Time

- Only the Team Officials from each side should enter the field of play with the participating players.

Matchday - Full Time:

- Teams should return to agreed half of the park.
- All players and team officials should maintain 2m physical distance.
- Away team leaves the pitch first maintaining 2m physical distance.
- Home team then leave the pitch maintaining 2m physical distance.
- Officials are last to leave the pitch maintaining 2m physical distance.
- Teams should leave the facilities as quickly as possible.

EXAMPLE MATCH PLAY PITCH SET UP

4v4

5v5

7v7

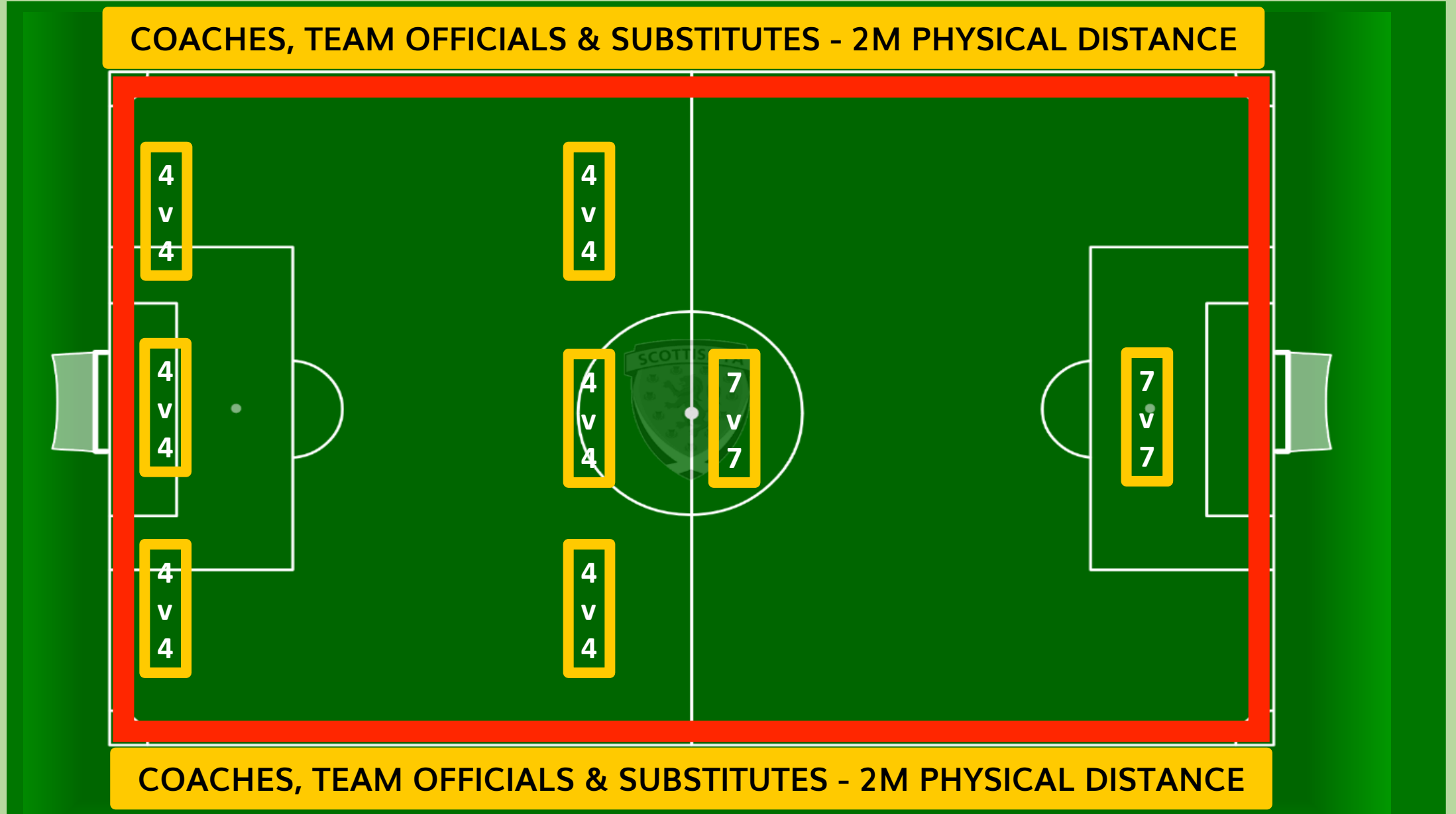
9v9

11v11



MATCHDAY ZONES

PLAYERS & MATCH OFFICIALS - COACHES, TEAM OFFICIALS & SUBS - ACCESS ONLY



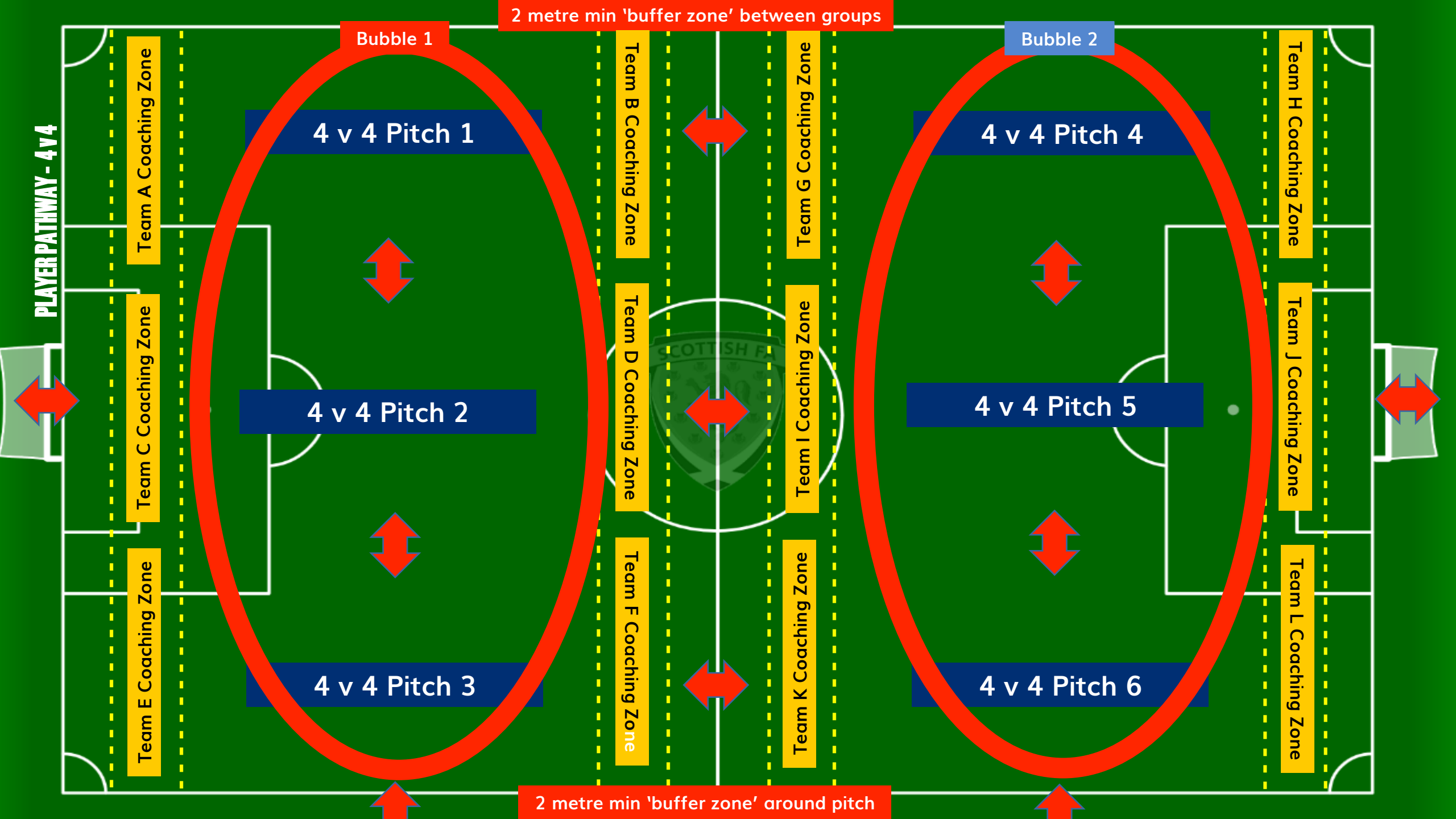
MATCHDAY CHECKLIST – GENERAL UNDER 18s

- Ensure maximum numbers do not exceed those for each game format.
- Ensure an accurate register, including contact details, is kept for EVERY matchday. This register should be held by both the Club COVID Coordinator and Team COVID Officer for the period stated in current Scottish Government guidelines.
- Ensure there are enough first aid qualified officials and adequate first aid provision to cover all matches.
- As far as possible, ensure equal game time for all players included in a matchday squad.
- Players MUST bring their own water bottle clearly marked to ensure no sharing, and all playing kit.
- Ensure players touch or share as few items of equipment as possible over the course of a matchday.
- Ensure players know to have used the toilet and washed their hands before leaving home on a matchday.
- Above all else, make sure everyone involved is safe and having fun!

