



*“Some teams, in order to protect more down low in their zone bring all 3 forwards low, or a few use their centre to cover the points, both formations leaving at least one defenceman open – it’s a great offensive opportunity as many goals are scored from the point or the scoring play somehow involves a pass from the point, or a rebound is created from a point shot”*

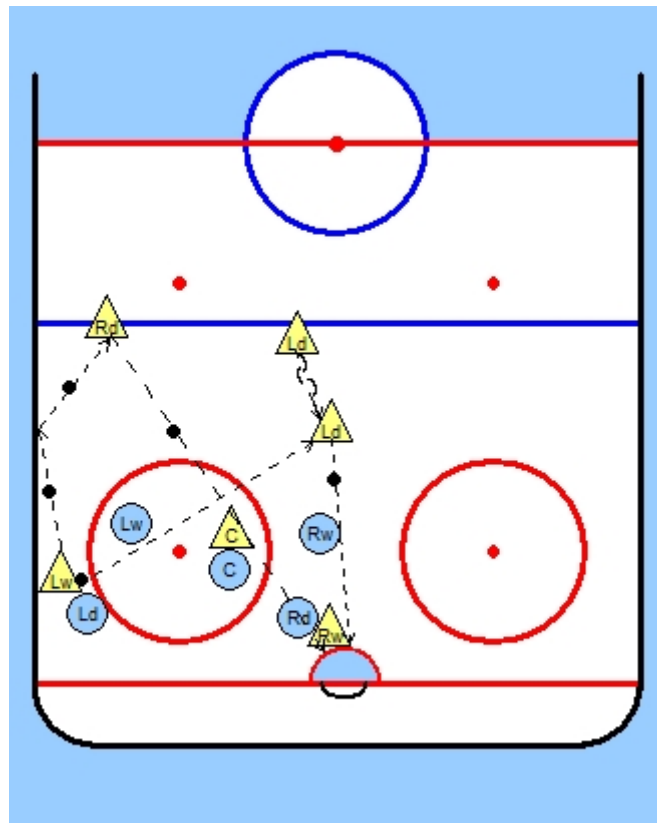
## **OFFENSIVE ZONE – USE DEFENCEMEN ON THE CYCLE**

Many teams these days play a “protect the house” system in their defensive zone with both wingers down to the faceoff dots, sometimes even lower, and centres also low to help in the corners or net front. This system tries to limit Grade A and AA shots, and gives up to some extent Grade B shots above their faceoff circle. The defensive team expects these shots to be blocked, and coaches realize on average goalies save %’s are higher from distances beyond the faceoff circle. But shots can be screened and can generate rebounds too and those are the main objectives from so-called Grade B shots.

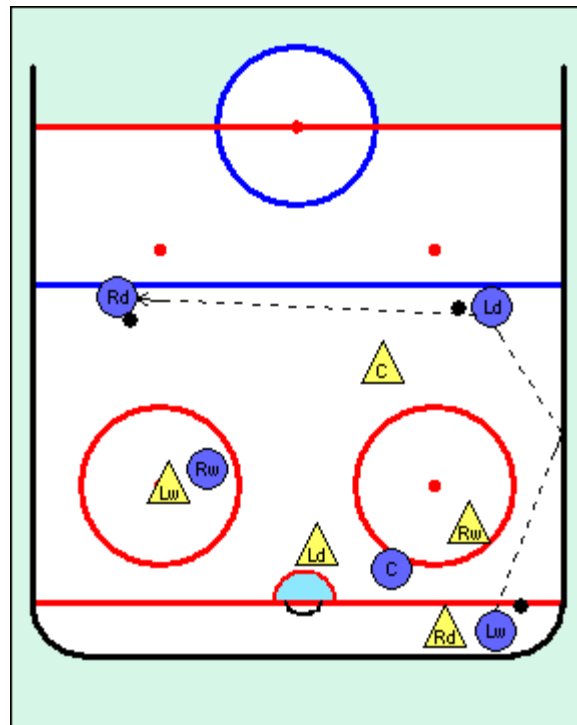
If we can get puck control low there is all kinds of space to pass the puck to our defencemen. Our defencemen need to recognize this and create passing lanes to generate shots and rebounds. If we have the puck in their corner their forwards and D should be concentrated around there and net front low, so our weak side defenceman should be wide open.

We should work with our defencemen to generate hard and quick release Grade B shots before the shooting lane is closed by moving along the blueline to find open shooting lanes. This is commonly called “walking”.

Our forwards need to practice screening at the top of their crease, so their goalie cannot stand at the top of his blue ice and see past our screen, thereby exposing more net either side as their goalie’s angle to the shooter is not as good as it could be if their goalie was on the white ice. If there is no screen set up but there is a player going to the net in front and there is an open passing lane to him, fire the puck hard along the ice on the stick of this player going to the net and let him deflect it to an opening on net.



If the other team's system is to use their center to try to cover both of our defencemen and keep their wingers down low, one of our defencemen will always be open. Once our defenceman gets the puck he can shoot it on goal, pass to a forward at the side of the net away from traffic or if our other defenceman is open pass it across ice to him.



**WHEN A SHOT IS COMING FROM THE POINT TWO FORWARDS GO TO THE NET AND SCREEN THE GOALIE AT THE TOP OF THE CREESE AND GET ANY REBOUND. THE OTHER FORWARD STAYS HIGH IN CASE THE PLAY GOES THE OTHER WAY**