



Program Introduction and Acknowledgements

Dear Coach,

The Play Right Coach Specialty Coach Clinic Program is a national initiative of the Play Right Canadian Hockey Coaching Program designed to serve as a modular program to supplement the CHA's 3M National Coaching Certification Program (this program is not a certification program or designed to replace the 3M NCCP).

The specialty coach clinic program consists of a series of mini modules built around CHA's existing "In-House" coaching development videos. The Play Right Specialty Coach Clinic Program incorporates the following topics in the program series:

- Checking
- Specialty Team Play
- Offensive Team Play
- Defensive Team Play
- Teaching Techniques
- Goaltending
- Off-ice Training
- Skating Techniques
- Creative Thinking

The Canadian Hockey Play Right Coaching Program wishes to acknowledge the Canadian Hockey Centres of Excellence for the administration and coordination of this programs as well as the CHA Branch 3M NCCP Course Conductors for your commitment to the development of coaching education in Canada.

The enclosed module "Offensive Team Play" was written by **Richard Bercuson**, 3M NCCP Course Conductor with the Ottawa District Hockey Association.
CHA "In-House" Video Reference: "Offensive Attack Options" written by **Dave King** and produced by the Canadian Hockey Association.

Canadian Hockey Association, Play Right Coaching Program

Offensive Team Play, © 2000, Canadian Hockey Association



Centres of Excellence
Play Right Specialty Coach Clinic Program Presents...

Offensive Team Play

Other Play Right Specialty Clinics Include:

- **Checking**
- **Specialty Teams**
- **Defensive Team Play**
- **Teaching Techniques**
- **Goaltending**
- **Off-ice Training**
- **Skating Techniques**
- **Creative Thinking**



Canadian Hockey Play Right Specialty Coach Clinic Program



Offensive Team Play

We are going to examine how to provide *offensive support* through:

a) Puck Control

and

b) Pressure

Question:

How many ways can you find to:

a) maintain puck control?

b) create pressure?



**-Puck Control and Pressure
can be accomplished in various ways.
However, one of the most effective is by
"skating off the puck".**

QUESTION:

What is "skating off the puck"?

ANSWER:

**We know the importance of the player
without the puck.**

**This player must find an open space.
The space may be behind, ahead of or adjacent to
the attacker.**

**The space may be created by first going in one
direction (which may drag or decoy defenders into
going with the player), then finding and using a new
space.**



In each of these instances, the attacker may actually be away from the puckcarrier - skating off the puck!

How does "skating off the puck" help the attacking team?

- * It forces defenders to adjust their positioning.
- * It may decoy a play or player.
- * It allows the attack to progress with more speed since players are moving.
- * It creates an opening where there may not have been one just seconds earlier.

What is the impact on the defending team?

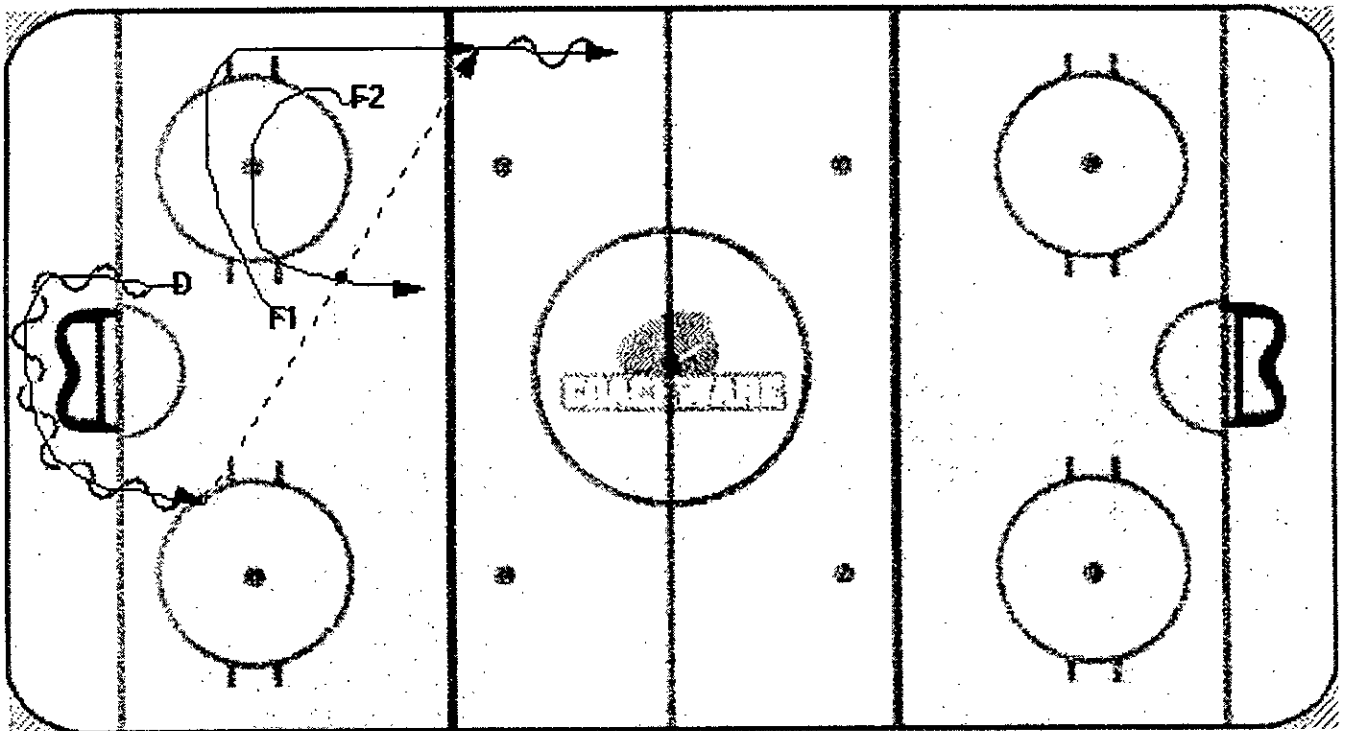
- * It's distracting.
- * It forces defenders to re-adjust their positioning.
- * It may spread apart defenders and weaken their ability to defend a particular location.