EXAMPLE MATCH PLAY PITCH SET UP

4v4





Bubble 1

2 metre min 'buffer zone' between groups

Bubble 2

4 v 4 Pitch 1

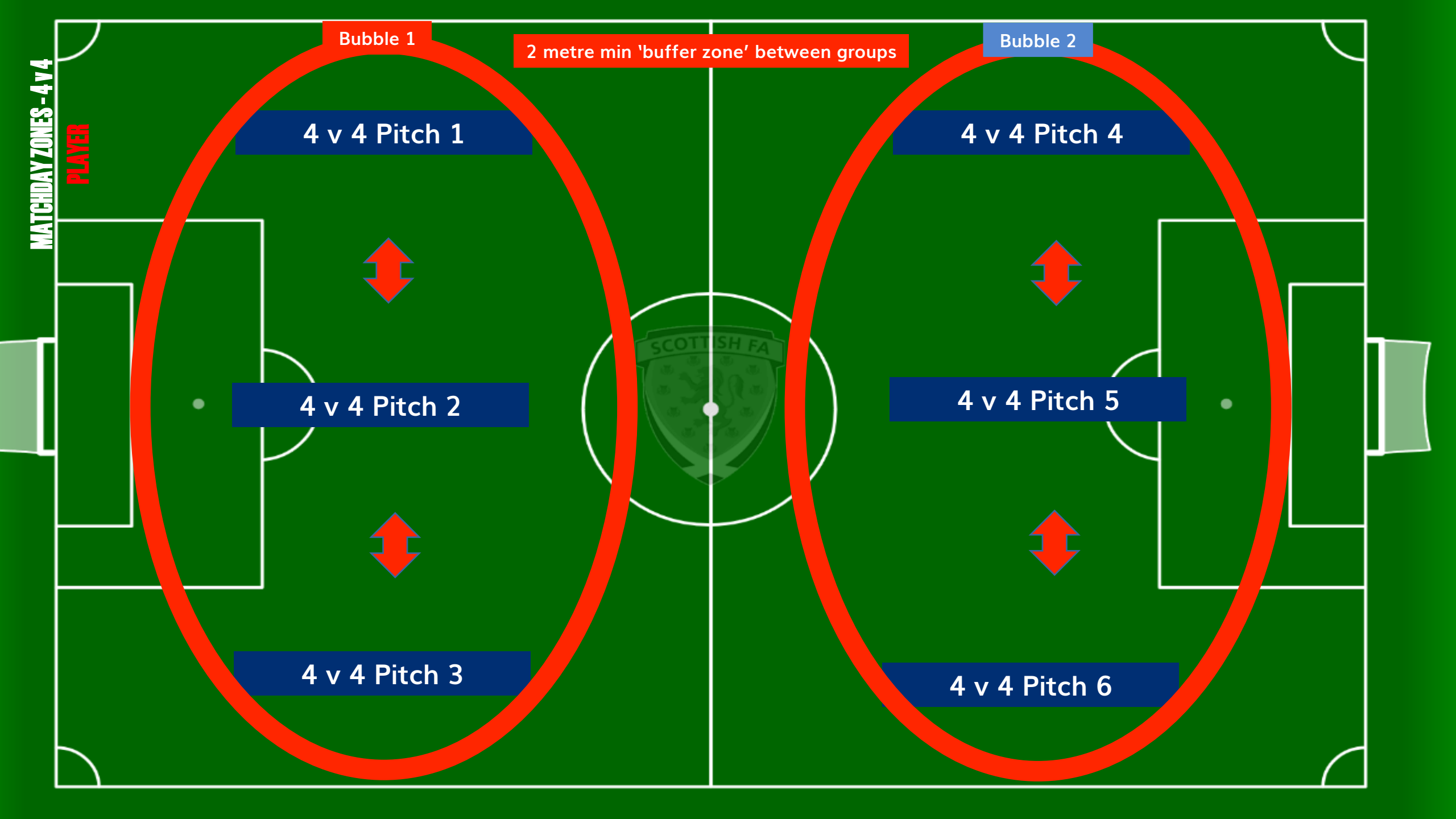
4 v 4 Pitch 4

4 v 4 Pitch 2

4 v 4 Pitch 5

4 v 4 Pitch 3

4 v 4 Pitch 6



Bubble 1

4 v 4 Pitch 1

4 v 4 Pitch 2

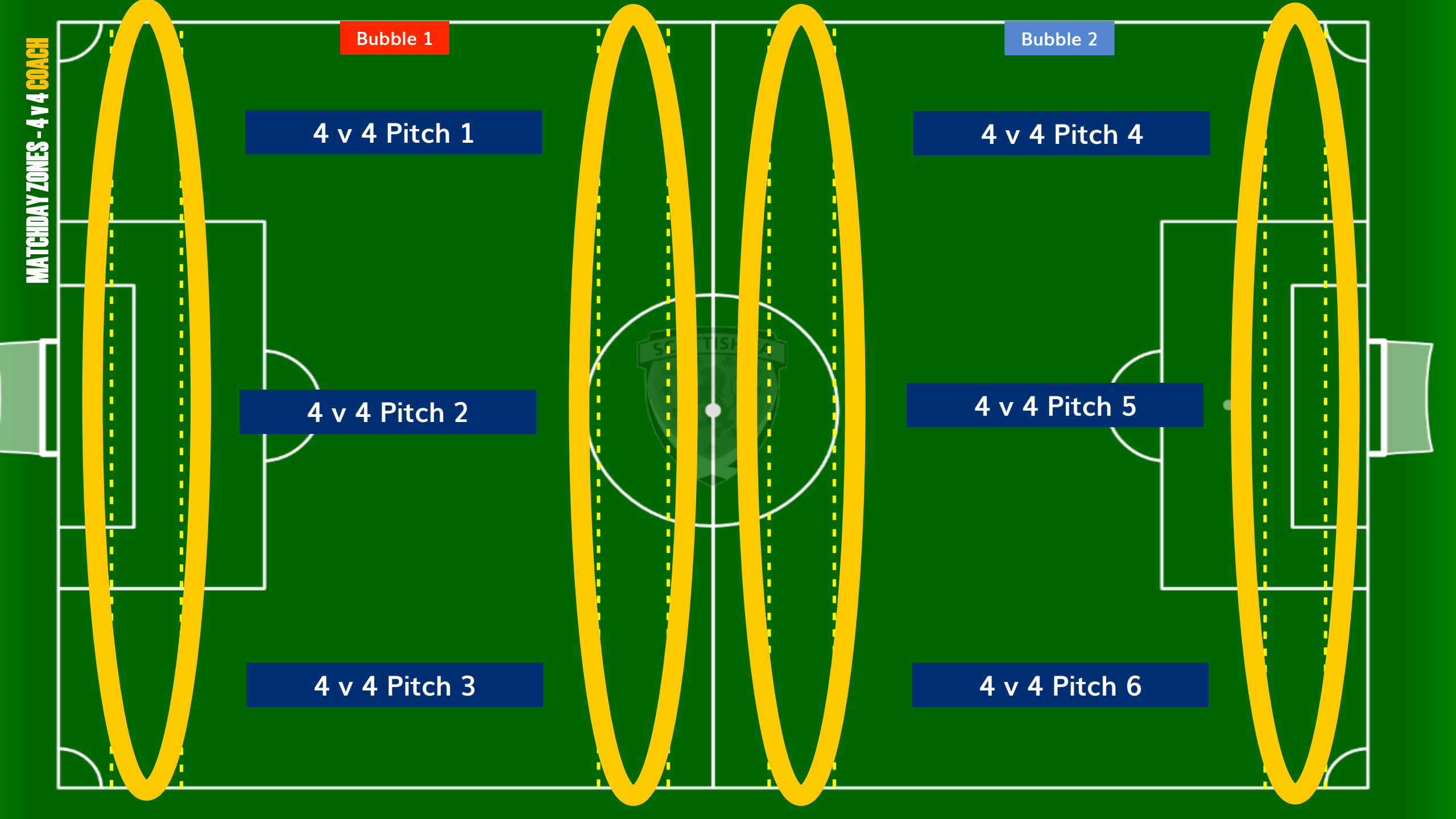
4 v 4 Pitch 3

Bubble 2

4 v 4 Pitch 4

4 v 4 Pitch 5

4 v 4 Pitch 6

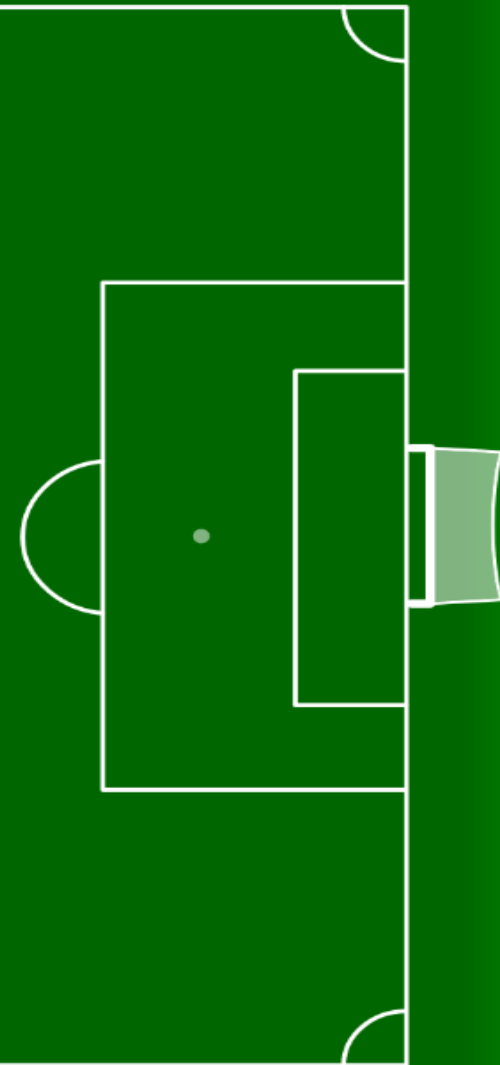
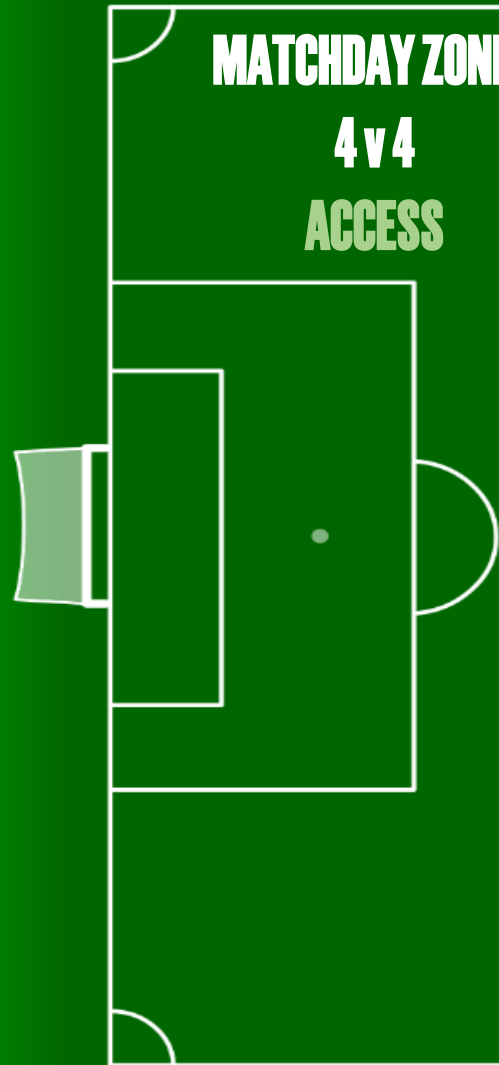


