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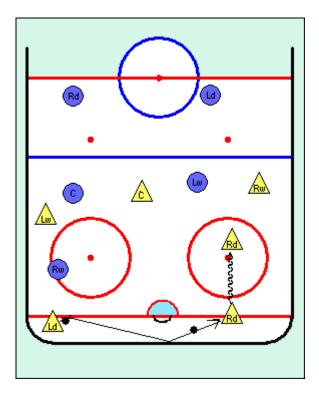


"When there is no other safe pass play, pass to the open defenceman"

DEFENSIVE ZONE – PASS TO OPEN DEFENCEMAN

In Our Corner - PASS TO THE OPEN DEFENCEMAN

When the puck is shot into our corner and our defenceman *can easily get to it first* but will be immediately pressed, and cannot move it up ice to one of our players or out of our end safely, *rather than hammering the puck off the same side boards in our end*, one option is to pass the puck off the boards behind our net to our other open defenceman in the other corner and then for him to move the puck out to our open player as set out in pervious plays.



The way to defeat this is to forecheck 2 players hard at once at both defencemen in their corners with our centre anticipating where the pass is going to go. If either forechecking player peels off after the defencemen pass to one another, the defenceman can simply pass it back to our other defenceman who is now open.

Coming Out of Our End - PASS TO THE OPEN DEFENCEMAN

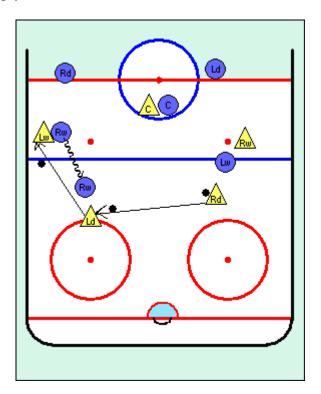
When our defenceman gets the puck while facing towards their end, stationary or moving and around at least between the top of the circle in our end and the blue line (too risky if closer to our net) and he is being pressed and he has no one to safely pass the puck to up the ice and our other



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defenceman is on the other side of the ice and is wide open, a very effective and safe play as long as our other defenceman stays wide open and back slightly behind the other defenceman is to pass the puck crisply to our other defenceman. This forces one of their players to go to him.



With one of their forwards being caught pressing our other defenceman there should be one of our forwards open just over our blue line, at centre or going up the wing, or the defenceman who just made the pass may now be open. Our forwards must anticipate this play and be moving or it will not work. If their forward does not press our defenceman he can carry the puck over the red line, shoot it in or make a play at or over their blue line as the fourth forward.

Forwards - PASS TO THE OPEN DEFENCEMAN

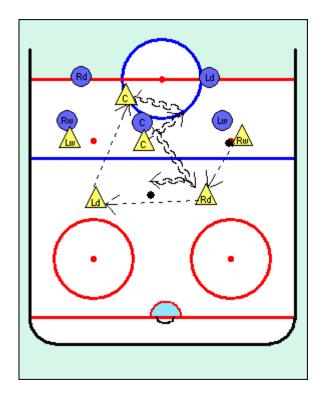
The play is just over our blue line, our right winger has the puck and is about to get checked by their left winger. Our centre and left winger are covered. Our right winger has one smart play, pass the puck back to our open right defenceman. Usually their centre will forecheck. Our right defenceman can then pass the puck up ice or pass to our left defenceman who can pass hard to our centre open in the middle.

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NO SUICIDE PASSES

PRACTICE DRILL:

The best way to practice the D to D behind our net pass is to use the 5 unit on 5 unit forechecking and breakout practice drills set out in previous Defensive Zone TIPS e.g. Getting Out and Opposite the Flow.

To practice the D to D high in our zone pass to make it almost automatic, the controlled scrimmage is recommended because it's in high speed pressured hockey where the D to D play is needed the most and sometimes forgotten about.

When it should be used in the controlled scrimmage and is not, one of the coaches should blow the whistle, freeze the players in their positions and ask what the play should have been. The players will almost always know and will have an easier time next time of remembering if they defined the answer not one of the coaches.

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