Illustrations of Skating off the Puck

Breakout: Defencemen takes puck behind his net and exits other side. Centre F1 curls to boards, AWAY from puckcarrier (switching with his winger) to receive breakout pass.

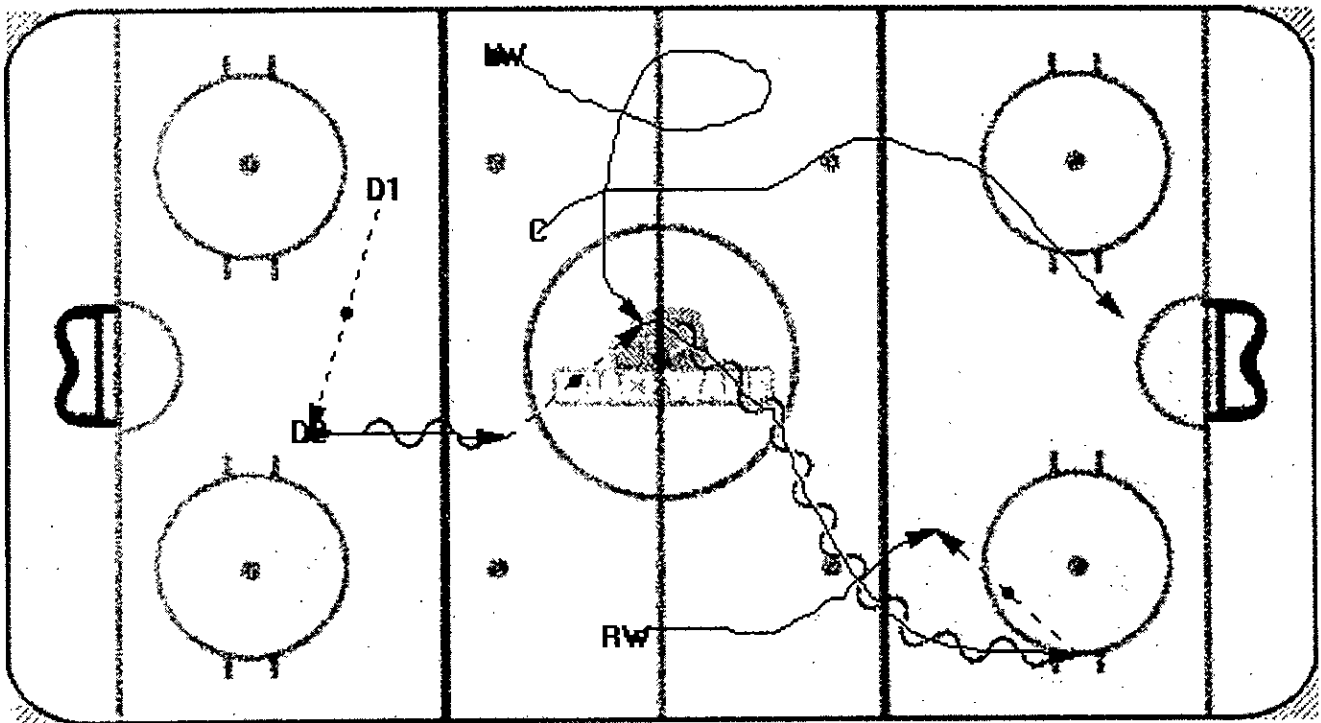
Defensive Zone



Illustrations of Skating off the Puck

Transition: Defenceman passes to his partner. Winger curls to create time and space then breaks into centre area for pass and penetrates offensive zone with speed. Right Winger and Centre fill lanes and support the puck carrier.