MATCHDAY ZONES

4v4

ACCESS

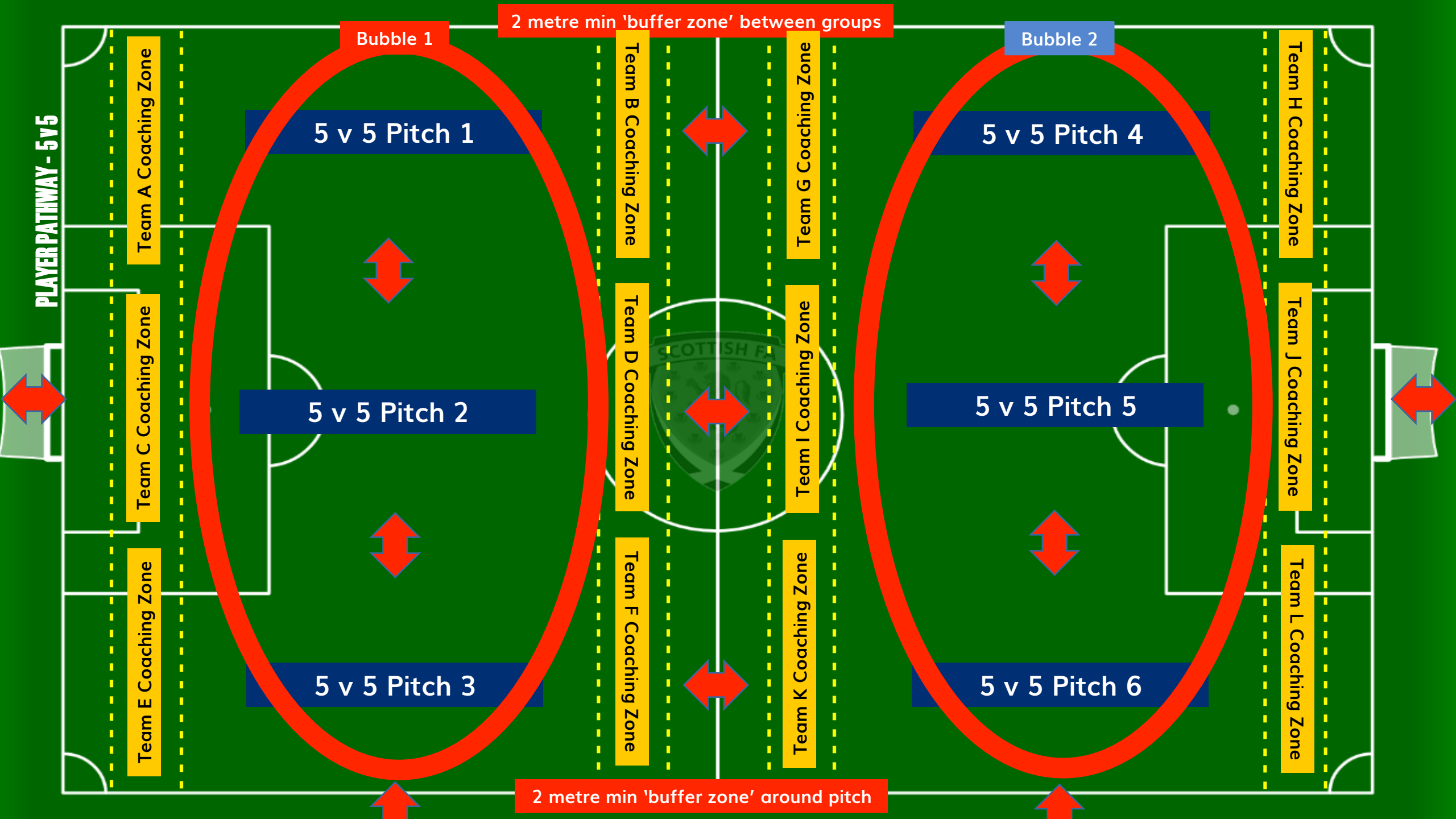
**PLEASE RETAIN 2M
PHYSICAL DISTANCE
ON ENTERING AND
LEAVING THE
FACILITY**

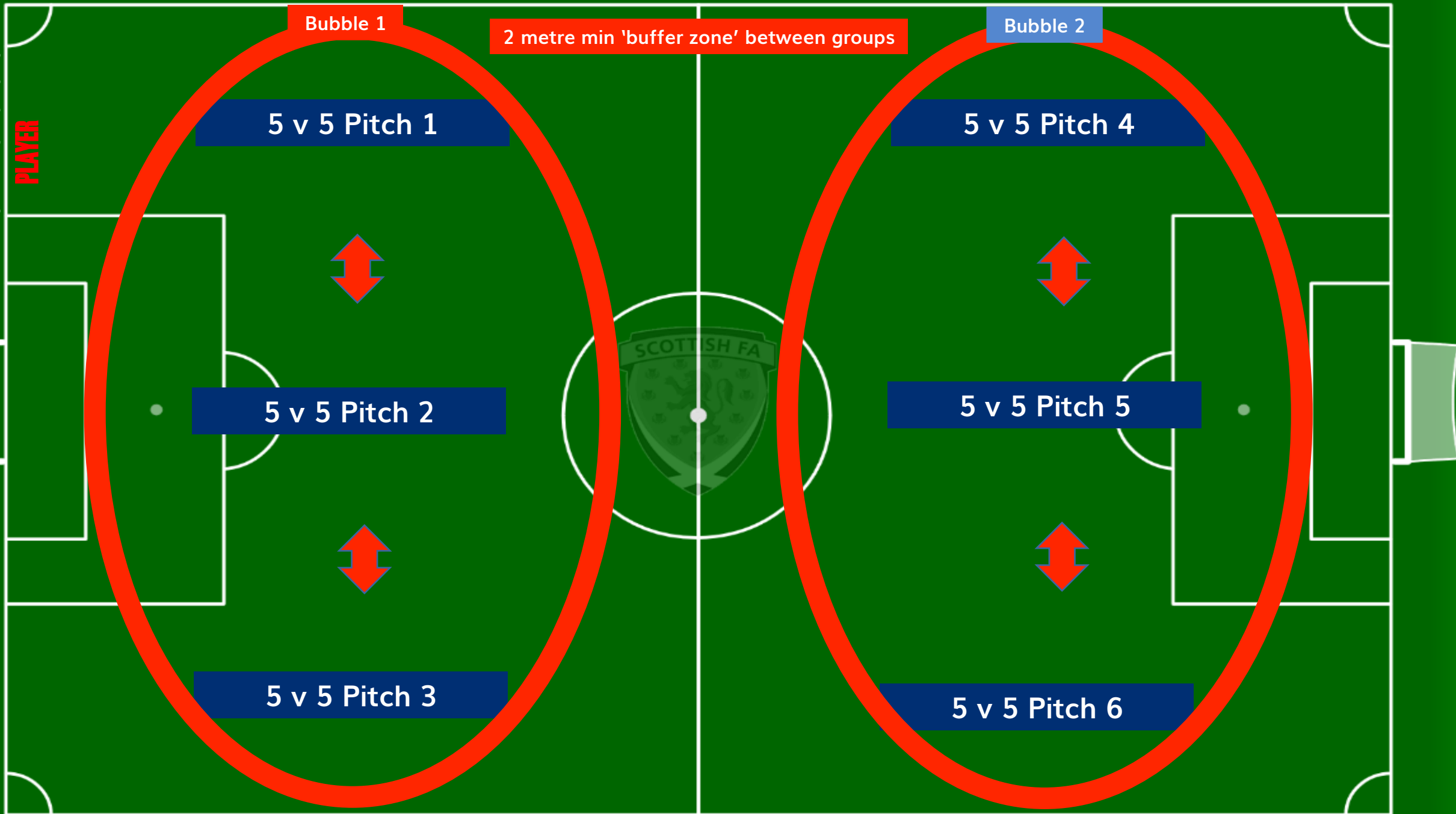


EXAMPLE MATCH PLAY PITCH SET UP

5v5







Bubble 1

5 v 5 Pitch 1

5 v 5 Pitch 2

