



INTRODUCTION: OFFENSIVE ZONE ENTRIES

Offensive Zone Entries are crucial to a team's success. Coaches must dedicate time to teaching this team tactic (and the individual skills that players need to have in order to perform them) so their team can learn how to successfully execute them. Turning a puck over at the offensive blue line is a critical mistake that catches a team off-guard and thinking attack while the puck has suddenly changed course and is heading towards their own net.

This resource gives coaches a teaching plan to help their players practice offensive zone entries and learn the principles of support, puck control and pressure, along with a strong net drive/attack mentality.

Including a net drive in an offensive zone entry accomplishes several things:

- 1) Provides an attack mentality which forces an opponent to switch to a defensive mode
- 2) Forces the defending team to read and react at a higher speed, which increases the chances of them making mistakes
- 3) Forces the defense to make a decision on whether to take the player driving to their net or protect the high slot
- 4) Stretches the zone
- 5) Can intimidate a goaltender who is facing a shot from the outside while another player simultaneously approaches the net at high speed looking for a pass or rebound
- 6) Can divide a goaltender's attention between either the shot or the pass that may be made, which may force them to play deeper in their net and create more shooting options





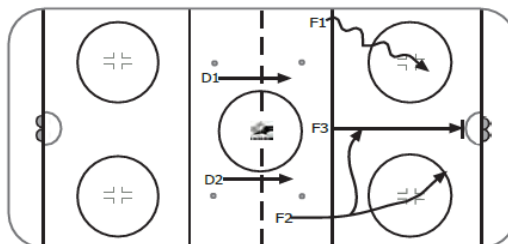
DRILLS TO PRACTICE OZE's

Entries

Drill Name & Description

Mid Lane Drive

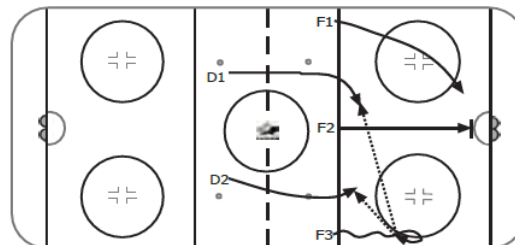
- F1 attacks the offensive blue line and takes puck to the net.
- F3 drives the mid lane aggressively.
- F2 reads play and can drive the net or go to slot for high pass.
- D1 and D2 move up on the play and are available to fill in the high slot if open.
- Fill the open ice.



Drill Name & Description

Wide Delay

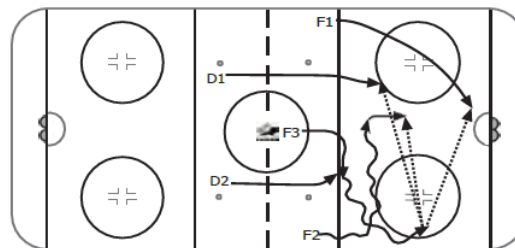
- F3 drives wide with puck and reads he is not able to get to the net. He cuts back and protects puck making all options available.
- F2 drives net through the mid lane aggressively.
- F1 drives net drawing defenders deep.
- D1 and D2 activate and are available as high options.
- F3 becomes the high man after the pass.



Drill Name & Description

Cross

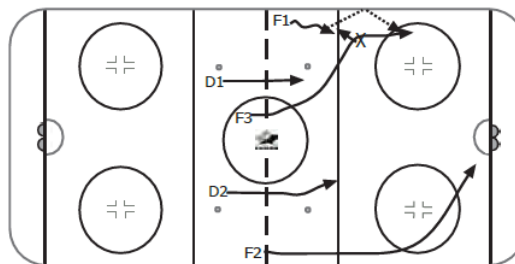
- F2 looks for the open ice – either in front (soft gap) or behind the opposing D.
- F3 reads soft gap and crosses behind F2.
- F2 either gives puck to F3 or keeps it. Both players continue to attack net.
- F1 drives the net hard drawing defenders deep.
- D1 and D2 activate and are available in high slot.



Drill Name & Description

Chips

- F1 has the puck and is challenged by opposing D.
- F3 reads and provides close support to pick up chip (F3's speed should not be sacrificed).
- F2 drives the net trying to get inside position.
- D activate and are available to find open ice.



KEY TEACHING POINTS

- The puck must be advanced at the offensive blue line
- Speed must be maintained
- There must be an aggressive mid lane drive
- Five players must be up on the play
- There should always be a high slot presence