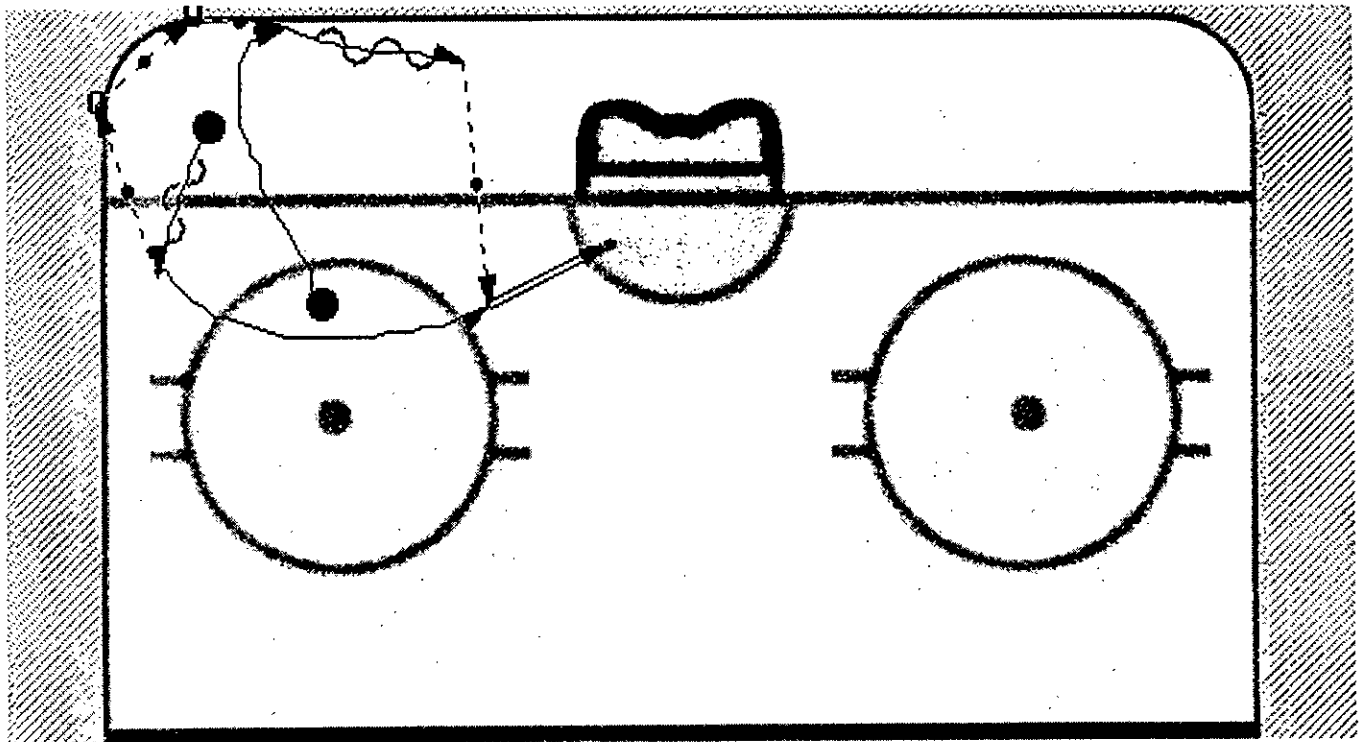
Neutral Zone



Illustrations of Skating off the Puck

Cycling: Forward in corner carries puck a couple of strides up the boards and cycles it back along the boards to forward who skates in opposite direction. 1st forward continues off puckcarrier's path and steps into slot to receive pass

Offensive Zone



**What do these 4 plays
have in common?**

- 1. Support and control are maintained**
- 2. Point of attack changes by creating new space**
- 3. Support is close and easy to find**
- 4. They are simple And...**

Each requires timing!