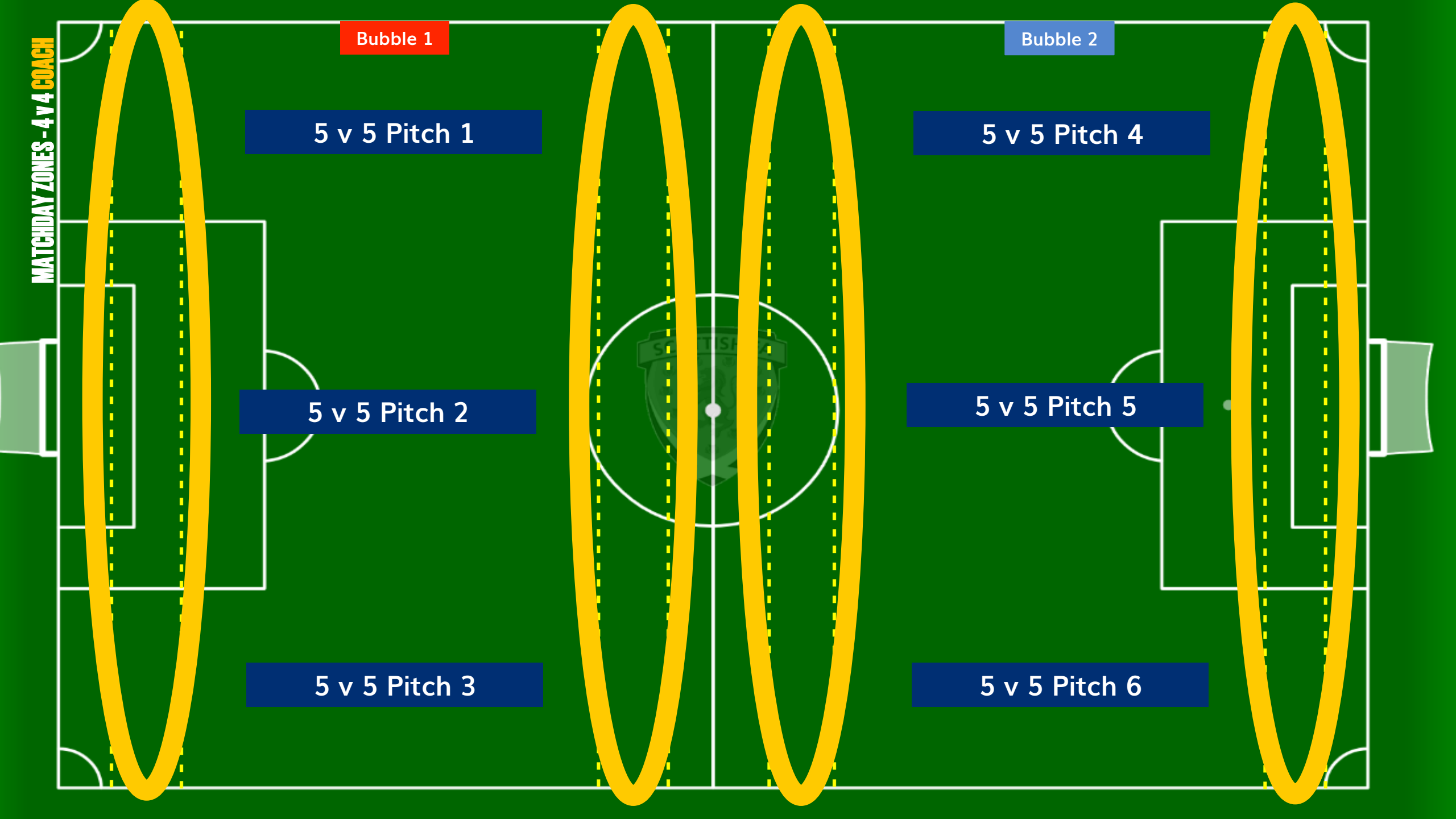
5 v 5 Pitch 3

Bubble 2

5 v 5 Pitch 4

5 v 5 Pitch 5

5 v 5 Pitch 6



MATCHDAY ZONES

4v4

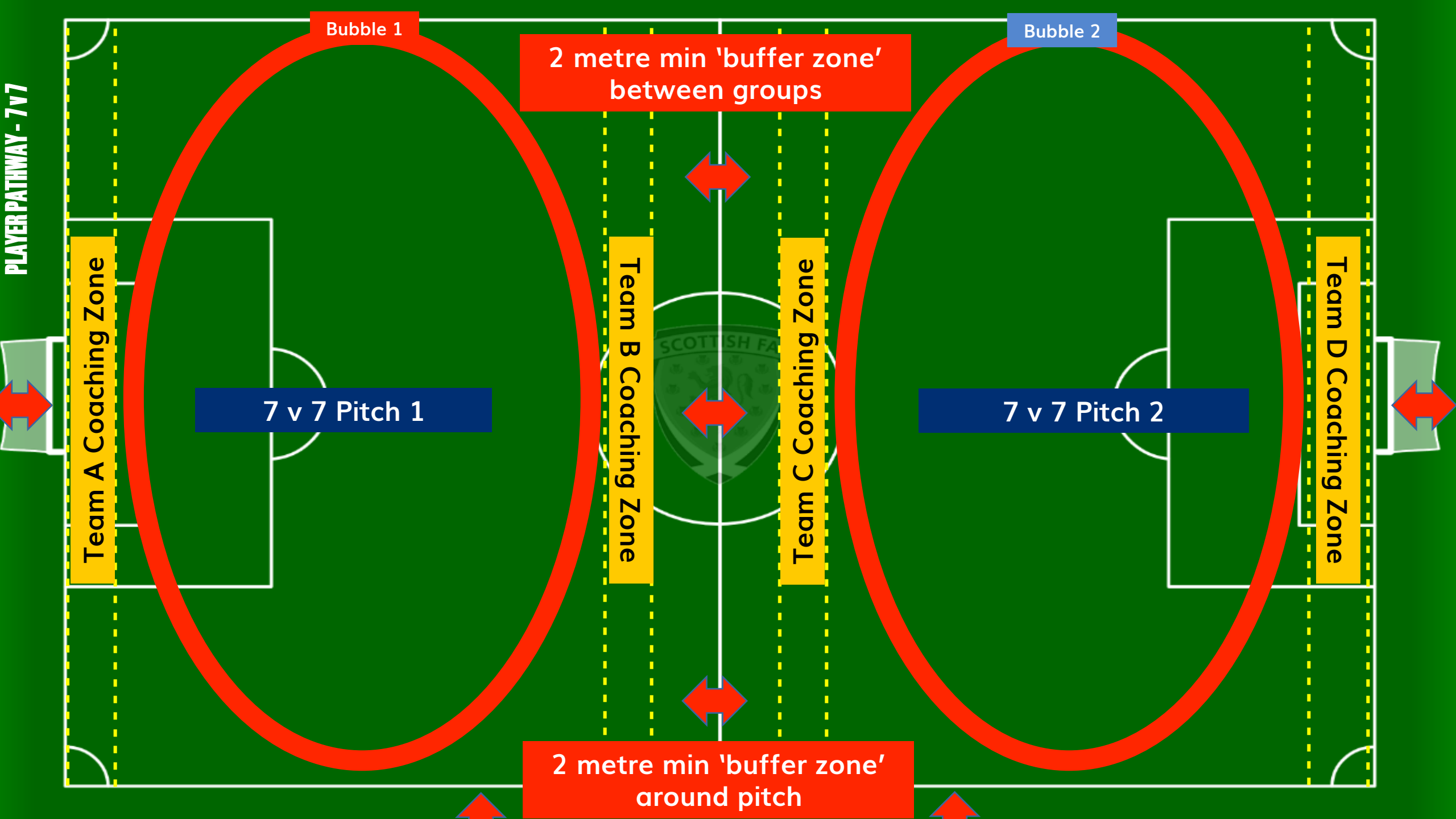
ACCESS

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EXAMPLE MATCH PLAY PITCH SET UP

