



*“Read how far their defencemen are from their blue line, what their skills are, and react to get by them in their zone”*

## **OFFENSIVE ZONE – WHICH 3 ON 2 PLAY TO USE WHEN?**

When we come over the red line towards their blue line with 3 players against 2 of their defencemen when our centre has the puck, which one of the following plays is best to use:

1. To Winger Wide, Pillow Shot
2. To Winger Wide Around D, Angles to Net
3. To Winger Wide Around D, Passes to Weak Side Winger
4. To Winger Wide Around D, Passes to Centre Going to Net
5. Centre Wide Around D
6. Winger Delays High, Centre Hands Off Puck to Winger
7. Winger Fades To Middle
8. Centre Drive No Puck
9. Centre Drive Drop Pass
10. Winger Buttonhook At Half-Wall Pass to Weak Side Winger
11. Winger Buttonhook At Half-Wall Pass to Centre
12. Centre Crosses with Winger Passes to Weak Side Winger
13. Centre Crosses with Winger 2 on 1 Their D
14. Wingers Cross Low
15. Wingers Cross High
16. Centre Across Wingers to Weak Side

## **THE KEYS TO DECIDE WHICH PLAY WILL WORK THE BEST**

- (1) What are their defencemen doing? Backing in? Stepping up or lunging? Trying to body check? Are they flat footed or slowed right down?
- (2) What are their skills? Slow, fast, big, small? Good lateral movement?
- (3) How close are their backchecking forwards and how much time do we have to execute our play?

## **TRY TO MAKE THEM BACK IN TO FREE UP THE DEEP SLOT AND GIVE US ROOM TO WORK**

If their D are playing high at their blue line, with no backchecking pressure close, generally Plays (1) to (5) above should work the best, and if their D are backing in more plays (6) to (16) would be best to try depending on the skills of their D. During the game you and our coaches



will be able to observe how their D are positioning (backing in or standing up at their blue line) and what their skills are so when we get a 3 on 2 we will have a good idea what will work the best.

### **Dump and Chase – the last resort**

Only as a last resort because we have possession of the puck and puck recoveries on the forecheck are usually less than 50% successful. You don't want to give the puck up. More goals are usually scored on entries with puck possession than on forechecking puck recoveries.

But if their defence is playing up at their blue line challenging, and you at centre can't win the blue line, or go wide around their defenceman or pass off to a winger behind their defence, or if you are almost stopped, you have to shoot it in or shoot on net. If your wingers are coming fast to the blue line and the puck can be shot off the boards deep in their end, we may be able to beat their defencemen to the puck in the corner and regain possession of the puck.

Not a good idea to force a poor risk entry play just inside their blueline and have them break it up and transition to our end with the puck.

### **Win the Blue Line – the best strategy – you then have lots of options.**

Change of Speed can make them lunge or back in or try a high risk body check. Try to make them do something other than maintain position just inside the blue line.