**We can maintain Puck Control
to create and sustain an attack by:**

a) forming an attack triangle

b) using mid-lane support

c) cycling

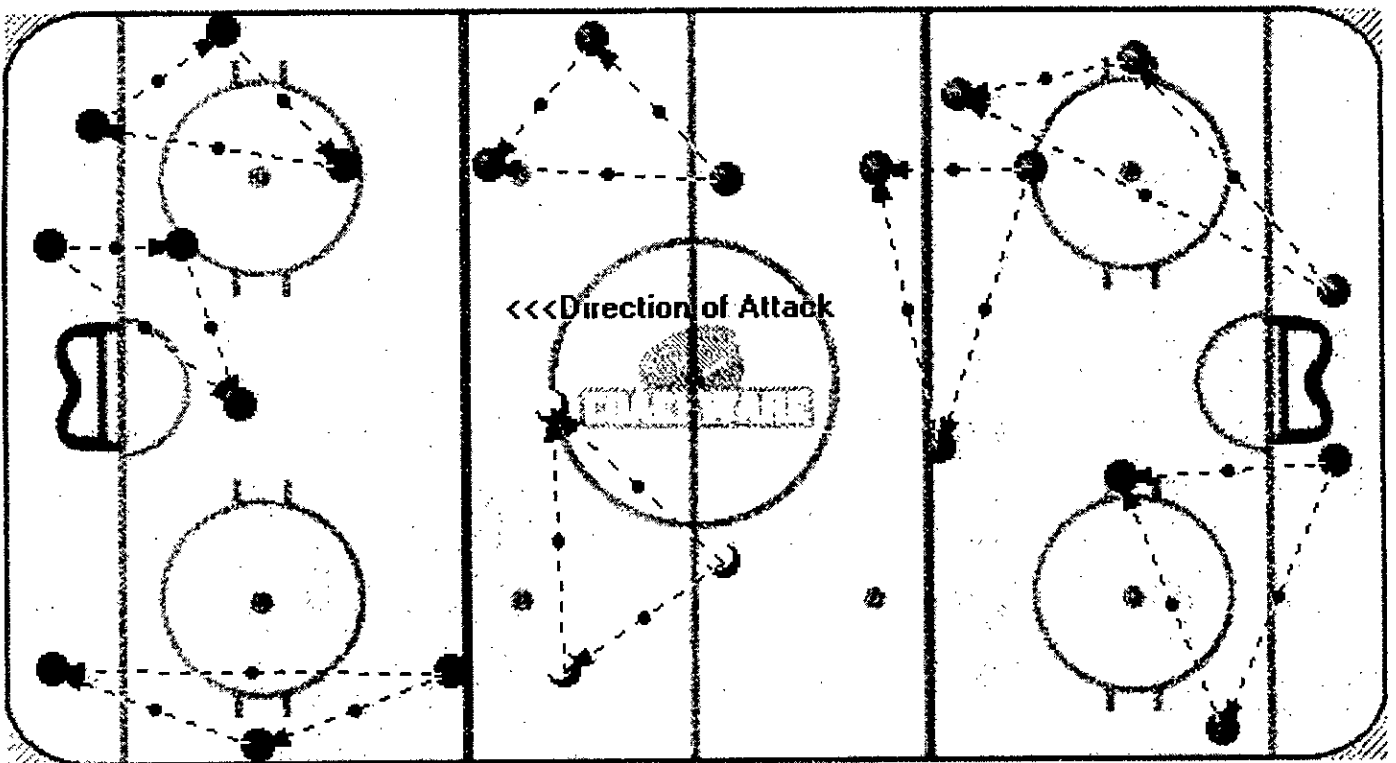


Examine the Attack Triangles...

Questions:

1 - How can you get your players into these types of formations to mount the attack?

2 - What must your players be able to do?
(individual skills, tactics, read & react etc.)



Sample blueline to blueline attacks:

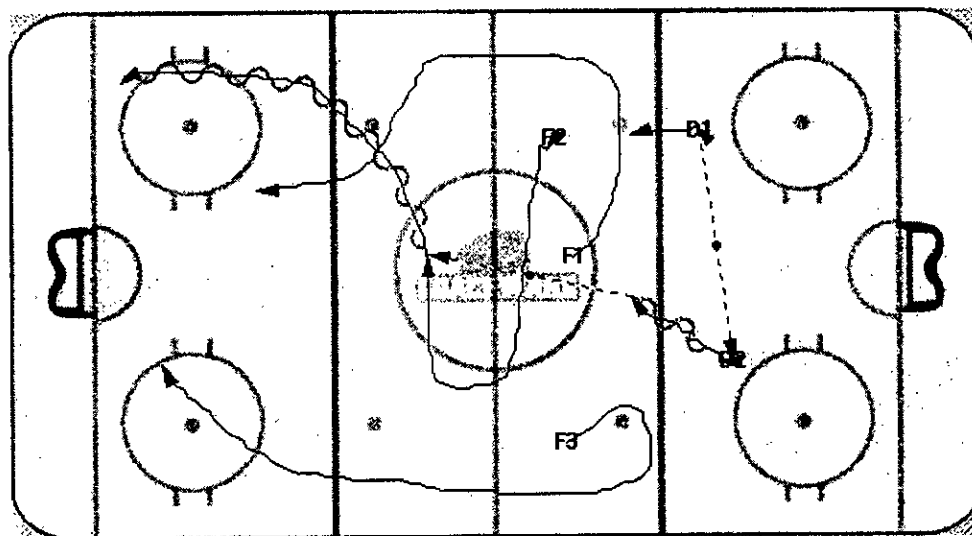
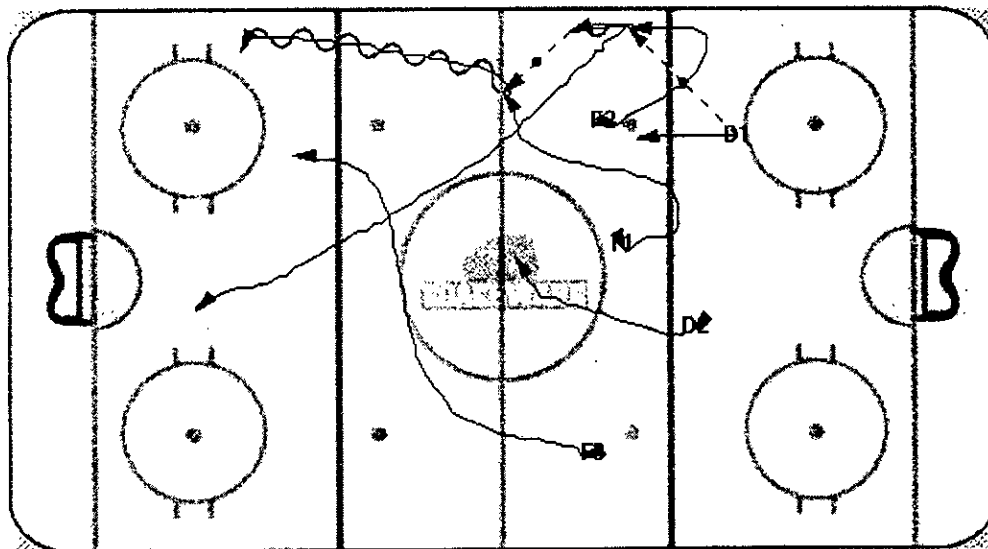
How many attack triangles are being created?