7v7





Bubble 1

2 metre min 'buffer zone' between groups

Bubble 2

7 v 7 Pitch 1

7 v 7 Pitch 2

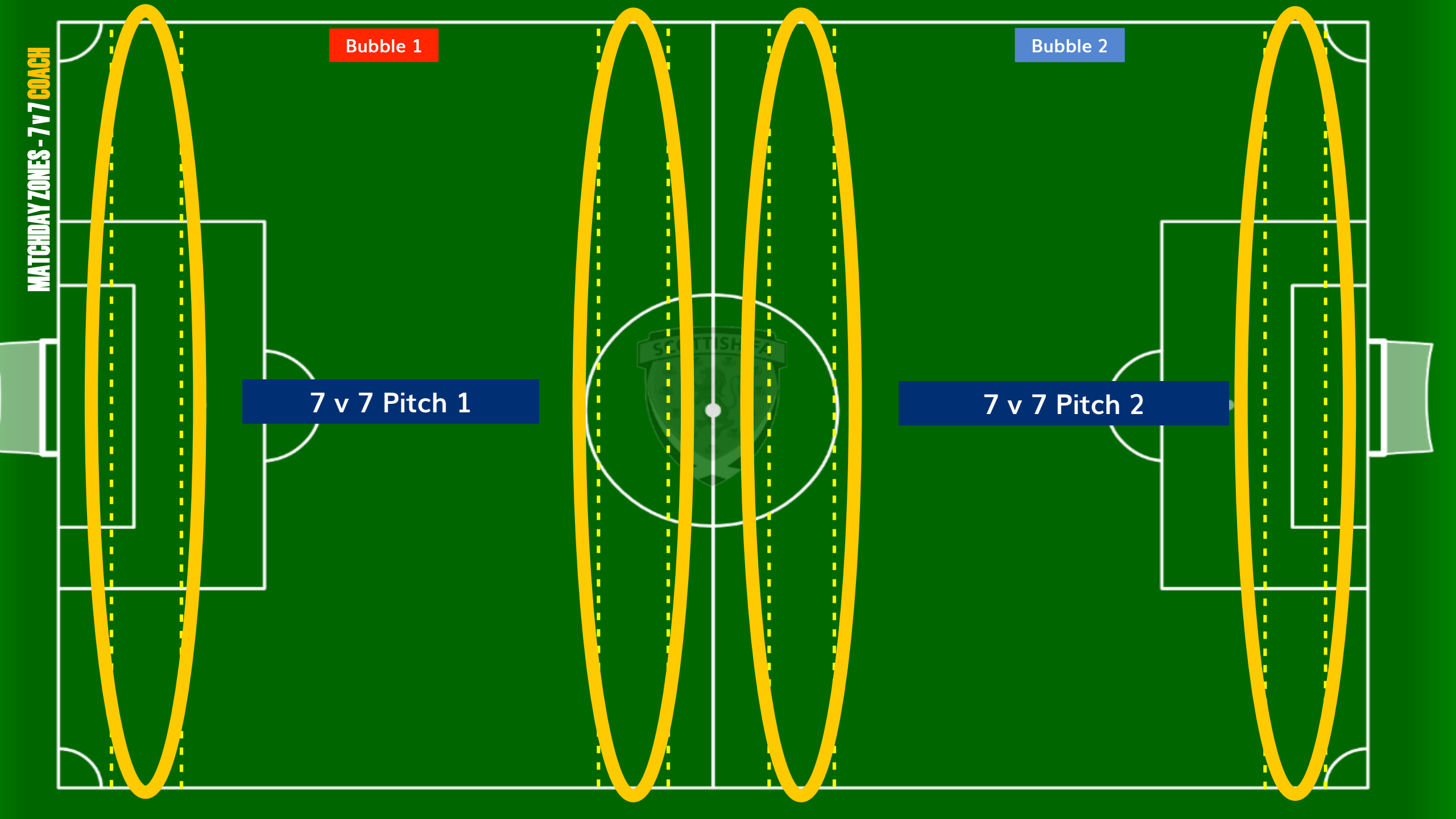


Bubble 1

Bubble 2

7 v 7 Pitch 1

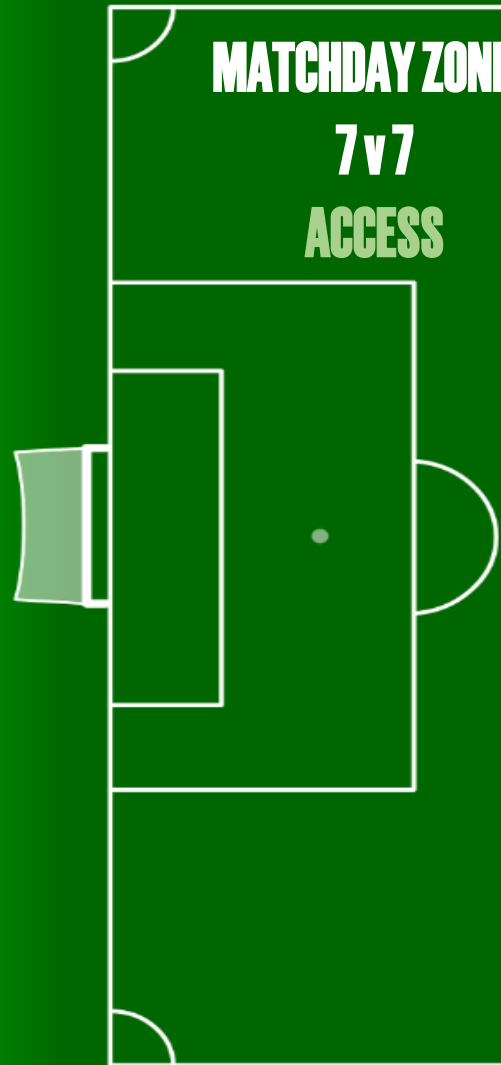
7 v 7 Pitch 2



MATCHDAY ZONES

**7v7
ACCESS**

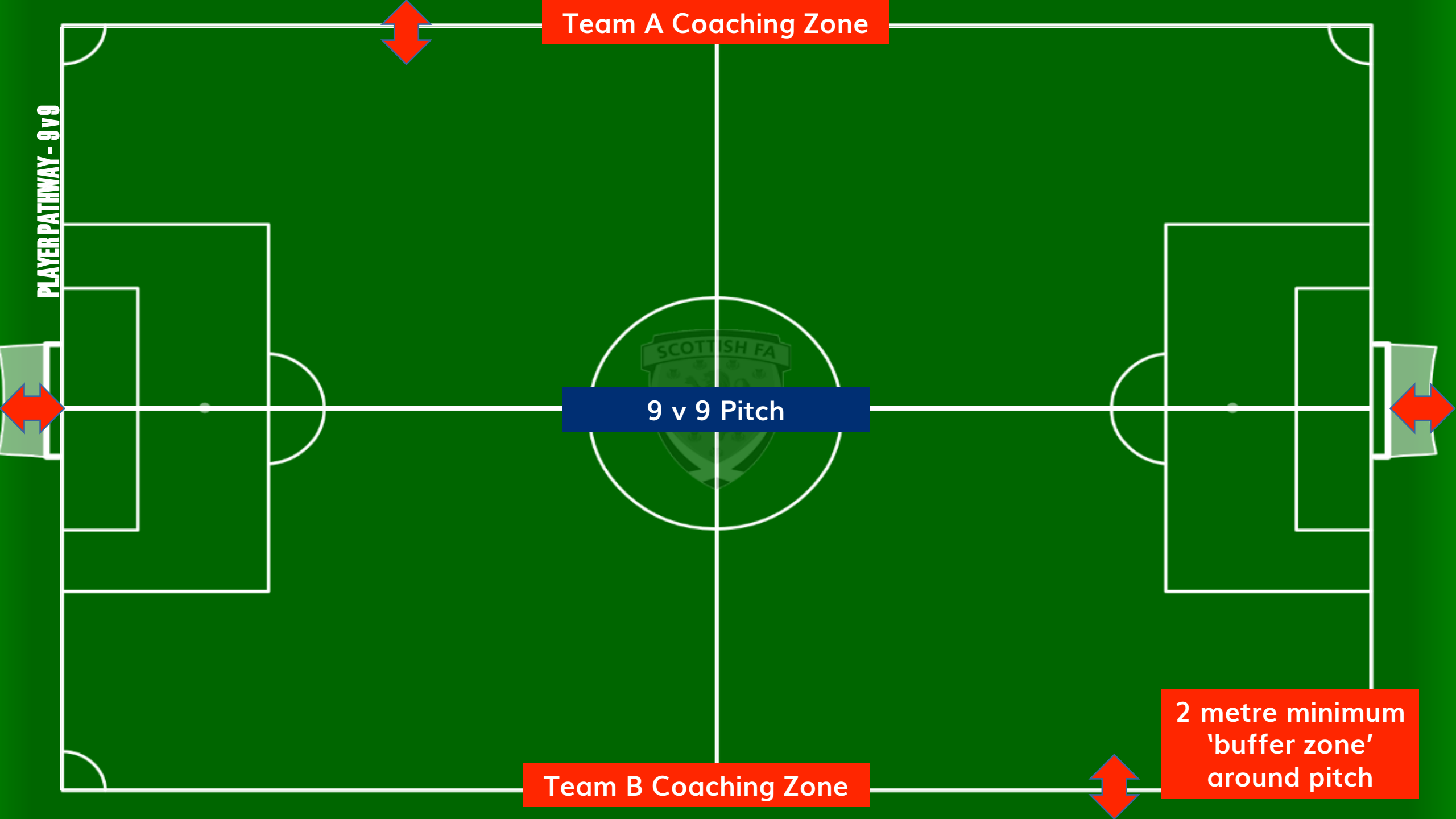
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EXAMPLE MATCH PLAY PITCH SET UP