Who is skating off the puck?

Who else could skate off the puck to aid the attack?

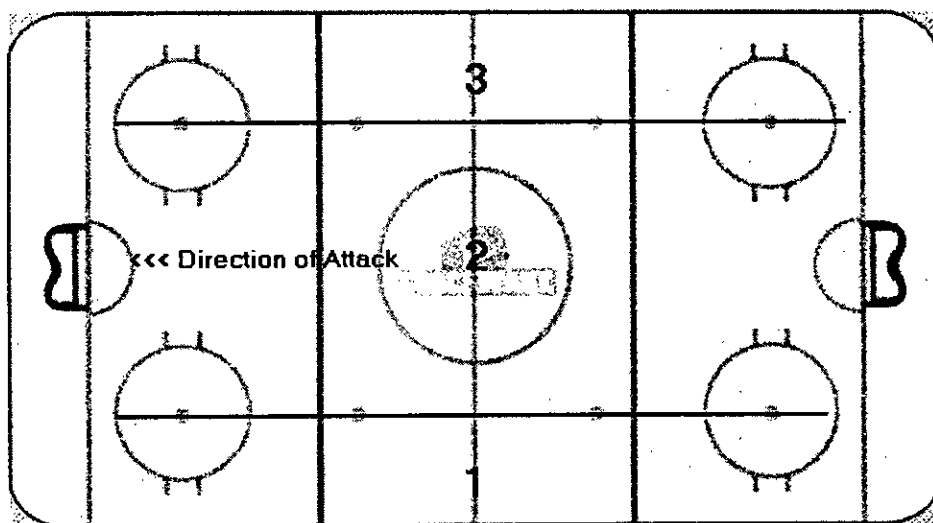
How many options does each puckcarrier have to sustain the attack?

How far apart should these attackers be?

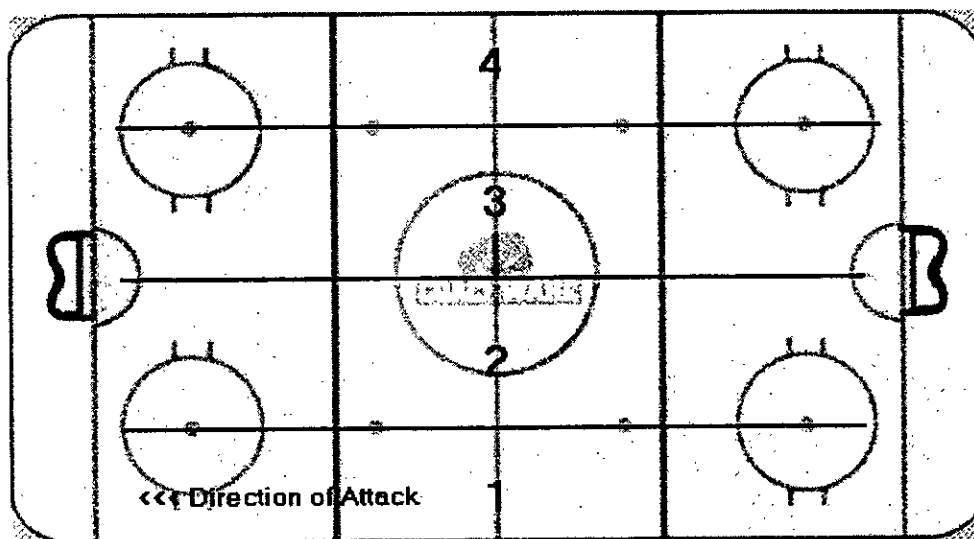


ATTACK LANES

Bantam - Midget - Junior 3 lanes



Novice - Atom - Pee Wee 4 lanes



Food for thought...

At the younger levels, what are the advantages of "shrinking the attack rink" and adding a lane?

Answers:

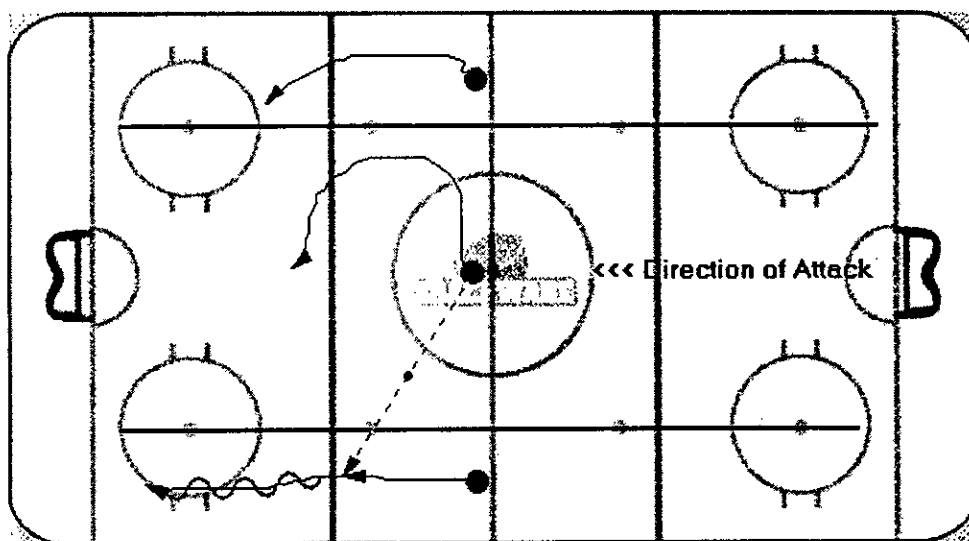
- Younger players have less strength & speed. Their read & react skills are not yet advanced. Their ability to "see" the broader ice surface is not as acute.
- Closer lanes make for shorter passes which will be more successful more often
 - Easier to find support
 - Less ice to use



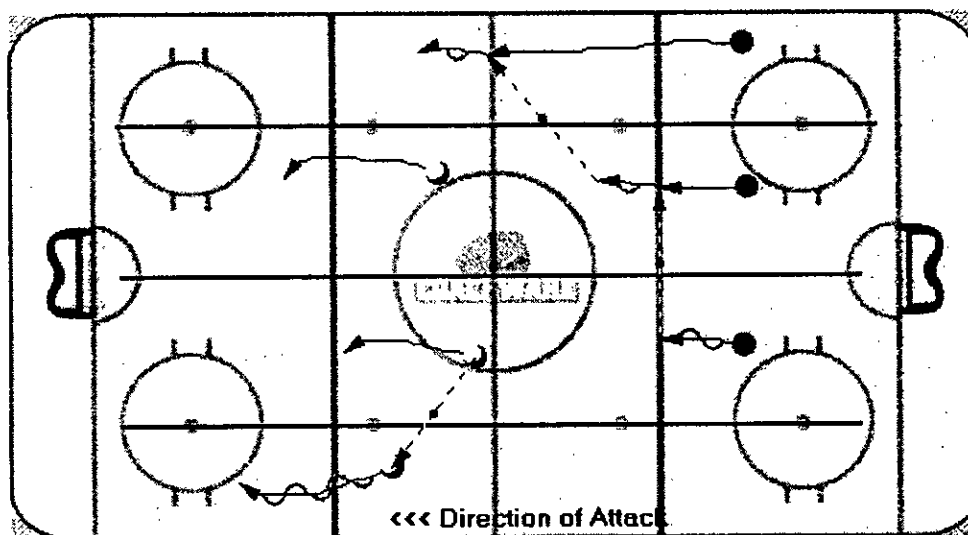
Mid-lane Support

Examine the mid-lane support in the 3 or 4-lane concept.
Where are the possible attack triangles?
Does the mid-lane **HAVE** to be the one adjacent to the puck carrier?

3 LANE



4 LANE

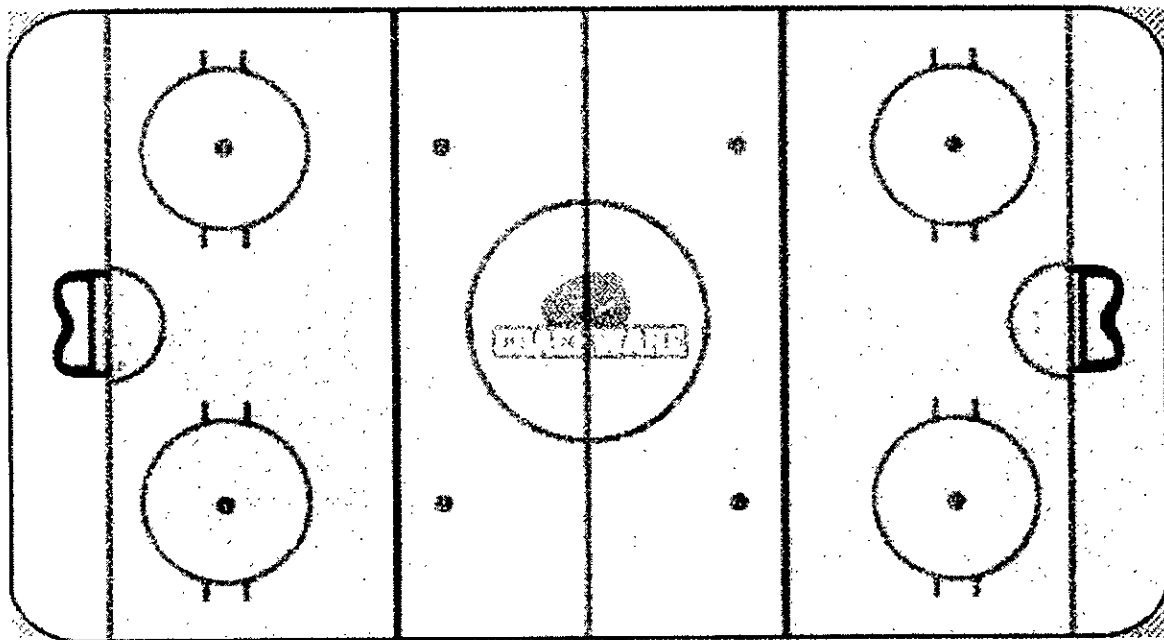


Teaching technique:

Use of reference points...

Face-off dots, centre circle, rinkboard advertisements all serve as helpful guides to show players lanes.

Using visuals is important to help clarify and focus instruction

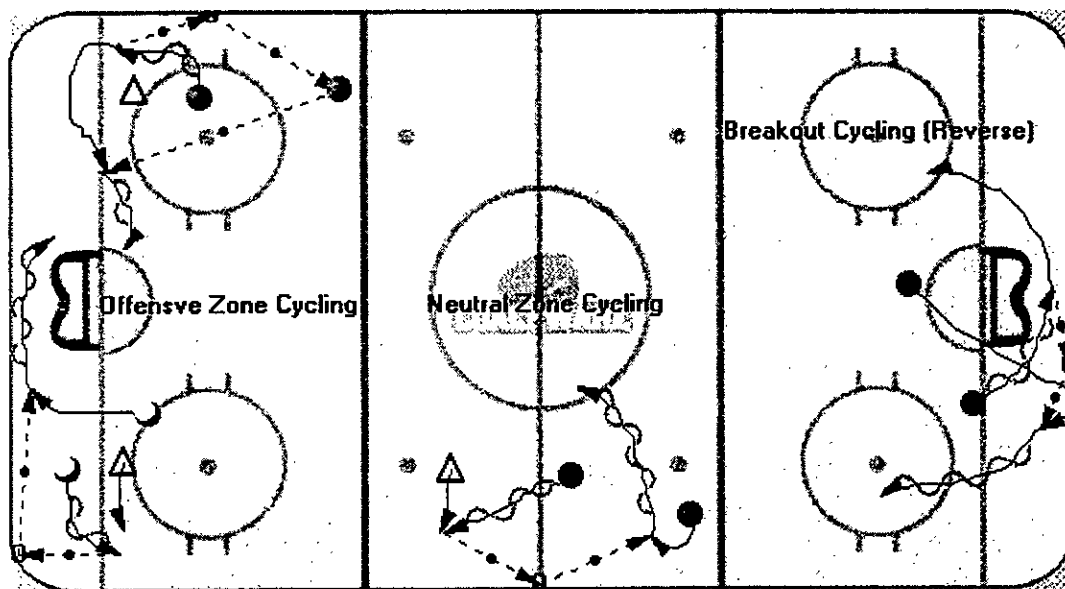


Cycling

Definition: Close, quick support in confined space.

It is used...

- To begin an attack (as in a breakout)
- Regroup in neutral zone
- Deep in the offensive zone (to create space and "cut loose" an attacker)



What does cycling accomplish?

- Creates support where there appeared to be none
- Creates triangulation
- Forces attackers to find space
- Decoys attack plays
- Draws defenders away from a new point of attack



Motor Skills & Cognitive Skills

Players require constant development in these two areas.

Example:

An inside/out puckhandling move is a complex motor skill.

(What specific individual skills are required ?)

Timing the move, judging distances, and looking for offensive support are all cognitive skills.

What are the motor and cognitive skills your players need to consider

To create an attack triangle ?

To create mid-lane support ?

To cycle the puck ?



Pressure

How many ways can your team enter the offensive zone and maintain puck control?

How do you accomplish this by skating off the puck?

Possible answers:

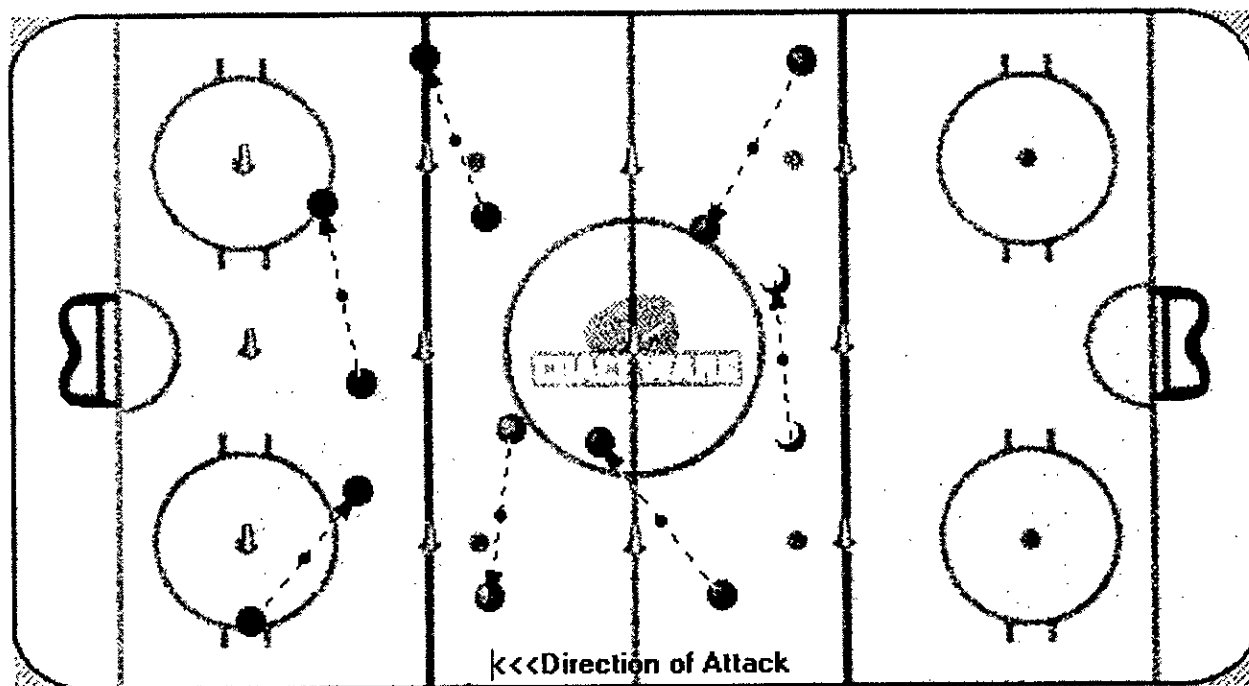
- **Wide carry**
- **Centre carry**
- **Drive/double drive**
- **Carry with delay, cross...**