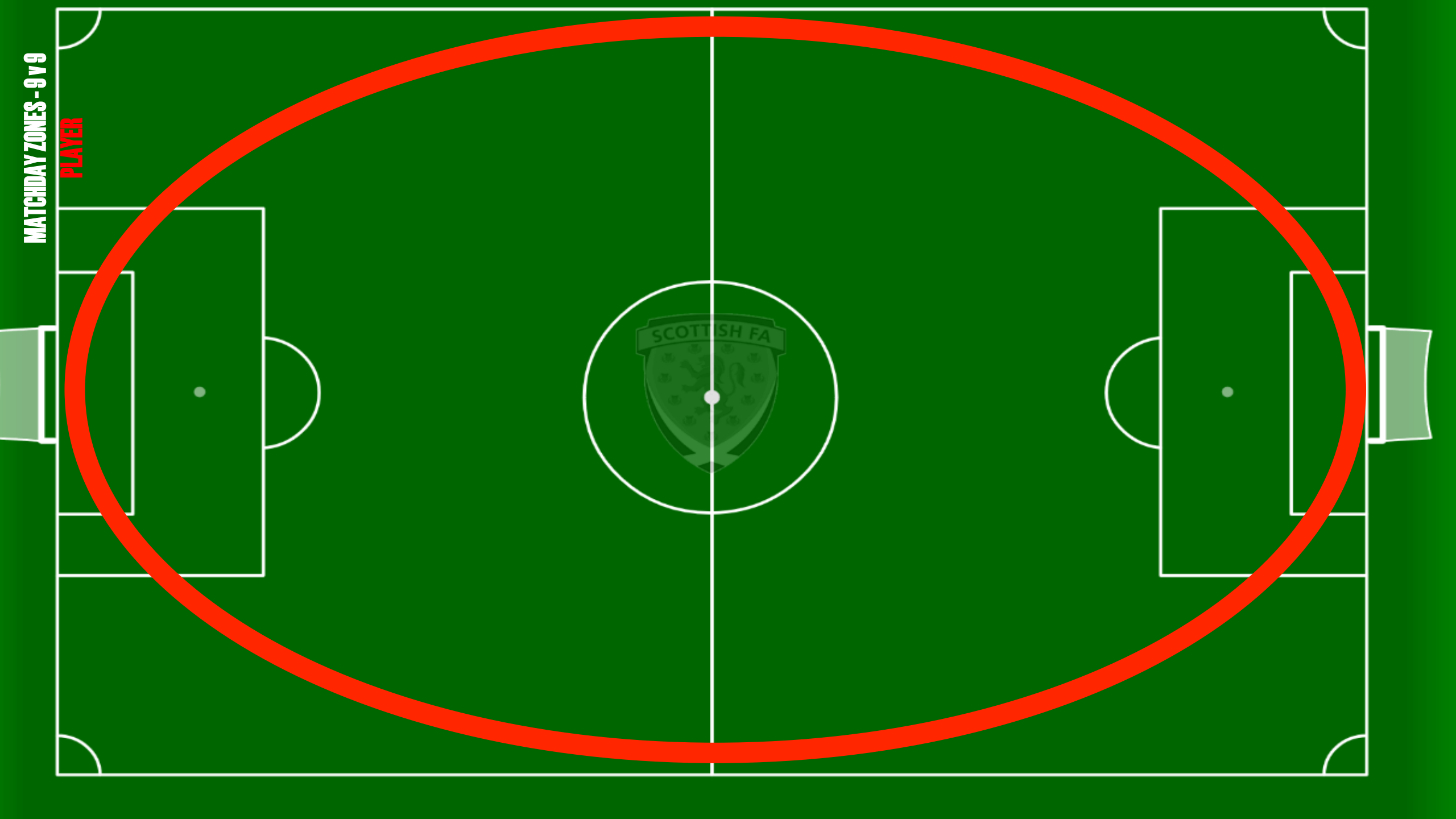
9v9

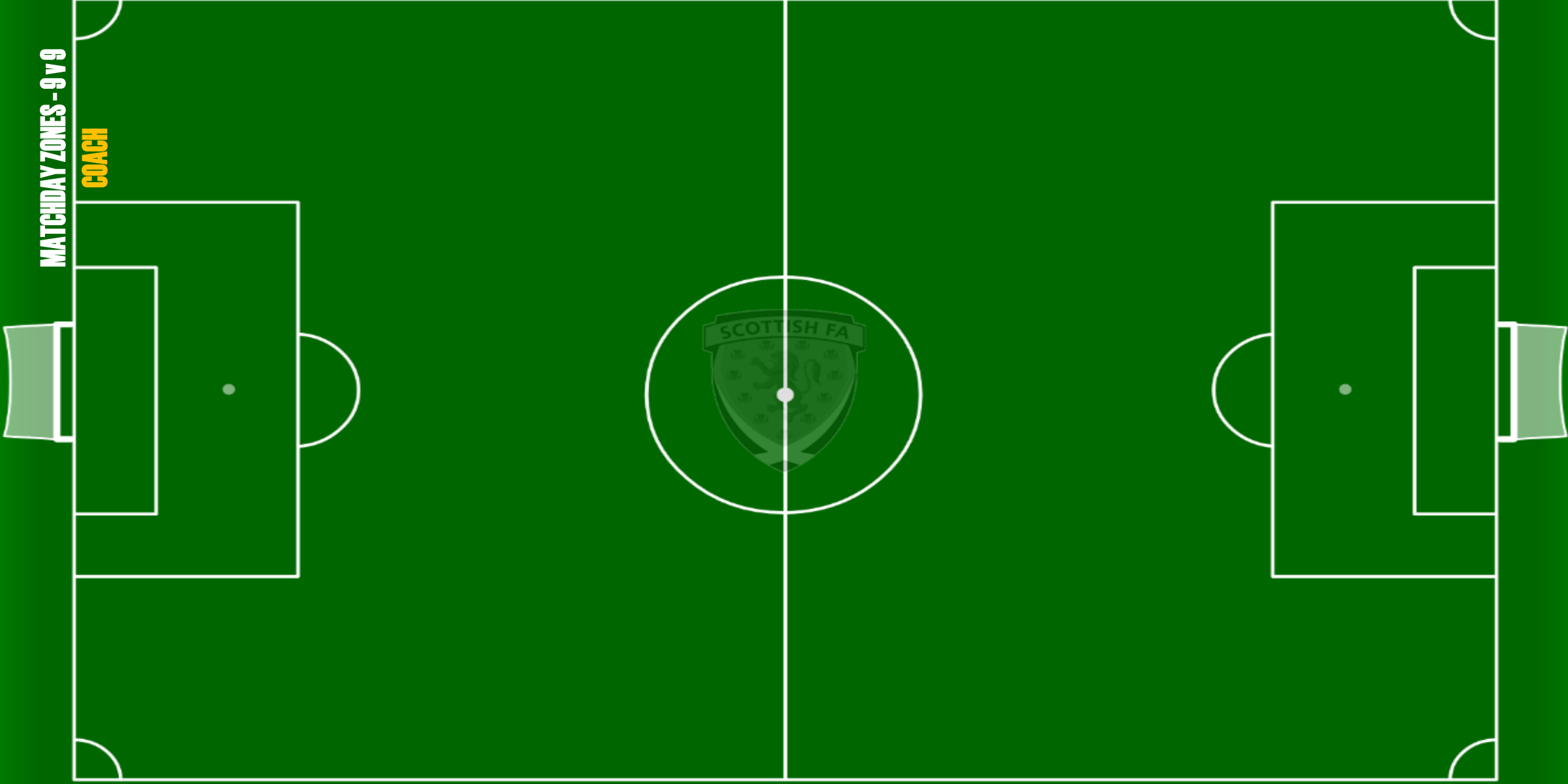




MATCHDAY ZONES - 9 v 9

PLAYER





MATCHDAY ZONES - 9 v 9

COACH

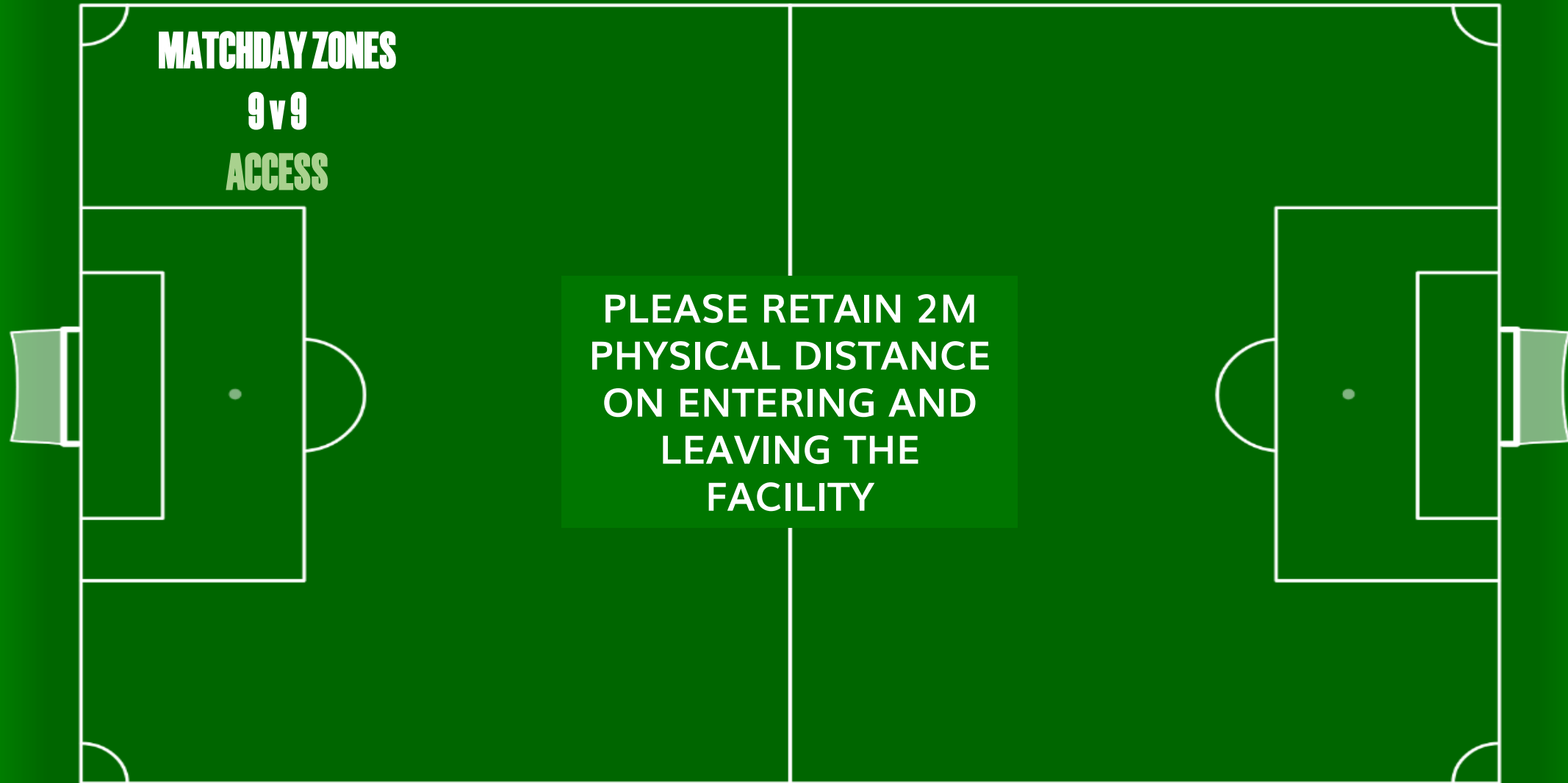


MATCHDAY ZONES

9v9

ACCESS

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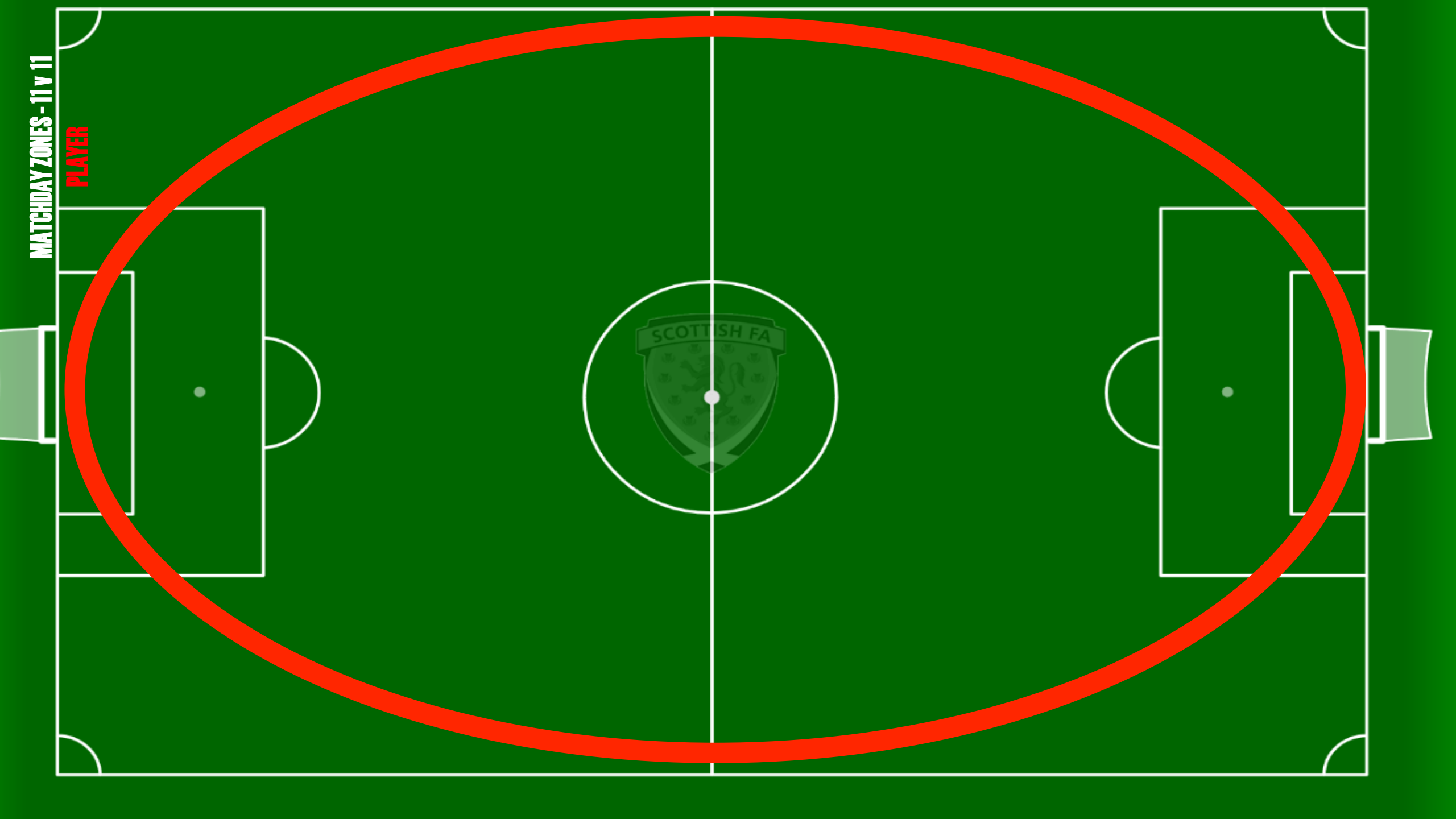
EXAMPLE MATCH PLAY PITCH SET UP