The use of mini-zones to illustrate attack pressure and support

The diagram below shows 12 mini-zones. Pairs of attackers are in adjacent regions and provide close support to each other, thus aiding in application of offensive pressure.

Where can you place 3rd or even 4th attackers to create width, depth and triangulation to increase pressure on the defenders?



For your team's successful offensive zone entries...

List 5 technical skills and/or individual tactics your players will need to for execution.

Example:

Puckcarrier crosses to the outside lane and gains access to blueline. Players in the adjacent lanes/mini-zones will both drive to the net.

Technical skills for puckcarrier:

- **Crossovers**
- **Wide carry**
- **Head/shoulder fakes**
- **Change of speed**



Transition

**Dave King says:
"Offense begins as soon as you
regain the puck."**

*****The most lethal offense is the
quick counter-attack**

***** The sooner your team goes on
the attack, the better the chance of
obtaining a good scoring
opportunity**

Why?



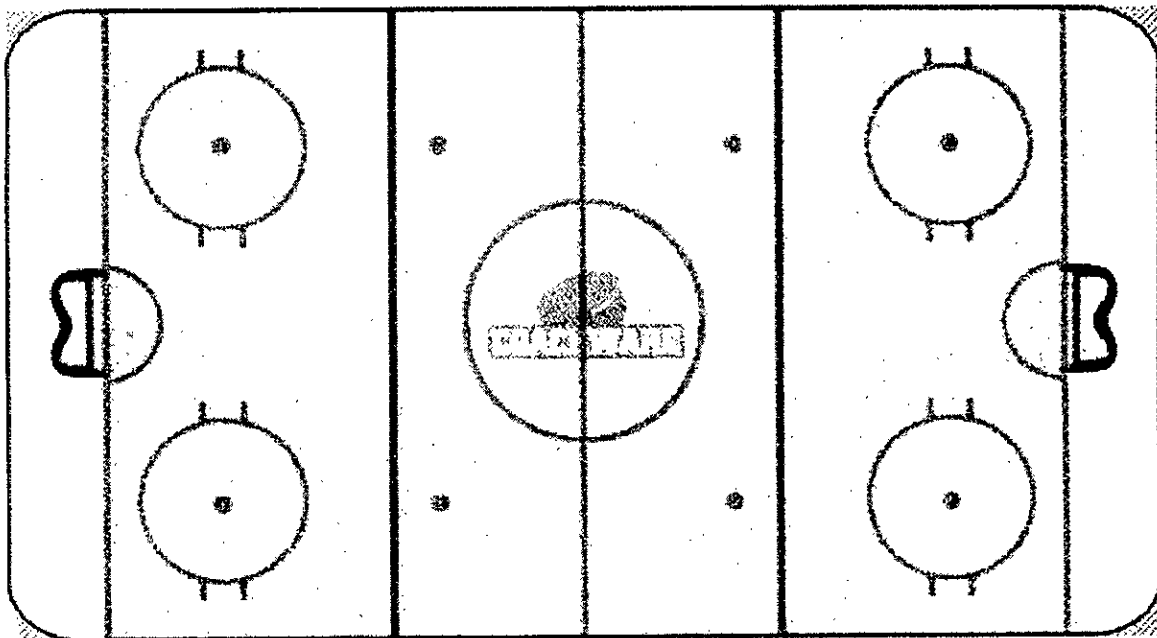
Because...

- **Defenders need time to read and react**
- **There may be a few seconds of confusion to take advantage of**
- **Defenders are coming from attack positions then trying to gain defensive positions which are different**
- **Attackers may be more motivated than those who have lost the puck**
- **Defenders may lose composure**
- **Other...**



Common “turnover” regions
where your team may go on the transition
attack

1. **Blue line** - about 1-2 m inside or outside either blueline
2. **Offensive zone corners**
3. **Defensive zone corners**



What do you tell your players to do or look for when they've regained the puck in these locations?