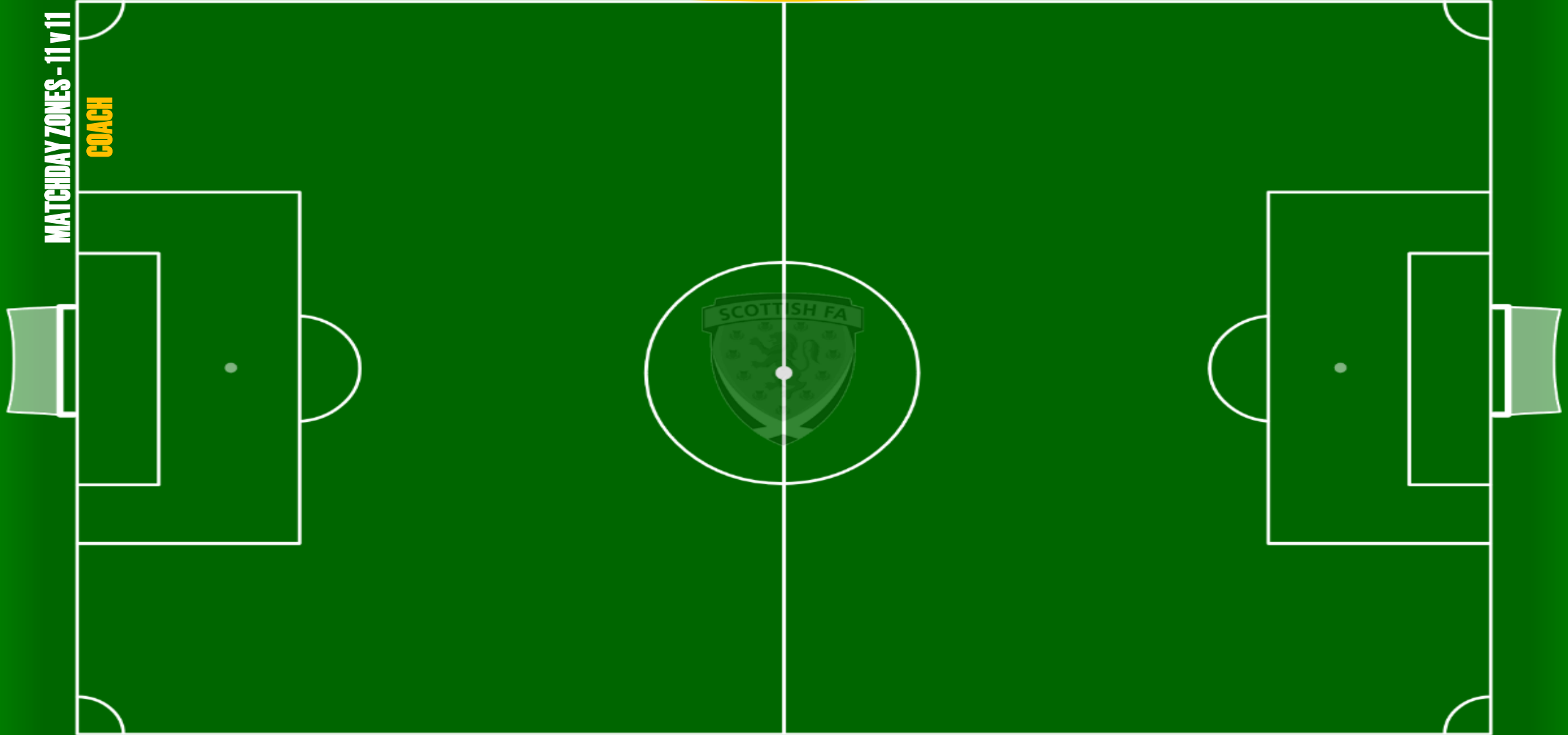
11v11



MATCHDAY ZONES - 11 v 11

PLAYER





MATCHDAY ZONES - 11 v 11

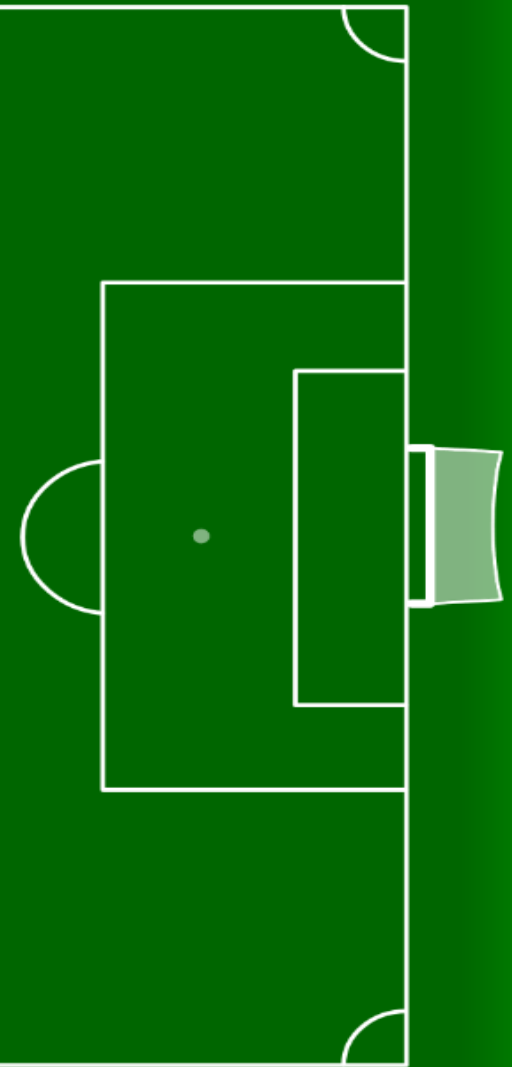
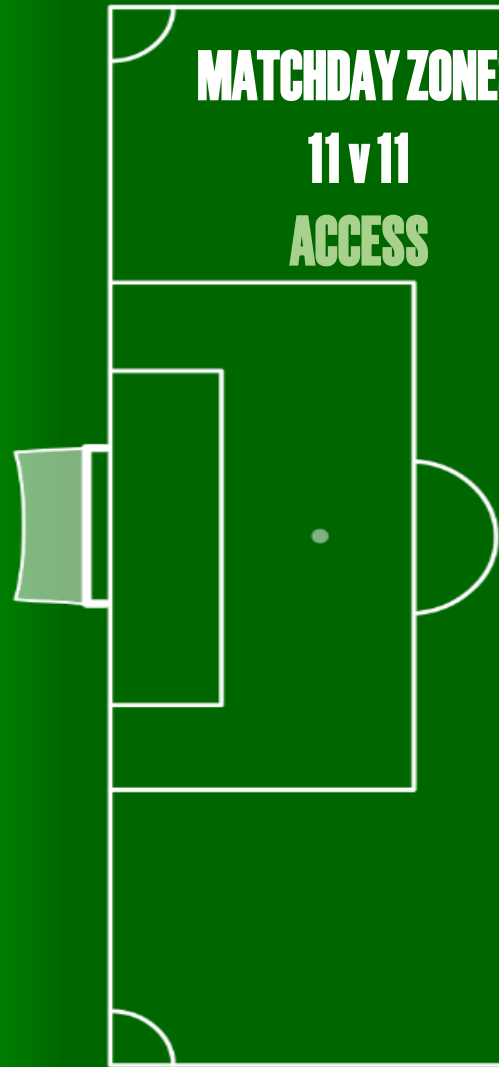
COACH

MATCHDAY ZONES

11v11

ACCESS

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